

THE WARRIOR

Niskayuna High School

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French exchange travels to France

BY CAMILA GRANDE & JACKSON
MONTRYM

News

For the first two weeks in April, 21 high school French students (all seniors except for one student) traveled to France accompanied by three chaperones: Jane Ainslie (high school French teacher), Kate Helgerson (Iroquois Middle School French teacher), and Carol Warasta (retired Iroquois Middle School French teacher). Usually, high school French teacher Amy Martin accompanies the group but this year, due to an unforeseen reason, she was forced to cancel. The group spent ten days in the small town of Carcassonne in southern France, and five days in Paris. The students found the stay in Carcassonne absolutely amazing, so much so that by the

time they had to leave for Paris, which is generally acknowledged as a wonderful city, they didn't want to go. Imagine having so much fun that you don't want to go to Paris! Although Paris proved to be a lot of fun, we felt more at home in Carcassonne.

The group left the high school on Friday, March 30 at 9:00 a.m. via motorcoach, taking the transatlantic flight from JFK to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. However, the first hiccup of the trip occurred at Charles de Gaulle when, due to heavy smog on the ground in Paris, the plane arrived fifteen minutes late. We unfortunately missed the connecting flight to Toulouse, so we had to take a bus to Orly, the other airport in Paris and then get a later flight to Toulouse. At 2:30 in the afternoon



Warrior Photo / Jackson Montrym

ON THE RUINS: The group of Americans poses for a picture with chaperone Jane Ainslie on some of the rocks at the Roman ruins in Arles, France

of Saturday, March 31, we arrived at the Toulouse airport where we met our exchange students and our host families. During the joyous reunion of exchange students, the Americans found out that our luggage would not arrive until the next day.

The following day the luggage arrived and many of us went with our exchange students to see "la cité de Carcassonne," a medieval fortress located right next to the town of Carcassonne. The weather was a wonderful change from Niskayuna, a cloudless 71 degrees.

During our stay in Carcassonne, we attended two days of French school and observed the differences between American culture and French culture. In France, school is solely for academics and that sports were not

included in school. Another difference was the student-teacher relationship. Here, our teachers make a point to make us feel comfortable in their classrooms to help nurture our learning; many of the French called it, "being friends with our teachers." In France, the teachers are much more strict. Students are often not allowed to eat, chew gum, or even leave to go to the bathroom. Other differences are the modes of transportation to and from school. Since you must be at least 18 years old to get your license, students do not have the luxury of driving to school. Their options are either to walk or drive their mopeds.

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Warrior Photo / Camila Grande

PARIS OPERA: The high school's students with their three chaperones on the steps of the Opera of Paris

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Voyage to France, more than amazing

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When you first get to the school there is a huge mob of kids standing outside smoking, waiting for the gates to open. One thing we all had to get used to was the incredible amounts of smoking that went on around us practically all the time, but it was a small price to pay for all the beauty that was around us as they lived in the south of France for ten days.

During the days we didn't attend school, we took little daytrips to other places in the south of France and even northern Spain. On Tuesday, April 3, they went to Figueras, Spain to see the Salvador Dali museum and one of his old houses that has now been turned into a museum. The next day we took a trip to a major city in the South of France, Toulouse. There, one of the French students gave the group a tour of the city and they did a little shopping. Thursday meant a three hour bus ride to another region in the south, Provence. The town of Arles is home to huge and beautiful Roman ruins; there is an amphitheater, Roman baths, and a courtyard that houses several other structures.

Friday, we all got to go to school again. On Saturday the Americans and the French all attended the French version of Adiron-

dack Extreme, "Ack-robranche." That night there was a farewell party at the Town hall. It was an emotional night because it was sad to leave our amazing host families. On Sunday, we had the pleasure of celebrating Easter with our families, where most of us were able to enjoy traditional French cuisine such as cassoulet a specialty of Languedoc-Rousillon, which is the region in which Carcassonne is found. Cassoulet is a duck and bean stew that was perfect to eat on Easter Sunday given that the weather was windy and 55 degrees. The next morning, Monday, April 9, we left Carcassonne for good and boarded a bus to the Gare de Narbonne train station in the nearby town of Narbonne, where the group took a bullet train to Paris. Unfortunately there was not much time to say goodbye.

We arrived in Paris that afternoon and started the long list of activities immediately. First to the youth hostel where we stayed to put down luggage and then we took a tour of the neighborhood and the Notre-Dame cathedral. That evening, the group took a boat tour of the Seine. Although on the river it was cold and raining, we still saw a variety of sites. The next morning the group toured the Musée d'Orsay which is a museum of impressionism. In the afternoon the group toured Notre Dame Cathedral and then visited the Arc de Triomphe at night and saw incredible views of Paris.

