

THE PANTHER VOICE



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WHAT’S THAT SMELL? GAS-LIKE ODOR PERSISTS FOR YEARS IN ROOM 136

BY HARRISON STRASSLER

If you’ve ever spent time in room 136, chances are you’ve experienced an unpleasant smell. Reports of a gaseous or exhaust-like smell in this room and the surrounding areas have been made for at least 17 years. While it’s never been proven what’s causing the smell, theories include the storage of gasoline in a garage underneath the classroom or exhaust fumes from vehicles starting and idling in that vicinity.

Room 136 in the Social Studies wing is located above an expansive storage garage. The classroom also contains a vent that draws in outside air, possibly bringing in the smells from outside or below. According to Joseph Urbanowicz, the Director of Facilities for the Ardsley School District, gasoline was at one time stored inside, however, at least two years ago it was moved to storage cabinets underneath the bleachers after teacher complaints led to a meeting with the central office staff. Ardsley High School Principal Ms. Trippodo reported that “everything was moved out of there. So that space is no longer used as a supply garage for any of the facilities or maintenance tools.”

Gasoline isn’t the only possibility though. Vehicles such as tractors, lawnmowers, and utility vehicles have been parked in and around the garage. Starting up and idling close to the building could contribute to the problem. Mr. Urbanowicz commented, “we’ve since instructed the staff, including the contracted staff, not to start any equipment out there. I know that at least once or twice somebody started a truck outside and it was an issue and it shouldn’t happen, but it did.”

“This is a place where kids from a community that cares about its schools very much are being educated. And to have an environment, especially that classroom, that seems potentially unsafe and actually toxic seems like something that we wouldn’t do here, but it indeed still happens,” Says Mr. O’Donnell, social studies teacher and Vice President for

the Ardsley Congress of Teachers (union), who has been heavily involved in trying to remedy the issue. “There’s been over a dozen incidents that I have firsthand experienced of a permeating gasoline smell in room 136”. At least two teachers who have occupied the room in the past have noticed the smell, and reports have been filed to the administration. In 2005, Mrs. Berman spent her first year at Ardsley teaching in room 136. After one year, she changed rooms to escape the odor. Around a

“We’re going to do whatever we have to do to rectify it”

decade ago, Mrs. Weinrib occupied the space and began documenting. Mr. O’Donnell reflected on his experience meeting with central office staff around 2 years ago. “We were told that the situation was over, that they were going to remedy the situation, that there really isn’t gasoline stored underneath the classroom and that situation won’t happen anytime from there on out.” That was true for a time. At the start of this school year, however, the smell returned. Recent photos show that small gas canisters and at least one vehicle have been stored in the garage space again.

One reason to support the theory that gasoline and idling cause the smell is because it seems to be a seasonal issue. According to documentation, the odor is more prevalent from the spring to the fall, when the lawn mowers



Credit: Anonymous

and machinery are being used to maintain the fields and grounds.

Teachers and students are finding it increasingly frustrating to be receiving conflicting information. On the one hand, we are being told that it’s no longer a problem, but the people occupying the space daily know it’s not the case. A more conclusive investigation would be appropriate to pinpoint the definitive cause of the smell. “I find the smell very distracting when I’m learning”, said Jackson Kaye, a junior currently taking a class in room 136. “I hope it’s not dangerous or hazardous”.

There are plans to build a separate maintenance garage. However, this is years away and would need community approval. A more practical plan to prevent the odor could be a more strict policy on the idling of vehicles outside of the school, especially during teaching hours. Another idea could be the usage of electric tools and vehicles. While this would be a costly endeavor, the health and comfort of the Ardsley High School community could potentially benefit from a switch.

This could eliminate the need for gas-powered equipment and gasoline storage on campus. It would make the district more environmentally friendly in the process and reduce the amount of fumes we are exposed to at AHS.

When asked about what he’d do if the issue comes up again, Mr. Urbanowicz assured me “[he takes our] safety and health very seriously as well as the rest of the staff... we’re going to do whatever we have to do to rectify it.”

Ms. Trippodo reiterated that “if [students] do smell something, definitely let their teacher know because it’s important that it’s reported to us so we’re in the know of what’s going on.”



Credit: Harrison Strassler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Strange Odor

Page 1

New Hotspots in Ardsley

Page 2

Winter Break Recipes

Page 5

Winter Crossword Fun

Page 6

Sports Highlights

Pages 7-8

BOOSKERDOO MIGHT BE FOR YOU - THE RUNDOWN ON THE NEWSEST COFFEE SHOP IN TOWN

BY TESS KORTEN

Do you crave a hot cappuccino and homemade pastry to accompany your homework or afternoon pick-me-up? Do you enjoy being in the comfort of a laid back atmosphere surrounded by kind staff? If so, Booskerdoo is definitely for you!

Initially inspired by an experiment with coffee beans in a New York City apartment, this business has come a long way. With locations in Monmouth Beach, Red Bank, Fair Haven, Holmdel, Asbury Park, Bronxville, and Ardsley, Booskerdoo has taken New York and New Jersey by storm. The owners and operators, James and Amelia Caverly, pride themselves on “good coffee and good times,” two characteristics that are clear in the aesthetics and operations of the coffee shop.

