



# Nor'easter



## The Raiders Come Out on Top

By: Devin Godfrey, Editor

The Northeast High School JROTC Raiders have finally made a name for themselves in the competition scene. This year, the group attended the JROTC Raider National Championship and competed in five different events. Of the five the events, they placed 1st in the tire flip, 2nd in the rope bridge, and 3rd on the physical team test, placing them 3rd overall for the entire competition—an incredible feat that should not be taken lightly. Lieutenant Colonel Miller talks about why this was such a monumental accomplishment for the team.

“So, this is the first year we’ve been winning any events—or placing overall in any events... this is the first year we’ve broken through and been on podium. Every other year it’s been—we’ll do well in one event but never overall.” He states that many of the other schools that they compete against have been working together for decades, but this is only Northeast’s fourth year of participating in the Raiders program, so they were all very excited to have placed so highly against those more advanced groups.

When asked why this year



was different than the previous ones, he said, “I think a lot of it is, this is the first year that I’ve got cadets who have been in the program for the full four-years. So, we’ve had the time for people to kind of learn and just get better and better.” Essentially, they’ve been working together for so long that they’ve been able to perfect their teamwork and figure things out.

Miller mentions the team captain, Alexa Rose, and how much she holds the Raiders together, “At competitions, Rose is the one that takes care of everything... she’s the one that determines what the team makeup is for each event... she comes up with and develops her plan of attack for it.”

Alexa is the primary captain for this team, and her contri-

butions to the group are extremely admirable. In an interview with her, she outlined the duties of being a team captain, giving some insight into what the job title entails.

“...I give advice... For certain events, we have to have certain positions, so I put some of the cadets in there with a role. My main role is just to make sure everyone is doing what they need to do—that they respect me and the other captains, and most of all that they’re having fun...” She goes on to mention that it can be very stressful, but it leaves her with a feeling of fulfillment in the end.

“It’s stressful more as like I don’t want to disappoint... like if I do something wrong, I don’t want to have it affect them, so I just have to kind of be the best I can be... But it’s been the best season we’ve had... it really felt amazing because not only did I win but the team won, so it’s just great seeing what they’ve accomplished.” She cares deeply about the group and always strives to leave a positive impact on her teammates.

It is evident that this is a tight-knit group of individuals, and that their training has definitely paid off. Getting third place at a national competition as a newer team is not something that to be overlooked. We are very proud of our Raiders and are excited to see what they’ll do next – first place is within reach!

## School Bathrooms are Taking a Toll

By Shelby Stirk and Maia Stroemich, Junior Editors

High school restrooms are notoriously not well kept. Whether it is doors not closing properly, students skipping class, or vandalized property, the bathrooms are not a comfortable environment for students. The seeming lack of sanitation in these locations has caused kids to avoid them at all costs.

The current state of the Northeast bathrooms is a topic every student has found themselves complaining about. Senior Lexi Baum spoke on her experiences with the current bathrooms, “I sometimes have to be out of class for more than twenty minutes simply just trying to find a bathroom that’s either unlocked or doesn’t have a line of people waiting and/

or girls in the stalls not actually going to the bathroom.”

The upkeep of our school is incredibly important to keep a positive reputation. If the school isn’t well kept, it will taint our reputation. Although this is a school-wide issue, the staff are not solely responsible for conditions of the bathrooms.

It is clear, many students don’t respect the property, they continuously vandalize the area by drawing on the stalls, ripping sinks from the walls, and stealing soap dispensers. They make it difficult for the custodians and other staff members to keep the space up to the standards we require.

Sanitation is important, especially in places that people often circulate. Unsanitary conditions can spread a variety of diseases rapidly, especially during flu season. Additionally, when students avoid the bathroom, it gives them fewer opportunities to wash their hands, bringing unwanted germs into the classrooms. Junior Isa Sa-

beri expressed concern that, “When there are germs everywhere and then people don’t wash their hands, then dap each other up and touch the same notebooks... everyone becomes sick.”

Not only are the restrooms spreading illness, but studies show that they are also causing other health issues. Dehydration, urinary health issues, or gastrointestinal health issues are all frequently caused by the avoidance of school restrooms.

The quality of the restrooms has deterred Vikings from using the bathroom when necessary. Of all seven students interviewed each said they have avoided using the restroom due to the conditions.

In order for the restrooms to be as clean and organized, everyone needs to step up and do their part. Students can help by starting to properly care for the areas rather than disrespecting the places and using the bathroom for its intended use. Senior Kristen

Sondregger believes there is hope for the bathrooms to improve, “Instead of them locking them every, try to check the bathrooms more often.”

Equally as important, custodians need to assure their cleaning schedules and routines are efficiently bringing the bathrooms up to standards each day. Restock soap regularly and wipe surfaces and floors clean. Also, administration could monitor the restrooms more frequently, so they are able to enforce the proper use of the bathrooms and ensure that the areas are being respected by students.

Typically, high school bathrooms are not a clean environment, however, with the necessary effort it is possible to revive them to preferable standards. By fixing the concerned held by both students and staff, it can ultimately create a better environment and in return improve both the physical and mental health of the high schoolers.



## STUDENT LIFE

# Effects of School Start Time Change

By Kylah Clark, Staff Writer

Florida Governor DeSantis has been making waves in the education world. DeSantis wants to pass a law to change Florida schools schedules, Even while it can appear like a minor adjustment, this choice could have a huge effect on teachers, parents, and students lives.

Governor DeSantis wants to postpone Florida's school start times. Many school districts start their lessons early in the morning, usually as early as 7:00 or 7:30 am. In order to match teenagers' natural sleep cycles, DeSantis' plan calls for moving school start hours to a later time. Middle school times won't be able to start any later than 8:00 a.m. and high school won't be able to start any earlier than 8:30 a.m. Lawmakers want students to go to school more so when making this law they thought students would be more attentive and lawmakers think kids' mental health would be better in some way of this law was passed.

On April 25, 2023, Pinellas County School Board voted to change the school's start and end times. While some parents and students think this won't affect them at all, others think the new law will affect them greatly. Pinellas County said the changes are due to the bus schedules. Since buses are inconsistent and late, DeSantis thinks pushing back school times by an hour will help resolve that problem. Students don't agree with this plan because it affects their work, sports, etc.. James Garvin said "No, we really shouldn't do that because we already have a cycle. Even though it might be hard to wake up that early in the morning, I don't want to get out of school super late. This would affect me because it would

mess up my whole sleep schedule, I have a routine I follow, and this would put me back an hour." James and other Pinellas County students are concerned about the time they will get out of school if this plan is set in play.