The next morning we boarded a commuter train with a guide to see the palace of Versailles, which was beautiful, but extremely crowded. We



Photo Credit / Camila Grande
LE LOUVRE: A handful of the exchange students excitedly pose for a photo op in front of famous French landmark, the glass pyramid outside the Louvre.

intended to tour the gardens but we unfortunately had underestimated the cool, dreary weather in Paris, so that was cancelled. The next day we visited the Musée d'Orangerie where we saw Monet's water lilies and then walked around a little and rested up before visiting the Eiffel Tower at night. Unfortunately, one of the elevators was broken so the line at the Eiffel Tower was two hours long, so we were unable to go to the very top but still saw incredible views of Paris. We had to leave the Eiffel Tower by 11:00 p.m. because we needed to get back on the metro. However, there was an accident on the metro and the group had to walk to another metro station at midnight and didn't return to the hotel until 1:00 a.m. The chaperones were very understanding and let the group sleep in the next morning. The next day we visited a modern art museum in the morning just to see an incredible vista of the skyline of Paris and then the rest of the day mainly consisted of shopping at the famous department store Galleries de LaFayette. The final evening we were in Paris the chaperones gave us money to go out to dinner which many students enjoyed. On Saturday, April 14 we climbed the Notre Dame bell tower and then left for the transatlantic flight back to the United States. Finally, at about midnight, we arrived at the high school to greet our families.

The students and the chaperones all agreed that it was a wonderful trip and many students can't wait to return to France! Long lasting friendships were made both there and here in Niskayuna and many students are anxious to return to France.



Photo Credit / Camila Grande
JUMP FOR JOY: Elated to be at the Eiffel Tower, the group of exchange students jump to show their enthusiasm.

Spring fest is a success with students

BY ANNA LOCHTE

News

This year the Class of 214 replaced Spring Fling. Last year the dance had a particularly bad turn out which caused a loss of money for the Class of 2013. Not wanting the same turnout, the Class of 2014 decided to shake things up by holding Spring Fest to raise money for their class.

Spring Fest was held on April 20 from 6:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. It took place in the grassy area outside of the Old Cafeteria. There were many people wandering between booths and activities. Students working the tables for clubs did not have to pay admission and were able to participate in many of the activities for free.

The clubs that had tables in Spring Fest included the Kony 2012 group which had a raffle for a Starbucks gift card, a Vera Bradley item, and a free haircut. The group also sold ice cream for one dollar. Model UN also participated by selling cupcakes with flags of different countries on them. The cupcakes were one dollar unless you were able to

correctly answer a trivia question or guess the country of the flag. By answering each question correctly, the price of the cupcake was reduced by 25 cents.

Both Pep club and Broadcasting club had musical chairs set up for students to play. The Pep club also had hula hooping competitions in which the winner could get a cupcake. Along with musical chairs, Broadcasting club sold fresh popcorn made from an old fashioned movie theater machine.

Nisk Art Magazine club sold clay necklaces and did face painting. Key Club sold cotton candy, with sophomore member Felicia Dodge stating, "I really enjoy doing work for my class and selling cotton candy is fun!"

Music was supplied by DJ collective Karate. Karate is a band of alumnus Mike Rudinski, senior Noah Prebish, and senior Ethan Evans joined them for the night, mixing all types of music from LMFAO to Justice. Band member Prebish said, "This Spring Fest makes my heart sing with joy."

The Class of 2014 held a donut eating contest, and a pie throw-

ing contest in which Megan Hughes and John Rickert volunteered to be pied. A gladiator bouncy bounce was also present at the event where students were able to hit each other with puffy cylinders whilst standing on a small cylinder. "I was glad to see the advisors and students put this event together. It was a lot of fun," stated Rickert.

Sophomore and member of the 2014 Student Council, Kinley Sinkus said, "It was a great kick off to an event that will hopefully become annual and could be even better next year."

Most people enjoyed the Spring Fest, and police officers monitoring the event believed that it was a unique and good change of pace, although it might have been better if the weather was a bit warmer.

This event was a hit with the students who attended and participated at the booths as they wish to expand and make a greater impact with next year's Spring Fest.



Photo Credit / Anna Lochte

PIE IN THE FACE: Sophomore Olivia Cox prepares to throw a pie at a teacher at Spring Fest.

Study tips for the end of the year

BY ELIZABETH PATT

FEATURE

As the 2011-2012 school year draws to a close, it becomes ever more tempting to let go and start to get into the rhythm of summer. Unfortunately what students forget about this time of year is that it's arguably the most rigorous part of school.

In each and every class teachers are admonishing to students the importance of final tests and grades for the last quarter, as two months is actually a very short amount of time. These seven weeks left before finals are the most valuable time to prepare for whatever projects and tests that will determine students' grades. The art of studying can sometimes elude students, but with many ideas on how to begin the process it can be made much easier.

The study guides that teachers have provided students with help structure with the study process. Writing out everything about the subject and then going back with textbooks and notes from class to see what parts of the

topic need help. Exercises such as these jog the memory and help recall formulas, dates and specific events.

Freshman Samantha Burgess has a similar approach. "I make study guides for every unit so I can look through them for finals," says Burgess. "It seems like a lot of work at the time but when the end of the year rolls around it makes a huge difference."

Depending on the type of material, flashcards can also be a useful tool. They are most effective for learning vocabulary or the basic characteristics of events or systems. This makes them versatile among science, English, foreign language and social studies exams. Senior Christine Hart can testify: "I make a million flashcards for science. It's the only way I can memorize facts. And, I usually study with friends, because it's more fun that way."

Studying with a group of friends definitely helps. Every part of the group remembers something and adds to the study session. Everyone's strengths help someone else's weakness and besides, studying with friends

helps pass time by productively. While studying by yourself can help keep you focused, hearing a friend's explanation can help you better understand topics in certain subjects.

There are also a multitude of mental tricks you can use while studying to help trigger connections in your brain. Simple things like wearing a certain scent while you study and take the test can help you call to mind what you reviewed. Research has also shown that if you study in multiple locations, your brain can retain the information better.

