

CONARD POWWOW



VOLUME FIFTY SEVEN ISSUE III

PROVIDING 57 YEARS OF NEWS

DECEMBER, 2014

PRIVILEGES ARE EARNED

By: Genesis Rodriguez

“There are many perks to being a senior,” we were told as freshmen. There was a senior lounge, SRP, late arrival, early dismissal, and graduation... who wouldn't want to be a senior? Me! I remember being a freshman and thinking that being a senior was so cool. You would have so many privileges and so much freedom. But then came senior year and it turns out all that I had thought was wrong.

Junior year is when you can “earn” SRP, which supposedly means, “Boo-Yah teachers, I don't need a green pass to be free.” But keep in mind, in order to be eligible for SRP you must have a minimum GPA of 2.0. I think that these standards are too easy to reach. In order to be eligible for SRP you should instead have a minimum GPA of 3.0. I didn't even have to look forward to SRP because it was something I was going to be eligible for regardless, along with many other students who currently have SRP.

I believe that SRP should be a goal, not an expectation. Many times, in order to do well you have to work hard. That should be the motto that the administration keeps in mind before they make something that is supposed to be a privilege easily accessible to all.

Currently, the amount of people who have SRP is outrageous. But what's even more outrageous is what you can actually do with SRP

Though the Student Handbook says that students with SRP may “exit the cafeteria with an SRP identification card to sign in at the ARC, Music Practice Room, or Career Center,” the real truth is that students can go to the library. That's it. I'm not saying the library is a bad place -I love the library. But I don't love that half of the time I can't even get in because it's full. So, what is SRP really good for? NOTHING! Your best bet is the café, and good luck studying in there. Some students even want to visit a teacher during their lunch period or study hall, but. NOPE! You get stopped before you can enter the main hallway. In this case, an SRP sticker has less power than a green pass. Does that seem right? SRP limits students to a full library and a rowdy café... so much for this “privilege”. Not only should the requirements be higher but SRP should be an “SPR” -Senior Privilege Reinforcer. I don't want a piece of plastic to get me in and out of the library as I please. There should be a factor of SRP that encourages students to work harder to earn it and have a motivation to keep it. If having more than a 2.0 is difficult then give students the extra semester to work towards getting better grades. If everything is handed to you then you won't ever appreciate what you have. SRP is supposed to be a privilege. The administration should give the card more significance than a pass to the library and students should learn to work hard, not hardly work.

Editor's Note

Editor-In-Chief, Molly Bugos

Incase you doubted the capabilities of the PowWow's majestic, talented and awe-inspiring staff of student writers... here we are again, more festive than ever, with the third edition of the schoolyear!

Though the time between the printing of our last issue and this current issue has been filled with building controversy surrounding our school mascot, we decided to split our upcoming editions of the PowWow into one holiday edition, and one special edition (which will be entirely focused on the Chieftain debate).

Though the Chieftain debate seems to be a popular topic for discussion from the cafeteria to the classroom, we decided to print some articles addressing other noteworthy topics of ongo-

ing debate at Conard, such as SRP privileges, and whether or not varsity athletes should take gym class.

I encourage anyone who feels passionately about *anything* going on at Conard to write to the PowWow, and let your voice be heard. We love receiving editorial pieces from students, so don't be afraid to send in your opinion! The PowWow office is in room 252A, on the second floor of the building. If you want to contribute but don't know what to say- just come by and visit! We're open to any and all types of contributions.

Enjoy this edition of the PowWow, consider it a holiday gift from us to you. Have a wonderful holiday break, and we'll see you again in 2015!