Walking into Booskerdoo comes hand in hand with a complete mood change. The white interior, complemented by the multicolor menu on the wall and combined with a great playlist, makes the ambience phenomenal. Additionally, the staff are wonderful. They are sure to tell you their favorite options on the menu

and affirm your order with a quick saying of “good choice.”

That being said, while the ambience and the staff are undoubtedly great, the food and drinks are what make the place special. Sydney Gottlieb and I put Booskerdoo to the test by trying our favorite staple drinks and treats. For our food, we ordered the blueberry hand pie and chocolate chip cookie, along with the egg and cheese sandwich. The blueberry hand pie was delicious; the ratio of blueberry filling to buttery crust was perfect. Although it would have been better if warmed to maximize the taste and texture, the chocolate chip cookie was also very good (and large, making it the perfect baked treat for sharing!) Finally, on the other hand, however, the egg and cheese sandwich lacked flavor and did not compare to a sandwich that you could get at surrounding bagel shops, such as *Sunshine Bagels* or *The Shop*.

For our drinks, Sydney and I got an almond milk iced coffee, an iced matcha latte with lavender, and “The Ardsley”: hot chocolate with a shot of espresso. If you love matcha, this is the place you want

to be! The combination of matcha and lavender is uniquely amazing and a must-try for all matcha lovers. “The Ardsley” is our town’s signature drink, and it is pretty delicious. Although we ordered the drink iced, it would have tasted better if left warm, so definitely go for the original and leave this drink hot. Lastly, the classic iced coffee with almond milk was simple yet perfect. While Sydney and I both love strong coffee, which is why

we enjoyed this drink so much, I recommend adding one of the various flavors they offer if you prefer a softer taste.

Overall, Booskerdoo is a great new addition to Ardsley’s town, and is a fitting replacement for the Starbucks that used to copy the same spot. Other options offered on the menu include vegan options in pastries and sandwiches, and numerous teas! The next time you are looking for a coffee, stop by Booskerdoo!



Pictured: The Ardsley Booskerdoo Staff
Credit: Booskerdoo

ARDSLEY’S LATEST AND GREATEST THAI ADDITION

BY ABBY LEW

Thai food is a popular asian cuisine that utilizes many aromatic herbs and spices, such as lemongrass, and curry. Neung Thai Kitchen recently opened in Ardsley on Saw Mill River Road, giving Ardsleyians a taste of Thailand.

I tried many dishes from the restaurant not too long ago which were: Coconut Shrimp, Pad Thai Noodles, Drunken Noodles, Pork Satay, Massaman Curry, Pineapple Fried Rice, and Spring Rolls. My personal favorites are the Drunken Noodles and the Massaman Curry.

Appetizers we tried included the Pork Satay (\$9.95) and Spring Rolls (\$8.95 for 4 spring rolls). Most of the entrees are around 18-25 dollars; Coconut Shrimp (\$24.95), Pad Thai Noodles (\$16.95), Drunken Noodles (\$16.95), Massaman Curry (\$18.95), and the Pineapple Fried Rice (\$14.95).

Portions for entrees were decent, we had five dishes which fed four adults and three children, with a little leftovers for lunch the next day. The Drunken Noodles had a perfect spicy kick, and the Massaman Curry was scrumptious over white rice. The Spring Rolls were crunchy and had complementary dipping sauce, perfect to dip before each bite. If you’re looking for a safe dish that isn’t spicy, the Pad Thai Noodles are a perfectly scrumptious option! By the end of the meal I was definitely full, and even too full to have room for dessert!

Note that several dishes contain peanuts, so make sure to let your server know your allergies. Overall, this was a great way for me to expand my palate and try something new. I definitely recommend you go, especially during the cold winter seasons.

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IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN "INTO THE PAGES"

BY ALEX MALKIN AND HAILEY FINKELSTEIN



Credit: Ardsley Parents

The annual *Senior Revue* is one of Ardsley High School's best winter events: a musical written, managed, and performed by a talented group of AHS seniors finally getting to live out their "High School Musical" fantasies. One such senior is Alex Malkin. Although she prefers to be backstage, Alex's role as stage manager (shoutout to Stage Right!) allowed her to gain a deep understanding of this year's show, "Into the Pages," which she so graciously shared with me via this interview. As someone who was unable to watch *Senior Revue*, a devastating tragedy, I'm lucky to have a friend like Alex who knows the ins and outs of this production and can catch me up on what I've missed. For those of you who also couldn't make it to the auditorium this January, stay tuned for Alex's detailed debrief!

According to Alex, the *Senior Revue* is unique because "the seniors get almost complete say in how the show will look: they write the script, create the characters, and bring the performance to life." Of course, the seniors' dreams could not come to fruition without the guidance of director Racheal Langton and stage manager TJ Lyons.

As part of the stage management team, Alex was responsible for setting up all props, moving set pieces and mics on and off stage, assisting with quick-changes between numbers, and communicating with the lighting crew and other stage managers using a super high-tech headset.