The farther ahead you can plan, the better. It is especially helpful if you review your notes the night that you learned them. Multiple studies have proven the worth of this practice, and you'll be much more likely to recall the information when you need it on the test.

Studying is one of the most essential, and most neglected, parts of students' academic lives, but it is best not to avoid it. With a simple output of effort to prepare, the most difficult of exams can seem easier after you've prepared in the way that works best for you.

Appreciate the good

BY SOPHIE KEMP

OPINION

I've lived in this lovely town for close to fourteen years. I remember pretty clearly how much I used to romanticize my life in Niskayuna. How seemingly "perfect" it seemed. When I think about it now, Niskayuna is actually a great place.

The other day, as many other teenagers do, I went on the Internet. However, unlike most of my Internet expeditions I came across something rather interesting: It was a twitter page that supposedly illustrates the everyday life of a teenager in Niskayuna. The author shared with their readers what they felt were "problems" that their fellow student body seemed to deal with on a regular basis.

Although the majority of their tweets were lighthearted and meant only in a jocular fashion, I began to wonder, are kids here really that unhappy? What exactly is it about this town we live in that people seem to dislike so much.

When I asked senior Bryce Grates how she feels about Niskayuna, and more importantly why our student body seems to dislike it so much she responded insightfully, "I really love what the school has to offer. Even though it doesn't seem like it, we're given so much more freedom than other schools. This allows us to grow and learn how to make

responsible decisions. We have a truly great selection of classes that let us concentrate more on our interests. I think kids 'hate it here' because they rarely travel outside of it. I don't think they would be any happier in any other suburban town. Even kids in suburbs outside of metropolitan

is beautiful here.

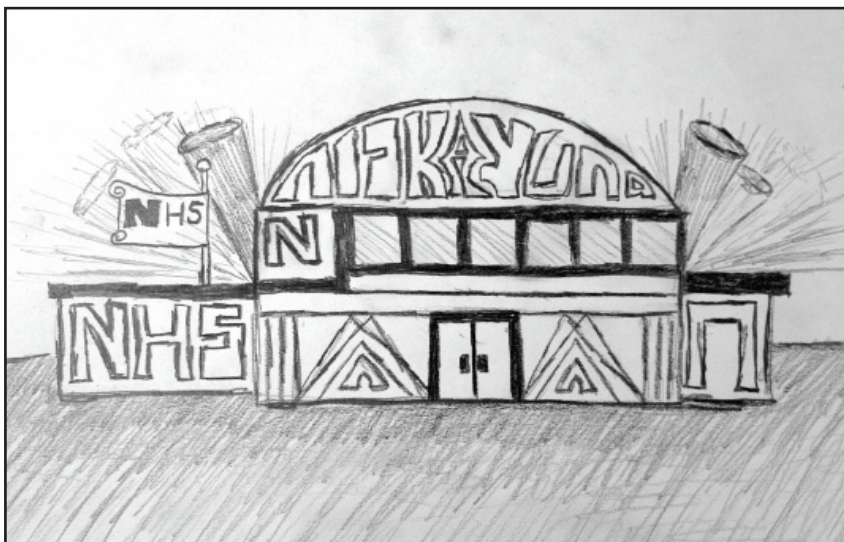
On a more philosophical level, as human beings, we always want more from life. We feel that nothing is ever perfect. In order to experience true euphoria it seems that we have to constantly change our appearance and way of life. I think one can find euphoria

to find. You have to find your niche first. You need to surround yourself with people who share a common interest with you. It might seem almost too obvious, but why do you think we have so many clubs at the high school? To help people find their niche, that's why.

Listen to all the Arcade Fire you want. "Suburbia" isn't about to get any better from listening to Win Butler's voice. It takes time and appreciation. Some people never really seem to understand this until they're far away from home and in their 20's. In fact, to bring Arcade Fire back into this, have you ever even listened to Wasted Hours? That whole song is about wishing you were back to where you were in your childhood.

People constantly complain about how much they crave the future. The idea of going to a university in a city such as Chicago provides promise and hope. Moving into the middle of the mountains to study history provides a temporary bliss. As alluring as the future might be, the present can be just as wonderful if you really put two and two together.

So when you complain about how much you hate suburbia and how mundane it is, think to yourself: "Whose problem is it anyway?"



Warrior Art / Daniel Zhao

areas like New York complain about how there is nothing to do."

It seems that even though we live in a beautiful part of the country and have top-notch education, we still manage to find some form of ugliness in our lives. We manage to turn bliss into anger, anxiety, and general teenage moodiness. Many of the kids I know make Niskayuna out to be a total suburban wasteland; however, for a suburban wasteland it sure

simply by sitting back and enjoying the view. The fruits of our labor as teenagers can bring us happiness if we look at them through a more introspective train of thought.

For some reason it seems like such an arduous task, when in reality, bliss is pretty much right in front of us. No matter how much one can say they hate it here, it really isn't hard to find something to love about Niskayuna. Sure it may seem hard

The Warrior

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Our world and our place in it

BY JOE PARISI

OPINION

Homo sapiens are an incredibly young species. To put us in perspective with the rest of ancient life, if the entirety of the planet's lifespan was squeezed down into a calendar year, humans evolved fifteen minutes before midnight on Dec. 31. And in those fifteen minutes, we have populated and altered the planet. When we first evolved on the African plains we probably weren't very impressive to the other animals. We were small, weak, without horns, tusks, armor, or claws. But what we did have were brains. These brains of ours are what allowed us to make tools, strategize, communicate, build upon ideas, and plan for the future. It is this ability to plan for the future that we as a species have to utilize now to save the planet from injury.

