

Leaving school to  
join pros: what would  
you choose?  
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Ask a veteran.  
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'Avengers' opens:  
check out junior Tavvi  
Rush-Smith's phone.  
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# The Eagle Flyer



May 2015  
Kennedy High School  
422 Highland Avenue  
Waterbury, Conn. 06708  
Volume XII, Issue VIII

## Poetry princesses



**COLT POETRY PARTICIPANTS**  
Three seniors (from left to right) Ashley Bautista, Julissa Rodriquez and Jennifer Cabrera-Rodriguez, participated in the COLT Poetry contest, an opportunity Italian teacher Mr. Robert Likorama (second from left) brought up in an effort to get more students active in these contests, as in previous years. Bautista placed second overall while Cabrera-Rodriguez placed third overall in the competition in Wallingford, Conn. at Lyman Hall High School Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Likorama said he encourages students to participate in the next COLT Poetry contest.

Photo by Brittney Coran/staff

plus one supportive teacher

## Earning arts awards at Aqua Turf *Rosado, Santiago receive recognition for talent*

By T. Santiago  
Staff Writer

“Amazing.”

This adjective sprang from principal Mr. Johnston, regarding his description of his students in one word since two seniors who excel in the performing or visual arts and possess qualities of scholarship and leadership, Omar Rosado and Tashira Santiago, received the Connecticut High School Outstanding Arts Award at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. Monday, April 6, 2015.

“We picked students who are creative not only in the art room, but in everything else,” said art teacher Ms. McBride, referring to students as “creative thinkers.”

Both art and music teachers had one thing in common and it was that there were only a few standouts for nominees which made the search easier, they said.

“I nominated Omar because he is the only graduating senior that has been in band for all four years. He has been first chair clarinetist all four years and has had multiple solos. It was an easy decision to nominate him because of his involvement, his consistency and high level of performance,” said instrumental/music director Mr. Knecht.

Among those nominated, Rosado (for music) and Santiago (for art) stood out.

“It was very nice to be part of such a wonderful night that recognized our students for their hard work and dedication to the arts,” said guidance counselor Mr. Craig Poulter, who attended the event that began at 5 p.m.

The honorees and their two guests enjoyed a sit-down dinner followed by dessert and various speeches at the Aqua Turf Club with 154 high schools represented in

**CREATIVE THINKERS**  
Seniors Omar Rosado (left) and Tashira Santiago (right) received the Connecticut High School Outstanding Arts Awards at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. and guidance counselor, Mr. Craig Poulter (center), attended Monday, April 6, 2015. Rosado won for music and Santiago for art. The honorees and their two guests enjoyed a sit-down dinner followed by dessert and various speeches with 154 high schools represented.

Photo by T. Santiago/staff



See HONORING EXCELLENCE, page 5



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## Fan favorite Empire gets students watching

By Jaleesa Bellamy  
Staff Writer

A Cookie with red lips? Students give some in tell about Fox's new show Empire on Wednesdays from 9 p.m.-10 p.m. since it's such a big hit by being so suspenseful.

Empire is a family-owned business trying to leave behind their family legacy. Luscious and Cookie Lyon, who own Empire, are also the parents of Andre Lyon, who handles some heavy stuff in the Empire. Jamal Lyon is the singer of the family and Hakeem Lyon is the baby and rapper of the family.

The Lyons encounter a lot of obstacles while trying to build their empire seeing that Cookie was in jail for 17 years, making her an ex con. Luscious was misdiagnosed with ALS. Andre's bipolar, Jamal's gay and Hakeem is hard headed. They may be new building their empire, but empires can fall.

"Hakeem is FINE!" said freshman Angelique Devitt.

Hakeem Lyon happens to be the rapping son of Cookie Lyon who was once in relations with the infamous Luscious Lyon. Their other two children are Jamal and Andre Lyon. All use their talents to build their family empire and legacy.

Everyone loves cookies! When asked who their favorite character was, freshmen Devitt, John

Wallace, Chris Jimenez, and sophomores Brianna Mitchell and Baije Nealy all said, "Cookie."

What's your theory on next season?

"Luscious is going to jail for murdering Bunkie, he's going to be framed for the murder Andre's wife committed," said Devitt.

"Cookie's going to be like disowned by Luscious and Jamal's going to be better than Hakeem," said Wallace.

"I don't even know; it's too good," said Jimenez.

"Onika's going to get beat up, Cookies going to get back together with Luscious and then he's gonna die," said Nealy.

"Luscious is going to be shot, Cookie and Malcolm are going to break up and (she'll) go back to Luscious," said freshman Felicity Samolis.

"Cookie's gonna die and Malcolm's gonna want Cookie to move to Washington," said freshman Quincy Crawford.

Bad Kitty. Onika, also known as Boo Boo Kitty, doesn't seem to be a fan favorite when Jimenez said his least favorite character is "Onika," along with Nealy and Mitchell.

When it comes to the Luscious Lyon sound, students have favorite songs from Empire.

"Drip Drop," said Nealy. "Good Enough," said Samolis.



**FAN FAV** The cast of Fox's Empire

## Discovering family roots through tasty treats

By Xheklin Nano  
Correspondent

Passport to room 101A.

It all took place in room 101A and 101B Thursday, April 2, 2015 during second and third period in the American Studies UConn class taught by English teacher, Mrs. Martone, and history teacher, Mrs. Harris. The students' project was to research as far back as possible in their families' roots.

They were also asked to bring one recipe of a traditional food or beverage. Most students brought that item with them which resulted in lots of hard work for the students who would have to find all of the special ingredients needed to make their specialties.

"I really enjoyed learning about my students' different cultures and how students were able to learn so much about themselves that they had not known before," said English teacher, Mrs.

Martone, who brought in bruschetta to represent her Italian heritage.

They had so many different varieties of foods and drinks that no one could resist not trying something new. From Turkish delights, mango juice, to pizza gain and Spanish rice, everyone loved the mix of different cultures in the classroom.

"I really liked the project, it made me discover some things that I didn't know about my family," said junior Selina Kamo, whose specialty was a tray of Turkish delights. "The entire process was not easy, it took time to make because there are multiple steps in making the dessert."

Kamo describe the Turkish delights to be a "more sturdy version of jello cubes which is made out of a hardened homemade, rose flavored sugar-based syrup,

which cools down and then gets cut into squares, mixed with powdered sugar."

Allyssa DiGiovancarolo, a junior, thinks the project was fun to do but also "expensive to make, it cost around \$40" she said, to gather the right ingredients. DiGiovancarolo's pizza gain included "four different types of meats and cheeses." For her family "it is an Easter tradition" so the timing for the project worked out in her favor.

Overall, the project received many positive reactions as it per-



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Martone

**BRUSCHETTA** English teacher, Mrs. Martone, chose to bring in her homemade bruschetta representing her Italian heritage for the class project.

fectly tied in with the unit on immigration.

**BUFFET OF FAMILY TRADITIONS** Left photo depicts the multiple foods by students in the UConn American Studies class. Each dish represents a culture in the room. The right photo is a plate of Turkish delights made by Selina Kamo, a junior, who represents her Macedonian background.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Martone



## Students find draft cards, military history

By Kathryn O'Donnell  
Correspondent

Sushi. Pizza gain. Flautas. Food from different cultures all over the world; from Korea to Italy to Mexico to West Indies.

