

# THE NEWSPAPER

*We print all the news that we think is halfway relevant. . . .*

Issue No. 1

Advisor: Ms. S. Paprota

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Editor: Hope Wondowsky

Editor: Daniel Baker



Welcome to “The Newspaper.” This is our first issue and we need to solve some problems –

First is **WHAT SHOULD WE CALL THE NEWSPAPER?**

Second is **WHAT SHOULD OUR LOGO BE?**

**WIN a \$10.00 COUPON TO USE IN THE SCHOOL STORE.**

ENTRY ON BACK PAGE

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## Opinionated!

By Daniel Baker

Welcome to my column, Ladies and Gentlemen. Please note that if you are the type to get easily offended by someone who speaks *their* mind, this is not something for you to read. You’d be much better off reading something like *Green Eggs and Ham*. At times, things I say in this column may seem a bit... Abrasive. But please remember that I only say them in good faith, in hopes of improving the way we, as a student body, function.

Anyway, now that I’ve gone into disclaimer mode on you, here’s the topic for this, my first article: *Kids With No Work Ethic*.

We all know them. These are the kids that sit in class all day and make wisecracks to the teacher and the class and then do nothing but complain when they’re given work to do, even when it’s something as mind numbingly simple as “look up this word in your textbook.”

What’s so hard about looking up vocabulary words? In the time that it takes these kids to say, “But Miss, I don’t get what we’re supposed to do,” or, “it’s too hard,” or anything else from an assorted list of stupid complaints that they have stored in their memory banks, they could have looked up and defined half the book.

And you know what, if you’re happy with doing nothing with your life but sitting around and complaining about how things aren’t fair and that life is too hard, that’s fine. But if you try to drag others into your whirlpool of idiocy, then you’ve crossed the line. I’ve seen it happen so often that it makes me sick.

Perfectly intelligent young men and women come into high school and they try their hardest to do well, but the kids around them who don’t care drag them down because they act “cool.”

Since when is it cool to be stupid?!

Okay, if you think that missing out on your education and growing up to be an uneducated fool is “cool” then I say, to each his own. If that’s the life that you want to live, then I have no right to tell you that you can’t. It’s a free country.

But if you’re one of those kids who can relate to the description that I’ve put forth in this article, maybe you should take a moment the next time you feel like talking back to a teacher and think about what you’re doing.

Have fun. Be safe.

With Love,  
Daniel Baker

# Welcome Mr. Bicsko

By Kerrie-Anne Weickert

Recently Mr. Bicsko was kind enough to take the time to answer a few questions for our newspaper. In about ten minutes I got to know him a little bit better and learned some of what he has planned for our school in the near future. Here are some of the topics we briefly discussed.

How long have you been with the district?

*"10 years ago I started as a teacher in career development teaching history for 7 years. Then I went back to school to learn the skills required for being a principal."*

Do you have any hobbies?

*"I enjoy running and playing golf."*

What do you like about our school? Any dislikes?

*"I love that our school has everything to offer and that it is self sufficient. The only thing I dislike is that not many students are involved."*

What do you think is the most important task of principal?

*"Leading everyone in the right direction."*

How do you measure the success of a school?

*"By the output the students give, such as test scores, effort and work in shops."*

Who do you involve in decision-making issues?

*"The assistant principals and also input from teachers and students."*

What are some goals you have for our school?

*"I would like to increase test scores and I'm always looking for ways to increase student involvement."*

In the few months that Mr. Bicsko has been principal I feel that our school has already improved. He has an open door policy for students. That means that he is open for any suggestions, at a proper time, about how we can make school more interactive. He will listen to ideas for fundraisers, charities, clubs, after school events, new sports and any other ideas you may have to make our school the best that it can be.