-Molly Bugos

Editor's Note

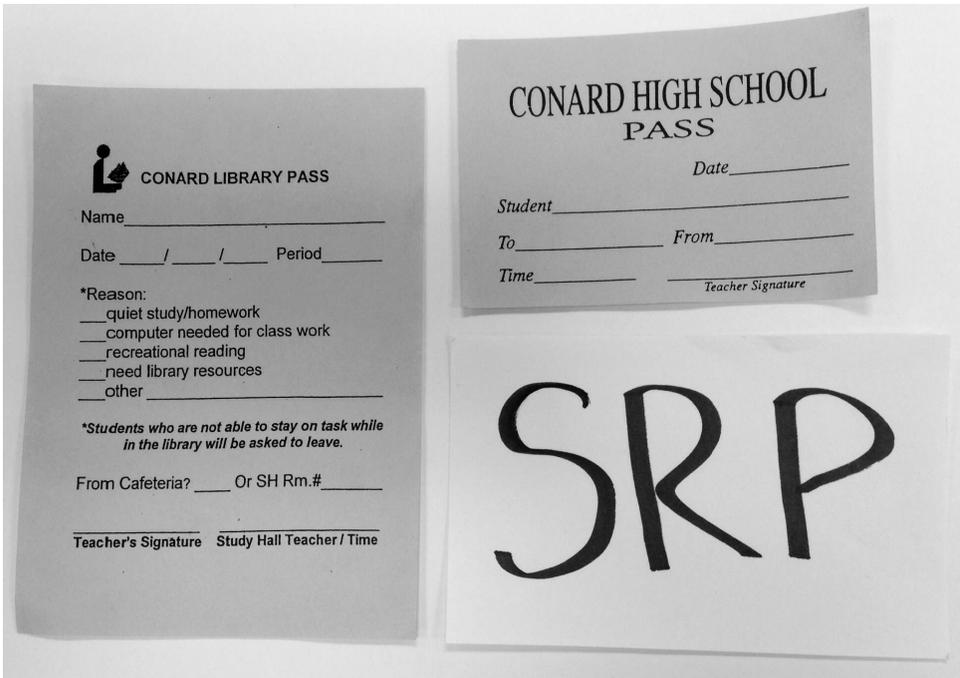
Editor-In-Chief, Emma Kutscher

In the spirit of the season, the PowWow staff chipped in to give Conard the best gift of all, the third edition of the PowWow!

This issue has everything you'll need for the upcoming winter break. If dinner conversation starts to dangerously turn for the worse, college or your relationship status related, then open to page four and start a lively debate about the merits and disadvantages of the pipeline extension. If you can't get enough of the winter wonderland we'll all soon be inevitably living in, Julia Monyak and Sophie Apicelli show you how to celebrate a snow day inside with easy and

adorable DIY snowflakes! If the stress of the impending doom of finals has left you more cynical than jolly, then flip to page eight to read about the enormous amount of generosity and kindness Conard possesses. (Written by yours truly.) And if you can't find anything in here that interests you, then write it yourself! The PowWow is your platform to let your voice be heard.

I hope everyone enjoys their well deserved break, whether it's spent skiing on Okemo, finishing college applications due January 15th, or starting Breaking Bad on Netflix.



What's the Difference?

DAYS 'TILL

Christmas Day.....	3
New Years Day.....	10
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.....	28
Groundhog Day.....	42
Valentine's Day.....	54
Winter Dance.....	???
Freshmen Graduate.....	918,586,714

CHIEFTAIN FEATURES

HOLIDAY BAKING WITH ANNIE & BELLA

By: Annie Kirlin & Bella Gradante

Hot Cocoa Cookies

Just one bite will get you in the holiday spirit. You'll be singing along to Jingle Bells in no time at all!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 12 ounce bag semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 8 ounces semisweet baking chocolate, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 16 large marshmallows, cut in half

Instructions:

- 1.) In a medium saucepan, over medium heat, melt the butter and the 12 ounces of semisweet chocolate chips. Stir constantly until just melted. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes to slightly cool.
- 2.) In a large bowl, combine the brown sugar, eggs and vanilla. Beat with an electric hand-mixer, on medium speed just until blended. Beat in the cooled chocolate mixture just until combined.
- 3.) Add the cocoa powder, flour, baking powder and salt. Mix on low speed just until combined. Cover bowl with saran wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours.
- 4.) Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Scoop and drop the cookie dough by the tablespoon, onto the prepared cookie sheets. You should fit 12 cookies per sheet, and making sure to space them at least 2 inches apart.
- 5.) Bake cookies for 12 minutes. Remove cookies from oven and place one piece of chocolate on the center top of each cookie, and then top each chocolate with one half marshmallow. Place cookies back in oven and bake another 4 minutes.
- 6.) Remove pan and let cookies cool at least 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack
(Recipe courtesy of [Stepable.com](#))

Peppermint Brownies

These brownies are a holiday must, my family makes them every year. After our baking it's nice to settle down and watch Elf while eating everything we've made. Eventually, of course, we all fall into a sugar coma. What would the holidays be without a good sugar induced coma?

Ingredients:

For the Brownies:

- 4 squares unsweetened baking chocolate (4oz)
- 1 cup butter (2 sticks)
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder

For the Frosting:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 3 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- Drop of red food coloring (to make it pink)

For the Chocolate Glaze:

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 4-5 candy canes, crushed

Directions:

For the Brownies:

- 1.) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roughly chop the chocolate baking squares and place them in a microwave-safe bowl. Cut the butter into tablespoon pieces and place in the bowl with the chopped baking chocolate. Melt the chocolate and butter in 30 second intervals, stirring in between, until melted and smooth. Set aside.
- 2.) In another bowl beat eggs for

about 3 minutes until frothy.

Add the sugar and vanilla and beat. Add the melted chocolate and butter that you set aside.

- 3.) Combine flour and baking powder and gently stir into the brownie batter just until combined (don't over-stir!) Pour batter into a well-greased 9x13 pan.

- 4.) Bake for about 23-27 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.

For the Frosting:

- 1.) Combine all frosting ingredients and beat until light and fluffy. Add a little bit more milk to thin the frosting if needed. Gently spread the frosting over the cooled brownies.

