

NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL
55 NEPTUNE BLVD.
NEPTUNE, NJ 07753
732-776-2200

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **NHS HSPA,**
*Tuesday-
Thursday
March 4-6*
- **NHS HSPA**
*Make up
Dates, Tues-
day-Thursday
March 12-14*
- **SATs at vari-
ous locations,**
*Saturdays
March 9 and
May 4*
- **Spring Fling**
*Dance, NHS
Gymnasium,
Friday March
22*
- **ACT Saturdays**
*April 13 and
June 8*

Blazer Advisor:
Mrs. Blackmore

BLAZER

FREE!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2013

New Elective Course Offered At NHS

by
Briana Butler

This past fall, the English Department at NHS offered a new literature elective to juniors and seniors called *African American Literature*. Mrs. Lyons, who also teaches 9th grade English, realized that the school's curriculum was missing a great class that was taught years ago, before Mr. Kelly Chambers retired. Mr. Chambers served as her inspiration to bring the course back as he was passionate about teaching Black History. She felt that this could be a wonderful way for interested students to have an opportunity to study African Americans and their contribution to American history through literature from multiple genres. Students taking this course can look forward to

studying the work of African American authors and other talented writers aiming to capture the African American experience at various time periods in America. Some of the selections for the course include Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Ernest Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying*, Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. Students even have the chance to view some powerful documentaries and experience other educational and cultural endeavors.

Mrs. Lyons feels the ideal student for this course would be onewho enjoys reading a variety of novels that highlight obstacles, hardships, and successes of African Americans.

Students should also be passionate about everything from debating topics related to the novels to journaling about them. When asked what she has loved most about teaching this renewed class, Lyons offered, "I love being able to read and teach novels that are not always a part of the English classroom. It also elated me to hear that some of my students discussed the plot of *Native Son* with their parents, siblings, and friends. Even though the setting is the 1930s, my students realized and appreciated its relevance today!". If any upper-classman are interested in this course, they should make an appointment with their guidance counselors to discuss their future scheduling options.

Cease Fire Interrupters

by
Zoe Sorrentino

Criminal Justice Jump-start students were accompanied by Mrs. Morey, Mrs. Eddleston, and Mrs. Katz to the Museum of Tolerance in New York City on February 7th. The students were invited to view a documentary of the ongoing epidemic of gang

violence in Chicago, Illinois. The documentary was based on a group of reformed gang members famously known as the *Cease Fire Interrupters*, whose main goal is to help reduce the amount of violence in Chicago. In order to protect their commu-

nity, *Interrupters* use a controversial method, insinuating themselves personally into dangerous conflicts before they turn deadly. In reaction to the *Cease Fire Interrupters*, Organization SNUG was established to hopefully bring some of that same (cont. on p.2)

RELAX!

REST!

THINK
POSITIVELY!

READ
CAREFULLY!

CHECK YOUR AN-
SWERS!

*Cell phones cause
not only a
distraction to your
daily learning
environment, but
it can also lead to
larger problems for
an entire room
during the HSPA.
User Beware!*

Mrs. Lyons,
African-
American
Literature,
B257

HSPA Success: 5 Dos

by Aderike
Adesanya

Do! Do! Do! Do!

Relax! You will think more clearly if you are relaxed when you take an important test. Try not to think about anything that might distract you on test day. So break out the sweatpants and fuzzy socks and release all of your worries when you walk into that testing room.

Rest! While staying up all night studying might seem like the smart thing to do to prepare for this test, it's not going

to make a difference if you sleep through the whole thing! Rest is VERY important. Make sure you get your precious 8 hours!

Think Positively! If you tell yourself you're going to fail this test, you will. Keep your mind on the positive things like how great you are at vocabulary or how easy this test is going to be. Just saying you're going to succeed can sometimes bring success.

Read carefully! The questions are written to trick you. Make sure that you read each question (AND THE DIRECTIONS) carefully.

Check your answers! If you have time at the end of each section, try to go over the questions you had trouble on. Checking your work can be the difference between passing and failing!

HSPA Success: 5 Don'ts

By Jasmine
Hawkins

. Don't! Don't! Don't!

Cram! The skills tested on the HSPA are learned over your entire school experience. There's no use in cramming.

Skip directions! The directions are EVERYTHING! They can change the way you view an entire section.

Spend all of your time on one question! Spending most

of your time on a really hard question that you'll most likely have to guess on anyway will just hinder you when answering the others. Skip hard questions and get the easy ones out of the way first..

Bring your cell phone
LEAVE YOUR CELL PHONE
IN YOUR LOCKER!!! Save the

hassle of being asked to get rid of it!

Rush! Where's the fire? It is not going to improve your score whether you finish first or last. The only way to really do your best is to take your time and make sure you aren't making any silly mistakes.

Interrupters (Cont'd)

by
Zoe Sorrentino

success to the East Coast. "Just seeing other people doing something to help the community is heartwarming," Mrs. Eddleston comments. Neptune High School *Criminal Justice* Jumpstart students were joined by teens from the Robert F. Kennedy Community High School in Queens, and the *Directions for Our Youth*

Organization in Brooklyn, for a discussion after the film. The Jumpstart students benefited from the documentary by witnessing first hand a different alternative on delivering justice. "It brought the kids a new experience, and in a way, brings it home," Mrs. Eddleston notes. Senior Kayla Pattella added, "The film was

"interesting to see how different life can be for some people in this country." Attendees walk away with the message that violence is a choice, the wrong choice, and if people took the time to think rationally, they will most often make the right choice for them and others.

At the Box Office: *Silver Linings Playbook*

by
Ellice Revels

Anyone who is a fan of movies or is passionate about the Academy Awards knows that *Silver Linings Playbook* has been a hit at the box office. It was nominated for many awards ranging from *Best Actor* to *Best Director*. The star-studded cast, Robert DeNiro, Jacki Weaver, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, were all nominated for Academy Awards.