## MOVIE REVIEWS by Nick Flaherty



### **Twilight:**

This movie really does not need a review because no matter what I write all the teenage girls are going to see this movie. There is so much buzz about this

movie that I can already predict it is going to do great in the box office. On its opening weekend it made 70.6 million topping the number one highest grossing vampire movie *Van Helsing*. When a poll was taken it showed that over 75 percent of *Twilight's* viewers were girls and over 55 percent were under 25. I saw this movie and I thought it was well directed and well acted but it just wasn't what I wanted from a vampire movie. If I am going to pay 10 dollars for a movie ticket then I want to see a vampire movie with lots of blood and gore. Three people died in total in *Twilight* and the movie didn't show any of it. As a guy I want violence, blood, cursing and some "adult content". To those who get dragged to this movie by their girlfriends my deepest condolences, try to sneak out and go see something else.

### **Transporter 3:**

Jason Statham returns as Frank Martin for another installment in the *Transporter* trilogy. Unfortunately, this one falls short of the first two. This movie was full of mindless action sequences and horrible acting. Jason Statham is once again the action hero who can do anything including catch up to a car on foot, and drive sideways. This movie is your typical action movie with nothing special but the effects.

### **Saw V:**

There is really nothing special I can say about *Saw V*. It is pretty much your standard gory, bloody, and confusing mess of characters and plots just like the first four. The direction of the story is extremely out of whack with scenes from the past and present put together to keep you guessing whether something is happening or if it already happened, while trying to keep character names and motivations straight. *Saw V* has its moments where it can be suspenseful but overall, it's not scary, because you know that everyone winds up dying and it's all

because some jerk decided that they're not going to listen to what Jigsaw said and they're going to get themselves and everyone else killed. If you liked the first four movies you will enjoy this one.

### **Max Payne:**

More than half the time big screen adaptations of video games are never good. For example look at *Street Fighter*, *Doom*, *Mortal Kombat*, *Silent Hill*, *Bloodrayne*, and much more. And *Max Payne* is no exception. The movie is very boring and drags on a boring storyline. I was very disappointed because Mark Wahlberg is one of my favorite actors and I had very high expectations for this movie. This movie gets knocked onto the list of bad video game adaptations. If you had intended to see *Max Payne*, I would suggest you take a big rope and skip it.

### **Pride and Glory:**

I personally can't believe that the majority of the reviews that this movie got were bad. This movie is exactly what we have all been waiting for in a cop drama, the acting itself is fantastic. Edward Norton delivers yet another fantastic performance even without stomping anyone's mouth against a curb. Collin Farrell also gives a great performance. This movie is different because it's not just explosions and car chases, it has a bigger meaning behind it, and a lesson about the unintended consequences your actions, even if you think it's for a good cause. This is a movie that will get you thinking and is very compelling

### **Madagascar 2: Escape to Africa**

This movie was even better than the first. It has great puns, a funny plot, and great fun for the whole family. The penguins rule the screen once more, and for those of you that are worried, the answer is **yes**, the song "Move it" is in the movie. The thing that impressed me the most about this movie was the imagery of it and how it went from being in Madagascar with all the trees and colorful fruits to the big open plains of Africa. The casting in this movie is great, it has all the voices from the first movie and some new ones like Alec Baldwin, Will I Am (Black Eyed Peas), and more.



## The Game Counter – by Kyle McCarthy

### Table 2.

I recommend this game for people who have online or just like RPGs. The game play is smooth, but can be a bit slower if played for extended periods of time. The story may be a bit too short; but if you play through there will be many more activities if you still want to play. The game features jobs, which earn you money; clothes can be purchased along with houses and businesses. The game also allows you to be a female or male. *Fable 2* offers a simple button guide for casual gamers. The game also has no mini-map, but a trusty companion instead. Online co-op is also available, but might be annoying with the camera. But hack to the dog, and he'll find treasure, attack enemies, play dead,

do a back flip and much more! Rent this game for sure – if you want an adventure that will define who you are, then *Fable 2* if for you.

### MIRROR'S EDGE

I recently downloaded the game *Mirror's Edge*. At first I was skeptical but upon playing the demo I have become addicted to this game. The game itself is visually stunning and game play is amazing.

### OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS –

**Gears of War 2** – (rent it if you don't have online)

**Call of Duty – World at War** (don't rent it BUY IT)

**Fallout 3** (rent it first and try or you can just buy it)



## In The Kitchen With Gabe

By: Gabriel Torres

### Red Lobster Biscuits

These wonderful Red Lobster biscuits are a classic! Everybody's in love with these biscuits. My 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher gave me this recipe to make in cooking class. After we made those biscuits, I fell in love with this recipe! They taste just like the biscuits at Red Lobster! I wrote this easy recipe so you can enjoy this wonderfully delicious snack that's great anytime and any season of the year. Trust me you will love this recipe because I love it too!

#### Ingredients:

- ❖ 1 ½ cup plus 2 Tablespoons Bisquick
- ❖ 1 ounce cheddar cheese
- ❖ ½ cup plus 2 Teaspoons water
- ❖ 3 Tablespoons & ½ Teaspoon butter (melted)
- ❖ ½ Teaspoon garlic powder
- ❖ ¼ Teaspoon salt
- ❖ ¼ Teaspoon onion powder
- ❖ ¼ Teaspoon dried parsley

#### What to Do:

- ❖ Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a cookie sheet
- ❖ In a mixing bowl combine Bisquick, cheese and water. Mix until the dough is firm
- ❖ Use an ice cream scoop to place the dough on a baking sheet
- ❖ Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown
- ❖ Combine the melted butter, garlic powder, salt, onion powder and parsley and brush this mixture over the biscuits

# Dead End

By: Hope Wondowsky

On October 15th, our school was the host of the teen safety initiative kick-off. This event included a performance called *Stick River Road* which was written by Ms. Dvorak. The piece was directed by Ms. Aladren, and performed and teched by the theatre students here at our school.

*Stick River Road* is a powerful, brutally honest play about the consequences of reckless driving. It focuses not just on the outcome of teenage drunken driving, but anything else that could possibly hinder one's judgment. The characters are both the offenders, and the offendees, and offer insight into both sides of the situation. Each story is delicately woven into the next, to provide a three-dimensional world. A world with real people, emotions, and endings. The main character, Stevie, an aspiring photographer, is in pursuit of the perfect sunset when he is killed by a drunk driver.

The play is split in two, separating the worlds of the living and the dead characters. What is really interesting to me, is that the ones who are dead are unaware that they are dead. They don't remember much of anything that has to do with what put them six feet under, while the live characters are trying to reach out to them.

After the play's debut, I sat down with Ms. Dvorak to ask her about her work:

**Q:** What inspired you to write *Stick River Road*?

**A:** A committee meeting, where we discussed doing a segment on driver safety was why I wrote it. But what inspired me was an NPR (National Public Radio) interview.

**Q:** Did you do much collaborating with the director or anyone else?

**A:** During the summer we met with the performing arts students. They offered me a lot of advice on what worked, what didn't work, what needed improvement, etc. It was interesting, because I don't often write for theatre. We did do a lot of collaborating in the beginning. One thing I'd like to say is that when I do write something for theatre, I give it to the performers or the director. I don't own it, so to speak.

**Q:** Since you also acted in the play, did you find it hard to do since it was your own work?

**A:** It was easy to do because my role was of a teacher, which I am. But it was hard because I had to adapt what my character did depending on how Ms. Aladren wanted the reporter to change in the end. I had a lot of freedom with my character because I wrote the play. Also, to reiterate that I give my play to whoever is directing me. It wasn't that big of a deal.

**Q:** Do you feel like you have impacted anyone by writing this piece?

**A:** I've gotten very strong reactions, and have been amazed by the impact it has had. I know one father who told me it made him think more about his kids' safety. One student told me that he was going to change his habits because of it. So if it does affect people in this way, I'd really like to see it go beyond the school. I hope it will affect not just students, but adults in the end.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to interview two of the actors from the play. Daniel Baker and Katelin Perry.

**Q:** So how did you like working on *Stick River Road*?

**A:** (Daniel Baker) It was fun, but also hell in a bag. It was very hectic, because we had to put it together in a very short time.