Teenagers' normal sleep-wake cycles usually clash with early school start times, according to research. Students will most likely get the appropriate amount of sleep if school starts later, which can boost their performance in school. A student who gets enough sleep is more focused, attentive, and capable of acknowledging and remembering school material. Milutin Sljivic thinks starting school later will be an advantage, he said "Honestly starting school later might be better, I'm not even really awake until 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. so I might actually pay attention if school times were later. I kinda get to sleep in if school starts later."

Although the idea has support for its potential benefits to students, it also raises concerns about the impact on parents. Parents will explore challenges if this rule is set in place. Kelly Holder said "Personally I like that school starts early because then I get out earlier because I'm a teacher. Changing times would affect my drop off, right now my kids go to charter school so it wouldn't affect me now, but my daughter Baylie wants to go to Osceola next year and that would probably be a struggle to get her there. I think the times are fine right now, I don't agree with this and when making this decision there is a lot to consider."

While DeSantis' plan to move the start of the school day may help, it's important to consider the difficulties and worries that students and parents may have. If this law is passed it would be a smoother transition if DeSantis would get input from students, parents, and even teachers. It is crucial to take into account the wider effects on all people involved in the change.

mander for Northeast Highschool is David Williams. Being the Battalion Commander comes with a few requirements, so I asked David some questions.

What tasks did you complete to become the battalion commander?

David said you must "have a high GPA" and "in the program for four years". This may seem simple when saying them out loud, but they do take a lot of time and focus to acquire.

Is it hard being the battalion commander when juggling it with your other responsibilities? David stated that he "had some

# Getting your Driver's License: Should 16-Year-Olds be on the Road?

By Elisa Borja, Staff Writer

Most 16-year-olds in Florida run to the DMV the moment they turn 16, but the question is, should 16-year-olds be on the road?

Adolescents' brains are not completely developed yet. At the ages of 15-17 when starting to drive, teenagers undergo changes in the arguably most important region of their brain for operating a vehicle.

During this time, Cover Tree says that the "Myelination is complete except for in the prefrontal lobe." This under-developed prefrontal lobe is "responsible for skills like planning, prioritizing, and making good decisions." Meanwhile teens "may engage in risky behaviors." These same teenagers experience differentiating melatonin levels. This means that "melatonin levels stay high later at night and drop later in the morning, which may explain why teens may stay up late and struggle with waking up early. Many teens do not get enough sleep, making it harder to pay attention, control impulses and do well at school."

Moreover, teenagers are not as responsible as adults when it comes to driving. Many teenagers tend to shift the blame onto other people, along with this, teenagers also pass on responsibility to the adults in their lives, such as their parents, family members, or even friends. If the driver were an adult themselves then they might take responsibility and drive safer because they know that they would be held to blame if they did not take it seriously.

The United States Department of Transportation (NHTSA) reports that, "Teen drivers have a higher rate of fatal crashes, mainly because of their immaturity, lack of

skills, and lack of experience. They speed, they make mistakes, and they get distracted easily - especially if their friends are in the car." As teenagers they are presumed to have other teenage friends, who ride in the car with them, than adults. This NHTSA explores this by saying that "teen drivers were two-and-a-half times more likely to engage in one or more potentially risky behaviors when driving with one teenage peer, compared to when driving alone. In fact, research shows that the risk of a fatal crash goes up in direct relation to the number of teenagers in the car."

Most teenagers do not get enough sleep, and during the morning, when they are at peak drowsiness, they drive to school and can get into more accidents. This is caused by the school's decision to start school at a time at which adolescents should be waking up. This means that teen drivers should not be in control of a car while driving to school and should instead be driven to school until they reach an age without sleep deprivation.

AASM|Sleep Education reports a study. This study "analyzed data from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. It compared teen crash rates in two nearby counties during two school years. One county had a high school start time of 7:20 a.m. Classes in the other county began at 8:45 a.m. Results from this study show that the school day crash rate for teen drivers was much higher in the county with the early start time. These teens were involved in more than 520 crashes per school year."

We can see how an under-developed brain, lack-of-responsibility, and sleep deprivation can all confirm why 16-year-olds should not be on the road. All these factors contribute to what the American Automobile Association (AAA) says. The AAA says that "teenage drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a car crash than adult drivers. Traffic crashes are the #1 cause of death and injury for people ages 16-20, with more than 5,600 teens dying in motor vehicle collisions each year."

# Our Battalion Commander - David Williams

By Chloe Bridges, Staff Writer

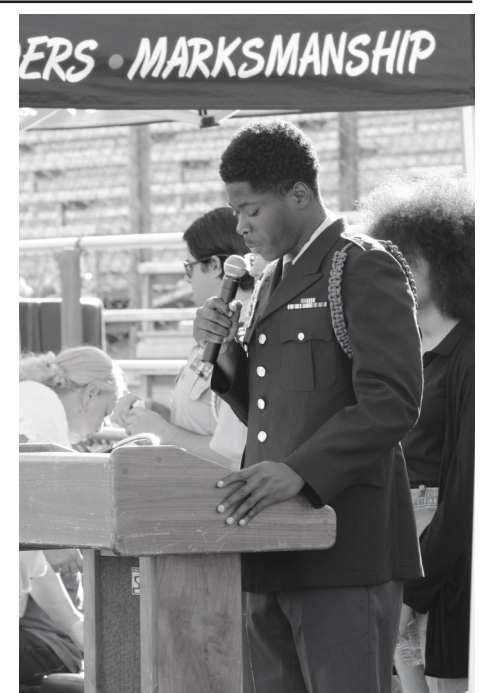
Our school has many types of leaders. They are the adults and students that we see every day. One important student leader is the Battalion Commander. It is the one that controls the staff, other JROTC students, and is the final decision when it comes down to them, within the cadet chain of command. Our Battalion Com-

mander for Northeast Highschool is David Williams. Being the Battalion Commander comes with a few requirements, so I asked David some questions.

What tasks did you complete to become the battalion commander? David said you must "have a high GPA" and "in the program for four years". This may seem simple when saying them out loud, but they do take a lot of time and focus to acquire.

Is it hard being the battalion commander when juggling it with your other responsibilities? David stated that he "had some experience in leadership positions", which lead him into being able to become the battalion commander because of his drive to support others. Seen from this, it's a big job but it comes with good outcomes. How has being the battalion commander helped you?

Overall, it pushes you to do better in school as well as be more active in "public speaking services", as David mentioned. Being the Battalion commander comes with the pros and cons, but all in all it will help you. Try becoming the Battalion commander, if you have the requirements, and see where it takes you.





# Scholarships Moving Online

By Shantel Gamble, Staff Writer

Northeast is a school that works to make sure all their students are college and career ready. The College and Career Center is working to get students the help they need.