When it comes to climate change, the fundamental illusion in this world is that most Americans believe we are separate from nature. Since we have created habitats of our own, such as

we are a part of and a product of nature.

All other animals on the planet are opportunists and we Americans have lost this fundamental part of our nature. We have become consumers, and very wasteful ones at that. By focusing on wasteful and unnecessary consumption, we can postpone our more important and demanding desires, like a car or a house, creating frustration and stagnation. Not only does this postpone life it increases ecological distress. Americans need to slow our rates of consumption and reduce our carbon footprint. The design of our consumption must change from buying wasteful items that ultimately become a sort of liability, to that of mass reuse, renewal, and redistribution of items and consumer products. This will help us live in harmony with our planet.

We must make use of other sources of energy and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and our carbon footprint. In place of gas fired electric plants

use must be clean and healthy going in and out of the ecological system. People need to embrace

eventually lower taxes and gas prices throughout our country as well. All that is needed is the



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PROTECT THE PLANET: It is our duty as humans to respect our place on Earth

“It is not a question of whether the planet will continue to thrive with the web of life in the generations to come.

It is a question of whether Homo sapiens will be on it.”

suburbs and cities, most Americans feel we have outgrown our motherly figure. Our arrogance is what shades us of the fact that

we can acquire energy from wind, currents, waves, flowing water, waterfalls, geothermal, and solar sources. The water we

conservation. This can be done by making use of natural heating and by driving at the speed limit. Also public support is essential in the progress of ongoing green movements. One such project is to convert 18-wheelers to run on natural gas. This is an important transitional resource for us since we have it in abundance and it creates less of a carbon footprint when burned.

Utilizing natural sources of energy internally would lead to many benefits for the USA. Not only will it lead to a greener and healthier planet, but also it will increase the United States status in the world. It will lessen our dependence on foreign oil, thus making it less likely to have energy problems beyond our borders. More independence on energy allows us to have less dependence on foreign reserves and makes us less subject to the winds of geopolitical problems. Dollars that are sent overseas can be spent here benefiting our own economy. Doing this will also

public support.

It is not a question of whether the planet will continue to thrive with the web of life in the generations to come. It is a question of whether Homo sapiens will be on it. Earth Day has just passed and it's a good reminder for people to seriously think about our future as a race. As the next generation of thinkers, we need to make this vision a reality. Let's stop thinking so simplistically about consumption and start thinking about our impact the way nature intended us to. It is our duty to be responsible stewards of our magnificent planet for future generations to come.

ALL OPINIONS expressed on the op-ed pages represent the individual viewpoints of their authors. The content does not necessarily represent the views of *The Warrior*, the high school, the school district, or the Board of Education.

Springsteen plays a memorable show

BY SARAH MINER

ENTERTAINMENT

Bruce Springsteen concerts can be described in many ways, but most of all, one-of-a-kind. There is nothing like a performance put on by Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. On Monday, April 16, my father, a group of my close friends and I attended a phenomenal show at the Times Union Center with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band on their "Wrecking Ball" tour.

"Wrecking Ball" is the latest album put out by Springsteen and was released on March 6 of this year. This tour was the first done without the band's signature saxophonist Clarence Clemons, which was without a doubt the only thing that could put a damper on such an anticipated show.

Arriving promptly at 6:30 p.m. for the concert, we walked to the entrance only to find crowds upon crowds of people waiting to be let in. The enthusiasm for the show was everywhere. Strangers came up to us at every turn asking whether or not we had seen Springsteen before and brought up other pleasant conversation to pass the time while awaiting his performance.

When the gates opened, everyone stormed through the door in utter elation to enter the building in which Springsteen and the E Street Band were residing and took their seats. The band built the enthusiasm by making the anxious crowds wait almost 45 minutes past the projected start time before actually getting onto the stage. No one was put off by the postponement, especially once the band began to play their hit "Badlands" from their 1978 album "Darkness on the Edge of Town." They followed up with the first released single from "Wrecking Ball," "We Take Care Of Our Own." After two incredible performances, the audience was fully aware that this was a concert they would not forget anytime soon.

For the duration of the concert, none of us fans could keep off of our feet. It is truly incredible that at 62 years old, Springsteen is still able to produce enough sound and charisma to fill an arena that can hold up to 17,500 people, and have each and every fan fully captivated and elated the whole time.

Springsteen continued on by playing the title track off the new album, and then another hit "Out In the Street" from the 1980 album "The River." After that, he brought it back to 2012 with a song from "Wrecking Ball" about his anger and frustration towards the current American struggle titled "Death to my Hometown."

Springsteen always ensures that each one



Warrior Photo / Sarah Miner

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Legendary singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen performed at the Times Union Center in Albany on April 16, met by thousands of dedicated fans in a packed house. Here, Springsteen can be seen in the crowd surrounded by a sea of hands reaching out to touch him.

of his concerts will be unique at every venue by adding songs that he hasn't played yet on the tour, which is just another way in which Springsteen is one of the most distinguished performers of all time. The first tour premier he performed at this concert was "Darlington County," which was clearly unexpected by the audience, but when it began playing anyone who wasn't standing already rose to the occasion. The other two tour premier songs were "Downbound Train" and "Janey Don't Lose Your Heart," both of which were more than welcomed to the set list by us spectators.