Now that we're all aware of Alex's stellar contribution, let's cover the on-stage performance. "Into The Pages" starred 5 main characters: Hayden, Val, Marcus,

Amelia, and Lee. First up is Hayden, portrayed by Cadmus Stan, Vice President of the senior class and the heart and soul of the school's yearbook. Next Val, played by Brooke Lonergan, the senior class president and the crew's bubbly queen bee. And we can't forget Logan Ravinuthala's Marcus, a student who can't bear to leave highschool and his best buddies behind. Marcus' polar opposite is Amelia, played by Nikhita Pisupati, a girl who can't wait to leave Ardsley for college (she's going to UCLA, but don't worry, if you don't remember, she'll only mention it 47 times throughout the show!). Last but not most certainly not least is Lee, played by Riley Farberman, a shy and quiet student who finds their voice throughout the show. As graduation approaches, this unlikely gang find themselves on a wacky adventure as they are sucked "Into the Pages" of Marcus' yearbook, and must navigate through AHS memories to find their way out. The show takes the audience through the 1980s, 1920s, and 1800s on the "Decades Day" page, dives into fun and color on the "Superhero Day" page, whips out top-notch vocals in the "Musical Page," incites laughter with the fan-favorite "Muppets Day" page, and confuses with the "Opposite Day" page. With the taunting of Ardsley's favorite Demons of Chaos— Abby Isenberg and Bella Greenspoon—and the guidance of AHS's elusive Panther mascot (his name rhymes with "shell"), the gang comes to learn that the real Ardsley High School is the friends made along the way.

As the show comes to an end, a major plot twist is revealed: Marcus himself requested that the Demons suck the seniors into the

yearbook because he is not ready to leave high school. However, as the group chants "There's no place like Ardsley," with the help of the Panther (whose name rhymes with "bell"), they are able to return to the real Ardsley just in time for graduation.

With countless show-stopping musical numbers like "Material Girl" (shoutout to Alex Pak and Luke Inoue for the strings duet), "Holding Out for a Hero," "Can't Stop Singing," "Rainbow Connection," "Dear High School" (shoutout to Logan for the fire vocals), and "You Can't Stop the Beat" (the closing number), the *Senior Revue* was chock-full of mind-blowing musical numbers. However, Alex couldn't stop talking about her two favorites: "King of New York" and "Come to Your Senses." She loved "King of New York" for its catchy tune, great choreography, tap dance solo, and cool costumes. She described this as an "overall fun and entertaining number." Second is "Come to Your Senses," a flannel-filled performance with the incredible singing of one of Alex's "favorite songs ever" that was a very welcome addition to the other faster and more intense numbers.

Although she admitted it was an incredibly tough question, when asked who her favorite character was, Alex named two. She loved Lee, played by tap-dance-expert Riley Farberman, mentioning that "it was amazing to watch them get out of their comfort zone and find their voice within the crew," and that they were an integral part of helping the group escape their yearbook. Additionally, she could not forget Marcus, played by Logan Ravinuthala, specifically mentioning how she "loved his positive attitude and love for high school memories." A huge congratulations to all the cast and

crew members who brought these amazing characters to life!

Of course, *Senior Revue* extended far beyond the weekend it was performed, with days of work poured in by each team member. When asked to describe her experience with *Senior Revue* in a few phrases, Alex called it "a great bonding experience, a way to get out of her comfort zone, and a high school memory she will never forget." As the characters bonded onstage, it is clear that the cast was able to bond offstage as well, making some priceless high school memories of their own. Marcus would be so proud!

Though there were certainly some funny moments behind the scenes—such as costumes barely making it through musical numbers and props making it into the wrong decades—the seniors did an overall outstanding job performing, leaving the Ardsley community stunned and extremely entertained.

Alex also wants to extend a special "thank you" to director Rachael, choreographer Susan, stage manager TJ, musical director Mr. Smith, and tech-wizard/call mastermind Luke Farberman. The *Senior Revue* would not have been possible without its amazing team!

As the curtains close on the 2023 *Senior Revue*, we hope you enjoyed this inside scoop on this year's raddest performance—whether you're like me (a wannabe audience member), like Alex, (a dedicated stage manager), or like Marcus (a lover of reliving cherished memories). We love you seniors!

Cue the standing ovation!



Credit: Ardsley Parents

THE BEST BUSY ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY BREAK

BY CATHERINE CHUN

Believe it or not, our long awaited February break is just around the corner! While some of Ardsley’s students may be passing their hiatus from school reclining with a lemonade on the beach or skiing down slopes, others may be staying at home just to relax: what many, including myself, consider an ideal break. Whether you’re looking to spend quality time with friends and family, or simply show yourself an enjoyable and relaxing time, these winter activities are the perfect pastimes to keep you busy this February break!