Seniors go to the College and Career Center to find and apply for scholarships. Mrs. Alvarez, the head of the College and Career Center said, “The first recommendation I make for any senior or junior graduating early are that

they make sure they are completing the FAFSA”.

The FAFSA may provide access to free money that is called a Pell grant from the federal government. It’s also important to complete it because more colleges are requiring it for students to be eligible for scholarships.

Another scholarship to be excited about is the SPC Promise. Introduced last year, Northeast is one of the schools in the county designated a promise school. Any student from NEHI can get two years of free tuition at SPC. All they must do is apply, complete the FAFSA, then enroll in classes.

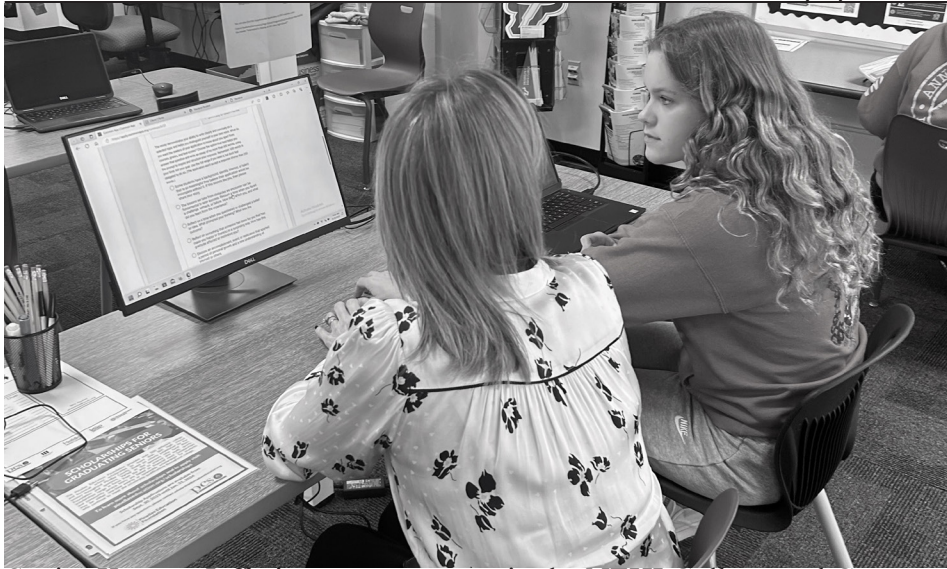
One of the most popular

scholarships among Florida students is Bright Futures. Bright Futures is a scholarship that students can start working one by the start of freshman year, but there are some changes compared to last year.

In the past a student would have to fill out papers and get approval before, well this year the district implemented Profferfish. Profferfish is a digital way of finding and recording service and work hours. Even if a student has the paperwork, they will still have to put all that information into Profferfish. “The good thing about this is that students can now combine work and service hours.” said Mrs.

Alvarez.

Even though there is a place on campus to get help when looking up financial assistance, Mrs. Alvarez says, “there are scholarships search engines” where students can find many financial aid programs, and some seniors are just doing that. Lejla Colic is using scholarship360.com to find scholarships. It seems the best ways to find out about scholarships is to just go online and look them up. Students are going to the websites and applying, and according to Russell Needham the application process for scholarships on Bold.org and Appley is pretty easy.



Senior Keegan Jefferis meets a mentor in the NEHI College and Career Center for advice on her college essay.

## The Pressures of Academic Excellence is Becoming Overwhelming for Students

By Brooke Blydenburgh, Staff Writer

School is an essential building block for life. Strengthening our brains and increasing our knowledge helps students prep for a successful career. But with so many required studies and the pressure these studies put on students; it has become overwhelming. Students struggle with this in silence.

Valerie Ray, an 11th grader, makes a point about how maintaining her grades has felt, “A lot of the assignments given either raise or lower your grades by a lot.”

With seven vastly different classes with varying requirements, maintaining good grades when one measly assignment can tip the scales is very difficult. It makes each assignment a severe stressor to students, which creates constant anxiety. The delicate expectations the gradebook gives students is not the only thing pressuring them; the amount of work that is given by each teacher is a huge factor in student mental health problems.

Valerie agrees there is excessive amount of schoolwork, “In some of my classes, we get an assignment every day and even more homework, which is a lot if you have work right after school or after school activities.”

Work that was meant to be a class exercise becomes homework because of how much the assignment requires. This expectation from all seven classes builds into hours of after-school labor to maintain grades. Students trying to juggle all of this are understandably becoming panicked. The pile-up of work also causes students to miss life experiences just to stay ahead, which have its own ramifications.

Valerie agrees, “I used to be able to go out on weekends, but instead I have to stay at home and do makeup work”

School has become omnipresent in students’ lives and is preventing them from having a normal social life. Kids have to sacrifice their personal lives just to keep up with the amount of schoolwork given. It should be preparing kids for their futures, but in its current state, it is harming its students in the long-term. These adverse effects are also actively harming students’ prospects in life.

Valerie tells us that they do not feel that school is properly preparing them for their future, “A majority of the classes needed to graduate don’t contribute to what most students want to do for a job.”

Students claim a sense of hopelessness because in their eyes, it only gets worse from here. With that level of turmoil, their college prospects are squished. Not only that, but as Valerie stated she doesn’t feel these classes are setting her up for success, causing the hopeless feeling to become heavier. The only way this issue can be lessened, and our students can be relieved, is by a change in our school system.

Each class should give out around three to four assignments a week instead of everyday because of how long each assignment actually takes. Students are silently struggling with burnout and stress from school. Hopefully we can educate educators about stress. It is up to the school board to make any significant changes that would alleviate high school student studies. Students must advocate for a new way of teaching that involves less grueling work and more engaging studies.

Without a change, the teenage mental health crisis will only worsen. School shouldn’t be so stressful to the point of burnout and depression. Students must advocate themselves. Current students are the future, and they need help.

## The Dreaded College Essay

By: Devin Godfrey, Editor

One of the hallmarks of a high school senior’s college application experience is the ever-intimidating college essay. While not every college requires one, those that do are looking for a well-thought-out, articulate piece of writing that explains something that is significant to the individual. Simply figuring out a topic to focus on can be one of the most difficult parts of this process for many students, but there is assistance.

English teacher Mr. Monaghan decided to help out and host a college essay clinic to inform students what they should be including, and how to start out. When asked what the most important step of the planning process is, he provided some insight.

“Probably deciding what story best demonstrates your character. That’s really what you’re trying to do in a college application essay—it’s figuring out which story to use to show the committee what your character is and why they would want you at their school.” Essentially, an applicant is trying to make a case for themselves; positive characteristics, qualities that would benefit the university, and traits that show a good fit for the student body.