Overall, eight of the eleven songs off of "Wrecking Ball" were played; the only songs missing were "Easy Money," "This Depres-

sion," and "You've Got It." The other highlights of the show included everything, but most notably songs such as "The Rising," "Land of Hopes and Dreams," and "The Promised Land," but this is not even including the encore, which was stellar by itself.

Never has a concert been wrapped up more perfectly than this one. The encore lineup from start to finish went as follows: "Thunder Road," "Rocky Ground," "Born to Run," "Dancing in the Dark," and lastly "Tenth Avenue Freeze-out." As though that wasn't the perfect ending to a flawless show, in the last song there is a notable line regarding the band's late saxophonist. Typically Springsteen sings "...and the Big Man joined the band," followed by a saxophone solo by Clemons, however with Clemons' absence, no one was quite sure of what would happen at that moment. When that time in the song came around, rather than having Clemons' nephew, Jake Clemons, play the solo in his place, the band did something far more recompensating. The jumbo-tron in the arena lit up with a photomontage of Clemons performing, laughing, and with Springsteen; it was truly a celebration of his life.

There were many other noteworthy elements of the concert. The full brass section accompanying the band was excellent, as well as vocalist Michelle Moore, who was also featured in Springsteen's new album.

Even without any extra embellishments and premier songs, this concert would still have been the greatest one that I had ever been to. In a recent Rolling Stone article about Springsteen, his tour, and the death of Clemons, Springsteen was quoted as saying that he and the E Street Band will not stop touring until they can't physically do so any longer. This is good news for anyone who hasn't seen him live yet, because his performances are life-changing. I will never forget this one and will always regard it as one of the greatest nights of my life.

Your Weekly Entertainment Fix

Movies: *The Five-Year Engagement*, *The Raven*, *The Avengers*

Music: *Norah Jones*, *Carrie Underwood*, *B.o.B*

Books: *Farther Away: Essays* by Jonathan Franzen, *The Serpent's Shadow* by Rick Riordan

Video Games: *Tera Online*, *Sniper Elite V2*

Boys lax remains undefeated

BY NIK DOBIES

SPORTS

So far, the Niskayuna boy's lacrosse team is 8-0. With a significant amount of talent, so much that they have Division 1 commits on the bench, they are set on exceeding the height reached in the last few years. The boys have started very well and built both confidence and momentum, just like the team both hoped and expected to do going into this season. The team is coached by Mike Vorgang, a gym teacher at the high school who has been very successful with this program in the past. As long as the team keeps playing with the same consistency, enough to beat even the toughest in and out of state teams, then this team has great potential to finish the season with a perfect record, something that is very challenging to do. Coach Vorgang will also try to do whatever possible to help the team accomplish the goal.

The most recent game was Saturday, April 22 against Somers, a game in which the boy's came out victorious, a 14-8 decision against one of the best teams in the country. The tough nationally ranked opposition could not match Niskayuna's high octane offense and speed. The team also defeated JD High School which had been undefeated for 3 straight years before this year's meeting. A tough in-state competitor for the Warriors would be Ithaca, a nationally ranked powerhouse. Right now the goal of the Niskayuna lacrosse team is to win states this year, and the team will put forth best efforts to get to this point. According to junior Luke Miller on the win, "Simply put, it was a great overall team win against Somers!" Last season the team was 15-4. Today the boy's are ranked 16th in the entire nation. Some key players on the Niskayuna boy's varsity lacrosse team include junior Lucas Maloney, senior Dom Martinelli, junior Tyler Pantalone, sophomore Mike D'Amario, junior Luke Goldstock, senior Matt Sexton, senior Tan-

ner Macivor, junior Dom Sloma, junior Brandon (Ooty) Melius, senior Justin Picardi, and junior goaltender Evan Quinn. Some of these players have already verbally committed to colleges; Lucas Maloney to Penn State, Mike D'Amario to Virginia, Luke Goldstock to North Carolina, Matt Sexton to Penn State, Justin Picardi to Holy Cross, and Tanner MacIvor to Williams College. This is probably a huge benefit to the Niskayuna boy's lacrosse team since a good portion of the players are already committed to good schools with excellent lacrosse programs, and number of graduates in college that owe a debt to the lacrosse program.

But how do they consistently have great teams year after year? A lot of this is due to Vorgang's coaching and his assistants. Every Friday night there would be lacrosse practices at Afrims in the offseason, on Wednesday night practice at Iroquois middle school. Coach Williams leads team workouts which are a custom lacrosse weight program, and the Albany power league is what almost every player in the program plays in during the offseason. The team eats, sleeps, and breathes lacrosse. For this reason they have been successful. They have also been playing for quite a while. Players like Goldstock have been playing for years since their toddler years. A logical explanation as to why the Niskayuna varsity boy's lacrosse team is so good is because this team plays exactly as a team should, by sharing the



I'M HOT, I'M HOT: A Niskayuna defenseman plays defense against an aggressive attackman in practice. This year the defense will be counted on to play big throughout the season. Although they are inexperienced, they have a lot of talented athletes and room to grow. By the time the post-season comes around the boy should be poised for a state championship run.