That's what second and third periods looked like for students enrolled in the UConn American Studies course taught by history teacher Mrs. Harris and English teacher Mrs. Martone April 2, 2015 as they finished their "Family Tree" presentations, delineating their an-

cestors' history.

After finishing their chapter on immigration, it was decided the Family Tree project would be a great way to "get that connection," said Harris.

Students were told to find information about their families through online sources and family members, and go back as far as they could, learning "fun facts" about their family, said Harris.

One student, junior Eric Hutzelman, said he found his great-grandfather's draft cards.

"It was pretty interesting," said Hutzelman. "I found out more information about my family."

Junior Lynadia Whiting discovered her father is the fourth generation to be in the army, something she found "pretty cool."

In addition to learning about their ancestors, the class also had to delve into their families' culture.

The class was told to bring in a food item that represented their culture, as well as a recipe, according to the teachers.

"It was fun to taste, see and learn about everyone's culture," said Whiting.

The project was inspired by one done by history teacher Mr. Sarlo's classes. Harris expanded on Sarlo's idea, thinking it would help the students feel a "connection to it."

She was right. "After doing research on our own families, I could relate more the chapter we had finished," said Hutzelman. "It gave me an opportunity to talk to family members I haven't talked to in years."

## Honoring mothers in May started in 1908

It's been official for 101 years: honor your mother. "Mother's Day" was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S holiday in 1914," according to history.com. Mother's Day is a day when you honor all the moms you know, and you celebrate them. No one really knows what it's like having a life growing inside of them except mothers.



Photo courtesy of Lexus Nieves

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** Sophomore Lexus Nieves shares a moment with her mother on Lexus's birthday Sunday, April 12, 2015.

my mother flowers and a card," said sophomore Lexus Nieves.

One typical thing to do for mothers on Mother's Day is taking them out to eat, like junior Darryl Flowers will do.

"I plan on taking my mother out to breakfast because I do think mothers aren't appreciated as much as they should be," said Flowers.

Buying gifts isn't the only way to show your mom you appreciate her.

"Cleaning the house or making your mom dinner can show you care and appreciate her," said Wilby senior Armani Lopes.

Why do moms only get honored one day a year if they are moms 365 days a year?

"Considering most mothers do so much for their children, they should have more than one day that they're shown appreciation," said junior Jacey Perez.

"Personally I think that mothers should be rewarded constantly for the sacrifices they make on a day-to-day base. Mother's Day should be every day," said junior Jaivaun McKnight.

Some people may disagree and believe Mother's Day is not underemphasized and shouldn't be recognized more than once a year like senior Justen Rodriguez.

"One day a year is good enough for Mother's Day. She gets the same amount as fathers," Rodriguez said.



## What does Memorial Day mean to you?

By Perla Cora and Ganiya Hunter  
Staff Writers



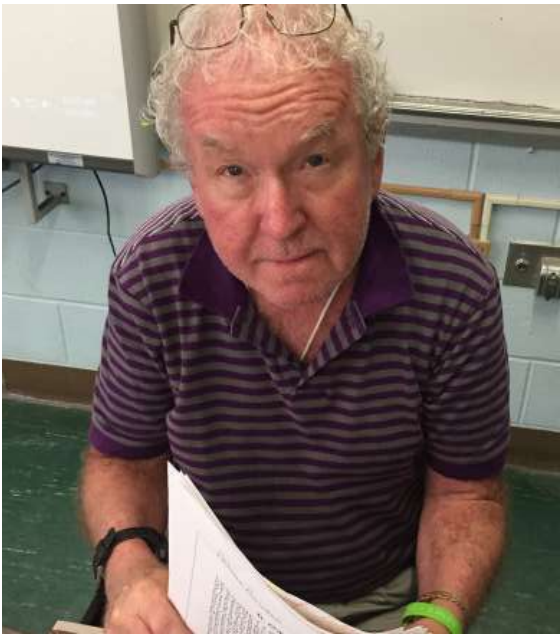
*"It's praising the soldiers for the things they did. It means freedom."*  
Alexis Rivera Flemming, junior



*"A day to get out of school."*  
Justice Allah, junior



*"We don't really do anything that day."*  
Damaris Cabrera & Julita Becolli, sophomores



*"A day for the people in the military who gave their lives to help us get what we have today. It should mean a lot to everyone."*  
Mr. Lawlor, building sub, veteran paratrooper



*"It's a day for remembering the soldiers who fought for our freedom."*  
Randall Quionnes, senior



*"The day we pay homage to all the people that have fought for us to have freedom, but most people don't even know that's what it is for, they think it's just the first day of summer and barbecue."*  
Mr. Delaurentis, retired science teacher who now subs

## Witnessing Harvard, Howard debate

*Students view 7th Annual event sponsored by CT NAACP in Bloomfield*

By Makyle Hawk  
Correspondent

Howard and Harvard. Two universities. One debate. 40 students from Kennedy, accompanied by History teacher Mrs. Hayes, building intern Mr. Mullens, guidance counselor Mrs. Ortiz, and Mrs. Ortiz's mother, would make up just a small percentage of the 2,800 students from 70 schools across Connecticut and a portion of New York who gathered at 10 a.m. in the First Cathedral in Bloomfield, Conn. to witness the Seventh Annual Great Debate held by the CT NAACP between both Howard and Harvard University, Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Inspired by Denzel Washington's 2007 film, "The Great Debaters," the CT NAACP created the annual event, which poses historically Black Colleges and Universities against Ivy League schools, to provoke youth via "razor-sharp dialogue" to involve themselves in "intellectual competition," according to the president of the CT NAACP State Conference, Scot X. Esdaile.

This year's debate focused on education and judicial reform.

Decided by a coin toss, Harvard was designated to argue the resolution "The People believe that, if student athletes should be tested year-round for drugs -- then all college students should be drug tested," with Howard thus deemed the opposition.

Regarding judicial reform, Howard was responsible for arguing the resolution "The People affirm the reconstruction of the Grand Jury Reform Act" and Harvard, the opposing.

A battle necessitating wit, composure, and overall oratory skill, the audience was captivated, and students were more than thrilled with the event.

"I thought it was a great debate in the beginning," said sophomore Camilo Barrera, noting too that "when it got to the second topic, it felt as if the two teams started to get even more intense."

"The debate dealt with the most current issues in our society, so it was easy to become engaged in what each team had to say," said senior Alexis Hill.

Formulated to inspire the audience to ponder current issues, victory was not granted to either par-

ticipating party, thus encouraging students to formulate verdicts.

"Each team had both valid points and reasoning," said Hill, however, "in the first round Howard utilized actual facts and statistics whereas Harvard seemed more opinion based."

When asked for a final decision, Hill said, "Howard took the win for the first round, and Harvard had it by a long shot in the second."

For junior Lynadia Whiting, the decision was decisive.

"Howard was the winner. They were more professional, they stated facts, and even though they seemed very passionate about their side, they never utilized opinion, and stuck to the subject matter at hand," said Whiting.

Regardless of the participants' own beliefs, the debate worked to illustrate the importance of fluid speech, concise language, and the ability to formulate one's ideas in a professional manner.

Calling on both Howard and Harvard, it imparted on the audience that issues in today's society, regardless of their nature, are never blatantly black or white, and should not be treated as such.

## Yale Art, Pepe's pizza: club visits New Haven

By Klajdi Sosoli and Rilind Racaj  
Correspondents

### COMMENTARY

The great Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "learning never exhausts the mind."

