



Photo By Carol Jean McGreevy-Morales

**Maids and Men of the Mist:** French students spend quality time at Niagara Falls in Canada.

## French students visit Academy

By Marko Hudak

Shady Side Academy students, parents, and teachers eagerly awaited the arrival of the French exchange students from Bordeaux, France on October 5. The twelve French students and two chaperones were warmly welcomed at Pittsburgh International Airport despite the rainy weather that had changed the welcoming plans numerous times.

The following day at school, the Shady Side community held a welcoming reception in the dining hall complete with Eat 'n Park Smiley cookies and hot chocolate for the jet lagged French group.

During the three-week home stay in Pittsburgh, the students went on several field trips. The first was a tour of Pittsburgh with College Counselor and Ducky Tour guide Tom Colt. During this time, they explored areas such as the Strip District, downtown, and Mount

Washington. Five days after the group's arrival, a get-together dinner was held at Brgr, a burger specialty restaurant in East Liberty. Here, the Shady Side and French students mingled while eating traditional American food.

Their second field trip was to Niagara Falls, where the exchange students went on board the famous Maid of the Mist. This exhausting one-day trek landed them in Canada only for a few hours before returning home. As student Pierre Lalut noted, "This was a fantastic experience and everybody really enjoyed it."

The last field trip the French group went on was to Washington D.C., where they stayed for two days.

While spending time in D.C., the group explored historic landmarks such as the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial. After their journey to the Nation's capi-

tal, their immersion into American culture was complete. French student Marie-Liévine Gueroult said, "The tour of D.C. at night was really beautiful."

While the French students were in Pittsburgh, they went to school regularly with their Shady Side Academy home stay correspondents. At school, the French students attended classes and explored the many areas and buildings on campus. After the school day, they keenly watched the practices and games. Something very new for them was American football. They had generally known about it, but had never seen it in real life.

Although the three weeks went by very quickly, the Shady Side and French students formed a special bond. The day the French group departed was sad. Tears rolled down peoples' cheeks. Hugs (Please see page four.)

## Physics go-kart races intensify

By Porter Ladley

As Term I drew to a close, the front hill was heating up with the Physics II car races. These annual races are held down the main drive as students showcase the soapbox racers they have been working on for many weeks.

This year, the class built five cars fully equipped with wheels, the ability to steer and brake, and odometer systems. These capabilities would help the racers compete in a series of challenges set up by teacher Mark Skinner.

Challenges like a slalom run through cones, a downhill sprint, and a push around the quad would surely stretch the carts to their limits and provide entertainment for any passing student.

Physics student Alec Brown was ecstatic about the project, saying "It was a lot of fun, even though our group didn't win. It was incredible to see all the amazing projects people put together. It was a great way to end the term."

The overall winning car for the day named "TANK" was built by Peter Scott, Ally Ross, and Zach Ssemakula, who collectively won both the downhill race and the push around the quad.

Still, everyone had a great time competing and showcasing their hard work. Race day also proved exciting for many spectators at the event.

Rob Belles said, "It was interesting to see the different styles of cars that the students came up with and how the students performed against each other. It was a fun event to watch."

But the excitement is not over. Physics II is planning to build both cardboard boats and potato launchers later in the year. So stay tuned and come out to watch more exciting competition, with a side of science, of course.



Photo By Mark Skinner

**Victory!** Zach Ssemakula, Peter Scott, and Ally Ross celebrate.

## NEWSLINE

### Poet Visits Campus

Award-Winning poet and speaker Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz visited Shady Side in early December. A recent National Endowment of Arts fellow, O'Keefe visited English classes, met students and faculty, and even offered a slam poetry workshop in the Peter J. Kountz Theater.

### Operation SPORK

Spork has begun. Survive, persist, outrun, resist, kill. Compete with your friends in order to be the last one standing. Strategize in order to win the grand prize.

### Alternative Spring Break

Shady Side Academy is sponsoring a service trip this year for 15 students to Camden, New Jersey during the first week of Spring Break. Organized by senior David Jimenez and junior Alex Levy with the help of Mr. LaCasse and the International Program, students will clean up local neighborhoods, and work in afterschool programs and educational services with Urban Promise, a nationally known network of private schools, camps, and social services. Members are looking forward to having a memorable break, making a difference, and learning about community organizing, urban issues, and social justice.

### Viral Video

A contest sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) is being held. In video format show why "SSA is awesome." Students, faculty, and parents are encouraged to participate. Videos must be e-mailed to [dsheehan@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:dsheehan@shadysideacademy.org) by **Monday, Dec. 27**.

The first place prize awarded by NAIS is a video camera, or the equivalent value in cash, \$500; one first runner-up prize of a \$200 gift card redeemable toward the purchase of video equipment; and one second runner-up prize of a \$100 gift card. In addition, the creators of the best SSA video will be awarded \$100 to the SSA Web Store.



**Scene:** Jennifer Schwartz, Kate Rosenzweig, and Toran Spence collect their thoughts at the end of the day. Photo By Austin Davidheiser

## Gargoyle's On the Verge

By Kelly Marous and Michelle Bucklew

For people who were able to find time to see the fall play, *On the Verge* by Eric Overmeyer, it was worth it. The cast worked extremely hard and put on a terrific show.