He elaborated saying, “You have to do a sort of self-examination—an honest self-examination—

and say to yourself, ‘What am I good at, what am I not good at, and what positive qualities do I have?’”

It is evident that self-reflection is required to discover a topic that is meaningful. Senior Aiden Vanasco figured out the perfect subject for his paper, and the significance that it held in his personal life that gave him the drive to make it the best he could.

“For my essay, I wanted to talk about one of the biggest struggles that I had in high school and one of the biggest lessons I learned which was trying to figure out who I was... and going through high school, I figured it out... so I wanted to reflect on that experience.” Aiden states that he didn’t really know who he was for a very long time, so discovering his identity has been the most important experience to him in the past few years, and that is why he felt inclined to write about it.

He also mentions that he couldn’t have figured this out without the resources that the school provided for him. “I was in the College and Career Center every day. It’s a very good resource... I had someone to read over my essay and tell me what was bad about it, what was great about it, so I was able to write an even better essay.”

While the college essay writing process can be grueling, there are definitely assets around the school. Creating the perfect college paper can be one of the most stressful experiences a high school student goes through, but you are not on your own.



**ENTERTAINMENT** says, “the book was an 8 while

## Books are In, Movies are Out

By Elisa Borja, Staff Writer

“The book is better.” Freshman, Isabella Collins, reported that most book adaptations are incorrect and are not what all readers picture while reading the original text. In fact, Collins goes on to list some books that have been adapted into film.

She starts with, *All the Bright Places*, a book that has an alternating POV between two teenagers a suicidal girl, Violet, and a, although never specifically diagnosed, bipolar boy who are partnered up on a school project that brings Violet to appreciate the small bright places and ends with calamity. Collins says, “the movie is half the rating I’d give the book.” For context, the movie was rated 3.5 while the book was rated a 7. I personally read and watched both versions and agree that the movie left out most of the book’s scenes. The book, however, was stunningly tragic.

Collins continues with *The Hunger Games* series, about a nation called Panem, divided into 12 districts. District 1 holds a game every year as a punishment for a failed rebellion. This game puts one randomly selected girl and boy from each district into an arena. The last one alive wins. Collins

the movie was a 7.” ergo the movies were somewhat better than the books.

Then, even though the film adaptation of a *Good Girl’s Guide to Murder* is not out yet, we still see behind the scenes. The storyline is that Pippa, the main character, decides to reinvestigate an old and buried homicide case, for a school project, that she feels has more to it. Collins, having seen behind the scenes clips, says that “they changed the look of the main character. In the book they described her as having dark brown, long hair and in the TV series, so far, she has a short round bob.” These changes are described by the producers as “a few major details. These “details” make Collins “doubt how good the TV series is going to be.”

She goes on to talk about the series, *One of Us is Lying*, where five high schoolers go into detention alive and one of them comes out in a body bag, leaving the last four as murder suspects. Collins reports that “they changed the entire storyline about the main character that died, and the characters looked nothing like they were described in the book.” These changes make the TV series inferior to the original book.

She finishes off by adding how “the books can be better than the movie.” This means that many can attest to the fact that most books that are adapted into a movie’s quality decline, exempting a few series that are great to begin with.

Hanna Dzubur celebrates Hannukah. Hannukah is a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar. A menorah holds the candles during Hanukkah, Hannah said, “On the first night we light the first candle.” This starts the eight-day process of lighting a candle each night till the menorah is filled. After lighting the first candle what do you do? Hanna says, “My family prays after we light the candle then we open presents.” In addition, Hanna said, “I enjoy Hanukkah because I like spending time with family and having tradition.”

The Lunar New Year is celebrated on the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice and is mostly celebrated in China, South Korea, and Vietnam. Tammy Nguyen celebrates the Lunar New Year. To celebrate Tammy says, “We dress in lion costumes and do a lion dance and ao dai which is like a dress.” Tammy adds that “a tradition during the Lunar New Year is adults handing out envelopes with money in them to kids and teenagers.”

Whatever you celebrate, be safe, have fun, and we will see you in the new year.

## The Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes Review

By: Brooke McCarthy, Junior Editor

The new “Hunger Games” movie, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes,” released November 17, 2023, is a prequel movie to the original series. Featuring Tom Blyth, as Coriolanus Snow, and Rachel Zegler, as Lucy Gray Baird, this movie is proving to be a favorite amongst watchers. This movie is a background of how and why the Hunger Games initially started and shows the difference in the older versions of the games. Before Coriolanus Snow becomes president of Panem, he is the only hope to carry on the family legacy. Mentoring a tribute from District 12 would prove to be a challenge, but Snow had the ability to pull it off.

“My favorite thing about the new movie is the parallels to the older movie,” said Presley Jones, junior.

“The Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” features a few parallels between the original set of movies. For example, the tribute of District 12, Lucy Gray Baird, gets reaped (picked as a tribute) for the games. The experience at the reaping was not great, she ends it with a song and does a bow, which is the first parallel to the old movies with Katniss’ bow when she was showing her skills.

“During the movie I was tense and did not know what was going to happen next” junior Caleb White says.

Without reading the book beforehand, this movie can leave a watcher tense while watching. There were suspenseful moments throughout the movie, for example, what would happen next in during the 10th Annual Hunger Games. One of the most suspenseful pieces of the movie is how the movie was concluded, Caleb White says “the ending was very open for interpretation.”

As a reader of the book, but not a watcher of the movie, Kait Early, junior, says “I am most excited for the plot and history of Panem and how the book provides background of the games.”

Kait has high expectations of the movie in comparison to the books. There are hopes that it matches as best as possible, knowing that books to movies can sometimes leave important parts of the book out of the film version. There is a petition on ‘change.org’ to be signed to release an extended version of the movie to bring back all of the parts that had to be cut to make the run time reasonable.

Presley Jones, junior, says “I want the extended version to be released, I want more.”

The petition has over 20,000 signatures, watchers and readers are in the same boat as Presley Jones is. The petition is being signed because the watchers are not worried about run time, they loved the movie that they would watch even more.

## Winter Holidays

By Colin Campbell, Staff Writer

There are multiple holidays during winter for various different religions.

Diwali is a Hindu holiday that lasts for 5 days and starts the Hindu New Year. It’s not on the same date every year, it’s based on the Hindu lunar calendar. Jada Moten celebrates Diwali and Jada has tradition with clothing, Jada says, “My family dresses up in saris during Diwali.” There are some things you shouldn’t do during Diwali. Jada said, “A tradition in Diwali is not eating meat.” Jada added that “I like Diwali because I can celebrate with family, and I can talk with my ancestors.”