The Italian club visited New Haven, Conn., where they experienced Italian arts and cuisine as they tasted a piece of Italy by visiting the Yale Art Gallery, having lunch at Pepe's Pizza, and capping it off at Libby's Italian Pastry Shop Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

"The trip was well planned out and it was honestly the best school trip I've been on thus far," said junior, Sara Aldarondo.

A tour guide was present to show specific pieces created by famous Italian artists.

"I really liked the museum and how we were able to discuss what we thought the art was before it was explained to us," said junior Erica Kulla.

Experiencing key parts of a culture could exemplify its meanings.

"It was a very beneficial trip where I was able to see three different aspects of Italy as we saw the magnificent art, tasted the wonderful traditional Italian pizza,

### Honoring Paolino's, Crudele's legacy

and even had the delicious Italian ice for dessert," said junior Haylie Bruss, adding she "grew a new appreciation for Italy after this trip."

Art is a message, and Italian history can be deciphered through its messages of the past.

"We learned about Italian history through pieces of Italian art and it was very educational," said sophomore Carson Delaney.

The art shown in some pieces was religious, and in others showing the Brooklyn Bridge through the eyes of an Italian.

"The Brooklyn Bridge painting was beautiful, and being able to try and sketch it myself really helped me appreciate the art," said sophomore, Nicole Taylor.

'Doc' Paolino and Mrs. Crudele were the pillars of the Italian Club. Their retirements raised questions if the Italian Club would be able to survive without its heart and its brain. These questions were answered as two very able instructors, Mr. Likorama and Mrs. Sagnella, came in to take control.



## Show honor, respect for May's many treasures

### Staff Editorial

Honor: respect given to someone who is admired.

This is one of the many definitions of "honor" one can locate on the Internet, and this particular word has a great impact on the month of May. This month is packed with a series of holidays, events and activities we all can become involved in, and pay honor to those we admire, no matter who we are.

Mother's Day is a highlight of the month, as it approaches us Sunday, May 10. This holiday, originated by Anna Jarvis, is our chance to show our moms how much we appreciate them and how grateful we are for their role in our lives. Brothers and Sisters Day is another holiday to honor your loved ones, which occurs Saturday, May 2. The idea for this day came from a woman who realized too late when her brother died, she had never let him adequately know how much he meant to her, according to brothersandsistersday.com. Although it is a common trend where siblings don't always get along, this day could be beneficial for us to appreciate our brother(s) or sister(s), thank them for any ways they have positively impacted us, or serve as a fresh start.

Memorial Day is another holiday celebrated by many during this month, which visits us Monday, May 25. This day, officially declared by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, according to usmemorialday.org, is meant to remember and honor those who have passed away due to serving our country through our Armed Forces. People may go to cemeteries on this day to visit and decorate the graves of their loved ones, placing a flag in front of their tombstone to recognize their service. This is an important day for everyone in America, because the military took it upon themselves to put their lives at risk to fight for us. We should all honor and celebrate their efforts.

Not only can we honor the people in our lives this May, but we can also honor the elements that keep us alive. Love A Tree Day comes Saturday, May 16, when we could all look back and realize how important trees really are to us. They provide us with the oxygen we breathe in and out each day, keeping us alive. Not only that, but trees give us paper, a very common material we all use, provide us with shade on sunny days, and grow a variety of fruits and vegetables we eat for daily nutrition. Trees greatly contribute to our lives, and we can give recognition on this day by volunteering to help plant trees, give them a trim, or feed them doses of fertilizer, as suggested by holidayinsights.com.

Honor. It's what the month of May is all about. We are all encouraged to honor those who are in our lives, those who have fought for our lives, and the elements that keep us alive. Make sure to honor what's important to you this May.

## Happy Memorial Day



## East Main site helps homeless

By Shandel Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

### Nearly 200 homeless live in city

"Love and passion." Those words are from the coordinator of the city's hospitality center, Mr. Michael Muñoz, when describing how he feels towards his job.

The hospitality center, located at 693 East Main Street, Waterbury, Conn. devotes itself to giving homeless people the best care possible, by providing facilities of showers, laundry, phone, computers, and fax. The center has had many improvements with more coming.

Be grateful for everything you have. There's an estimate of 4,465 homeless people in all of Connecticut, 184 of them in Waterbury alone; 38 percent of the 184 have children, according to (The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness) cceh.org.

"Improvements would be: more awareness, the community being more involved and participants are engaging more in detox,

drug and alcohol treatment and mental health treatment," said Muñoz.

The improvements come out of a collaborated effort of everybody doing their part to see a better outcome.

"There is also more involvement from different agencies that help people with mental health and addiction," said Muñoz.

For example, MCCA (Midwestern Connecticut Council of Alcoholism Inc.) has a Latino outreach coordinator who goes to the hospitality center to specifically help the Hispanics, according to Muñoz, since other groups work with other ethnicities.

"The main key to the homeless people is to build confidence, they don't trust many people especially people with badges," said Muñoz.

The hospitality center has only been open for two years, according to Muñoz, and he has been in charge for one.

"It's a very helpful place, I was surprised when I first walked in, I had never seen something like that in Water-

**"It's a very helpful place, I was surprised when I first walked in, I had never seen something like that in Waterbury."**

Herbert Batista, city resident



Photo by Shandel Gonzalez/staff  
**HELPFUL** The hospitality center is at 693 East Main Street.

bury," said Waterbury resident Herbert Batista, who has utilized the center.

The center helped Batista get linked with Jubilee Outreach Centers, a non-profit Christian organization providing day and night residence with Agape house, for men experiencing addiction and Jubilee house for women in crisis, which is also run by Muñoz.

"This job is always up for changes but what I do is not, which is help people," said Muñoz.

## City church sends 13,000 bags of food to Africa

By Jocelyn Bermeo  
Staff Writer

Gong! Cheer! People of Sacred Heart/Sagrado Corazon Parish held an event called Helping Hands for the second year in which they packaged plastic bags of food filled with nutrients to send to Africa to help the starving families Sunday March 22, 2015.

"I believe the more people we have helping, the faster world hunger will come to an end," said Waterbury Arts Magnet School sophomore, Angie Molina.

The event was planned three months earlier, with bake sales and candy sales plus support from the children's families who participated. \$5,000 was raised.

"The first year it was all done by the youth group and choir; we had nothing and through fundraisers, bake sales and candy

sales and family support and donations we ourselves brought up the \$5,000," said director of the event Ms. Rebecca Baez.

Baez first presented the idea to the young people of the Religious Education Program and then to the Sacred Heart Children's Choir. She saw it as an opportunity to teach them about appreciating what they have, she said.

"When I first heard about it I thought, what a great idea for our young people to do to help other children who are dying from hunger, and to teach them to appreciate what they have so that they won't take it for granted," said Baez.

At Helping Hands, jobs were plentiful, from pouring the food into the bag, weighing the bag, bringing refills of food to the groups, running back and forth

to deliver the bags to the weighing group, and sealing the bags; for every 1,000 bags made a gong would sound throughout the room.

"My task was to put a certain amount of rice in the bag and to make sure nothing spills," said sophomore Laura Rendon, who also participated in Helping Hands last year.

They were able to bag 13,000 bags of food to send to Burkina Faso, Africa for the families there who were not able to grow their own food like people can here.