For the Chocolate Glaze and Peppermint Topping:

- 1.) Place the candy canes in a resealable bag and use a rolling pin to crush them into small pieces.
- 2.) Place chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl and cook in 30 second intervals, stirring after each time, until smooth. Drizzle the chocolate over the brownies and sprinkle the crushed candy canes on top!
(Recipe courtesy of [Lifeinbeantownusa.blogspot.com](#))



Hot Cocoa Cookies, Photo: [Stepable.com](#)

HOLIDAY MOVIE SURVEY

One of the best parts of the Holiday Season is being able to watch the holiday movies we pretend to only watch in December (though we really watch them year 'round).

In order to find out the most popular holiday movie among students at Conard, the PowWow conducted a *very* official survey of 67 students, asking which holiday "classic" is their favorite. The results are as follows:

Elf: 52%

Charlie Brown Christmas: 4%

Home Alone: 16%

Rudolph: 12%

The Santa Clause: 6%

It's A Wonderful Life: 10%

Although we got *many* responses with votes for The Polar Express, and A Christmas Story, it's pretty clear that Elf is the holiday movie champion. How could you not love Buddy the Elf? Is there anything funnier than Will Ferrell screaming SANTA! in the middle of Gimbel's? We think not. Stay tuned for more PowWow surveys!



Peppermint Brownies, Photo: [dessertedplanet.com](#)

CHIEFTAIN FEATURES

YOU'LL FLIP FOR THESE GYMNASTS

By: Emma Kutscher

Two years ago, during the 2012 Summer Olympics, American spectators rallied behind artistic gymnasts Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman, Kyla Ross and Jordyn Wieber. These charismatic and talented girls won the unofficial title of America's sweethearts, and the official title of being the first Artistic Gymnastics team to win the second ever gold medal and first gold medal on international soil. Their nickname? The Fierce Five.

Well, move over Fierce Five! Jackie Palermo, Janessa Laureano, Katie Berry and Genesis Rodriguez are the four Seniors on Conard's gymnastics team whose talent, determination, and spirit have proved to be worthy of the nickname the Fierce Four.

Jackie Palermo:

Jackie Palermo started gymnastics when she was four years old, and it's safe to say she's been "kicking [butt] and taking names" ever since. She competes all-around, on the vault, bars, beam and floor, but admits she favors the bars. As a captain, Jackie believes that it's largely

their responsibility to motivate her team. "We can't make people want to do well, but we can create an encouraging atmosphere for success to happen." It was this type of atmosphere in which Jackie has thrived so well in gymnastics. An accomplished moment that stands out to her from her gymnastics wasn't from one of her many high scores over her high school career, but when she was 7 and her coach let her take home the trophy after her club team won the states meet. Will we see her bringing home any gold medals after the Summer Olympics in Rio 2016? Jackie gave that question a "hard no," but I wouldn't be surprised.

Janessa Laureano:

Janessa Laureano insists "You're not a real gymnast until you split the beam." She split the beam on her first day, when she was six years old. Janessa's as real as it gets. Captain since her junior year, she feels her best when competing for floor and vault, which have always been her strengths. Her passion for gymnastics clicked after she competed in her first meet, the sense of accomplishment driving her to learn new

skills. In that way, gymnastics has taught her patience. "When I can't get a skill right away I need to just take a break and go back to it," And when she does get back mastering those skills, you don't want to be the gymnast standing in her way.

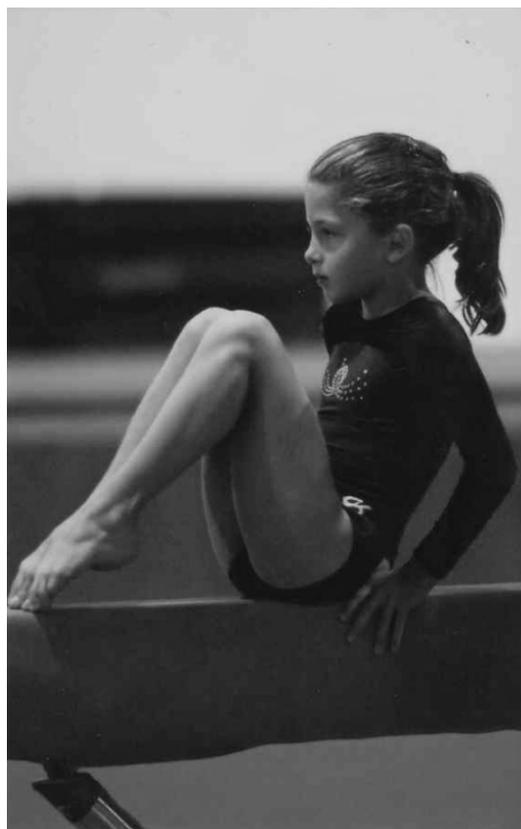
Katie Berry:

From the look of pride on her face, Katie Berry had just nailed a perfect score. With thirteen years of gymnastics under her belt, the nerves and desire to do well is what she remembers most about her first ever competitive meet. Five year old Katie would have looked just as proud had known that she would grow up to compete all-around on the bars, vault, beam, and floor on her high school gymnastics team. A gymnastics team that Katie considers her second family. "We're such a small team that we're able to grow really close. We're constantly cheering and giving each other feedback," Katie believes that the team is what motivates her and the other girls to be successful, which doesn't always mean overextending yourself. "Success to a gymnast means executing all of your skills cleanly and confi-

dently, it's not about throwing your hardest skill, it's about maybe doing an easier one and doing it perfectly." Good luck this year Katie! You'll make Conard proud no matter which skills you use.

Genesis Rodriguez:

When Genesis Rodriguez was four, she fell in love with gymnastics. She sporadically joined gyms until high school, when she was finally able to join the gymnastics team. Now that she's committed, Genesis competes on the beam, an event that constantly challenges her. One of her most rewarding moments was when she finally conquered the footing of a full turn on the beam. Gymnasts in competition make defying physics look easy, but Genesis explains that what appears effortless when it comes to competition didn't start out the way. "It's a range of control and dedication. We split the beam more times than we can count and fall off in ways I can't explain." But despite the bruises and the setbacks, she could never imagine giving it up.



Above: Jackie Palermo



Above:
Genesis
Rodriguez



Right: Janessa Laureano



Below: Katie Berry

THROWBACK PICS OF CONARD'S FIERCE FOUR!

HOT TOPICS WITH GRACE & MIKE

Read All About it: Keystone (Phase IV) Pipeline Extension

By: Grace O'Connell Bach & Michael Sisti

Photo: actionnetwork.org.org

In mid-November, there was a vote in both houses of Congress to fast-track the Keystone Pipeline XL project. It passed in the House, but Senate rejected similar legislation. The pipeline in question has been debated for several years, and would carry hundreds of thousands of barrels of tar-sands oil daily from Alberta, Canada to refineries in the United States. Proponents argue that the pipeline will create many well-paying jobs for our economy and improve the U.S.'s energy security. Those opposed cite the many potential environmental hazards of the projects.

be transported cheaply at large volumes using proven pipeline technology, rather than say shipping the oil by train, which would drive up costs, lower shipment volume, and actually damage the environment more than the static pipe alternative. TransCanada cites that the Keystone extension would add a capacity of 510,000 barrels per day, increasing the pipeline's total capacity up to 1.1 million barrels daily. As far as safety and

environmental concerns are involved, TransCanada, has provided over a dozen possible routes for the extension, some of which completely circumvent the Ogallala aquifer, a massive source of freshwater. The pipeline already spans almost five thousand kilometers, with the new extension adding approximately two thousand kilometers to the total length of the pipeline. Compared to the 320,000+ km of similar oil pipelines that exist today in the

U.S. alone, it seems the extension should be viewed as a run of the mill expansion of an oil pipeline. Addressing safety concerns over water contamination, research hydrogeologist James Goeke notes "...a leak from the XL pipeline would pose a minimal risk to the aquifer as a whole" (New York Times). Even if a route over the aquifer is pursued, thousands of miles of existing pipelines carrying crude oil and refined liquid hydrocarbons have already crossed over the Ogallala Aquifer for years, everywhere from Wyoming to Texas (American Petroleum Institute). Furthermore, the Governor of Nebraska, Dave Heineman, approved the proposed route in 2013, signaling his confidence in the revised proposal's minimization of land, water, and special area distur-



Photo: TransCanada

Mike's Take:

The Keystone pipeline has been spearheaded by environmental groups to represent an overall battle against fossil fuels and the climate change argument. However, the Energy Information Agency (EIA.gov) estimates the U.S. produces 9 million barrels of oil and imports over 7.5 million barrels daily. Though there is a legitimate discussion regarding climate change, arguing about a pipeline extension that will make importing oil cheaper, more efficient, and easier solves no problems. Addressing environmentalists who view the tar-sands oil initiative as a dirty and polluting source of energy, TransCanada, the oil company leading the project, stated that no matter the fate of the proposed pipeline, the oil will be produced and exported to the U.S. anyway. Better the oil

leaks are still to

be a major concern, no matter what new technology the pipeline has. In 2010, a tar-sands pipeline running through Marshall, Michigan spilled 800,000 gallons, completely devastating the area, and the Kalamazoo River. Many were forced to move from their homes, as the toxic fumes that lingered in the area sickened the residents, and the oil desecrated the local wildlife. Despite fervent efforts to clean the mess, three years later the EPA still estimated a total of 180,000 gallons of oil remaining in the water. There was also discovered to be significant amounts of heavy metals, some of which can be very dangerous at higher concentrations. Although all oil has some amounts of these metals, tar-sand oil has by far the most. Many of those who stayed in Marshall still drink bottled water in fear of well-water contamination, proving that the mess started over four years ago is still not over today. Proponents of the Keystone Pipeline argue that the new leakage-sensing technology will be able to prevent this from happening; however, the State Department's review found that this technology will not have the capability to detect smaller holes, which still leaves much possibility for leakage of the destructive oil. On top of that, even without leaks the tar-sands oil has already caused much damage in water supplies. The environmental and health risks of the Keystone Pipeline XL are not to be dismissed and are still viable concerns of the American people. Although some may not see this issue as worthy of controversy, many do take issue with the legitimate concerns and oppose the pipeline.