Tristen Patterson celebrates Christmas. Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated by Christians on December 25 every year. In addition, Christmas can mean different things to different people, Tristen said, “Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ”, however, Christmas is celebrated in different ways. Tristen said, “My family celebrates Christmas by giving gifts, putting an evergreen tree in my house, and decorating my house and tree with lights.”

## Five Nights at Freddys Review

By Lilly Macomber, Staff Writer

Five nights at Freddys is a popular game series, and book. After many years of waiting fans finally got the long-awaited movie. The movie takes place during the first five nights at Freddys, the lore does not match up with the games it matches up with the books.

The movie follows main character Mike Schmidt as he becomes a security guard at the pizza place, he has past trauma of his brother getting kidnapped. He has dreams where he tries to figure out who took his brother. The ghost children of the animatronics are in these dreams. Mike’s little sister Abby creates drawings and talks to people who aren’t there. At one point in the movie Abby is at the pizza place and gets along with the animatronics very well. But there is a twist obviously.

Many people have different opinions on the movie, some fans think it was a masterpiece, and others think it did not live up to the

expectations.

When sophomore Kevin Smolcic was asked about his thoughts on the new movie, he said that it was good and he enjoyed it, he states that if there was something he could change about the movie it would be the gore. Overall, Kevin says that the movie lived up to the hype.

Although there is positive feedback on the movie other fans disagree. Sophomore Mohammed Hersan said that the movie was good in terms of a regular movie but not in the terms of what the fans of the game were hoping. Mohammed feels along with Kevin that there should have been a lot more gore. Mohammed stated that the movie does not deserve all the praise and hype it is getting and could have been done a lot better.

The opinions circling this movie can get you thinking about whether it’s worth watching. For fans of the series it’s what they’ve all been waiting for, for years but others disliked said movie.



# Celebrity Stalking

By Kylah Clark, Staff Writer

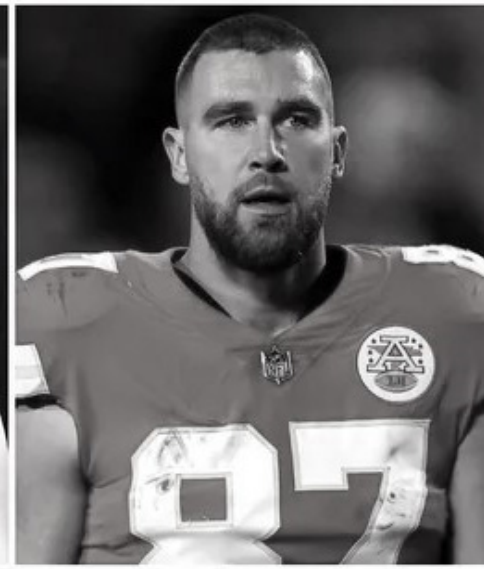
High school students are very interested in the romantic lives of celebrities. Celebrities already lack privacy but when they are with a significant other they are pushed further into the public eye. Some people care a lot and keep up with celebrity couples because they like the thrill. Ripley Brown said “I do care and keep up with celebrity dating because I want to know what it’s like to be in a relationship with a celebrity, I think it’s fun to keep up with them and their lives.”

Pinellas County teens that keep up with celebrity couples like the excitement and the thrill of the relationship. Since the public is involved the relationship is like a rollercoaster and the public loves the drama. On the other hand some people don’t really keep up with celebrities nor do they care about it. Laila Green said “I don’t really keep up with celebrities and who they are dating that much, it’s not my

business. If I was in a relationship I wouldn’t want everyone to talk and post about it 24/7.”

Some Northeast High School students vicariously live through famous couples and that’s why some people think the obsession with celebrity couples is unhealthy. Alexa Rose stated that “I think that the obsession with celebrity couples is unhealthy because I don’t know why people care about other people’s lives and relationships so much. If I was a celebrity I’d be overwhelmed with the public being all up in my relationship and posting about me and my boyfriend.” Laila Green also stated “Yea, it definitely is unhealthy, I think any obsession is unhealthy but being obsessed with a couple and the things they do is weird.”

A couple of students that are enrolled in Northeast high school don’t think obsession with couples is unhealthy. Ripley Brown said “I don’t think it’s necessarily unhealthy you can’t keep up with a couple and like them without being super obsessed with them, I keep



up with my favorite couple but I don’t make it my main priority to know everything they’re doing.” Obsession with celebrity couples has become a trend to some people. Students like to bandwagon off of others. A lot of students see that one couple is getting a lot of attention and start to keep up with that couple as well.

Asking around the school, many said their favorite couple was Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce or Kourtney Kardashian and Travis Barker. Laila Green said “oh yeah,

obsession with celebrity couples has become a trend I don’t know why but in my opinion if you see a famous couple on TikTok people are talking about it 24/7”. From following their vacations to dissecting their red carpet looks, being obsessed with celebrity couples has become a new trend

## Tour to Movie Evolution

By Hanna Dzubur, Staff Writer

The Taylor Swift eras tour movie captures Taylor Swift’s incredible performance from her big selection of eras of her music. Audiences get to see her preform all their favorite songs from all the different albums she’s produced throughout the years.

Adriana Buckius, 9th grader, said she saw the movie and that she was able to enjoy the movie from the comfort of the movie theater while still feeling like she was experiencing the concert firsthand. Adriana says, “My family and I went to see the movie and I was able to wear sweats and bring a blanket while still listening to all my favorite Taylor Swift songs.”

The movie captures the energy and feeling of Swift’s live performances from the different eras of her career. From the bold sounds of the album “1989” to the powerful vibes from the “Reputation” album, the Eras Tour Movie

takes you on a musical journey that overlooks her 20+ year musical career.

Della Fader, 9th grader, said she went to the Eras Tour and Swift did a great job making the movie feel exactly like the concert. She says Taylor Swift inspires her to be her own independent person and to reach her goals. She says, “I went to the concert and when I went to see the movie it was almost like the concert experience.”

This was a big step in Swift’s career, adding onto her success from her previous movies and films. She has produced 4 movies throughout her career such as Miss Americana, Taylor Swift Reputation Stadium Tour, Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Session and lastly her new Taylor Swift: Era’s Tour. All these movies show the concerts from her point of view at different times and life experiences that influenced her music making.

The Taylor Swift Eras Tour movie is an incredible cinematic experience. It is a must watch for any Taylor Swift fan, as it shows all your favorite albums and songs right to your screen!

## Movies Over the Years

By Layla Martinez, Staff Writer

Movies have always been an integral part of the media, but they have not always been what they are now. Millennials and generation X are still searching for the same feeling they had or have watching movies from 10 to 15 years ago, why is that? Are teenagers still watching those movies? And has streaming played an essential role in this?