"(The best part was) feeding hungry children who really need it," said Molina

The main problem that may arise in such events is working together. Thankfully this wasn't the case here since

everyone was able to work together.

"All of you guys work together and enjoy helping others and also proving to our church young people can succeed in reaching such a high goal," said Baez.

This event was a such a success in 2014 it was held again and the same enthusiasm was shown. "Not only having fun but knowing in the end you're helping feed a lot of people," said Rendon.

"I'm very proud of our accomplishment because I was amazed at the adults who didn't have any faith in our young people, and with Helping Hands, our young people have proven that they can take God's teachings and help others around the world and make a high difference," said Baez.



### The Eagle Flyer

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Our mission is to educate, enlighten and inform our school and community while developing our journalism skills in both Editorial and Business areas.

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# Honoring excellence

## Seniors capture music, art awards

HONORING EXCELLENCE, from front page total.

“What I liked the most about it was our students were able to include their family to share in such joyous occasion,” said Poulter.

After dinner the honorees and guests heard the keynote speaker, weekday morning host on 88.9 WJMJ Radio, Mr. Jerry Kristafer. Kristafer hosted a weekly talk show on a local cable TV system as a high school student. Out of more than 45 years in radio, Kristafer has worked 38 years in Connecticut but he is most remembered for his 21 years on 102.9 DRC-FM in Hartford and 10 years on New Haven’s News/Talk 960 WELI, according to the program notes.

Some might not realize the award ceremony was held during the Waterbury Public School’s Spring Break, which was far from ideal for the students, teachers and administrators who were away on vacation.

“I was really disappointed that this year it was during Spring Break because I was unable to attend and we, as educators, look forward to the moments when our students are recognized and celebrated,” said art teacher Mrs. Gina Pisani-Loomis.

It was a big week for scholars from Kennedy since not only Rosado and Santiago were awarded, but two other seniors, Jake D’Alusio and Briann Bergin, received various awards/scholarships at an event hosted by the Waterbury Sportsmen’s Club at the Aqua Turf, Sunday, April 12.

“Every year it’s always nice to see how many different students are receiving various awards. As an educator I am always proud. Sometimes a kid will get an award from something outside of school I wasn’t even aware of,” said Johnston.

Not only are staff and faculty proud of these students, but the award winners are delighted with themselves.

“I feel great about receiving this award and I’ll continue to try to achieve higher,” said Rosado, who’s been playing the clarinet for eight years and has auditioned for the Marine Corp’s band.

To many excelling in math, English or science is vital. But why is art important?

“Art is everything. Look around you, it is everywhere. From the clothes on your back, to the illustrations in a science book, to the music that helps patients suffering from Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia find renewed meaning and connection in their lives. Art teaches you valuable life skills such as patience, determination and attention to details,” said Santiago.

Although art is everywhere, most walk right pass it without even acknowledging it. What makes these honorees so interested and passionate about performing/visual arts?

For Rosado it’s the ambition and dream of one day being able to play in an orchestra, the kind he’d listen in awe to as a little boy.

“As I grew, music became a part of my life and I still love it. Every time I listen to



**ART, MUSIC WINNERS** Seniors Omar Rosado and Tashira Santiago, along with their families, were honored April 6, 2015 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. for their artistic endeavors. (Left to right) Rosado’s uncle, Rosado’s grandmother, Rosado, Santiago, Santiago’s sister, and Santiago’s mother attended.

Photo above by T. Santiago/staff  
Photo on right courtesy of Briann Bergin

an orchestra I enjoy it and move in rhythm to the music thinking ‘I want to do that,’” said Rosado.

For Santiago it’s the ability art gives her to communicate and express feelings.

“I want to tell a story with my art. Every time someone looks at it I want them to be able to relate. I want them to know I was once in their position. Even though we are all unique, we all experience similar emotions. I want my art to inspire emotion,” said Santiago.

Although both Rosado and Santiago were already into performing/visual arts as kids, they have gotten much support and motivation at school, they said.

“I would like to thank all my fellow band members because without them I wouldn’t have anybody to

enjoy band music with and of course my band teacher Mr. Knecht,” said Rosado.

Santiago said her art teachers have always believed in her and inspired her to follow her dreams. But, Santiago said not all of the support came from the art teachers but from other faculty/staff she also sees daily.

Kristafer shared an anecdote in his conclusion about the time a teacher encouraged him to host a weekly talk show on a local cable TV system while in high school. It reminded award winners to thank those who supported them thus far. According to Kristafer, those are the real “heroes.”



**SCHOLARSHIPS** Senior Briann Bergin (left), seen here with Senator Joan Hartley, received a 2015 Sportsmen’s Club scholarship award at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville April 12 as did senior Jake D’Alusio (below) who received the Bibber Goggin memorial scholarship through the 1900 Club. He is pictured with Mark Goggin, Mrs. Goggin and Jim Goggin, two of the three brothers (and mother) of the man who passed away for whom the award is named.



Photo courtesy of Jake D’Alusio

## X-Files set to film in June

By Emma Finnegan  
Staff Writer

The truth is back. FOX announced the revival of the hit sci-fi show, The X-Files, Tuesday, March 24, with filming beginning June 2015.

“I think of it as a 13-year commercial break,” creator Chris Carter said to The Verge.

The reboot will welcome back FBI Agents Dana Scully and Fox Mulder, played by Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, for six episodes. Other stars of the original series include Mitch Pileggi, who played Assistant Director Walter Skinner, and William B. Davis, the series main villain, C.G.B. Spender.

“I’m looking forward to seeing all of the characters again and how they bring back C.G.B. after he died in the finale!” senior Becca Ricciardi said.

Fans are looking forward to a new season, despite the franchise’s second movie, *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*, being re-

leased in 2008. The original series began in 1993 and lasted until 2002; after nine seasons, two movies, five Golden Globes and 17 Primetime Emmy Awards, fans still haven’t had closure.

“Seeing Mulder and Scully back together as a team after so many years will be the biggest highlight for me,” Tumblr user, Maribel Martinez said.

Old fans look forward to seeing the agents back in action and chasing UFOs across the country, and new fans race to catch up on websites like Netflix and Amazon where the show is available to watch.

“I’m pretty excited, I’m not finished with the series yet but I’m looking forward to new episodes,” junior Margaret Colon said.

If you’re looking to catch up on or start watching *The X-Files*, all nine seasons are available instantly on Netflix and Amazon.

Photo by Emma Finnegan/staff



**THEY’RE BACK:** An X-Files poster

## Evening event offers college guidance, tips for Spanish-speaking families

By Brittney Coran  
with Anthony Jamele  
Staff Writers

Mayor, city sponsor  
multicultural parade  
Saturday, May 16

The students are our future.

Kennedy held its first annual conference, “College and Career Night,” for Spanish-speaking students and families to guide them in their futures Thursday, April 16, 2015, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafe.

This was the first event of its kind to occur at Kennedy, which was hosted by MCs Ana Anad, Nashalie Caraballo, and Elaina Peralta, and featured more than 50 attendees, according to teacher Ms. Martinez.

This was an excellent opportunity for these students, where it gave them a chance to start thinking about what they want to pursue in their futures. Some careers presented included: firefighting, engineering, nursing, law enforcement, and education.

The conference introduced the University of Connecticut, Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), financial aid, and Kaynor Tech as possible options.