Grace's Take:

The major reason behind the Keystone XL Pipeline controversy is the opposing force—those who fear that it may devastate the environment. Whether or not you support the pipeline, it is undeniable that there will be serious environmental and health risks. First, there is the potential for the pipeline to run over the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the largest fresh groundwater sources in the world. Should anything happen to the pipeline, no matter how small the chances are, this hugely valuable water supply would be compromised. The tar-sands oil that is to be transported through this new extension of the pipeline, running from Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska, is also an incredibly dirty form of energy. The crude tar-sands oil produces over 17% more greenhouse gases than the average amount of oil. Specifically, the amount of CO₂ produced is shocking. The State Department's review of the pipeline discovered that it would generate from 1.3 to 27.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. In other words, the tar-sands oil from the pipeline will produce the same amount of CO₂ as up to five million additional cars on the road each year. Also,

balance. This project has been artificially inflated to serve as a political talking point, and should be addressed as what it really is: a routine pipeline extension with well addressed environmental concerns.

SPORTS NEWS

GYM CLASS AND STUDENT ATHLETES

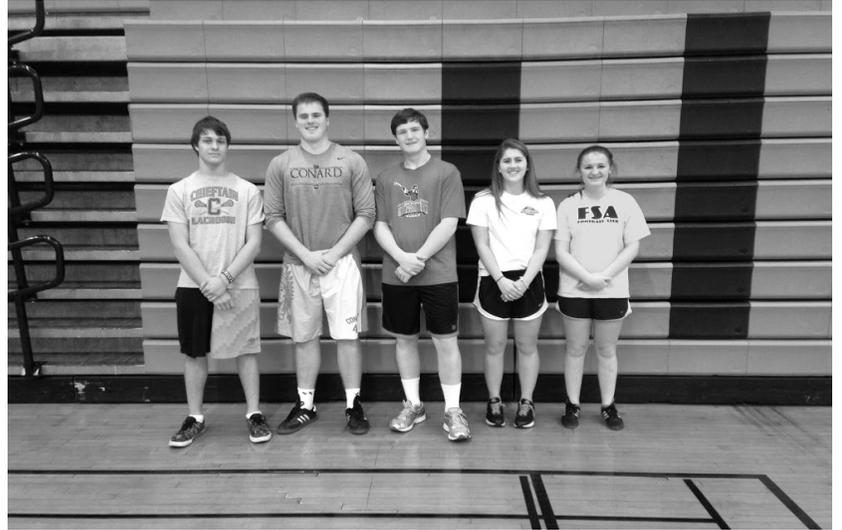
Two Student Athletes Weigh in

By: Lucas Busch & Bridget Williams

In a recent poll, student athletes at Conard High School have demonstrated that they prefer to not take part in gym. Nine out of ten students from various sports such as football, soccer, swimming, and field hockey agreed that gym has not benefited their physical activity and education. Many of them believe that they would use a free period effectively to study and get work completed. Games and practices after school take up a majority of the afternoon, and it is difficult for athletes to get quality work done early enough to get a good night sleep. As many gym teachers might say, sleep is necessary for students to function.

Many academic teachers have shared their opinion on the debate. They have said that many students may not realize it but physical education actually does teach you health habits. Mr. Liu, the Chinese teacher, says, "I have a neutral position on the topic, but I think sports only teach teamwork and skills. They don't teach a broad range of physical education." Mr. Liu makes it evident that if sports taught these health habits, then it would make sense for student athletes to be allowed to not take gym.

We all love our gym teachers and the intense games of pillow polo, but some feel strongly that the free period could help athletes be more successful in their academics. There are many paths that Conard can take to compromise the issue. For example, should parents have a say in their decision? Should students spend only one day a week in gym? Should sports make an effort to teach athletes about health habits and broaden their level of education? We believe that the most neutral position to take would be parents deciding whether their child should take gym or not and the amount they take in a week. Also, we believe that coaches should have the say in whether they should teach health habits. We think this topic is not debated enough, therefore some students opinions are not being considered.