Alex Nelson, a member of the audience, commented, "I thought the play was extremely entertaining, and I especially enjoyed the guest appearance from the Yeti."

The play begins in 1888 and follows the adventures of three young women, played by Jennifer Schwartz, Kate Rosenzweig, and Toran Spence. They begin their trek in "Terra Incognita," an unknown land "somewhere east of Australia and west of Peru."

The women, at some point, realize that they travel through time as well as space during their exploration. During their travels, the women are able to make discoveries of the future and meet some interesting characters, all played by Pat Stanny. Pat played roles ranging from a German cannibal to a snowball-throwing Yeti.

In the end, the three adventurers find their way to the year 1955 where they meet a nightclub owner named Nicky Paradise, with whom one of the ladies

falls in love.

The play was well orchestrated by the dedicated stage crew, who were themselves orchestrated by technical coordinator and set designer Austin Davidheiser. Among the crew were stage manager Peter Kann; Caitlin O'Connell, who controlled the sound board and set design; prop master Collin Mason, who was in charge of set design; assistant technical director Eric Rabe, who also was in charge of set design and running crew; and Tara Wright, who controlled the light board.

Peter Kann commented, "I loved working with the cast and crew and would encourage anyone interested in participating to participate next year."

The set was spectacular and the play was both creative and well chosen.

Director Claire DePalma agreed, saying, "I was thrilled with the performance of *On the Verge*. This was a tough play and demanded a lot of the actors as well as the crew, but I thought that everything came together beautifully in the end. The students seemed to enjoy themselves and the play itself, and the technical component (the set, costumes, and lighting) was terrific. Thanks to all the students, faculty, and community members who came out to see the show!"

## Long on concerns, short on action

By Jeremie Kim

Since my sophomore year, student council presidents have brought forth new traditions every year. Sean Hannon of '09 brought about the usage of jokes to lighten the mood during assemblies. Ben Ross of '10 brought about *The Assembly Show* which resembled *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

And now Broderick Kelley of '11 brings the audience/school a time towards the end of every Friday Assembly for individuals to express concerns about the community, show gratitude towards another individual, and tell stories for the good of the community. But are these new traditions really good for the community?

Concerns seem to be going well so far with great suggestions surfacing from the crowd. I especially found two suggestions for concerns to be extremely helpful for most of the community: the changing of the stop sign outside of Bayard and the clearing of freshmen legs in the hallways. Of course, with these proposals in effect, the school would operate a great deal smoother.

However, the stop sign remains unchanged and the freshman hallway remains impassable. Clearly, something is wrong here. Unless student council meant for the time of concerns to be just a rant session to the entire community, the members of the community should be adhering to these suggestions rather than simply ignoring them (That is assuming every suggestion brought up is reasonable and will improve the school community).

A simple gesture like moving your legs to let people through, will, if not simply show a little decency, show concern for other peoples' concerns.

Strange as it may seem, our community needs to be concerned about other peoples' concerns in order to make the "time for concerns" truly successful.

Appreciations are always welcome in our community. But each week when it comes to the time for appreciations, my conviction in the integrity of this school as a nationally respected private school is questioned. Some members in this community feel the obligation to announce birthdays during this time. I still don't understand this logic.

If you really feel that Facebook doesn't do a good enough job spreading word of birthdays, go up to the podium and make an announcement rather than using up precious appreciation time. I might be speaking for myself here, but when it's appreciation time, I want to hear actual appreciations.

In the times I do hear about caring things people do in our community, my confidence in the Guiding Principles grows stronger. However, looking past the gooey feelings you get listening to a compassionate story, this may have its downsides. Considering that heroes and their good deeds are being sung each week, we must consider this question: Will it become more difficult to stay an unsung hero long enough to earn a Fides nomination?

Stories for the good of the community are generally stories about car troubles and almost always end in a thank you. I'm not sure if this is common, but when I was about three, I learned to say thank you whenever I appreciated something that was done for me.

What I'm trying to get at is that if you end something in a "thank you, (insert name here)," your story, that was sup-



posed to have a moral and teach the community something, instantly becomes an appreciation. I'll leave figuring out what to do with car trouble stories to you.

This editorial is not meant to discourage members of the community from taking on the daunting task of speaking to the entire school but rather encourage a more formal and proper approach. I believe that this new tradition President Kelley brought to this school has the potential for becoming gratifying and community-strengthening. So, community, let's try our hardest when it comes to sharing concerns, appreciations, and stories at the appropriate time, so that assemblies can again become the enjoyable experience they have been in the past.

As of now, these assemblies can only slowly build our student body into a community and only when we harness the full potential of the time for concerns, appreciations, and stories can our school become the grocery store headmaster Jeremy LaCasse envisioned during Convocation.

## Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

By Yuval Ben-David

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* is a languishing movie, the type an apologist can call "epic" and a critic could assail as many things, "pop-culture exploiter" or "deceptive waste of your money" probably being two of the more astute of those commentaries.