Several professionals from the community shared their personal experiences of college and career life with the students and families, so that they could have an idea of what it will be like. Speakers included senior associate director Aida Silva, financial aid specialist Johanis Ayala, and Spanish teacher Mr. Robert Lopez.

Photos by Anthony Jamele/staff

**COLLEGE ADVICE** (Top left) Naugatuck Valley Community College Representative, Advising and Retention Specialist, Ms. Yhara P. Zelinka, spoke to students at the first Annual Conference, College and Career Opportunities Night in Kennedy’s cafe, for Spanish-speaking students and families. (Left) College pamphlets were also available during the evening conference, as well as a state Immunization Policy form and admissions checklists.



## Girls favor corsages, roses

By Samuel Lopez  
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Prom fever: Although the final work seems to be so simple, many details are involved in the making of a memorable prom night. One of the small, but still important, parts is the corsage, worn on wrists or pinned on chests. May 15, 2015 is the prom at La Bella Vista and girls are enthusiastically looking for corsages to match their gowns and dates, of course.

Corsages have been part of formal attire for centuries, and students have no plans of stopping the tradition since “corsages were commonly worn to weddings in ancient times to ward off evil spirits,” according to neighbornewspapers.com

But, with an average cost of \$10 - \$35, are corsages still worth the peace of mind of being evil-free? Many girls say “YES!” as long as the boys pay, though. Based on a survey given to 25 girls at Kennedy on what type of flower and corsage they preferred, most girls enjoy the wrist corsages, and also selected roses as their primary flower. so young men, match them perfectly, and you’ll be sure to have a great prom night, free of any questionable spirits.





**BROTHERS ON STAGE**  
Kennedy senior Damian Luciano (Pippin), and sophomore Kyle Cleary (Lewis) prepare for opening night May 1.  
All photos by Paolo Robles, Kathryn O'Donnell/staff

**SCIENCE OF REHEARSAL** (Left photo) Kennedy junior Paola Robles (Catherine) and Sacred Heart senior John Murphy (Charles) rehearse in April in the auditorium.

**PERFORMING** Top photo, left to right: Kennedy senior Meagan Perrault (Player), Kennedy junior Paola Robles (Catherine), Sacred Heart senior Alexis Rinaldi (Berthe), Sacred Heart senior John Murphy (Charles), Kennedy junior Sydney Dawson (Player), Kennedy sophomore Kyle Cleary (Lewis), Sacred Heart senior Brandon Arnold (Leading Player), Kennedy junior Kathryn O'Donnell (Fastrada), Kennedy senior Sarah LaFrance (Player), Kennedy sophomore Michaela Snow (Player), Sacred Heart junior Mahnue Sahn (Player), and Kennedy freshman Ania LaFrance (Player) participated in Sacred Heart's arts showcase and gave a preview of their May 1-2 musical.

# Actors spend Spring Break rehearsing twice daily

By Damian Luciano 'Pippin' opens Friday, May 1  
Staff Writer

The Kennedy-Sacred Heart student theatre program headed into the home stretch of rehearsals, leading to the May 1-2, 2015 performances, during Spring Break in the Kennedy auditorium from Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10 with two rehearsals a day: mornings from 10 a.m.-noon and evenings from 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

"I was supposed to go on vacation, but being here was more important, so I stayed," said Kennedy sophomore Michaela Snow, a "Player" in the show.

Now there's no question spending Spring Break still in school, no matter the reason, isn't most people's first option, but to add on not one, but two rehearsals a day just takes that much more commitment.

"On the first day, I woke up at 9:50, so I had to rush through breakfast and everything," said Kennedy sophomore Kyle Cleary, who plays the role of "Lewis" in the show.

"I had to walk a couple times," said senior Sara LaFrance, who plays the role of a "Player" in the show.

The schedule might have taken some getting used to, but the cast

always found a way to stay positive and used it as an experience to have some fun.

"I really liked the dances," said LaFrance.

"I actually really liked having rehearsals over the break," Cleary added.

The cast did get a seven-hour break in between each rehearsal, but most cast members couldn't wait to just get back to rehearsal later in the day and continue to work with each other, they said. The constant rehearsals definitely resulted in some newly-found friendships.

"I just love the people, they are great," said Cleary.

"This cast is amazing, they are like family, love these people," Snow said.

It's clear the multiple rehearsals over break brought an extremely positive reaction from the cast, not only memorizing lines and dances, but creating friendships along the way.

*Buy tickets for \$10 at the door*

# Students eager for 'Avengers' sequel set to open May 1

By Aaron Hernandez  
Staff Writer

Earth's Mightiest Heroes return to the big screen.

After the massive critical and box office success of its predecessor, *The Avengers* (2012), Marvel Studios will release the sequel to its highest-grossing film, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, in the United States Friday, May 1, 2015.

"I like some of the Mar-

vel movies. And yes, I'm looking forward to *Avengers 2*," said sophomore Keishla Figueroa.

Marvel's *The Avengers* was critically acclaimed when it was released back in 2012. 92 percent of critics gave the movie positive reviews, according to film review site [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com). *The Avengers* grossed more than \$1.5 billion worldwide at the box

office, making it the third highest grossing film of all time (behind *Avatar* and *Titanic*), according to [www.boxoffice-mojo.com](http://www.boxoffice-mojo.com).

Sophomore Elijah Coleman said he really had a good time watching the first movie and would like to see the sequel.

"Yes, I enjoyed the first and I'm looking forward to the second one. It was funny when Hulk grabbed Loki and started slamming him on the

ground, and the rest of the movie was funny and action packed," said Coleman.

*Avengers: Age of Ultron* is estimated to earn \$217 million its opening weekend, while its predecessor earned \$207,438,708 during its opening weekend, [www.boxoffice.com](http://www.boxoffice.com) states.

*Avengers: Age of Ultron* will include characters from the previous film such as Iron Man, Captain America,

Hulk, Thor, Black Widow, and Hawkeye. The sequel will also introduce new characters such as Wanda Maximoff, Pietro Maximoff, Vision, and villain Ultron, [www.marvel.com](http://www.marvel.com) states.

Coleman said he is also looking forward to seeing Ultron and Iron Man's brand new armored suit.

"Ultron is a pretty awesome villain because he can't really die and never

**PRICE-LESS**  
Three figures are based on the Avengers movie.

truly loses, and unlike many other villains he upgrades himself to be better each time he comes back to fight. I'm also excited about the Hulkbuster suit Iron Man has because it's pretty awesome," said Coleman.

# Hayes, Wrenn capture 'Dancing' crown

By Aliya Hernandez  
Staff Writer

Happy takes the lead this year.

Kennedy students and staff attended the second annual Dancing with the Stars held Friday March 27, 2015 from 2:30 p.m to 4 p.m by the Key club to raise money for the winning grade's (freshman class) reward, in the Pennies for Patients campaign, making approximately \$825 since about 275 tickets were sold for \$3 each.

"Ms. H has the upper-hand because of last year, but it's time for an underdog," said senior Tyler Wrenn prior to his victory.

Wrenn won first place with his dance partner, History teacher Mrs. Hayes, performing to "Happy."

"If we could, we'd take it all back and do it over again," said Hayes after the competition.

According to the judges, they were looking for something particular in every contestant.

"I'm excited we have a lot of new teachers this year, last year we didn't know what to expect. Something different, originality, costumes and that 'wow' factor," said History teacher Mrs. Harris, who served as a judge.