This movie inspires its audience to be believers while also tugging on its heart strings. The film inspires its audience to find a

"silver lining" in life. The characters in this movie are well-developed and the actors treat their roles with sincerity. The lead, Bradley Cooper, portrays Pat Solatano, giving an incredibly authentic performance. Cooper's character is one that appears complex and tough to portray but he does it with grace and ease. Also, Jennifer Lawrence did a phenomenal job playing Bradley Cooper's love interest in the movie. Cast as Pat's parents, DeNiro and Weaver also give heartfelt performances. Critics

say that Robert DeNiro has not won an Academy Award in a couple of years but they say that he deserves to win one after his role in the movie. His character struggles with OCD and his obsession is The Philadelphia Eagles. Although the rating of this film is R due to some strong language, most mature teens would gain more from seeing it based upon its positive life message. I enjoyed *Silver Linings Playbook* immensely and it deserves all the recognition the Academy is giving it this year.

Local Music Connection

by
Ali Nugent

This Saturday, February 23rd, teens from all over the county will pour into the Brighton Bar in Long Branch for an all-ages event to remember. Ross Ottman, *Cross Town Train*, *On Your Marks*, *First Things First*, *Automatic Habit*, *Touchdown Boy*, and east coast favorite *Batten Down The Hatches* will all be

playing. With *Cross Town Train*, *On Your Marks*, *Automatic Habit*, and *Touchdown Boy* all busy in the studio, there has been a shortage of local shows for the last few weeks. This will surely be packed with great new music, positive energy, and good times. Doors open at 2 pm and the first act, Ross Ottman starts

the show at 2:30. *Batten Down The Hatches* will close the show at 7pm but fans can find all the bands hanging out after the show at the Inkwell Coffee House around the corner. With 85 people already confirmed to attend, this is ensured to be one crazy show. Be there or be square!

***Cross Town**

Train

***On Your**

Marks

***Automatic**

Habit

***Touchdown**

Boy

At the Box Office: *Warm Bodies*

by
Kayla Isley

Warm Bodies adds a new spin on the tale of romance and sacrifice, by adding the one thing that people would never expect in a romantic comedy... zombies! The film begins post-zombie apocalypse which has infected most of the world's population. "R" is a young zombie wandering through the new

dystopian version of America with his one and only zombie friend "M". While on a hunt for food, R falls in love with a human named Julie and decides to take her home with him and his friends. During this time, R swears to protect her from danger and the two bond over R's ambition for a normal human life. While this

may sound like a strictly cheesy and romantic part of the film, it's actually full of awkwardness and hilarity. Overall, this movie is an awesome adventure full of love, action, comedy, and some of the best one-liners ever! *Warm Bodies* is definitely one of the must see movies of 2013.

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Neptune, NJ 07753
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Blazer Staff

Raven Allison Aderike Adesanya
Zoe Sorrentino Ellice Revels
Briana Butler Jasmine Hawkins
Ali Nugent Kayla Isley

Advisor: Mrs. Blackmore
Phone: 732-776-2200 x7454
E-mail: aeblackmore@neptune.k12.nj.us

"Journalism is in fact history on the run." -Thomas Griffith

Highlights: Winter Sports

Girls Varsity Basketball: Coach Quinn

1. MVPS: Ivy Harrington and Desiree Moss
2. Most Growth: Marajiah and Miesha Bacon
3. Most Satisfying Win:
"Our goal was to reach 20 plus wins. Each one meant something."

Varsity Wrestling: Coach Jobes and Coach Beaton

1. MVWs: Isaiah Haymon, Karl Waldron, Dae'Sean Brown, Sekou Harris, John Seidle, Tareeq Hamilton, Jose Caraballo, Nelcy Santiago
2. Most Growth: Nelcy Santiago, Keysan Johnson, Armando Menjivar
3. Most Satisfying Win: Ocean

Indoor Track: Coach Bowles-Fitch

1. MVPS: Destiny Boynton; Phyllis Gordon; Kadeem Curtis; Brietta Wilson; Ariana Wilson; Felicia Smith; Taylor Cosby; Qadirah Wesley; Melissa Estime
2. Most Growth: Destiny Boynton; Felicia Smith; Taylor Cosby; Melissa Estime; Qadirah Wesley
3. Most Satisfying Wins: Destiny Boynton 400 M at Monmouth County Championships; Winning the 4X400 at Monmouth County, Shore Conference, and State Sectionals; Devin Jones 55H State Sectionals with personal record

Spring Sports Preview: Softball

**By Jasmine
Hawkins**

As winter sports wind down and the weather stays cold, it's tough to imagine another year heading toward a successful spring sports season at NHS. Coach Tom Decker of NHS Girls Softball anticipates another exciting season with new talent and old rivalries on the field. The team, while young, will be bringing back many players with varsity experience. Returning senior starters include Kelly Jardine and Brooke Tartis. Other experienced varsity

players include Jasmine Hawkins, Kristen Acerra, Gabby DiLiberto, Christina Blue, Lois Walton, Sarah Stern, and Ally Moen. The girls' success as a team will depend on how quickly they come together in March. Solid defense and timely hitting will be the essentials to a winning season. Wall and Red Bank Regional have moved back in to B North, and Coach Decker foresees tougher out of division opponents than in past seasons. Group IV schools

like Jackson Memorial, Freehold Township, and Bayonne are all on the schedule. When asked if last year's very successful season adds pressure to the team this year, Coach Decker points out, "I don't think so. We are constantly putting pressure on ourselves to continue playing solid softball. We expect to win when we take the field." Some big games to look out for and attend will be the usual Division games against Wall and Ocean Township.