That's not to say that I'm not glad I saw *Deathly Hallows*, and that I'm not relieved that the Harry Potter cycle has yet to come to a full stop.

Like many others who grew up with the Chosen One, I owe a lot of sentimental debt to the series: I picked up English from the *Potter* books after I moved to the US at five years old.

Negatively reviewing a *Harry Potter* should be heresy, but that doesn't obtain here. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, compressions and transpositions of the book version forgiven, is too fragmented, too elliptical, and too thin a movie to bear resemblance to the rest of the *HP* franchise.

The newest *HP* is episodic in its own right, thrown about by lots of flashbacks and flash-forwards and flash-asides—and that's about it for the flash (and spunk and charm) unless you count the type that bursts from wands.

Sure, the plot has thickened and gloomed: Harry and sidekicks, diffident Ron and brainy Hermione, have precociously plunged into the adult world they've been toying with for years.

Except the world's no toy, of course, especially not with (really, really) bad boy Voldemort in control of the wizarding world. And with Dumbledore dead, there's no benevolent mastermind



to step in and save the day. Hagrid, ruddy half-giant and motherly klutz, is also out of the picture.

Warmth is hard to find, and the commercial appeals to the contrary prove that director David Yates knows it; but the half-baked sexual tension—there's even one (albeit animated) naked clutch—and the one innocent mambo that Harry and Hermione strike up are too laughably desperate to reverse the mood.

Botched attempts at adolescent psychology aside, there's little intimacy to be had.

Harry and Ron spend most of the movie vying to be the more justified in their narcissism, and in one such scene, on the banks of a bog and with knapsack in hand, the two practically transfigured into two strained hobbits from another book-cum-movie cycle that *Deathly Hallows* is only too willing to borrow from.

A wedding scene is festooned with all the same Celtic allusions as the carousing in *Lord of the Rings*.

The characters run loose on the same biblical landscapes; and both plots accompany characters on a quest to destroy an evil piece of jewelry. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* hobbles through that quest. Maybe Part 2 will pick it up.

## Dragon mystery entrances

By Tess Rosenbloom

Regulars at Barnes and Noble know that *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* has been a bestseller for nearly two years. The novel, written by the late Stieg Larson, is part of a trilogy. Though classified under crime fiction, the novel is much more than that. Humorous yet disturbing and violent, the novel is not for the faint of heart.

This renowned novel is centered on a dark woman with an even darker past—Lisbeth Salander. Early on in the novel, she crosses paths with the other main character, Michael Blomkvist. Together, they work to solve a mystery founded on a mountain of lies and corruption. The numerous twists and turns in this book make it both unpredictable and entrancing.

It takes place in Stockholm, which gives the reader a taste of this all too unfamiliar capital. Besides the setting, I find the novel unique in that though there are a million things happening at once, one can follow along without a problem. It is one of those books that reels you in so quickly that before you know it, you are reading its sequel.

An American film adaptation from Sony Pictures will come out in December 2011. Celebrated stars like Daniel Craig and Robin Wright (divorcee of Sean Penn; she played Jenny in *Forest Gump*) are to take part in this film. This is one of those novels that live up to all the hype—if you're looking for a great read, get this book!

## West's Twisted Fantasy

By Elisa Ogot

Simply put, Kanye West is back. Ever since his very public humiliation of Taylor Swift, West has decided to lie low, reflecting on his misdeeds, and putting all of that emotion into raps and songs.

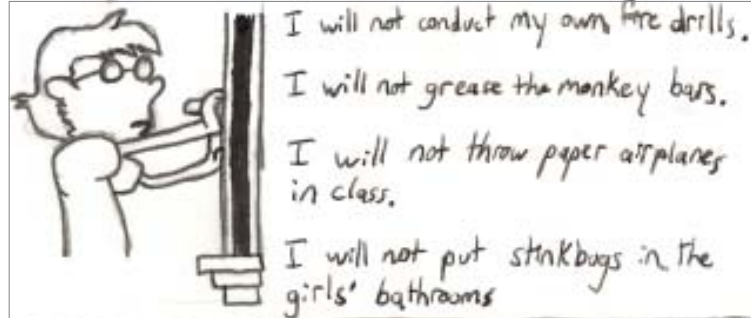
Well, his latest album, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," is the result of all those months in hiding, and it was worth the wait. There is not a single track on this album that is poorly written or does not belong, and you won't find any of those standard filler songs here.

Kanye does criticize himself on the album; he mentions some of his faults and

past wrongdoings, but not in a way that makes you feel sorry for him. He's just showing the world who he is. This is especially portrayed in the hit single, "Runaway." Not all of the album is self-critical, though: tracks like "Power" and "Hell of a Life" discuss his coming back and being better than ever.

All in all, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" is the perfect platform to stage the return of Mr. West.

**Songs Definitely Worth Buying:**  
"Dark Fantasy" featuring Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z, Rick Ross, and Bon Iver  
"Lost in the World" featuring Bon Iver.



## Spoon: My ideal last supper

By Haley DeJulio

First, let me preface this review by saying that Spoon is, in my opinion, the best restaurant in Pittsburgh. I look at meals like mosaics—each piece from start to finish should speak for itself, yet fit together as a whole. Few restaurants accomplish this feat.