WATCH A NEW MOVIE OR TV SERIES:

Interesting, entertaining, and a way to spend time with others, movies and television are an additional way to amuse yourself during February break. Whether it be binge-watching your favorite television show by day or hosting a movie night with friends, take the time off from school to indulge in the nostalgia, thriller, mystery, comedy, or romance of your favorite films, or experience some of the latest hit releases in theaters. While fans of pure, unfiltered horror may enjoy the jaw-dropping, suspenseful

M3GAN, original supporters of the 2009 hit film Avatar will find the same appreciation and love for its prequel, Avatar 2, which is both action-and-emotion-packed.

BAKE A WINTER DESSERT:

Baking is one of the best ways to create memories with friends and family and spend a cozy night in. Furthermore, it has also been proven to present a wide range of psychological benefits, including stress relief. Whether it be hot chocolate bombs, melting snowmen cookies, or skillet brownies, an abundance of winter recipes on the Internet can make for an enjoyable time in the kitchen with friends and family.

PLAY A BOARD GAME:

Indulge in childhood memories and traditions with a family game night featuring your favorite classic board games. Whether it be Monopoly, Settlers of Catan, Risk, or Sorry, board games are an enjoyable way to disconnect from technology and media and spend quality time with your loved ones. Consider dusting off your old board games, pulling out your favorite snacks, and hosting

a game night with a little friendly competition!

LEARN A NEW SKILL:

Whether it be knitting a scarf, solving a Rubix cube, or even mastering the fundamentals of a new language, learning a new and interesting skill is the perfect way to make productive use of your vacation from school. With an abundance of resources and tutorials available online, and the days you have off during break, take the time to practice a fascinating yet unfamiliar skill you have always wanted to learn!

READ A BOOK:

What’s better than spending the day curled up on the couch with a good book? As busy high school students, we may find ourselves with little time to read books that interest us outside of the classroom, but February break presents the perfect opportunity to do just this. From mysteries to memoirs, reading is not only a lifelong tool and skill, but an enjoyable pastime that can make for the perfect day in, disconnected from reality and purely consumed and present in the worlds of our favorite characters.

GET OUTSIDE:

Skiing, sledding, ice skating, or even a walk at a local park: the winter landscape presents so many opportunities to get active outdoors, as exercise remains an important part of our daily routine and health. Spending quality time indoors surrounded by friends and family is certainly one way to pass time during the winter break, but February is one of the most beautiful months of the year, and there are an abundance of outdoor activities to take advantage of!

Whether you choose to stay indoors with a baked good and a fascinating read, or venture outdoors for a snowball fight, the Panther Voice hopes Ardsley has a fun and relaxing February break!



Credit: Time Out

THE MOST SCRUMPTIOUS RECIPIES FOR FEBRUARY BREAK

BY CATHERINE CHUN

While the weather outside may be too warm to build actual snowmen, these “Melting Snowmen Cookies” are the perfect substitute. They’re quick, easy, and creative, and are a winter-themed dessert recipe with which you can’t go wrong, especially if you love decorating cookies or tapping into your creative side in the kitchen. While the simple base of plain chocolate cookies are flavorful on their own, the snowmen-themed decorations make this dessert from *Kitchen Meets Girl* uniquely delicious, special, and enjoyable to bake.

Prep Time: 10 min
Total Time: 25 min
Yield: 20 cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 box Devil’s food cake mix
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 2 eggs

- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon mint extract
- 1 package candiquik white candy coating, or other white melting chocolate
- 10 miniature Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, cut in half
- mini chocolate chips
- orange jimmies

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, butter, eggs, flour, and extract. Use a cookie scoop to drop evenly sized portions of dough onto a parchment or Silpat linked baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on the sheet for 5 to 10 minutes - remove the wire rack to cool completely. Once the cookies are cool, melt candiquik or white chocolate. Drizzle a spoonful over each cookie to form the melted snow. Add a



Credit: Kitchen Meets Girl

peanut butter cup half hat for the hat, and decorate the faces with chocolate chips and sprinkles.

Continued on page 5

MORE RECIPIES FOR FEBRUARY BREAK

BY CATHERINE CHUN

Continued from page 4

HOT CHOCOLATE BOMBS

While a classic mug of hot chocolate is a winter staple, these delicious “Hot Chocolate Bombs” add a unique twist to the classic drink. Tailored to anyone who loves chocolate, this recipe from *Sugar Geek Show* is simple and easy, and serves up to 6 spheres, making it perfect for a cozy afternoon or evening indoors with friends and family. As the bombs pop and ooze of chocolate, this winter drink is sure to satisfy and exceed your hot chocolate cravings.

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 25 mins
Yield: 6 spheres



Credit: Sugar Greek Show

ULTIMATE SKILLET BROWNIE

You can’t go wrong with a brownie, and there is never a brownie too large! This “Ultimate Skillet Brownie” from *Sally’s Baking Addiction* is the perfect recipe to share with a group of friends and family for an enjoyable day indoors. While it requires a significant total baking time and thus warrants some preparation and planning ahead, this dessert serves 6-8 servings and is delicious both served alone or with optional ingredients of ice cream, chocolate sauce, or maraschino cherries. If your brownie cravings kick in or you’re looking for a shareable dessert to try with friends and family, this recipe is a must-try.