**A:** (Katelin Perry) I thought it was frustrating because we had a very good show, but immediately after we performed that morning, we had to go take the PSATs. There wasn't much time to bask in a show that had gone well.

**Q:** Do you feel like you have benefited from taking part in this play?

**A:** (Daniel Baker) Yes, it shows us that it is a lot harder than it looks to put a show together in two weeks, many people don't realize how hard it is. But at least now I know I can do it.

**Q:** How was it working with one of your academic teachers?

**A:** (Daniel Baker) I wasn't really thinking 'Oh hey! That's my English teacher' during its production; I was very preoccupied with just doing my job.

# He Said She Said



Each month we will have answers to your questions about school, relationships, teachers, stress, homework, etc. We will give you the girl's point of view and the guy's point of view. This column is written by two students whose names have been changed. Write your questions and put them in the box outside Ms. Paprota's room. We will publish the questions and answers in each issue. This introductory article is about stress.

## **HE SAID - "Damien Graham"**

So you are sitting in your little blue chair. You feel like you're in a prison with bags of knowledge being thrown on top of you every second making the pressure worse. Ok, so we all know how school can be compared to a prison. As if that's not bad enough: when we hear a bell ring our heads perk and bodies jump, and we start to run through the hallways like some mice looking for our next piece of cheese. So when you are finally halfway through the day and you get a moment to think, you only realize how many problems you have, and how much work you have to do. Your friends, your devotee, the tests, the competition, and maybe even the thought of a pop quiz next period just might make you keel over. Stress in school is something we are all accustomed to, and let's face the facts: there is no way we are escaping it. It is all how you deal with it. Yes we are all different, but there are basic key things that can help us all. For we all have problems; some people bottle them up as others cry them out, literally. Now anyone in high school knows the meaning of a test. The easiest way to handle one is to start off with the basic principle of time management, and something that many people don't know the meaning of - sacrifice. People stress themselves out, and what does stress do besides cause a few pimples, create anxiety, and cause a lack of sleep? Just don't procrastinate, and find time to study. The last thing you need is to wake up the day of the big test to find yourself studying in homeroom. The best way to never be stressed about school

work is to do it. So sacrifice that hour of television and what's the worse that can happen, you don't know what happens in a fictional love life, and you get an A? Time management and sacrifice is something actually unproblematic, so stop stressing and just do what you're supposed to do.

Unfortunately the biggest issue in high school is not the school work. It happens to be drama, which somehow affects everyone and everything. The best way to honestly avoid this is to close your mouth. Personal lives and school work should be completely separated, but after staring at the same faces for years it's kind of impossible not to have any conflicts. If it's a severe issue or considered one by the teenage society it's probably not a big deal. Realistically any issue in high school is a joke compared to real world problems. For any issue you need to keep it at the back of your mind so it doesn't affect you. Also avoid confrontation at all costs because this simply causes a headache and can ultimately result in some pretty large consequences. We are in high school now and real life is right outside the doors, so no matter what the issue, learn to deal with problems now. In the future you can keep your head up with confidence, and a promise of a fair future. Problems are only as hard as you see them to be. That simply means you should, forgive and never forget. The last thing is the issue of competition in school. There will always be someone better than you, for that's life. Each person is a different individual with different morals, ideals, and

will do different tasks different ways, so truly nothing should be compared. As long as you try your best in anything, it's not a competition because you gave it your all. So in the end school is one big task that just needs logic, self-respect, confidence, and determination to get through. In school just try your hardest, and avoid tribulations, so for the rest of your life you will have a strong foundation to build off of.

### **SHE SAID - "*Melissa Banks*"**

Back in sixth grade, my classmates and I were taken to an assembly to learn about stress management. I remember shuffling into the bleachers, and once settled, looking down to the center of the gym at this glass of water placed on a circular table. I wondered how a glass of water could possibly link to stress at all. I wondered if it had something to do with the glass breaking or possibly that overused half-empty or half-full cliché. I'm still waiting for someone to say the glass is the wrong size, or it depends on who is doing the measurements. The point is, even today, that glass helps me relax when I'm under pressure and I'm going to share with you what it actually represents, how it works, and what it means.