Some restaurants have outstanding appetizers, but mediocre entrées and desserts. Spoon, on the other hand, has outstanding bread, appetizers, entrées, and desserts.

Dare I call it a perfect restaurant? By my standards at least, it was. After finishing my meal there, I could not think of one suggestion or complaint. The service was friendly, helpful, and prompt, and the setting was calm, quiet, and relaxed, while simultaneously contemporary and upscale.

My aunt, who was my dining companion for the night, called it "the best and most worthy last dinner imaginable," since she was leaving for a business trip to China for two weeks the following day. If I were choosing a last supper myself, I would certainly agree.

The breadbasket contained miniature French bread slices, corn muffins, and cream cheese and scallion biscuits. They were all still warm and served with a high quality foreign butter that tasted like sweet cream, with a delicate dusting of sea-salt on the top.

This set the stage for the meal, inflating my hopes to an even higher level than they already were. But I've learned not to get my culinary hopes up too quickly.

My appetizer of butternut squash soup served with poached apples and bourbon foam was by far the smoothest, sweetest, most well balanced soup that I've ever consumed. It had flavor and texture contrast without being too fussy or overworked.

For my entrée I ordered the miso glazed butterfish, which I was surprised enough to see on a menu in Pittsburgh (only ever having seen it offered on the West Coast previously). When the butterfish arrived, it was plated beautifully; I felt as though I had left Pittsburgh and entered the Top Chef kitchen or Iron Chef's Kitchen Stadium.

Two perfectly seared pieces of fish sat perched atop a nest of sesame broccolini, connected by a bridge of

drizzled miso glaze to two disks of daikon, each topped by a tempura-fried prawn. I have never encountered such a well-thought out plate in a restaurant.

At this point, I only wondered if it could possibly taste as fabulous as it looked. The fish was tender and flakey, yet still moist upon the first cut. I was pleasantly surprised by the taste, which was very similar to the rich and buttery flavor of Chilean sea bass.

It was a perfectly executed dish, and where most restaurants fall flat on pairing flavors that really enhance each other, Spoon masterfully contrasted sweet, salty, acidic, and savory flavors, while also juxtaposing soft, crunchy, and moderate textures. Never have I experienced such culinary equilibrium in one meal.

Despite Spoon's perfect track record so far, I was still skeptical of the dessert, a spot in which almost every restaurant in Pittsburgh lacks finesse. I ordered the Chocolate Three Ways option, which came with a cinnamon and chocolate ganache palmier sandwich, dark chocolate mousse with toasted pistachios, and milk chocolate milk.

To my pleasant surprise, this dessert was just as decadent as it sounded.

The chocolate was obviously of the highest quality (probably Valrhona or Callebaut), and each component was in its best form imaginable. The chocolate milk was thicker and richer than I had expected, more closely related to a chilled hot chocolate.

The dark chocolate mousse was more like a deconstructed candy bar with just the right amount of sweetness, smoothness, and crunch. The palmier sandwich, while a little messy, was still warm and rolled in chocolate cookie crumbs, my favorite.

I must say that food of the caliber found at Spoon has the power to transcend being simply a great meal. This dinner inspired me to create and invent, whether in the kitchen or otherwise. Spoon represents what all great restaurants aim to do, but few ever achieve.

Considering that I took the Mystical Sublime English elective first term, I must declare that dining at Spoon is a very "mystically sublime" experience, and from start to finish, it is an escape from the ailments of everyday life to a few hours of culinary bliss and perfection.

Spoon: 134 South Highland Avenue, East Liberty

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Adobe Pagemaker 7.0  
on an IBM

# SHADY SIDE NEWS

Published by Shady Side Academy  
423 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 TEL: 412-968-3000

The *Shady Side News* welcomes responses and opinions from students, faculty, and readers. All letters must be signed. *News* reserves the right to edit for content if libelous statements are involved. If necessary, letters will be edited for length.

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# SSA Girls' Soccer enters the books

By Katie Prochownik

The story started three years ago. The Shady Side Academy girls' soccer team walked off of the Springdale field with their heads bent extremely low, the score board showing an embarrassing defeat of 12 to 0. Little did the girls know that they were about to embark on a three year roller coaster ride with the orange and black jersey team.

Earlier this season, the girls faced Springdale twice, each time being defeated by only a single goal. It was this continuous loss to their biggest competitors that triggered the Shady Side girls' motivation to succeed this season.

It was the night of the WPIAL semifinals, Shady Side versus Springdale. It was a frigid 30° F outside, and the girls were exhausted from two forty minute halves and two fifteen minute sudden death overtimes, with the score tied 2-2. The game had come down to the one thing that the girls had been practicing all season, penalty kicks.

As senior and Captain, Aubrey Jaicks remembers about that moment, "There was so much energy and adrenaline in the stands and on the field. It was incredible." For senior Makenna Krebs, that moment was also the most unforgettable memory for her during the season. "The intensity of the five of us standing at the half waiting to take our penalty kicks was a feeling I'll never forget," she says. "That game meant so much to the team, especially the seniors."