It seems like in each generation, the movies that are coming out that are catered towards teens are changing, is that because teens taste in movies are changing or companies do not want to make a bunch of similar movies or could have streaming have made a significant impact on this generation. About 15 years ago, movies teens liked were a lot raunchier and “adult” movies, like for example at the time “Superbad” and “Mean Girls” were what was popular. It feels like now, Gen z tends to like movies that are technically considered “kids” movies. A couple of movies that were popular amongst teens that came out this year were “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse”, “Barbie”, “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem”, and “The little mermaid”. Students at Northeast High school, who are all gen z, were asked different things about movies. A junior named Mo, Alexis said his favorite movie was the “Lion King” and that it is his favorite because it teaches you “How to be a king, and how to live that lifestyle”.

That was really interesting

to hear because it kind of connects to the theory about teenagers tastes nowadays being “kids” movies, but also, about five out of six students that were interviewed at Northeast High school said their favorite movies, were movies that are catered towards kids, and it could also relate that most of the people prefer streaming over going to the movies and said they would much rather “be comfortable” in their own home.

Again, Five out of six kids said their favorite movies were “kids” movies, for example another junior named Anthony Gagoua said his favorite movie was holes he “loves the message” and he “learned a life lesson”. He also said that he loves going to the movie theatres but at the same time still likes streaming because it makes it easier to watch movies. It is interesting that someone that loves the movie theatre also likes to watch movies with streaming.

After all, Streaming has really changed the whole entertainment industry, but when a sophomore named Mateo Sanz was being interviewed and asked the question about streaming, he got confused and was saying how he’s used streaming his whole life. Now that is something that is not really talked about or people don’t realize it but the younger kids in gen Z, that are still in high school don’t really remember what movies were before streaming had become a thing, so nothing is “new” for them.

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## ENTERTAINMENT CONT...

### Social Media's Presence In Current Trends

By: Danielle Brunner and Allyson Minelli, Junior Editors

In a society of fast fashion trends that are ever-changing, which are strongly influenced by social media. As the seasons change, new fashion trends come into play while some old styles stick around. People are affected by trends differently, but the most easily influenced group of people are teenage girls.

The obsession with TikTok is the main influence on teenage girls' fashion trends. Influencers are constantly posting hauls and outfit ideas. Girls look up to people like the model Bella Hadid for outfit inspiration as well as influencers like Alix Earle who has influenced many major trends on TikTok recently. Most girls have personal preferences of influencers that they look to for inspiration, or just follow what spread onto their feeds. Chloe Lambrecht has fallen into these trends, "I've been influenced by Alix Earle doing the slick back ponytail and white eyeliner. Katie Ritchies has also inspired me to incorporate black eyeliner into everyday outfits and I also bought the Summer Fridays Lip Balm because I saw her promoting it on her account."



Social media has implemented shopping factors in multiple different ways. Influencers typically have link trees in their

bios which sends you to a list of different links they associate with. Two of the most popular that are included are Amazon storefronts and LTK. Amazon storefronts are collections of different products that influencers recommend sorted into subtopics, making it simple for people to find them. While LTK is where influencers post their clothing and different things they're wearing with direct links, so people can easily find products they like. Not only this but apps have their own shopping factors included in them. Instagram and TikTok both can link products to post and have their own shops connected, while Pinterest has aspects to help search and shop for clothes seen on users' feeds.

Influencers have blown up a lot of different trends, currently viral on TikTok is the Abercrombie & Fitch essential popover hoodie, most specifically in camo. The hoodie went viral on TikTok and sold out quickly after, and now has been sold out for weeks. Basics like this hoodie are staples right now, girls shop for them at Abercrombie, Skims, and Brandy Melville. Violet Greebe has "seen bows, dunks, and basic oversized hoodies, and slick backs all over which are cute, but I'm not a fan of the flare leggings trend."

Talking to girls across campus, we were told their favorite clothing stores, these responses included Brandy Melville, Pacsun, Free People, Nike, Lululemon, American Eagle, Hollister, Cotton On, Altar'd State, Garage, and Urban Outfitters. Meanwhile this past season, a survey was done with Gen Z asking their favorite clothing stores. These top ten in order ranked, American Eagle, Lululemon, Garage, Nike, Pacsun, Brandy Melville, Free People, Aritzia, Urban Outfitters, and Hollister. One of our Seniors Kenzie Ryan said, "My favorite clothing brand is Lululemon because although the clothes are a little pricy, they last a very long time and not to mention they are in style."

A trend that has been seen all over TikTok is bows. Girls are adding bows to all aspects of their outfits from in their hair, sweaters, shirts, tied-on jeans, shoes, nails, and jewelry. Two singers, Olivia Rodrigo and Gracie Abrams, orig-

inated this trend. Gracie Abrams has been known for wearing bows and it became more seen in media as she was wearing them while on tour opening for Taylor Swift. This past September Olivia Rodrigo's song Lacy came out with the lyric "like ribbons in your hair" and ever since the bow trend has blown up, girls all over TikTok are posting their bow-added outfits to the song "Lacy".

Shoes are a major fashion trend that people hop on quickly. This winter Uggs have continued to trend, as they were last year. Scrolling on TikTok, posts of Christmas lists are incredibly popular right now, a popular item in these lists is Uggs. In the past, classic short Ugg boots were trending, but this season the ultra-minis and Tasma's have been the most popular. Girls all over are participating in this trend, either they are wearing Uggs or are asking for them for the holidays. Emily Bennet shares "I've seen Uggs a lot and they look cute with leggings so I'm asking for them for Christmas" Unfortunately, these Uggs have been sold out constantly online and in-store. Models like Bella Hadid and Elsa Hosk were seen wearing these shoes, easily spreading them to girls all over. We saw Sophie Ellis in the hall wearing Uggs, so we decided to ask what influenced her to buy them. She said "I thought Uggs were super cute, I saw them everywhere on TikTok and I saw a lot of other people wearing them. Although I ended up finding a pair, they were very hard to get. I had to



call a bunch of different stores and they said they were sold out online and were marked as waitlisted."

Onto the shoe trend, plat-

forms have been seen all over. Girls have moved on from the classic Converse to platform ones. It is not just Converse that this trend is seen in it is also most popular in Adidas and Uggs but can be seen in most shoe brands. Platform shoes have even made their way into Crocs.



For girls that don't partake in the platform trend drunks are a popular choice.

Tight-fitted and high-rise pants are out this season, flares and baggy pants are in. Typically paired with platform Uggs are flare leggings, the chilly weather has had flare leggings become a staple in every girl's closet. Working in a retail store, the constant products people are searching for are baggy jeans, all types of flares, cargos, and low-rise.