Prep Time: 25 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Yield: 6-8 servings

Ingredients:
10 Tablespoons (144g) unsalted butter

Ingredients:
Good quality chocolate in bar form (preferably Lindt semi-sweet chocolate or Callebaut)
Food thermometer
Silicone sphere mold
Bench scraper
1/4 paintbrush
Piping bag
Parchment paper
Hot chocolate mix of your choice.
Mini marshmallows

Directions:
Chop chocolate (high-quality bar chocolate is best)
Temper your chocolate (don’t worry, we’re doing this the easy way in the microwave and it only takes 5 minutes)
Paint the chocolate into your silicone molds (two coats) or pour it into your acrylic mold.
Remove the chocolate spheres from

8 ounces (228g) quality semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 cup (200g) sifted granulated sugar
3 large eggs, at room temperature
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup + 2 Tablespoons (80g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)
2 Tablespoons (11g) unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup (180g) semi-sweet chocolate chips
optional: ice cream, chocolate sauce, maraschino cherries for serving

Directions:
Melt the butter and chopped chocolate in a medium saucepan on medium heat, stirring constantly, about 5 minutes. Or melt in a medium microwave safe bowl in 20 second increments, stirring after each, in the microwave. Remove from the heat, pour into a large mixing bowl, and allow to slightly cool for 10 minutes.
Adjust the oven rack to the lower

COOKIE DOUGH COCOA

If you’re a fan of cookie dough, this “Cookie Dough Cocoa” is a must-try and is sure to delight your palate. It’s simple, fast, and easy to make, yet delicious and perfect for any occasion at any time of day. Note that this recipe from *Betty Crocker Kitchen* is versatile, so even if cookie dough is not your preferred flavor of ice cream, just swap out cookie dough ice cream for any other flavor, whether it be vanilla, chocolate, peanut butter, or dulce de leche, to enjoy the same, unparalleled hot cocoa bliss and flavor.

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 15 minutes
Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:
4 tablespoons butter
½ cup brown sugar
1 pint cookie dough ice cream
5 cups water
Whipped cream
Mini chocolate chips
1 cup Cookie Crisp cereal

Directions:
In a 3-quart saucepan or large pot, whisk together butter, brown sugar, and ice cream over medium-high heat until melted. Add the water; cook and stir mixture until steaming. Serve in mugs, topped with whipped cream, mini chocolate chips, and cookie crisp cereal.



Credit: Betty Crocker Kitchen

third position and preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Lightly grease your oven-safe skillet. Whisk the sifted sugar into the cooled chocolate/butter mixture. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla until smooth and combined. Gently fold in the flour, cocoa powder, and salt. Once combined, fold in the chocolate chips. Pour batter into the prepared skillet and bake for 30-32 minutes or a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with a few moist

crumbs. Do not overbake– the brownie will taste a little dry. Err on the side of underbaking, which gives you that gooey brownie center. All ovens and skillets are different, so keep an eye on it after 28 minutes and use the toothpick test to see when it’s finished. Allow the brownie to cool for 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy with vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, and a cherry on top.



Credit: Sally’s Baking Addiction

FRANKENSTEIN: AN INTRICATE BOOK TURNED MINDLESS HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTER

BY JACK OREN

Written in 1818, *Frankenstein* is considered one of the first horror novels ever written. Originally, it is a novel rich with themes of friendship and power and creation, yet Hollywood took this phenomenal text and gutted it of all of that.

When someone mentions the word “Frankenstein”, what’s the first thing you think of? Mad scientists, a hunchback, lots of lightning, and an ugly, dumb creature... right? In actuality, none of this appears in Mary Shelley’s 1818 novel, *Frankenstein*. Everything that is deemed to be iconic in today’s perception of *Frankenstein* is the product of Hollywood looking to provide moviegoers with a scare. The authentic story of *Frankenstein*

is so much more than Hollywood presents.

Shelley’s story of Frankenstein follows the morally conflicted Victor as he makes the biggest mistake of his life: creating an artificial creature. This creature, or Frankenstein’s “monster”, is far from the “dumb” role that Hollywood utilizes. It is smart and learns from his experiences. Additionally, Victor is not portrayed as a “mad scientist” during or after creation. Instead, Victor is portrayed as a simple man of science. In fact, Victor makes the creature out of pure curiosity, not for some crazy scientific experiment. Crucial to the plot of the novel, Victor also