Senior Makenna Krebs, Junior Molly Magovern, Sophomore Lia Winter, Senior Katie Prochownik, and Sophomore Hollis Stewart stood at mid field, waiting to take their shot. The girls began shooting, and through the engulfing darkness shone a bright light. In the end, Shady Side defeated Springdale 3-2 in the final shootout of the game. It was a moment none of the girls will forget.

Freshman Zoe Schoen recalls the excitement. "For me, winning the first shootout against Springdale was the icing on the cake. I wasn't even shooting!"

We all ran in and screamed our heads off, and I'll remember that joy for the rest of my life."

The girls went on to become the first soccer team, boys' or girls', to be titled WPIAL Champions in the history of Shady Side Academy. On another cold and snowy day in November, the girls managed to once again overcome a large feat and defeat Sewickley in the last few minutes of the second half.

Sophomore Lia Winter dwells on the moment when she scored the winning goal in that game. "The feeling was amazing, and I finally felt like my hard work had paid off. This was a great year, we made history, and made it farther than I ever imagined possible."

It seemed like déjà vu, then, when Shady Side faced Springdale one last time in the PIAA quarterfinals. This time, the sweltering sun did not relent as the game entered overtime at 0-0. It was only appropriate when the game, once again, came down to a final shootout between Springdale and Shady Side Academy. Unfortunately, the girls were not so lucky this time, and Springdale won the game by one goal.

Despite the final loss to Springdale, the girls measured their success of the season in other ways than just beating Springdale. As Aubrey Jaicks said, "We went much farther this season and worked really hard. It was difficult to see it all come to an end, but looking at how far we had come made it easier to deal with. It was better than last season, because we achieved more and became closer as a team."

Freshman Maggie Scott also agrees that this season was one of the best the school has ever seen. "By the end of the season, the team was treating everyone as equal players on the team and everybody contributed to each play that led to our success."

The girls would like to thank all of the people who supported them throughout the season, as well as their entire coaching staff. It was the best season we have ever had! Lovely job, ladies!



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Cozen

**Tennis Triumph.** Girls' Tennis travels to Hershey and conquers rival Mt. Lebanon for the win!

# Girls' Tennis takes the States

By Anita Jain

SSA Girls' Tennis defeated arch rival Mt. Lebanon, becoming the 2010 PIAA AAA State Champions during the weekend of October 29-30 at the Hershey Racquet Club.

The day after arriving at Hershey, the tennis team went to their match ready to go to the finals and dominate. It was tough, but they persevered and won. Nerves were high, with many players reminiscing about the state finals two years ago, when the team lost 3-2 in a tight match. Despite the memories, they arrived at the club anxious to find out who their opponents would be. The team soon learned that their opponent was Mt. Lebanon, who was also excited to win the State Championship and get revenge for losing to SSA in the WPIAL Team Finals.

Junior Kelly Marous says, "We had an amazing season. Our record was 23-0, and I think that the one reason we were so successful is because we were all really close. As a team, we've been determined to bring back the championship since the first week of preseason. All the dedication paid off in our final

match against Mt. Lebanon. I think that the support we all had for each other really helped us win the three key matches."

From the moment the players stepped on the court, there was nothing but dedication and drive to win. The points were long, tough, and grueling. The score was tight. Nerves were flying. Kelly Mengel and Alexa Miller quickly won two singles matches, and all the team needed was one more match to win the Championship.

Sara Perelman in the first singles match and Lisha Gu and Rachel Diehl in the first doubles matches lost in tight matches, and it was all up to the second doubles team. The match quickly went to three sets, and each point was critical. Finally, the second doubles team of Lindsay Cozen and Haley Mears needed one more game to win the match and the Championship.

The score was tied, and the team needed two more points. Then one more point. The players watched as Mt. Lebanon hit their volley out, and SSA's whole team rushed onto the court, congratulating the girls on their win. In

a matter of a couple points, SSA was the 2010 PIAA AAA State Champions!

Senior captain Sara Perelman says, "We had a really great season and ended on a high note! We reached our goals, and the team worked really hard. But most importantly, we all got along so well and had so much fun together. Everyone on the team did their part and contributed to our amazing success."

Junior Rachel Diehl also says, "We had a great season filled with memories and laughter that'll last forever. I'm going to miss our three seniors so much next year... they were a really big part of our team both in regards to our playing and our bonding."

Junior Ashley Ferree adds, "Even though I did not get to play in States, it still felt amazing to run onto the courts with the entire team knowing we are the best of the best."

Senior captain Haley Mears says, "This year we were extremely lucky to have such a talented group of girls, but talent and skill can only get you so far. I think that the fact that we are all so close as a team and have so much fun together is the reason we are so successful."

# Jack and Emily run!

By Adi Krupski

After an outstanding run at this year's WPIALS, the Boys' Cross Country team finished 5<sup>th</sup> — one spot short of making it to States.

Jack Bagamery, the team's leading runner, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> individually in the entire meet and went on to compete in States. With the guidance of Coach Paul Ejzak and the help of his family, Jack took 14<sup>th</sup> place in the state — a feat worth noticing.