Warrior Photo / Chris Herman

ball on offense and by the stellar communication on defense, both of which are important factors in determining the outcome of a team's performance in a game. Although they have a good defense, they are still inexperienced and need work. But they will get there eventually. So far the Niskayuna boy's varsity lacrosse team has defeated some opponents such as Shenandehowa, Guelderland, Columbia, Colonie and Burnt Hills, all of which are skilled opponents.

Sloma said, "We are having a great season so far beating some quality teams such as Jamesville-Dewitt and Somers. We're starting to click on offense, and the defense is growing closer to each other with each success. Our team just needs to play our 'A' game every game and if that happens then the sky is the limit for us."

After the Somers game Sexton said, "We have been very success-

ful this season and have meshed early. Our defense is pretty inexperienced, but we are still solid on that side. Evan Quinn is having a great year for us and is stepping up big in critical situations. Jamesville-Dewitt was a great win and momentum builder for us, and we are ready for anything that lies ahead."

The team has a tough season ahead. This week they play Saratoga at home, then have away games next Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at Bethlehem, Shenandehowa, and Duxbury high schools.

If they can continue to play at the level that they have been playing at against great teams they will do well.

Hopefully the Niskayuna boy's varsity lacrosse team will be able to maintain a high level of play for the rest of the season and win Sectionals and States!

Tennis aces competition

BY SUMAN PADHI

SPORTS

Spring is looking as good as ever as the tennis squad continues to bring pride to the Silver Warriors. Their record might not look too great with a couple losses, but even at 4-2, they continue to play high quality tennis with amazing performances from the entire team. Whether it is the top of the lineup with the singles performers, or the exhibition participants, or even the middle order double partnerships, the team is playing some very good tennis.

Historically very successful, the Niskayuna tennis program is just as successful as any other spring sport in the school district, producing tennis players of an incredible caliber. Nisky has been and continues to be one of the top competitors in the Suburban council, usually in the top 3, including consistently placing a couple finalists at the singles and doubles competitions at Sectionals. Only one factor is constant in this successful trend, and that is the coach.

Coach Neil is famous for his vigorous training programs and fitness regimes. However, they've paid off big in the past and continue to do so with the team looking to successfully compete at sectionals for yet another post season that approaches quickly. Sophomore Joe Parisi, a new addition to the team stated, "He is one of the only coaches I have ever played under. I have learned incredible amounts from his expertise in the sport and his strictness has only had a positive impact on the team. His tactics are good and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year with him." Coach Neil is famous for a most peculiar yet impressive skill that just reflects how good he is with the game: he can beat every player he coaches on his special tennis wheel chair and his dreaded wooden racket. Coach is also a great motivator. With a coach like that, one can only imagine

all the players jumping at the opportunity to play under him and improve, and some of the lucky players to get called up this year include the previously mentioned Parisi, Sophomore Vineet Velagandula and Junior Nick Dobies. When asked about the program and competition, Vineet said, "There's a lot of unhealthy competition in other school districts due to the individual nature of the sport, but in Nisky, the team has gelled and we're simply one big family." He added, "We all bounce ideas off each other, help each other out, practice with each other and consider team victories with greater importance than individual matches." When Adi was posed with how the team has been performing this year specifically, he stated, "We've been playing pretty well, but by no means have we attained our top form. Several players have been playing extremely well and one such player that stands out is Russell Santos, but as we have come to realize, independent performances don't matter if the team loses." He added, "I think we have a solid team this year, but the problem is people get injured or sick and sometimes miss crucial matches. We have to keep our players off the basketball court so they don't sprain their ankles like Erwin Lin."

The current team captains are seniors Erwin Lin and Brendan Service, but the leaders go beyond just those two and include veteran seniors Jonathan Finn, Jacob Leighton, Zack Valenza, and Adi. Next year's star to watch is Sophomore Russell Santos who currently looks bound to take the number one single's spot next year. In the long run, the player to watch is VA Middle School student Jason Tang who has been described by Vishnu as "quite amazing and super fun". Five of their six games so far have been decided by just one game and this just shows how intense the competition is and it is thus that we wish the team luck in their endeavours.

Softball

4/11 vs. Burnt Hills
Won 3-0

Boys Lacrosse

4/19 vs. Columbia
Won 20-0

4/21 vs. Somers
Won 14-28

Baseball

4/18 vs. Guilderland
Won 7-4

Girls Lacrosse

4/19 vs. Columbia
Won 14-2

SCHEDULE AND
SCORES

Don't forget to recycle this issue when you finish reading it!



Silver

The Warrior Magazine

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Let's get pumped for summer

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New summer activities

by Katherine Quinn
Magazine

It's that time of year again. With fewer than 10 weeks of school left, everyone is beginning to think of summer. The warm weather of this spring has surely reminded us all of the sunny summer days that are just around the corner. Though it may seem far way off, summer is fast-approaching and has got everyone excited.

Summer is always expected to be a fun time spent with family and friends doing the things you love to do.

For many, this means vacationing on sandy beaches, exploring to foreign countries, or just visiting family in other states. Many might already have some fantastic trip fixed into their summer schedule.

But what can we do for fun on those empty days or free weekends that are left open on our calendars? Surely, no one wants to fall victim to summer boredom just because there aren't any vacations planned.