In 2022 Yeti and Hydro Flask was worth more than 28 billion dollars. These tumblers have gone through many trend cycles. Recently across campus, we've seen many girls carrying a Stanley. On TikTok, the hashtag Stanley has 2.3 billion views causing the sales rate to go up. Stanley's company originally didn't intend for this product to blow up and initially created the quencher for workmen. The uprise of influencers caused teenagers to sell out these highly recommended tumblers, which made Yeti and Hydro Flask decrease in sales. Hydro Flask dropped 7.3% sales.

Social media including TikTok, Instagram, and Pinterest has made major impacts on Gen Z and how this affects their everyday life. These are the current trends Gen Z has decided to follow, but in the future, it is certain there will be more upcoming trends.

**NEHI  
WINTER  
CONCERTS**

**BAND  
TUESDAY  
DECEMBER  
12TH  
AT 6:30 PM**

**CHORUS  
WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER  
13TH  
AT 6:30 PM**



# Born Country

by Hanna Dzubur, Staff Writer

Country music is a special genre of music. It's a melting pot of different genres of your favorite songs. It often explores the theme of love, heartbreak, family or the simple joys of life. Country music originated from the southern states and is known for its story of telling heartfelt lyrics.

Sarah Moran, a ninth grader was asked about her music preference. She said that she prefers hip-hop, but when she listens to country music it reminds her of a time with an old friend when they used to hangout. Her friend introduced her to popular country songs like "Before He Cheats" by American singer Carrie Underwood, and "Tennessee Whiskey" written by Dean Dillon and Linda Hargrove. Sarah says, "Hip-Hop will always

have my heart but when I listen to country music it reminds me of this good time with an old friend."

Popular artists like Zack Bryan, Morgan Wallen and many people's favorite Dolly Parton all contribute and have major influence on this genre of music. Country music has a distinctive sound, and often includes acoustic guitars, and resonant vocals.

In another interview with Karly Glenn, a ninth-grade student on campus, said that she enjoys country music, and she likes to listen to it when she goes on trips. She says, "I grew up listening to country music and trips to North Carolina and country music made it feel nostalgic."

Country music has a special way of expressing feelings and inspiring your emotions. Whether you are a fan of classic country, or even enjoy the modern twists of the country music genre!



# The Underclassmen Dance

By Shantel Gamble, Staff Writer

The sophomore student government with the help of the freshmen student government are working to put on a dance for the underclassmen at Northeast. The sophomores notice that Northeast has two dances a year: underclassmen can only attend one, while seniors can go to both.

So, the sophomores, with adviser Mr. Havelka, had an idea: host an underclassmen dance. Bea Rodriguez, a member of student government and a member of the dance committee says, "it's a good idea for the freshman and sophomores to get together and just have fun."

With the help of the freshman, they hope to start a new tradition at NEHI, but since the dance is something new there are many unknowns.

For one, attendance is not certain. Some classmates thought the dance was a good idea and do they think people would go to it. Darrall Woods III said, "There's nothing fun to do at this school so a dance will be fun.". With feedback like this the sophomores and freshmen can be hopeful that the dance will be successful since the

dance also be a fundraiser for both the sophomore and freshmen. The money made from the dance will be saved and used for the class of 2026 and 2027 graduating year, to cover prom and graduation expenses.

Since, there is still a lot up in the air about the dance like the music, and food. To make things easier for the sophomores and freshmen if you have any suggestions scan the QR code to the left of this. In this survey you'll be able to give suggestions on whether or you will go to the dance, food and music suggestions, and theme suggestions.

More information about the dance will be released in January and February. Please follow the sophomore student government Instagram and TikTok to get information on the dance when it is released.

2026 SGA IG: nehi\_sga26

2026 SGA TikTok: nehi\_sga26

Underclassmen Dance Suggestions



# The Tours Bringing Forth Feminine Success

By Haley Thompson, Junior Editor

Beyoncé and Taylor Swift are easily two of the most influential female artists of this generation, but how are they so successful? Live concerts have always united fans with their favorite artists, within a massive karaoke session, but the two stars have renamed what it means to host a show.

Senior Charlotte Shaw noted that the success of the two was "well deserved and that they worked hard to get where they are". Hard work and determination to bring accomplishment is crucial to many stars, which is where Swift and Bey found success.

Taylor Swift recently kicked off her Eras Tour in March of 2023. Within her 3-hour long show, she steps through each of her musical 'eras' by performing their hits for her stadium-filled fans. With the overall success within her US leg of the tour, she revealed many more international dates to come.

According to Vanityfair.com, due to "the success of her Eras

tour, Swift now has an estimated net worth of \$1.1 billion". It's easy to say that this tour kicked started her career again, for the better. After the success of her stadium performances, Swift decided she wanted to make her show more accessible to all her fans with a tour movie. Her fans, also known as Swifties, are able to view her award-winning show from the comfort of their local theatres, without spending thousands of dollars on a ticket.

Within her movie premiere, she invited Swifties, celebrities, and influencers to watch her movie prior to it's release into theatres. The Rolling Stone, a popular magazine covering latest news in music, politics, and pop culture, had a lot to say about the premiere. They even noted how "Beyoncé made a surprise appearance at Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour's film premiere".

The two pop stars have had a long-lasting friendship together starting on September 13th, 2009 during the VMAs, the video music awards. Since then, they've been seen cheering each-other on during award shows and musical performances. Therefore, it makes sense how they were found encouraging their movie premieres, starting with Swift's.

# School Musical Selection Process

By Maddie Johnson, Staff Writer

Mrs. Engle is the theater teacher who directs our school's musicals. She has been carefully selecting our school musicals for years.

She has always been focused on the student's point of view when she is selecting musicals. Mrs. Engle said "Well, it's been different the whole time. Like when I first started teaching it was picking from plays that I already knew."

Mrs. Engle said she has also acted in musicals herself and so have her children. So, she has a lot of knowledge about which musicals are fun or are best for her group of actors. She likes to decide on musicals that someone has experience with to make sure that everyone has an enjoyable time.

"Our district is not involved in play making and if I have a questionable show idea, I go to Mrs. Fajardo and Mr. Hernandez" Mrs. Engle said this after being asked if she gets ideas from just herself or if the district is involved. However, she does have a list of musical ideas in case she cannot think of any musicals that would be a good fit for her students.

Mrs. Engle wants to do musicals that everyone enjoys and learns from. They are currently doing a musical called pajama games which she pointed out was

different than their usual type of show. Pyjama Games was selected after Spitfire which they produced in October.