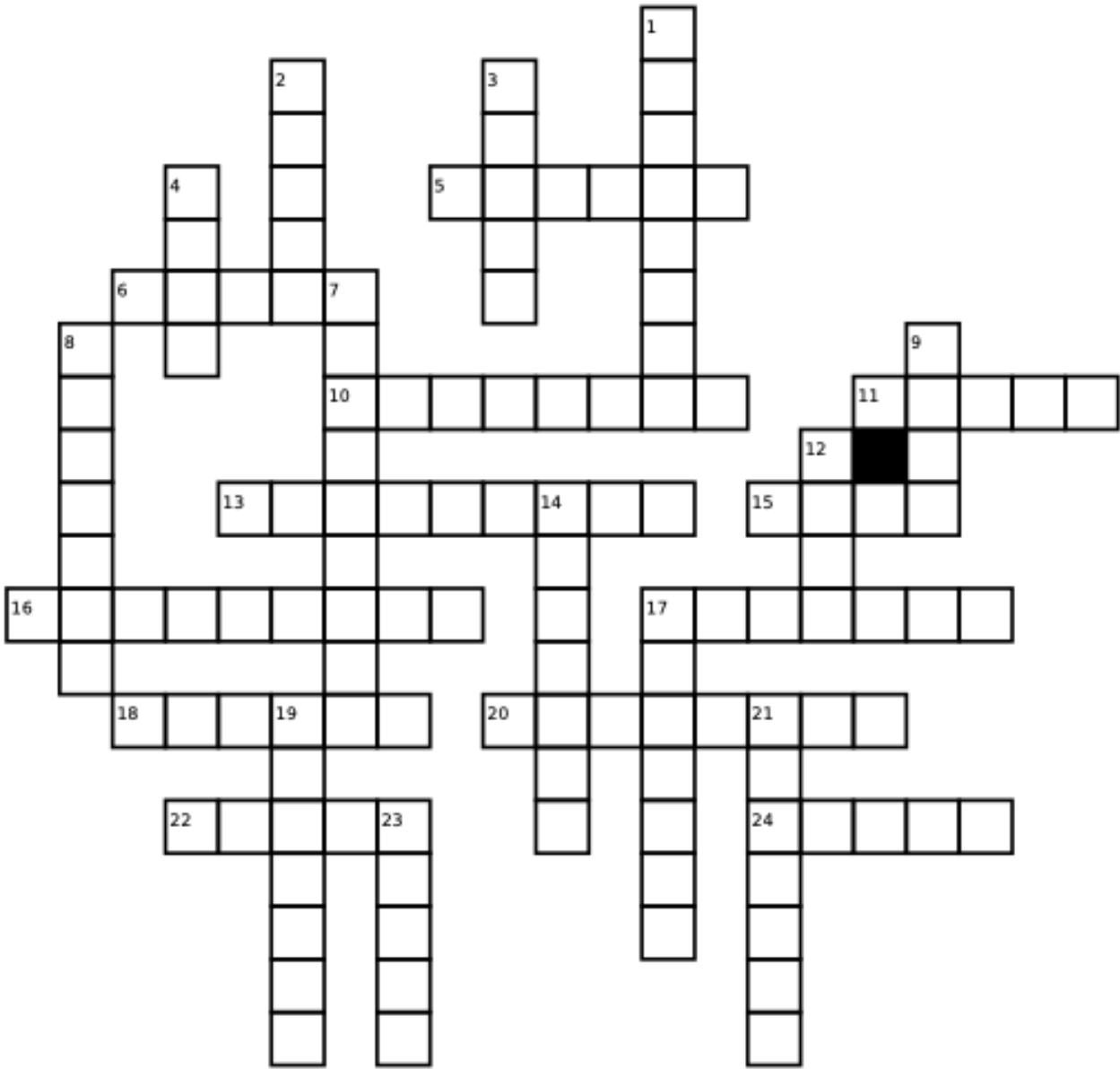
regrets his choice. Unlike the movie version, who can’t get enough of his creature, novel Victor abhors it. In fact, Victor abandons the creature. This abandonment, and many other moments of hatred and violence, makes the creature believe that he is a reject from society. This causes the monster to become vengeful towards Victor., which is a major driving conflict for the novel. Unsuprisingly, these complicated feelings of animosity are absent from the Hollywood version.

Besides the obvious plot differences, the Hollywood version is completely absent of Shelly’s rich themes. One of these complex ideas that she explores in the novel

is that of God and Adam from the Bible: a creation story. Victor is God and the creature Adam since one created the other. As the story progresses, it becomes apparent the roles are reversed. Victor created the creature to be superior to man. As a result, in his own path to right his wrong, Victor becomes far less powerful than the creature. In a way, Victor becomes much like Adam, and the creature God.

Now, not every single change and theme in the novel can be done justice in a single editorial. However, I highly recommend that you go out and read the book. It is truly phenomonal, and is much more enjoyable than the Hollywood version.

WINTER THEMED CROSSWORD



- Down:
- 1. month of Christmas and Hannukah
 - 2. mix of snow and rain
 - 3. the color of snow
 - 4. frozen rain
 - 7. sleep through the winter
 - 8. keeps your hands warm
 - 9. opposite of hot
 - 12. vehicle that clears snow from streets
 - 14. change habitat seasonally
 - 17. gliding on ice
 - 19. African American holiday
 - 21. frozen spikes
 - 23. Jack _____

- Across:
- 5. the coldest season
 - 6. direction birds fly for the winter
 - 10. snowstorm
 - 11. hot sweet drink
 - 13. holiday of giving
 - 15. fun ride down a snowy hill
 - 16. a unique crystal of ice
 - 17. sometimes has a carrot nose
 - 18. ice sport played with a puck
 - 20. time off from school or work
 - 22. neck warmer
 - 24. house made of ice

RISING STARS AND SENIOR LEADERS: PANTHER BASKETBALL TEAMS GEAR UP FOR PLAYOFFS

BY HARRISON STRASSLER

As the basketball season nears its end, and playoffs loom ever nearer, the boys' and girls' varsity teams are hopeful about the future. Both teams have the potential to make the playoffs with a home game in the first round.