Five of Conard's Varsity athletes in 6th period gym class. (left to right) Nick Kranmas, Philip Simplicio, Patrick Corcoran, Kylie Bell, Meg Melly. (Juniors/Sophomores)



Varsity swimmer Chloe Williams (Freshman) setting up a serve in gym class

VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

<p>Week of 12/29</p> <p>Gymnastics: 1/3, Away at Pomperaug Invitational (Time: TBD)</p> <p>Wrestling: 1/3, Away at South Windsor (10:00 am)</p> <p>Ice Hockey: 1/3, Home vs. Simsbury (1:00 pm)</p> <p>Basketball: Girls- Away at Wethersfield (7:00 pm) Boys- Home vs. South Windsor (3:30 pm)</p> <p>Week of 1/5</p> <p>Boys Swimming & Diving: 1/6, Away at Bristol Central (4:00 pm) 1/9 Away at Avon (4:00 pm)</p> <p>Basketball: Girls- 1/6 Away at New Britain (7:00 pm) 1/9 Home vs. Northwest Catholic (7:00 pm) Boys- 1/6 Home vs. New Britain (7:00 pm) 1/9 Away at Northwest Catholic (7:00 pm)</p> <p>Ice Hockey: 1/7 Away at Glastonbury</p>	<p>(7:00 pm) 1/10 Away at Xavier (6:00 pm)</p> <p>Wrestling: 1/7 Away at Newington (6:00 pm) 1/10 Away at Somers Dual (10:00 am)</p> <p>Gymnastics: 1/10 Away at Southington (6:00 pm)</p> <p>Indoor Track (Girls & Boys): 1/8 Away at Glastonbury Dual (4:00 pm) 1/10 Away at Elm City Coaches Invite (9:00 am) 1/10 Away at Glastonbury Co- Ed Relays (10:00 am)</p> <p>Week of 1/19</p> <p>Gymnastics: 1/22 Home vs. Farmington/ Hall (6:00 pm) 1/24 Away vs. Farmington/ Wethersfield (5:00 pm)</p> <p>Basketball: Girls- 1/20 Away at Simsbury (7:00 pm) 1/23 Away at Hall (7:00 pm) Boys- 1/20 Home vs. Simsbury (7:00 pm) 1/23 Home vs. Hall</p>	<p>(7:00 pm)</p> <p>Wrestling: 1/21 Away at New Britain (6:00 pm) 1/24 Away at Platt Duals (10:00 am)</p> <p>Boys Swimming & Diving: 1/20 Home vs. South Wind- sor (3:30 pm) 1/23 Away vs. Pomperaug/ Naugatck (6:00 pm)</p> <p>Ice Hockey: 1/21 Away vs. Suffield/ Granby/Windsor Locks (4:00 pm) 1/24 Home vs. Newington/ Berlin/Manchester (1:00 pm)</p> <p>Indoor Track (Girls & Boys) 1/24 Away at SCC Coaches Invite (10:00 am)</p> <p>Week of 1/26</p> <p>Boys Swimming & Diving: 1/27 Away at Northwest Catholic (8:00 pm)</p> <p>Basketball: Girls- 1/26 Home vs. Bulkely (7:00 pm) 1/29 Away at Southington (7:00 pm) Boys- 1/26 Away at Plainville (7:00 pm)</p>	<p>1/29 Home vs. Southington (7:00 pm) 10/2, New Britain at CHS, Gymnastics: 1/27 Home vs. RHAM (6:00 pm)</p> <p>Indoor Track (Girls & Boys): 1/31 Away at CCC Champi- onship (10:00 am)</p> <p>Ice Hockey: 1/28 Home vs. East Catho- lic (7:30 pm)</p> <p>Wrestling: 1/28 Away at RHAM (6:00 pm) 1/31 Away at Fairfield Du- als (10:00 am)</p>
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CHIEFTAIN FEATURES

WHERE STEM MEETS SPORTS

By: Katherine Reidling

Have you ever wondered where computers, science, math and athleticism intersected? Look no further than the phenomenon known as competition!

mascots rallying their fans at baseball and football games, but have you seen them make a conga line with kids from over forty different teams? You might have heard people sing

At a robotics competition, sports and music meet math and science. But get this: If some teams are struggling, students and mentors from competing teams will help them fix their robot. Those who are not driving the robot, in addition to helping in the workshop, get up and dance to the latest tunes or scout for future alliance partners.

On October 18th, Conard's and Hall's joint FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 3182, Athena's Warriors, participated in the annual "Bash at the Beach" in Old Lyme, Connecticut. New recruits got to drive the robot around the field and get acclimated to the nature of 2014's challenge, Aerial Assist! With two "alliances" comprised of three robots each per match, teams had to coordinate and strategize to find the best ways to pass exercise balls to each other and shoot them



into the goals on either end of the field. It was an intense weekend, but our Warriors and their alliance partners, the Birds of Prey (Team 181) and Operation P.E.A.C.C.E. (Team 3461), took home second place!

Interested in attending our next competition? Team 3182 is competing in March 2015 at the NE District Pioneer Valley Event in Springfield, MA and the NE District Hartford Event in Hartford, CT.