Qualifying for a medal, Jack was once again standing on the "bleachers of champions" and accepting the medal from Coach Ejzak himself to celebrate the victory. As Coach Ejzak remarks, "Jack proved himself to be among the elite runners in the State"

Emily Lamm from the Girls' Cross Country team placed sixth overall at the WPIAL championships, qualifying her, individually, to compete at States. There she placed 71st out of 281 runners in the AA girls.



Photo by Adi Krupski

**Success.** Coach Ejzak awards Jack Bagamery with his medal!

# Powder Puff inspires intense competition

By Carianne Lee

With games going into double overtime and a lively crowd, the 2010 Powder Puff tournament was a huge success.

The sophomores ultimately won in the first game; however, the freshmen held on and pulled the game into a double overtime. Frank Rocks, the freshmen coach, thought that they still did a really good job on the field. "We did amazing. I had a great time. It was fun, a lot of fun, and I want to do it again," he said.

Although the coaches appeared to be relaxed, the players were a little less happy with the outcome of the game. "I am so mad right now, actually. I thought we were going to get it. We played our hardest, though," said Gigi Ruppel.

The sophomores, on the other hand, were excited for their win. Sophomore coach Andrew Geisler recalled the win being "amazing" and "great." Like Rocks, Geisler was also proud of his players. "Right when you thought it was about to die off, no, everyone just came back even stronger than before. It was amazing, there was so much that was good, along with being a win."

To the players on the sophomore team, the win was just as good as the coach described it. "It feels great!" said Felicia Tissenbaum, who was very happy about beating the freshmen.

In the senior/junior game, the juniors came out strong. "It was awesome, a first win!" said Dima Kharma, adding, "It was awesome, and I would do this again."

The juniors had a great night, beating the seniors and continuing on to defeat the sophomores. No hard feelings were felt



Photo by Ally Bernstein

**Powder Puff Frenzy.** Seniors Gina Cunningham and Camille Scanga show their enthusiasm for playing female football!

towards the juniors. Ally Ross said that she had fun that night. However, she was upset that there was quite a bit of tackling and the juniors were too rough. In the end, both teams were happy to play and hope to have Powder Puff in the future.

The games turned out great and everyone had a good time, despite the possible need for more supervision. "I'm actually really surprised that everyone is behaving, because there aren't a lot of teachers here," said Ross. "Hopefully next year it has a little bit better attendance, teachers and students. I just think that this year, because it was a little bit impromptu and

a new thing, not everyone knew to come. But I think that it will become a bigger event as it becomes a tradition at school."

Dean of Students Wendy Skinner was also on the same page as Ally. "I think people are behaving themselves fantastically. I think we should definitely do it again. I think it might be helpful to have some more faculty members here just to keep everything fine," she said.

All in all, the Powder Puff game was a success. Although there was quite a bit of pushing and shoving during the games, everyone still had a great time. Congratulations to the junior class for a great win!

# What's Hot/What's Not

By Samantha Goodman

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| <p><b>Hot</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prep Hockey</li> <li>Hot Chocolate</li> <li>Riding Boots</li> <li>Shaun Suisham</li> <li>Lululemon</li> <li>Kiss Me, Kate</li> <li>Clint Hurdle</li> <li>SSA Mobile</li> <li>Trayless Wednesdays</li> <li>Burn Notice</li> <li>Roller Backpacks</li> <li>Midnight Snack Jazz Combo</li> <li>HP and the Deathly Hallows</li> </ul> | <p><b>Not</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSA Football</li> <li>Ice Cream</li> <li>Military Boots</li> <li>Jeff Reed</li> <li>Adidas</li> <li>Guys &amp; Dolls</li> <li>John Russell</li> <li>Schedules &amp; ID Cards</li> <li>Trays</li> <li>Law &amp; Order</li> <li>Drawstring Bags</li> <li>Concert Choir</li> <li>Inception</li> </ul> |
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Photo By Kimberly Pitt

**Smile!** Senior Hanna Brouman and sophomore Max Brouman pose with their grandparents amidst the day's excitement!

## Grandparents' Day

By Rob Belles

As far back as veteran faculty members at our school can remember, Grandparents' Day has been a tradition at the Shady Side Academy Senior School. Grandparents' Day, which took place on October 22, allows students the chance to bond with their grandparents as well as to let these important members of our community experience a day in the life of a Shady Side Academy Senior School student.

Grandparents' Day began with a breakfast and welcoming celebration with remarks from President Tom Cangiano and Head of School Jeremy LaCasse. After this, the grandparents went to assembly where they met with their grandchildren. They were then able to follow their grandchildren around through their inner block classes and take a guided tour of the campus during seventh period.

Mr. Cangiano said, "I got the chance to talk to a lot of grandparents on Grandparents' Day, and they thought that it was a wonderful experience. They love the classroom dynamic, they love the chance to interact with their grandchildren in school, and those grandparents who aren't alumni often say that they wish they were."

Mr. Cangiano continued, "After seeing Grandparents' Day at the Senior School, I really can't wait for Grandparents' Day at the Middle School and Junior School. My kids are there now, and my parents are coming down from Boston for the event."