The summer boredom of being stuck in suburbia can easily be beaten by discovering the fun summer activities and events that really do exist here in upstate New York.

Central Park in Schenectady is what I consider to be one of the most under-appreciated gems of the area. In a morning of swimming at the pool and some tennis on the courts, or a picnic in the rose garden and some peace-

ful paddleboats on the lake, Central Park is the perfect place to spend a summer day.

Also, don't miss out on the Music Haven summer concert series that takes place in Central Park and features several great performances on evenings throughout the summer.

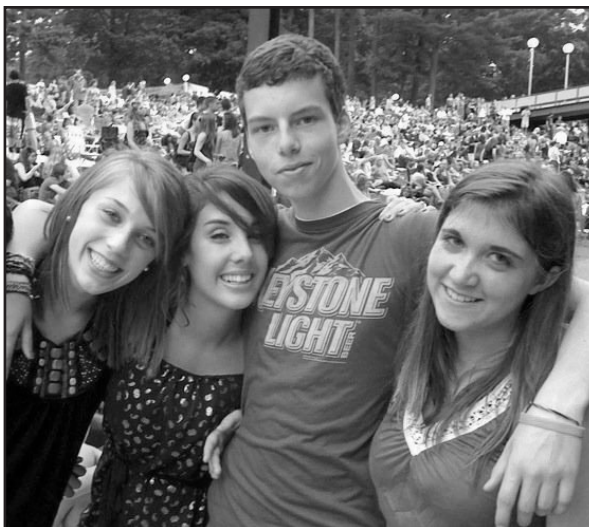


Photo Credit / Kathleen Gaul
SARATOGA: Seniors Kathleen Gaul, Emily Phillips, Kyle Parks, and Rachel Meachem enjoy a concert at SPAC.

Another fun place to visit over the summer is Howe Caverns. As some may not know, Howe Caverns has undergone many changes since your last school trip. Now, the attraction not only features its timeless underground cavern tour, gift shop, and homemade-fudge, but also added a high ropes course and four zip line towers last summer.

What's more is that Howe Caverns plans to add a rock wall, an air jumper, and H2OGO ball to their list of attractions this summer. Howe Caverns is located off of I-88 and is less than an hour away from Niskayuna. A day trip to Howe Caverns would be a great way to have fun with friends and family over the summer.

If caverns aren't your thing and you'd much rather be on

the ground than one hundred feet in the air, maybe you'd enjoy a day at Saratoga State Park. Only half an hour from Nisky, Saratoga Springs is always a fun destination in the summertime as there are so many activities and entertainment in the downtown area and near the famous racetrack.

But, many people miss out on the majestic beauty of this park, best known for the Peerless Pool and, of course, SPAC. It's simple enough to see how one could make a fun day of swimming at the pool and walking or biking to see the National Museum of Dance, Saratoga Automobile Museum, or the Roosevelt Baths and Spa.

This summer SPAC will host Phish, Nickelback, O.A.R., Big Time Rush, Drake, and countless ballets and operas.

Saratoga State Park is a neat place to check out this summer if you're looking for a relaxing day or a fun concert experience with family and friends.

Even if you've only lived in Niskayuna for a month, you'll know how much people complain that there's nothing to do in this boring town. While this may be true, Niskayuna is fortunate enough to be surrounded by interesting places that are fun for all ages.

Though it sometimes goes unnoticed, great summer fun can be found right in the area if you look closely. If you do it right, you don't have to travel far to have an amazing summer vacation.

Dear Readers,

Now that 4th quarter has begun, there is only one thing we can't stop thinking about... SUMMER! As much as we love going to school everyday, it's hard not to dream about upcoming vacation and summer plans. Just thinking it about makes us smile! Who isn't excited for summer?

Love,
The Editors

Summer bucket list

by Victoria Engvold

Magazine

With the end of another school year approaching, the promise of another great summer is getting closer. After counting down and crossing off the days on our calendars all year, it's time for us to start making plans to make this summer one we won't forget.

With only two months left until freedom, we can't waste a minute. Fill your summer up with lots of excitement and memories. Here are just a few things that you shouldn't miss out on during the summer.

Go to a concert. The summer is the best time of year

to catch some of your favorite artists. Whether it's SPAC or the TUC, Brad Paisley or J. Cole, don't pass up an opportunity to see some of your favorite artists. The weather is nice, so grab some friends and get your tickets now before they all sell out.

Play some pickup sports at River Road park or Blatnick Park. Make use of their volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts. Maybe go to River-road Park and play some soccer on the fields. Pickup games are a great way to meet up with some friends, get active, and have fun. Not to mention, work on your tan. The best part

of this is that it costs nothing. The best fun is free fun.

Take a road trip. We all know Niskayuna isn't the most exciting place to live, so why not get away for the day? It doesn't matter where; maybe you want to hit the outlets in Massachusetts or the beach in Lake George.

Maybe even go to the track or shopping in Saratoga. There are many exciting places close to home that will give you a break from your typical Nisky summer.

Go to the Adirondaks. We're lucky to live so close to such a great park, because in just a short drive, there are so many great activities. Adirondak

Extreme is an awesome high ropes course with zip lining that is a great way to spend a warm day in the summer.

Maybe rent some kayaks or a canoe with your friends for a fun day on one of the many lakes up there. Go for a nice hike, maybe even a high peak if you think you can handle it. with your friends and family.