The lady who was instructing the assembly started off by asking the group of students how much they thought the glass of water weighed. When everyone settled down she proceeded and asked us how it would feel, if we held the glass of water straight out for one minute.. Now of course everyone scoffed and retorted "fine", but we were obviously missing the point. She then inquired how we would feel if we were to hold it out for an hour. We all know that your arm would clearly hurt. It would probably kill you to hold it up, but you would anyway because if you didn't the glass would fall to the floor and shatter. It might even spill on your pants and nobody wants people to think they had an accident.

Anyway, the lady absolutely had it right. When you get extremely stressed out and you stay dormant, the result is mounting

pressure and stress conquers you. You can't let stress get to you. Unfortunately, it will always be a part of life and it is something you will have to deal with, but if you deal with it right away and properly, stress turns into action.

The first thing to do when you are really stressed or aggravated is to take some deep breaths. Now I know this article is probably stressing you out, so do it right now; take a deep breath before you continue reading. Now go onto the next step. Grab a notebook and a pen or pencil. Think about the problem: what caused it, who is involved, and what you can do about it. Once you write it down and clearly see the predicament you can proceed to deal with it.

Now if this approach isn't for you, another way to aid in relaxing yourself is to find a friend so you can vent and release tension.. Talk to them about your problems, because sometimes talking to someone makes you feel better. Additionally, it works to feel sorry for yourself because most likely no one else will.

Just to clear it up, there is a difference between sympathizing and feeling sorry for someone. It's a huge difference if truth is my main purpose here; notice how you are getting depressed over your stress but your friend is all right? That is the difference. In my opinion, I feel these are two of the best temporary ways to deal with stress.

Over time, you will need to really start changing the way you react to stress. You need to stop stressing over less important things and learn how to prioritize your responsibilities. Exercise is great and so is air. Take a walk, clear your head, keep active. Statistics show exercise greatly helps alleviating stress.

One thing I cannot contest and will say is, everyone gets stressed out for a different reason which means people can lessen their stress with different methods. If nothing I mentioned in this article seems to help the way you look at stress or how you would successfully deal with it, find your own niche. I strongly recommend writing since it has worked for me this week and yes, that was definitely meant to be a corny ending.



Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E V E Y  
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T  
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R  
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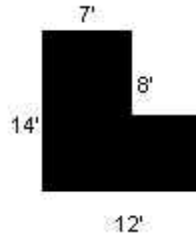
DECORATIONS  
END OF DECEMBER  
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FAMILY  
FATHER TIME  
FEAST  
FESTIVITIES  
FIREWORKS  
FIRST OF JANUARY  
FRIENDS

HATS  
HOLIDAY  
HORNS  
KISS  
MIDNIGHT  
MUSIC  
NEW YEARS DAY  
NEW YEARS EVE  
NOISEMAKERS  
OCCASION

PARADES  
PARTY  
PUNCH  
RESOLUTIONS  
SINGING  
STREAMERS  
THIRTY FIRST  
TIARAS  
WINE  
YEAR IN REVIEW

HSPA PRACTICE QUESTION

1. How many square feet of tile are needed to cover the floor?



- A. 52 sq. ft.
- B. 168 sq. ft
- C. 138 sq. ft
- D. 128 sq. ft

- Answer in the next issue

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If you have any ideas for news articles, columns for the paper or just want to help out, please see Ms. Paprota.

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**NAME THIS NEWSPAPER CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Entries must be submitted to Ms. Paprota by the end of the school day on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Prize is a \$10.00 coupon for the school store.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CREATE A LOGO FOR THE PAPER CONTEST**

Entries must be submitted to Ms. Paprota by the end of the school day on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Prize is a \$10.00 coupon for the school store.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

LOGO ATTACHED (make sure your name is on any artwork submitted)