David Szlachetka, Dean of Students, agrees, saying, "Grandparents' Day is a

wonderful experience that allows us to connect our school with our grandparents. It's like a three way connection between our students, our school, and our grandparents."

Mr. LaCasse said simply that Grandparents' Day "is the best day of the year."

Other faculty members agree that Grandparents' Day is a great thing.

"Sometimes you need to be a little older to appreciate certain aspects of history," says Dan Coyne, a History faculty member, "and our grandparents are often the best examples of this. I often find them talking as much as their grandchildren do about the topics we are discussing that day in class, and it's great to see this."

Buddy Hendershot, an English faculty member, said, "There is nothing like vintage wine, and grandparents are our vintage."

Although some teachers feel bad giving a test on Grandparents' Day because they do not want to make grandparents sit and watch their grandchildren take a test, most teachers do not feel the need to alter their agenda for the day and often find that the grandparents who attend appreciate this because it gives them a truly genuine experience.

Students greatly enjoy this unique opportunity to spend time and bond with their grandparents. My grandparents attended Grandparents' Day this year, and I know that they enjoyed the experience as thoroughly as I did. While some students complain about having to wear formal dress on this day, all can agree that it is a worthwhile experience.

## Collin Mason makes SSA Mobile

By Christopher Miller

For those of you who don't have an iPhone or iPod Touch, you may not know exactly what SSA Mobile is, or what it can do for you. So for those of you who don't know, SSA Mobile is a new iPhone app made by Shady Side Academy senior Collin Mason.

This app allows you to forget about carrying copies of your schedule everywhere you go. You no longer need to bring your ID card to school, you never have to ask around just to find out what's for lunch, and you always have access to the latest community news. All of this information is now just a few clicks away with SSA Mobile.

If you take five minutes to type in your Day 1 schedule, SSA Mobile will do the rest. It will calculate the seven other days of the cycle, just by using the information you have already typed in.

From this point on, your phone knows your schedule better than you do; it will always be able to tell you what day of the cycle it is, and it even knows when there's a special schedule. So if you ever have no idea where you should be or don't know when you have a certain class, or even if



you don't know when a class starts, just look to your app and you'll find the answer.

Not only does SSA Mobile know your schedule, it knows all your friends' schedules. If you use the "Bump" feature, you can instantly share your schedule with all your friends. This allows you to always know where your friends are, and likewise, they know where you are, thus making communication far easier.

Because of SSA Mobile, you never have to bring your ID card with you. Collin's app allows you to have the bar code that can be seen on the back of your

ID card right in your phone. Now when you head to the dining hall for lunch or to the Tuck Shop for supplies, all you need is your phone.

Along with all of these things, SSA Mobile also allows you to look at lunch menus for the week and access the SSA News via PDF format. You can even upload photos directly to the newspaper or yearbook.

As for the reasoning behind why Collin created the SSA Mobile app? That dates back to his freshman year at SSA. One day he was walking across campus while looking at a "half-torn and very confusing schedule." At that moment, Collin realized how ridiculous it was to have to carry schedules like that everywhere he went.

Two years later, during the summer after his junior year, he took a blind leap into iPhone programming in an attempt to create a schedule that would be easy to read and follow. Four months later, Collin had created SSA Mobile.

Collin said, "It's great that what started as messing around with iPhone programming has been able to benefit not only myself but the SSA community. I'm glad so many students have been able to use it."

## 2008: Change/2010: Change

By Anthony Costa

The 2010 midterm elections, as predicted, proved to be historical. Polls, data, and statistics on the outcome are voluminous, accurate, and clearly show numbers that haven't been rivaled since 1948.

Even with such impressive data, it is difficult to answer the question of what was and is voters' intent. Pundits quickly lined up to give their views, with blinders on as to many possible considerations, and instead opted to analyze in the light most favorable to their party.

Mid-term elections often produce 25-27 changes in the Congress, but this year there were over 60. State legislatures in general went for the GOP in record numbers, as did the South and the Midwest across the board. Voters seemed to reject self-financing candidates, but many of these candidates were in areas with strong Democratic support, such as Meg Whitman and Carly Fiorina in California. Therefore, whether they were self-financed or not, their chances of winning were daunting.

A mid-November CNN poll found that of Americans who were asked, 70% said that the election was a rejection of

Democratic policies. The Democratic interpretation of the poll appears to be that they did a poor job of communicating what they did in the last two years.

What general conclusions can be drawn without overreaching? The fact that many of the Blue Dog Democrats, the fiscal conservatives, have been eliminated will likely increase party polarization. This elimination of the moderate Democrats is due in large part to the Tea Party Movement that successfully carried a theme and momentum. It seems consistent that geographic areas that went for McCain in the last election lost their conservative Democrats in this present election cycle. But the Tea Party candidates may not be able to elicit much change in legislation. Did the voters care about effecting legislative change or will they be satisfied with a slowdown or gridlock? That question is not answered in the raw data.

The GOP has assumed that the election results reveal the will of the people to overturn landmark Obamacare, but the Democrats believe the results speak more about the public's desire to return to a focus on the economy and jobs.