Kacey Bortstein, a senior captain, is excited about the challenges that lie ahead. "I think we are going to go really far. We are a team with a lot of potential and great energy. I think we will shock a lot of people." Currently, the girls are the 6 seed in the Class B bracket. They are practicing hard to prepare for the cutthroat playoff environment.

The boys' team has had a difficult season, battling injuries

and the toughest schedule in class B. Despite this, senior captain Liam Mantini is optimistic. "All season we've had the belief that once we clean up all the little mistakes holding us back, we're as good as anyone else in class B and have a real shot to win it all."

A significant reason behind the success of both teams is the high number of young players contributing. Each team only has two seniors. Freshman Madison Bortstein recently won Lohud Player of the Week. Claire Tierney and Joie Levy also received nominations for this award during the season. On the boys' team, many players have stepped up. Junior captains Justin Paley and Justin Wachen have been

key players throughout the year. Paley is automatic at the three-point line and Wachen is a top-tier point guard who is second in the section for assists.

As for commitments, Gent Sinnanaj is the only player who will be playing college basketball. He's going to attend Fairleigh Dickinson

University in the fall. The 6 foot 6 inch big man is a force in the paint and is a consistent scorer and rebounder.

It's exciting to see where both teams will go in the future, and we wish them the best of luck in the playoffs. Go Panthers!



Pictured: Liam Mantini (left) & Justin Wachen (right)
Credit: Jack and Jake Photography

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: BROOKE LONERGAN, AN UNSTOPPABLE BOWLING PLAYER

BY CHESSIE MONACO

Most know Ardsley High School to be the home of many exemplary sports teams, like softball, track, fencing, swimming, or volleyball. However, many don't recognize the teams that are just as fantastic, but whose successes aren't as widely known. Today, it's time to shine the spotlight on Ardsley's boys' and girls' bowling teams—the unsung victors of Ardsley High School.

So far, the boys' bowling team is 9-2 and the girls' bowling team is 10-0. The girls are well on their way to becoming league champions for the second year in a row and attending sectionals for the third. However, most Ardsley students are shocked to learn of these bowling teams' existence and their mass successes.

The biggest reason why these teams are so successful is because of its players, of course. On any team, some members rise above and play an instrumental

role in their team's victories. On the girls team, with only 9 members, everyone plays a key role. However, to utilize a favorite word of Coach Degnan's Brooke Lonergan, senior captain, is among the most "huge" in bowling over the years.

Brooke is a true powerhouse on the lanes. Bowling a career-high of 198 which is an immensely high score that is very close to many professional bowlers, she is influential in every match she bowls in. However, this reliability comes with extensive pressure. Brooke copes with this pressure by keeping "a clear mind." She knows that "the more [she thinks], the more [she stresses] and that [will] cause [her] to not do as well." In this way, bowling with a clear head is Brooke's key to high scores.

The pressure peaked at last year's sectional game, which Brooke recalls was her most difficult match. She was "up against the best girls in the area," but managed to "zone in and clear [her] mind." Though Brooke's scores are outstanding, they are not the only way she contributes to the team; she also helps her teammates achieve a focused mentality so they can all perform at their best alongside her.

This team effort is vitally important in bowling. Contrary to what some might believe, "bowling is most definitely a team sport," Brooke says. Since scores are determined by adding up every bowler's score and comparing it to the sum of the other team's, it is imperative that "if one person is not playing the best, the rest of the players can step up and pick up the score." Bowling teammates

are dependent on each other and must help one another rise to the occasion. Friendships are "[forged] in between turns and [through] being able to talk [about] the game and issues." These intricacies make bowling a more complex sport than what people may see on the surface.

At its core, bowling is centered around the same principles as many other team

sports: camaraderie, teamwork, positivity, and growth. Bowling is mentally and physically challenging, yet extremely rewarding when all of the hours eventually pay off—and they have for Brooke, who has seen herself improve greatly over the last two years. Look out for Ardsley's bowling panthers, both boys, and girls, as they close out the regular season!



Credit: Jill Monaco

“Look out for Ardsley’s bowling panthers, both boys and girls, as they close out the regular season!”