"Smiles, great movement and seeing students and teachers interact with each other," said senior

Blessen Lott, regarding what she enjoyed.

Newcomers, as well as second year competitors, had mixed emotions about the competition.

"I am very nervous, but I have to say, Fernando had patience for me, he changed the whole dance just so I could feel comfortable," said main office secretary Ms. Rodriguez who performed "Something Wavy."

"I feel more nervous this year because the competition is stiffer," said junior Lynadia Whiting who performed "Party Rock Anthem."

"It's going to be a lot of fun, I'm ready to bring my moves, but I think it's going to be tough, I hear everyone's going to be doing good routines," said science teacher Ms. Conway who performed "Break Free" and "7/11."

"I guess the first year is always the hardest; I'm nervous, I just want to make sure I remember what to do," said vice principal Mr. Mccasland who performed "PB and Kelly."

"Everybody is awesome for taking part because it takes guts," said science teacher Mr. Awwad who performed "Let's get it," and was a judge last year.

"I've got mixed emotions for sure, I'm nervous and excited,"

said guidance counselor Mr. Poulter who performed "Eagle Funk."

According to the dancers, they even had goals for their outcome.

"I'm just looking forward to having a good time," said Awwad.

"We're going to accomplish what we set out to do, which is have fun and share a few laughs," said English teacher Mr. Clark who performed "Fresh Prince Mix."

"We go for the funny factor," said English teacher Ms. Hicock who performed "Don't think you're ready for Jamele."

"Making it fun, enjoyable to see, and to get everyone feeling good," said Whiting.

After the competition, contestants and judges had positive feedback.

"I was so happy, I was so proud, I'm pretty upset I ripped my pants," said junior Yasmin Moreno.

"I think everyone earned their spot, I thought it was fun," said Hicock

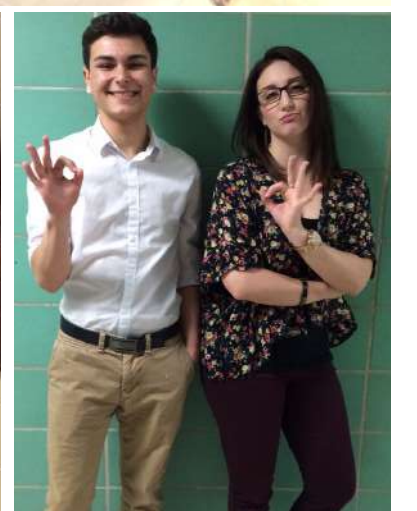
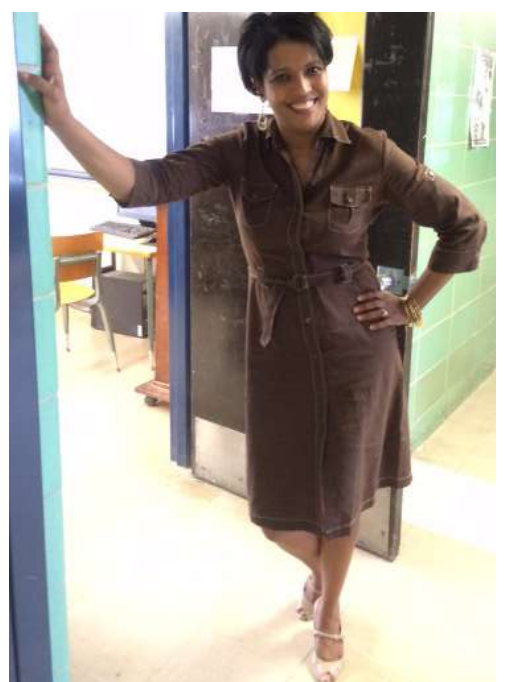
"No regrets," said Lott.

"I feel great, forgot a step here and there, such a great group of people," said Mccasland.

"It's an awesome time, so happy so many teachers and students support our school," said Harris

## DANCING TO VICTORY

The 2015 Dancing with the Stars competition winners: History teacher Mrs. Hayes (at right) and senior Tyler Wrenn (who was in Portugal when this photo was taken) took first place with a shift in dancing tempo with a slow then fast-paced tempo. Second place (bottom left) winners were science teacher Mr. Awwad and junior Yasmin Moreno followed by third place and last year's first place winners (bottom right) English teacher Ms. Hicock and senior Anthony Jamele.



All photos by Anthony Jamele/staff



# Duke's 5th title disappoints some

By Joe Galante  
Staff Writer

#5 for Coach K.

The Duke Blue Devils and their head coach Mike Krzyzewski captured their fifth national championship after beating the Wisconsin Badgers who were led by the Naismith Player of the Year award winner senior Frank Kaminsky, bringing mixed reactions from Kennedy staff and students.

The Blue Devils beat the Michigan St. Spartans 81-61 in their Final Four game, while the Badgers handed the undefeated Kentucky Wildcats their first loss and sent them home a game short of returning to the championship game in back-to-back years.

Was anyone surprised by Kentucky?

Technology Education department chair Mr. Mancuso said, "Yes" because they were "very dominant" leading up to that point.

Mancuso also said jokingly, "I'm sure Mr. Cyr was disappointed."

Senior Rimas Mockapetris said he was "a little bit" disappointed, and he also said due to the hate Kentucky was receiving, he was pulling for them throughout the tournament.

Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana was where the championship game was held April 6. At the end of the first half both teams were tied at 31 points each. But Duke was able to finish the game strong and win 68-63.

Duke's victory seemed to be no surprise to most.

Mancuso said he was more surprised Wisconsin had the lead at one point towards the end of the game, then the Duke victory.

"Coach K is a beast," was the response from senior Brian Garay.

"The better-coached team prevailed," said Mockapetris.

While each team had almost the same rebound and turnover totals, Duke separated themselves by shooting 16-20 at the foul line while Wisconsin was 6-10 from the foul line, according to espn.com.

Frank Kaminsky finished the game with 21 points and 12 rebounds, while Duke's freshman point guard Tyus Jones had 23 points and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four.

# Why pay athletes, who already get \$\$, even more in college?

By Francis Forino  
Staff Writer

College players getting paid.... to play?

The ongoing discussion of college players getting paid to play Division I sports has some agreeing but many in disagreement, yet only the future can tell the outcome since talk started in April 2014 and still continues April 2015, making the issue hit home for young prospering high school athletes also.

"They should get paid, they earn the schools a lot of money," said senior basketball player Desmond Rivera.

Players will receive \$2,000-\$5,000 extra from the National Collegiate Athletic Association according to this proposal, and the schools the players attend, but for some it's not a very good idea.

"I don't think it's necessary, it takes away the college experience," said senior Ben Parlato.

Student athletes in Division I sports already receive \$125,000 from NCAA marketing and endorsements like Nike, Gatorade, Under Armour, and other big name sports companies. This money goes towards items a student needs like books, tuition (if not on scholarship) and food, but the player can also already have a scholarship.

"I agree with it, you have to work hard to keep good grades and stay on the court or field, so they should be awarded for their hard work," said sophomore basketball player Chomari Joseph.

Even people affiliated with the schools agree.

"There is a certain part of our student-athlete population that does not have enough spending money," said Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith in an interview with ESPN.com Jan. 15, 2015.

For some athletes, payment doesn't make much sense.

"I just think it takes the bigger picture of playing college sports away," said Kennedy graduate and former varsity baseball player Nicholas Forino. "It takes away the bigger picture for the players."