Both parties agree that the voters are

fearful of the massive federal debt. But there will need to be hard work and concessions on the part of both parties across the board with the loss of entitlements and the raising of some tax levels in order to truly begin to decrease the deficit. Reducing Social Security benefits or raising the age of eligibility are not attractive to any party, but as the baby boomer generation enters retirement and the number of people receiving Social Security continues to grow, there will come the day when the program will go broke.

At a time when the minds of both Democrats and Republicans are needed to avert very serious economic forecasts, we are faced with elected officials who are not inclined to meet in the middle.

How might this impact the Presidential election of 2012? Most agree, and history confirms, that so many factors could change between now and then that to predict if President Obama will be re-elected is unreliable. But if the unemployment rate decreases to around 8%, the voter fear factor should be in decline and voters may opt to retain the incumbents regardless of who or why the unemployment rate decreased.

## Lend a holiday helping hand

By Katie Prochownik

Shhh. Listen. The sounds of winter are slowly drifting over us. Chestnuts are roasting on an open fire, the weather outside is frightful, and we are all dreaming of a white Christmas. Step outside, and you breathe in the scent of wood burning in the distance, pine trees, and... snow! As the flakes make their way down from the grey tinted sky to the white coated ground, sticking to our eyelashes along the way, many of us stop and think of what the holidays are really about.

What *are* the holidays really about? As we see people rushing through the snow covered streets to the malls to find the perfect gift for that special someone, you have to wonder. Are sparkly presents dressed in big red bows the answer to a Merry Christmas?

As the average American spends about \$430 on holiday gifts, according to the American Research Group, iPods and digital cameras are tossed into stockings as "little" gifts, and laptops and big screens are put under the tree as the "big" gifts. Despite America's economic situation, people continue to use the holidays as an excuse to splurge. Holiday shopping is, well, let's face it...fun! But what about those who cannot afford to splurge for that brand new iPhone? And for those of us who can afford it, how can we lend a helping hand?

Even in our economic downfall, 90% of all Americans donated to a charity last holiday season, according to a Red Cross Survey. Surprisingly, a quarter of those people said they had donated more than \$100. In our school community, giving back highlights the joy of the holiday season for many families.

When asked about her traditions in giving back, Michelle Ament said, "The adults in our family exchange names. We spend a total of \$50 on each other, \$25 for a small item (book, CD, scarf, etc) and \$25 on a donation to a charity in honor of 'our person.' Usually, it reflects an interest." Other teachers, like Tom Colt, also take part in the pleasure of giving back to the community. "Everyone in my immediate family (parents and two older siblings) always donated to an organization called Globe Santa, connected to Boston's biggest newspaper," says Mr. Colt. "Globe Santa raises money for gifts for over 50,000 underprivileged children in the Boston area. I continue to make a small donation to that organization each year leading up to Christmas time."

It is not only our teachers that partake in this effort to spread holiday cheer to others. Students also reach out to others during the Holiday Season. Samantha Schwartz collects books and school supplies for students through her foundation "Bricks and Books." When asked about her traditions, Sam said, "Usually during

the holidays, we try to have more collections for the kids in Tanzania. It's just a great way to get involved, and the holidays are a perfect time to do it."

In addition to Sam, other Shady Side students enjoy doing small acts of charity when the snow begins to fall. For the Leech family, continuing small traditions allows them to get in the spirit of the holidays together. Chris Leech says, "Around Christmas, my family and I like to set up the nativity scene at St. Bede's. It is something that we have always done, and it is something we enjoy doing as a family."

So, you are finally finished buying that last gift for your best friend. You have wrapped the last box and tied the last bow. You think you are done, so you lie back with a nice cup of cocoa and watch the snow fall outside in the cool night. But before you close your eyes and drift into a dreamed sleep, take a pause and ask yourself this, "Is there some other way that I could be offering a helping hand to my community this holiday season?"



Photo by Wendy Skinner

**Ribbons and Treats.** Members of the GSA and President Cangiano show support by wearing purple ribbons and purchasing goodies.

## Wear purple to honor victims

This year SSA participated in Alliance Week, a week dedicated to remembering the victims of homophobic abuse. The GSA held bake sales and encouraged the student body to wear purple as a sign of their support. In response to the possible controversy surrounding the event, Junior Kelly Remo, President of the GSA, stated "Regardless of one's position on homosexuality, we can all agree that no one should be bullied to the point of suicide."

## French Exchange (Continued from page 1)

Hugs and handshakes were exchanged, and everlasting friendships were formed. Jessica Parker, co-director of the international program, noted, "The students from Bordeaux, France integrated themselves quickly into their host families and the school community."

Ms. Parker went on to mention that the French students "seemed interested in absorbing as much as they could during the short time they were here."

In March the fourteen Shady Side Academy students in the exchange program will travel to Bordeaux, France, where they will be reunited with their overseas friends.

Jessica Parker believes, "The trip to France will be equally successful."

While spending time at Shady Side's partner school Lycée Saint Joseph de Tivoli, the American students will be immersed in French culture.

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