Photo: John Kentfield

Competition is really high-energy, super fun and actually extremely collaborative! You've probably seen

during intermission, but have you heard techno, pop and rock music played throughout the actual game?

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS FOR ALL

By: Molly Bugos

In between the 25 Days of Christmas on ABC family and the Christmas decorations put up in stores since Halloween, other holidays in December can get lost in the mix. In order to learn some more about another faith-based holiday celebrated in December, we sat down with our good friend, Erin Regan, to talk about the the Jewish holiday Hannukah.

Q: How do you and your family celebrate the holiday?

A: Every night at sundown, we light the Menorah and say a few prayers in Hebrew. It happens for eight nights.

Q: So, do you get presents?

A: In my family, we traditionally don't do gifts, but if we do they are usually minor.

Q: I know you're a very festive person...

A: I am!

Q: Are you more excited for Christmas than you are for Hannukah?

A: I'm very excited for the Christmas season in general. There's not alot about Hannukah to get excited about in my opinion.

Q: What is your favorite part about the Holiday Season?

A: I love when strangers wish me a Merry Christmas, and do-

nating to the Salvation Army in the red buckets outside of stores, and all of the Christmas lights on houses!

Q: Do the constant Christmas commercials and Christmas-oriented advertising ever bother you as a member of the Jewish Faith?

A: The only thing that bothers me about those things are that they take away from the season's festivity by making it overly commercial.

Q: What is your typical December 25th like?

A: My parents are interfaith, so on Christmas Day my grandmas (one is Orthodox Jewish and one is Irish Catholic) come over. I usually will go to mass with my Catholic grandma in the morning, and then it's just a typical day for us. Sometimes we serve dinner at a homeless shelter, but this year I'm doing a delivery meal service for the needy.

COMIC'S CORNER

Featured Artist: Justin Picard, Class of 2016

HSP: 3 Friends

By: Justin Picard



CHIEFTAIN FEATURES

HO-HO-HOROSCOPES

Find Out What's In Store For Your Future!

Featuring Conard's Only Astrological Fortune Tellers, Kathryn Novak & Cierra Hungerford

Aquarius (Jan 20th-Feb 18th)

Everything happens for a reason, and you know the reason for the coal in your stocking this year...

Pisces (Feb 19th-Mar 20th)

School bells ring, are you listening? In the class, exams are quickening, a terrible sight, you're studying to-night, living in a teacher's wonderland.

Aries (Mar 21st-Apr 19th)

The stars tell us you have unresolved New Years resolutions in your future. What else is new?

Taurus (Apr 20th-May 20th)

This month you may feel like a misfit marooned on an island but, there's no one else like you!

Gemini (May 21st-June 20th)

There's room for everyone on the nice list. Except for you. Bah humbug!

Cancer (June 21st-July 22nd)

Good news for you, Yule have a great break, snow joke!

Leo (July 23rd-Aug 22nd)

This month, Buddy the Elf wants to know your favorite color. Don't mess it up. He knows the big guy and could put in a bad word for you.

Virgo (Aug 23rd-Sept 22nd)

Your nose will shine so bright this month that others will use it as a moral compass.

Libra (Sept 23rd-Oct 22nd)

Unfortunately, this month we see a close family member, I think your grandma, being run over... by a reindeer.

Scorpio (Oct 23rd-Nov 21st)

Just like Rudolph, your potential will soon be recognized.

Sagittarius (Nov 23rd-Dec 21st)

This month you'll be treading on thin ice. I wouldn't recommend any skating

Capricorn (Dec 22nd-Jan 19th)

We heard last Christmas someone gave you their heart! Yeah, about that, they want it back.



DO IT YOURSELF: 3D SNOWFLAKES

By: Julia Monyak & Sophie Appicelli

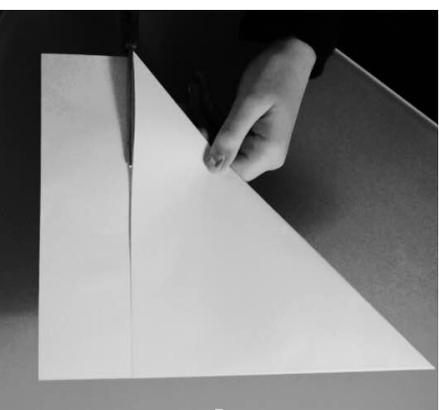
It's almost that time of year again, the holidays are approaching. These snowflakes are a great way to add some winter spirit into your household, regardless of what you celebrate. Don't be fooled by their complex appearance, they're actually do-able in about 10 minutes and all you need is tape, scissors, a stapler, and 6 pieces of paper!

Step 1: Create a square piece of paper like so...

Step 4: Unfold the paper. Tape the 2 innermost diamonds corners together.



Step 9: Continue stapling them together in this fashion until you have connected four together.