The discussion and decision is at a current stall point, but players and fans can expect an outcome soon.



**'BYE BOOKS** University of Kentucky players (left to right) Willie Cauley-Stein (junior), Andrew Harrison (sophomore), Trey Lyles (freshman), Dakari Johnson (sophomore), Devin Booker (freshman), Karl Anthony-Towns (freshman), and Aaron Harrison (sophomore) announce they're entering the 2015 NBA Draft with their coach John Calipari.

# Which would you choose: college or pros?

By Malieke Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

College vs pros.

For almost a decade one of the biggest debates in college basketball is players leaving school early to pursue a career in the pros ever since the National Basketball Association made it a requirement for players to have at least spent one year in college before being drafted.

Since the NBA has put that rule in effect, the "one-and-done" rule, in 2007, college basketball has seen more and more freshmen leave after one year of college basketball, according to the news website theatlantic.com

"It's a bad idea to leave school early because they're shortening their education; they're going to the NBA anyways," said senior Will Stevenson.

"I happened to dislike the one-and-done rule enormously and wish it didn't exist. I think it forces young men to go to college who have little or no interest in going to college," said NCAA president Mark Emmett before the NCAA tournament in 2012.

There was a time when the one-and-done rule didn't exist and some athletes skipped college basketball altogether like today's superstars Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James in 2003 and Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant in 1996, proving that for the truly elite players the transition was not hard.

"It's bad these athletes are leaving school early because they don't get their full four years of education," said senior Xavier Saunders.

However, people have also seen athletes who decide to put their education first and be very successful as well.

Like former UConn Huskies Emeka Okafor who captured a national championship in 2004 and graduated in three years with a degree in finance. He's now a free agent after playing for the Washington Wizards.

Also recently drafted was Shabazz Napier, who captured two national titles in 2011 and 2014 and graduated in four years with a major in sociology. He is currently a guard for the Miami Heat.

"I'm in favor of them staying and getting their degree; you should finish something you start," said English teacher Mr. Morgan.

Athletes have been successful who have both stayed in school and left.

According to sports website bleacherreport.com, great athletes could earn a living faster and provide for their families, preventing the risk of injury in college, and finish studies after their career, but it's also very beneficial to finish school.

Staying in college and receiving a degree secures one's future, teaches maturity, and also enhances knowledge, according to bleacherreport.com

The 2015 national champions, the Duke Blue Devils, will see three of their freshmen leave for the draft including guard Tyus Jones, named most outstanding player in the national title game. Also, seven University of Kentucky players announced they would leave for the draft April 9.

By Jennifer Kazlauskas  
Staff Writer

## The Hunter

I can save myself,  
You have to believe me.  
I can fix myself,  
Don't try to stop me.

I'm dying on the inside,  
But on the outside I seem happy.

I was once happy for no reason,  
But I've grown old through experience.

No one can figure me out,  
So don't even try.

My brother tries to save me.  
He can't, so he prays to an angel,  
Who doesn't answer his Prayers.

"Angels are watching over you."  
This was a lie my mother used to say to us.  
I don't have a guardian angel.

From a young child  
to an old man.

You can see my treasured smile  
Turn into a dark, depressed glare.

I've done unimaginable things.  
I've given into temptation many times.  
But I never regretted it  
because I thought I was doing the right thing.

I used to be happy, but now I'm not.  
So, what's the point, anymore?

"Do your worst."  
My last and final words.  
I say at the hands of my older brother's wrath.  
I scream and he finally ends me.  
Forever...

Goodbye Sam...  
Goodbye Dean...

(Inspired by the television show: Supernatural)

By Naziah McGeachy  
Correspondent

## That's Who I Am

5'5 nice eyes  
cute face, thick thighs  
that's who I am  
Full of anger  
that roars through my  
body, warm blood  
all in my veins  
Seeking for help with  
nowhere to turn  
on my own  
I must learn  
to be me but  
that's who I am  
Found love that fills  
my heart with joy  
that gives my body  
that rhythm in my soul

Rough neck, hardheaded  
tough girl, crack a smile  
get with the program  
Why? Tuhh, cause  
that's who I am  
Feens walking late night  
drunks fist fight,  
loud horns, black outs  
Bronx, New York  
THAT'S WHO I AM!

(Inspired by  
George Ella Lyons's  
'Where I'm From')

## Poetry Corner

By Jessica Guardado  
Staff Writer



### Where I'm From

I am from very hot weather,  
From sandy beaches and amazing views,  
I am from the cash register  
at my grandma's store.  
(Many customers in and out.)  
I am from many nights without sleep  
With no mom nor dad to wake up to  
I remember it like it was yesterday.

I am from 9 aunts and 4 uncles,  
From Olga and Anael,  
I am from the "why are you so quiet" and  
the "stop being so loud,"  
From too tall and too short,  
I am from the music  
that makes me forget  
From the radiant sunlight  
and the delicate moon

I'm from my two families  
so different but so alike,  
I am from two parents  
who left looking  
for a new opportunity.  
I am from my misjudgments  
and misconceptions of people  
From lost friendships  
to new friendships,  
One big drawer filled  
with cards, letters and special gifts  
A show of gratuity for all those things  
that are now just memories  
Old but never forgotten.



(Inspired by  
George Ella Lyons's  
'Where I'm From')

By Laurnea Farrow  
Staff Writer



## 14 Reasons Why...

You aggravate me  
with the pain of knowing  
you're gone and I can't see  
you anymore.

You hurt me  
knowing you were struggling  
to fight this horrible disease.

You destroy me  
knowing I have one less  
person to see sitting,  
watching me cross the stage.

You fear me  
that this horrible disease runs  
in the family and it also took  
God daddy, too.

You sadden me  
thinking of all of the last  
memories we had together.

You break me  
seeing the hair loss in the  
weaknesses this disease  
gave you.

You betray me  
knowing you tried to keep  
this horrible secret from me.

You overwhelm me  
only for a minute, I bounce  
back--I don't stay down.

You upset me  
knowing I can't see your  
face every holiday.

You submerge me  
weighing me down with  
horrible thoughts of losing  
more family members.

You dispirit me  
looking at our pictures  
together with tears running  
down my face.

You disenchant me  
seeing how sad my father  
gets from losing his only  
sister.

You deluge me  
looking at you in the casket  
so cold and painless.

You inundate me  
seeing them put you six feet  
under where no one  
can see you.

(Inspired by  
Korina Jocson's  
'14 Reasons Why')



## We need you!

Calling all writers or soon-to-be poets  
(you know you have it in you).  
Join Journalism and  
The Eagle Flyer. Stop by room 105.



## Despite daily trek to Crosby for practice, track team optimistic

By Fuka Reale and Ashley Lamb  
Staff Writers

Sprinters racing on the track, the throwers flinging javelins and shot put, jumpers dashing to the pit, and distance runners practicing mile after mile.

This is what the varsity track team is striving for this season, with several new team members and new goals, practicing every day after school until 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Crosby track since Kennedy doesn't have its own track, working to improve the times from the first meet, held Tuesday, April 15, 2015 at Seymour.

"My goals for the team are to try my best and leave it all out on the track. And to have lots of fun!" said Cameron Feliciano, freshman.

Head coach Mr. Ollie Gray works at Crosby High School as a paraprofessional and was also the coach of indoor track, whose seasons is November to February.