SENIOR CAPTAINS LEAD ARDSLEY TRACK TEAM TO RECORD BREAKING SUCCESS

BY NOAH SEGAL



Credit: Yearbook Staff

The Ardsley Girls Track Team, led by Senior Captains Sophie Segal, Floriana Novaj, Sammy Leone, and Esther Choi, is off to a quick start this season, winning their first three big meets and setting multiple school records, one of which was in the 4 by 1 race. Among the incredible performances of the entire team, several players have had especially notable per-

formances, including those of Mio Martin (sprinter), Niamh Donovan (sprinter), Gabby An (pole vault), and Sophie Segal (high jump), who I recently had the opportunity to speak to. When asked about the team’s recent performances, Sophie reported that the secret to their success is team chemistry: “everyone gets along.” Furthermore, while Sophie achieves off the field

academically through impeccable time management (she says she always “[starts her schoolwork] at five”), she stays motivated on the field as well by remembering performances she did not do well in. Sophie strives to remain humble by remembering that there is “always someone who will beat her.” During the offseasons, Sophie stays in shape by running cross country and frequenting Planet Fitness. Having recently committed to Brandeis University as a jumper, she advises prospective collegiate athletes to “[not] be afraid to reach out to coaches.” Sophie claims that she almost immediately knew Brandeis was her place after she visited and had a “good experience meeting the team”, ultimately feeling that this is where she belonged. Sophie would like to thank Coach

Gomez and Coach Leone for their support throughout her time on the Ardsley Girls Track Team, and is looking forward to seeing what else the team can accomplish in the rest of the season!

Rapid Fire Q&A:
Q:What is your biggest fear?
A:Not doing my best

Q:Would you ever form a band and if so what kind?
A:No

Q:If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
A:Time Traveling

Q:Have you ever plagiarized?
A:No
Q:What is your favorite cuisine?
A:Japanese

NFL: A WILDCARD REVIEW

BY JAKE PARKER

Wildcard Weekend, the first of the NFL playoffs, wrapped up Monday night with the Cowboys’ 31-14 blowout against the Buccaneers. The Cowboys entered the game as favorites and delivered despite playing against six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady. The Cowboys quickly took the lead on a 22-yard touchdown to tight end Dalton Schultz in the first quarter and never looked back, scoring four unanswered touchdowns to go up 24-0. This was due to Cowboys kicker, Brett Maher, missing an unprecedented 4 PATs, or points after touchdown, in a row. Julio Jones hauled in a 30-yard touchdown as time expired in the third quarter, but it was too little, too late.

On Sunday night the Ravens faced the Bengals in an AFC North battle. The Bengals jumped out to a 9-0 lead following an Evan McPherson field goal and a Jamarr Chase touchdown early in the second quarter. The Ravens quickly responded with a touchdown coming from running back JK Dobbins and quickly forced a fumble, setting up a Justin Tucker field goal to put them up 10-9 at halftime. The Bengals jumped on the Ravens to start the second half and went up 17-10, but the Ravens quickly tied it up and forced a 3 and out. The Ravens pushed to the Bengals’ two-yard line where quarterback Tyler Huntley had the ball knocked out

of his hands and returned by Sam Hubbard for a 98-yard touchdown. 24-17 Bengals. The score would hold for the rest of the game. Earlier that day the Seahawks traveled to San Francisco for another divisional matchup. The Niners quickly went up 10-0 in their first two drives but the rest of the half was all Seahawks with Kenneth Walker and D.K. Metcalf both scoring touchdowns before both teams traded field goals in the last minute. The Niners came out of halftime looking like the team it’s been all year and scored 25 unanswered putting the Seahawks away and winning 41-23.

The Dolphins, a team nobody gave a chance to, took on the Buffalo Bills. The Bills were supposed to roll over 3rd string QB Skylar Thompson and easily

advance, and this looked to be true as Buffalo dominated early and made it a three-score game. The Dolphins, aided by two Josh Allen interceptions, then kicked three field goals and scored a touchdown to tie it. The Dolphins then strip-sacked Allen and scored to give them their first lead. The Bills quickly put their bad few drives behind them for a field goal and a Gabe Davis score. The Dolphins made it a three-point game in the 4th but couldn’t complete the comeback. 34-31, Bills advance.

The Giants faced the Vikings in a rematch of the week 16 thriller. The Vikings came out firing, quickly going up 7-0. The G-Men responded with two quick touchdowns and a field goal to put them up 10. The Vikings responded by quickly driving down the field

for a K.J. Osborn touchdown giving the Giants a 3-point lead at half-time. The Giants came out of the locker room and marched down the field for a Daniel Bellinger touchdown. The Vikings, again, quickly responded with a touchdown and field goal to tie the game at 24. The Giants scored the next drive and the score held for the rest of the game. 31-24 Giants.

In the week’s best game, the Jaguars host the Chargers. The Chargers appeared unstoppable early, going up 27-0 and picking off Trevor Lawrence four times, three of which done by Asante Samuel Jr. The Jags scored before the end of the half to make it 27-7. The Jags responded by scoring touchdowns on three consecutive drives making it 30-28 Chargers. They got the ball back with 3:09 remaining in the 4th quarter. Lawrence proceeded to march down the field and set up a 36-yard field goal attempt to win as time expired. Riley Patterson drilled it to cap off a 31-30 victory for the Jaguars. The 3rd largest comeback in playoff history.

This sets up the divisional round which features the Eagles and Chiefs who earned first-round byes. The Chiefs host the Jaguars, the Bills host the Bengals, the 49ers host the Cowboys and the Eagles host the Giants.



Credit: CBS Sports HQ