Step 2: Fold the square piece of paper into half, and then in half again.

Step 5: Flip the paper over and tape the next smallest sections together.

Step 6: Continue to tape in alternating directions.



Step 10: Staple the center of these four together.



Step 11: Connect the remaining two sections to the whole.



Step 3: Starting on the folded side, cut parallel to the longest side 4 times, each cut shortening in length.

Step 7: Repeat steps 1-7 with five more pieces of paper.

Step 8: Take two of the six sections and place the small side of one next to the larger side of the other. Staple them together where the tape is placed.



Step 12: Staple the centers of all six

You now have completed your own 3-D paper snowflake! Add glitter or keep them simple and then just hang them up around your house to transform it into a winter wonderland.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To The Editor,

I'm upset with the spirit week Conard held this year. On Friday, there was a pep-rally. I believe that this pep-rally shouldn't have been divided. For this event, each grade was told to wear a different color. But why? All that makes us look like is a divided school. On this day, we should have all worn Conard colors. All grades should have been able to wear red, gray, black or white. This would have shown that we are all in this together, and that the students of Conard High School have school spirit. Also, only seniors were able to wear the bright red color, and all the other grades got dull colors to wear. It made it seem like seniors are much more important than us underclassmen. Yes, I guess I understand because it's their last year, but still, we are all important and we all want to show school spirit by wearing red! All I'm saying is that we are such a welcoming, united school and putting each grade in certain colors does not show that we are.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rocha

CHIEFTAIN FEATURES

HOLIDAY HELPERS

How Conard's Juniors Spread Christmas Cheer

By: Emma Kutscher

For the month of December, room 201 was transformed into Santa's Workshop, led by a Santa Claus more fashionable but equally jolly named Ms. Vranich. What's typically an English classroom has been the warehouse and wrapping central for gifts that will find their way to 60+ kids across West Hartford by December 25th.

Ms. Vranich and Mrs. Theroux spearheaded Holiday Helpers in 2011 for their Junior Class Board's community service project. Interest in giving back to the community, led to adapting a project that Mr. Dipolino and the WHEA organized into what is now known as Holiday Helpers.

During Holiday Helpers first year, Conard staff and students sponsored a Christmas for 12 children in the West Hartford school district. Four years later, the number of children has quintupled into more than 60 children in need. Sixty staff members have sponsored a child this year, whether personally or through their classes. Elementary school social workers gather the names of families who will have trouble providing even the most essential present, a winter coat. The children are assigned codes to protect their anonymity. The codes and their 'need and wants' lists are sent to Ms. Vranich, who distributes them to sponsors. Every code includes the

child's age, grade, and approximate size. Nearly 90% of children who are sponsored are in need of winter wear such as coats, boots and snow pants. Clothes are on the 'need list,' which Ms. Vranich insists is the top priority. As two of Conard's English teachers, Ms. Vranich and Mrs. Theroux are adamant in putting books as their second priority. Even if it's not on the 'wants list,' they ensure that as many kids as possible get a book. As any of her AP Lit seniors can attest, to say that Ms. Vranich was overjoyed that her classes first child, "Girl #1," wanted two different series would be an understatement. Books aren't the only item accepted on the "wants list." On the contrary, past presents have ranged from bikes to child-size chemistry sets.

This kind of success wouldn't be possible without the selflessness of the Conard community or the dedication of the Junior Class Board and its advisors. They organize sponsors, collect donations, and wrap every single present, complete with Christmas themed wrapping paper and festive bows. It's because of their compassion that there's a little more Christmas magic to spread around.



Bags of gifts waiting to be delivered!

JOE'S LAMENT

Why Litterbugs Are the Worst

By: Joe Duva

There are a number of things that really agitate me, and one that is probably at the top of the list is littering. When I see people at Conard or in public and they decide the best place for their trash is on the ground, I'd like to ask them the question "Were you raised in a barn?"

Honestly would it really kill you to respect the outdoors, our school, or wherever you're dropping your trash? I'll guarantee that there will be a trash bin within a 25 foot radius, where you can put whatever piece of garbage that you so desperately need to get rid of.

If you haven't figured it out already, there isn't a team of maids following you around, watching your every move, waiting for you to drop a piece of trash. Some real senseless and ignorant kids, and adults, might reason their littering with the excuse, "Well isn't that what janitors are for"? If that's honestly the reason why you think littering is

perfectly fine --because janitors or garbage collectors exist-- then I applaud your parents. They sure did a bang up job raising you. Do a favor for yourself and don't look like an idiot; hold onto your litter until you reach a trash or recycle bin.



Have some class, use the trash!

THANK YOU!

WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES, PICTURES, TIME AND RESOURCES TO THIS EDITION OF THE PAPER.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN ON UPCOMING ISSUES, AND WELCOME ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE POWWOW!

-MOLLY BUGOS & EMMA KUTSCHER

POWWOW TOTEM

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