"Coach...he is a good guy, he understands and listens and wants the best for us," said Elijah Benjamin, senior, who has been on the team since freshman year.

Some track events include sprinting and hurdles (100m, 200m, 400m); mid-distance (800m and 1600m); long-distance (3200m); jumping (long jump, high jump) and throwing (shot put, javelin, discus), according to the website [www.topendsports.com](http://www.topendsports.com).

"My goals are to do better this year because last year, I only attended two meets out of the five, so I want to stay more committed," said Christian Milian, sophomore.

"I don't like the fact that we have to wait for coach to get to Kennedy every day. Distance runners should only go to Crosby once or twice (a week) because they can practice on their own," said C. Milian.

On the other hand, sprinters and other runners need to practice on the track, he said.

"My goals for this year's season are to improve my own personal time and the times



**AT REST** Senior Stanley Little, freshman Edmund Edgehill, and seniors Elijah Benjamin, Will Ducham, Robbie Black, and Johnathan Constantin represent the track team at Seymour High School.

Photo by Ashley Lamb and Fuka Reale/staff

of the relays I'm in. I run the 400m and the 200m," said Matthew Sargeant, junior, a three-year member.

Many of the upperclassmen help motivate the freshman and other new members on the team to try to surpass the bar they set, according to Arlen Milian, freshman.

"My advice to the lower classmen is for them to focus on technique and improving themselves so that in years to come they'll do amazing," said Sargeant.

The upper classmen are supportive and push the freshman to strive to be the best they can be, said Feliciano.

"(I advise them) to work hard from the start and keep good grades," said Benjamin.

"Both Eli and Stanley taught me things

that others couldn't teach me, such as stretching, running, and training since I came on the team and I hope that I can be like that," said Edmund Edgehill, freshman.

Other seniors on the team have goals they hope to achieve as their high school track experience comes to an end.

"I want to be finished with it because it gets tiring after a while, but I'm excited about college. I want to reach the times that I set for myself and try my hardest," said William Ducham, a senior who has been on the team four years.

For senior Stanley Little, who was first in the state and second in New England for indoor track, his goals for his last year are to qualify for states, go to Nationals, and beat

his times.

"This year I want to break records and put all in every event that I do; my goal is to become stronger, faster and successful," said Perla Cora, senior, a 4-year member.

Her most unforgettable experience was breaking the school record for the 55m dash during indoor track which helped motivate her to train harder proving that hard work pays off, according to Cora.

"I think I'll be more focused for individual times and I want to get in shape for college, since I'll be running for college. I'll miss my little freshmen girls!" said Caity Silva, senior, a 4-year member.

How is this year different from other years?

This year the amount of sprinters and other runners are greater and it's good because that means they could participate in multiple events, according to C. Milian.

"We had a lot of downs last year, but this year, we're a well-oiled machine, we're all connected and bonded, and a good team," said Robbie Black, senior, a 4-year member.

Track isn't an easy sport. For some, it comes easy, but most people have to work hard to earn it, according to Johnathan Constantin, senior, a 4-year member.

"When I'm getting ready to run, I try not to think about anything. I talk to other runners on teams and wish them luck to calm my own nerves," said Sargeant.

All of the people you meet on the track will only help you get better at racing. It's exciting, competitive and hardworking, according to Benjamin.

"I tell myself to keep pushing through the pain, that a moment of pain is worth a lifetime of glory," said Feliciano.

Black, known for his inspirational quotes for both the track and cross country teams, recites one of his favorite quotes: "Those who spread their wings and fly go farther than those that stay grounded."

**“ I'll be more focused for individual times and I want to get in shape for college since I'll be running for college. I'll miss my little freshmen girls. ”**

**Caity Silva, senior  
four-year track team member**

## Girls' tennis faces challenges

By Andria Latifi  
Staff Writer

And the season starts...

The girls' varsity tennis team's season just began and coach Mr. Jim Quinn and his team are gearing up for a good season, which includes 16 games starting April 8 and ending May 14, 2015.

"Our team is looking good and we are improving every practice and game," said junior Erica Kulla, who has played for three years.

The team practices every weekday and sometimes Saturdays, depending on the weather, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. They practice at Chase and Murray parks.

"I feel like the coach is preparing for this season," said freshman Alessandra Leitao.

As a whole the team is preparing and improving each practice.

"I expect our team to grow and for us to improve," said Kulla

The team had their first game Wednesday April 8, against St. Paul, which they lost 3-4. Winners included junior Edona Roci and senior Sarah Namazi.

"My teammates and I have been overcoming difficulties, whether it's practicing in the school's caf-

eteria, parks with no nets on the court, or outside at low temperatures," said captain Roci.

The players have been going through many obstacles to prepare for the season, which includes practicing.

"I feel like this season is going to be great," said Leitao.

Everyone is getting ready for the remainder of the season whether as a team or individually.

"Although there is always room for improvement," said Roci

Most players are returning players, but there are some new faces. There are 12 returning players and eight new faces.

"Overall we are adjusting to situations that we have no control over. We are hoping for a great season," said Roci.

**“ My teammates and I have been overcoming difficulties, whether it's practicing in the school's cafeteria, parks with no nets on the court, or outside at low temperatures. ”**

**Edona Roci, junior  
girls' varsity tennis captain**



## Boys' tennis seeks league playoff spot

By Frenkli Rusi  
Correspondent

Team beats Crosby, Woodland to start 2-2

The new season picks off where the last one ends...

Varsity boys' tennis coach Mr. Gus Krisavage and his team are in the midst of their 2014-2015 campaign, eager to compete with the rest of the Naugatuck Valley League, as they look to finish in one of the league's eight playoff spots.

Since weather had postponed the season's start, many players were unsure if they would be ready in time for their April 8, 2015 encounter with Holy Cross High School and the rest of the season altogether.

With the uncertainty that arose, coach Gus assured his players there was nothing to be worried about and to simply play the game.

"I feel as if he has given 100 percent on preparing his team and myself; it is not easy for a coach such as himself to transition in between seasons and change his coaching style, but he does a great job of doing so," said senior and captain Oscar Montes, who has been on the team since his freshman year.

Returning players hope to regain their experience at practices,

**“ Becoming a captain of the team this year made me feel like I had a responsibility to myself and my teammates to help them learn the game and improve individually. ”**

**Oscar Montes, senior  
boys' varsity tennis captain**

which take place Monday through Friday at Chase Park, on weekly alternating hours of 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"While I still have a long way to go, with the help of the team and (coach) Gus I feel like I'll be up to par by the end of the season," said first-year team member junior Makyle Hawk.

The team will have to look upon many of its younger players to grow and help the team succeed in

the future.

"I have matured as a player and learned to analyze the game," said third-year junior and key player Rilind Racaj.

As of Friday April 17, the team's record is at 2-2, with losses against Holy Cross and Torrington, and comfortable wins against Crosby and Woodland. Captains Tyler Wrenn, senior, and Montes lead the team.

"Becoming a captain of the team this year made me feel like I had a responsibility to myself and my teammates to help them learn the game and improve individually," said Montes.

The team will also have to rely on coach Gus's ability to train the team in preparation for the NVL tournament in late May.

"He knows that some of the players on the team are inexperienced so he tries to work on our footwork and technique to help us improve," said four-year member and senior Mayowa Oleyede.

"He knows that we have potential and he wants to see us exceed that bar he set for us," said second-year member and senior Kevin Hoxha.