Don't let your summer go to waste. Make sure you fill your days with lots of exciting activities before school starts. Whether you decide to hit the mountains or the beach, have some fun adventures with your friends and take a vacation from Nisky, even if it is just for a day.

Warm summer thoughts

"I'm looking forward to spending my last few months here with my family and friends!"

-Senior Victoria Robbins

"I'm most excited to go fishing!"

- Senior Alex Coyne

"The Olympics are being held in London this summer and I'm super excited to watch those!"

-Sophomore Mari Perella

"The summer is warm! I am excited for the warmth!"

- Senior Ryan Burke

I can't wait to sit by the pool everyday and hang out with friends."

- Junior Catherine Kaucic

"Summer is my favorite season. No, it's the only season. I live for summer."

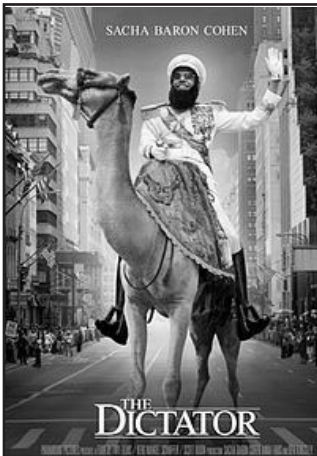
- Senior Camila Grande

Summer flicks to catch

by Jen Perreault

Magazine

1. The Dictator: May 11, 2012
This movie is from the makers



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dictator_\(2012_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dictator_(2012_film))

of "Borat" and stars Sasha Baron Cohen. Cohen will play the oppressing dictator of a fictional Middle Eastern country. "The Dictator" will actually be distinct from Cohen's previous movies "Borat" and "Bruno." In contrast to those movies which were shot as shaky "mockumentaries" solely based around Cohen's character, "The Dictator" has a solid supporting cast and was shot with the steady firsthand conventional camera. The film is allegedly inspired by Saddam Hussein's novel "Zabibah and the King," and alludes to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. The crude humor may not be meant for everyone, but those who were turned off by the format of "Borat" and "Bruno" should give "The Dictator" a chance since it follows a storyline, was shot with a steady camera, and won't focus on Cohen alone.

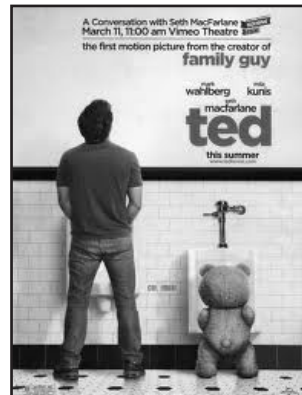


<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1077368/>

2. Dark Shadows: May 11, 2012
Directed by Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp, "Dark Shadows" is a comedy based on a soap opera

of the same name. Barnabas Collins (Depp) broke the heart of a witch who then cast a curse on him that turned him into a vampire. Barnabas is in a foreign time period, the 1970's, and the witch who cursed him is still young and ready to seduce him. When I first saw the trailer for this film, I thought the wealthy modern Collins vampire family was a take on the Cullen family of the "Twilight" saga; however, this is not the case. The Collins family is based on the wealthy Collins family from the 1966-1971 soap opera, so this film is not in fact meant to be a parody of the "Twilight Saga". 3. Ted: July 13, 2012

Produced by the creator of "Family Guy," Seth MacFarlane and starring himself, Mark Wahlberg, and Mila Kunis, Ted



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

is a must see for all "Family Guy" fans and comedy lovers. Ted is the story of a Teddy Bear brought to life by a young boy's wish and the relationship between the two as they grow older. While John (Wahlberg), is ready to grow up and have his girlfriend Lori (Kunis) move in, Ted (MacFarlane) gets in the way with his vulgar lifestyle consisting of hookers and drugs. Throughout the movie, John tries to help Ted grow up and find a place to live on his own. I don't know how I haven't heard of this film already; maybe it's too soon to be previewed on T.V. or maybe because I never watch commercials, thanks to DVR.

4. The Dark Knight Rises: July 20, 2012
As the conclusion of the "Dark Knight" series, this film can be expected to affect audiences even more so than the previous "Dark Knight" films. The film takes place eight years after "The Dark Knight," and Batman returns to Gotham where he had assumed responsibility for Dent's crimes. There, he must



<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1345836/>

protect Gotham from Bane (Tom Hardy), a new terrorist leader, and he meets Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway), both villains of the original Batman comic book series. The "Dark Knight" series has rightly been one of the most talked about and highly appraised current film series. The "Dark Knight Rises" was shot with IMAX cameras in order to capture the best picture possible, and the cinematography is only one thing to look forward to. The "Dark Knight" films are full of brilliant action, but even more importantly, they feature philosophical questions about the worth of humanity and nature of society.



<http://www.imdb.com/title/>

5. Total Recall: August 3, 2012
The dystopian science fiction movie takes place in 2084, Euroamerica. Douglas Quaid (Collin Farrell) has been having restless nightmares and suspects his true identity and memory have been erased and replaced. Euroamerica and New Shanghai, consisting of current China and South East Asia, are at war and Quaid has no idea which side he was formerly on. He teams up with a young female freedom writer (Jessica Biel) and they fight to change the political system of Euroamerica. However, sci-fi fans should be pleased for the technology and "neuroscience" that make 2084 a much more effective and eerily autocratic dystopia than Orwell could have dreamed of.