"Students start to discover what they can do and that doesn't come out unless you get to do something like this" Mrs. Engle said this because she has watched multiple groups of students grow and learn about themselves in her class.

Finally, she likes to watch her students grow and have fun while acting." I like to tell meaningful stories, I like to have fun, I like shows with pretty harmonies and spitfire was all three of those things."

The Northeast High School Production of The Pajama Game is scheduled to run the week of February 7th.





## NATIONAL INTEREST

### Daylight Savings

By Dylan Paulk, Staff Writer

Daylight Savings allows for an extra hour of light in the evening during the warmer months. It happens twice a year world wide. The purpose of daylight savings was to conserve electricity during time of war.

Freshman, Mylee Templin says, "I'm very happy daylight savings is a thing because I get one more hour of sleep and getting to

school on time now, but I don't like how the sun goes down at 5pm."

Freshman, Kayleigh Spindola thinks the opposite; she says, "I am not happy that daylight savings is a thing, it makes me tired at 6 pm and I go to sleep and then wake up at 12am."

Daylight savings in the fall makes people use more electricity, but daylight savings in the spring makes you use less. When the sun sets later in the day people don't need to use the electricity since

there is natural daylight outside.

Daylight savings has costed the U.S. to lose almost 434 million dollars since the clocks changed.

Arizona decided to not follow day light savings time because they didn't think I was a good idea to have the sun set an hour later in the hottest months of the year.

Hawaii also doesn't follow daylight savings time because its so close to the equator and the amount of sunlight doesn't vary during the year.

In the fall the clocks fall backwards, so people are essentially gaining back the hour they lost in the spring.

The clocks going back an hour has made people more tired and moody through out the day. Freshman, Clayton Hudson says, "Daylight savings has made me feel like I need to go to sleep earlier."

Ways to fix feeling tired in the evening are, taking a nap, maintaining a regular exercise routine, also getting sunlight.



### Crime Rates Affects Postsecondary Students

By Kaitlyn Early, Junior Editor

Students that want to attain a college education should be aware of crime rates in and around the campus area. Liberty University, a private Christian university, has been found to dissuade students on reporting crime and threats around the campus.

Along with students not reporting crime, the university fails to notify students about safety concerns around campus. Johnna Schonstrom, junior, stated that "Student safety should be the school's number one priority", when informed about the issue.

Student safety includes the physical and mental wellbeing of attending students. Reports on campus issues were filed but were denied based on the bylaws in the "Liberty Way", a code ethics for the students and staff at Liberty. Allyson Lightfoot, sophomore, said "... she would have trust issues with the university about not communicating to students about campus issues."

Students interested in attending any university should be informed on the culture of the campus and crime rates and how threats are handled around campus are a piece of that culture. Resources like the Office of Postsecondary Education have accurate and updated information about campus crime.

### Achieva Branch

By Gianna Pesce, Staff Writer

The on campus Achieve Credit Union was first introduced to the students at Northeast High School in 2003. With being a key component of the Finance Program here at the school, the Branch is run by the Junior Class enrolled in the program.

Aside from it being a valuable experience for students involved, it serves as a reliable resource for students attending the school. Although it has a reputation of performing financial processes, to what extent is it relevant and helpful to students not only working there but also utilizing it?

This year our Branch was taken over by Finance Teacher and Football Coach Mr. Mosley, after previously being run by Finance Teacher Mrs. Bercume. Mr. Mosley states that "It's a privilege to be asked to step in and oversee the activities daily. I've been preparing students for years now as far as the 10th grade group to transition into the branch roles and now actually seeing what each branch role does on a regular basis gives me a better sense of what's done on my end" when asked about his thoughts on being the new monitor of the Branch this 23-24 school year.

When asked how he feels about it benefiting students, he responds "It benefits in a lot of ways, one of our goals are far as the districts concerned in preparing students for college, and life and I think it does just that.

For students making accounts, its money lessons. Getting started early with having a bank account or checking account is financial knowledge." He continues to oversee the Branch here on campus in its day-to-day operations, and heavily believes it encourages students to learn financial literacy as it is "something that'll unlock your future".

Although it's a valuable experience for students working, it acts as a resource for students to perform services like depositing and withdrawing money and obtaining debit cards.

Sophie Ellis, a Junior here on campus states regarding her

Achieva account here on campus, "I made an account with achieva to have easier access to money when I'm on campus. I utilize my account often. I put money in and take money out when I need it. It's an easy access to get money, and that they're all over Saint Pete." Suggesting its useful to students looking for a reliable way to pull out money.

Students working the branch, such as Kayley Missory who is one of the Branch Managers for our on-campus branch discusses that they often get 5-6 visits a lunch, and that students come into the branch for a variety of things such as pulling out money for school functions, or snacks at the vending machine.

She further explains how its reliability is helpful not only to her, but also other students. Regarding how the branch benefits her individually, she adds "It benefits me because I can get a position in an Achieva afterwards if I want too, and it also just helps me learn more about finance and how to run a bank."

## SENIORS

**DO NOT  
FORGET  
SENIOR  
FEES  
ARE DUE  
2/2/24  
PAY  
ONLINE  
TODAY**

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING LACROSSE?



GIRLS WILL HAVE  
OPTIONAL  
CONDITIONING ON  
TUESDAYS AND  
THURSDAYS BEGINNING  
JAN 2ND FROM 3-4 PM

TRYOUTS WILL BE  
MONDAY JAN 22 AND  
TUESDAY JAN 23 FROM  
4:15- 6:30

BOYS WILL BE HOLDING AN  
INTEREST MEETING COME  
DECEMBER OR JANUARY.  
LISTEN TO THE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE  
INFORMATION COMING SOON!





# Charged Death: Should teenagers take extra precaution when consuming caffeine?

By Ta'Nayshia Grover, Staff Writer

21-year-old Ivy League Student of UPenn Sarah Katz, tragically passed away from consuming Panera's "Charged Lemonade" drink in September of 2022. Elizabeth Chuck, writer for NBC news states Katz had been living with her illness terminally, as she was diagnosed with long QT syndrome at just the shy age of five (2023.) The research assistant at the children's hospital shortly fell to her death when she purchased a large charge lemonade from Panera on September 10th of 2022. Hours later, she collapsed at the birthday celebration of a friend, where she went into cardiac arrest. Her second cardiac arrest is where she ultimately died. In October of this

year, Katz' family took legal action and sued the Philadelphia Panera location.

According to CBS News, the drink is claimed within the lawsuit to be a 30-ounce serving, containing approximately 390 milligrams of caffeine, which exceeds the limit of caffeine levels within a Red Bull and Monster Energy drink combined. Correspondingly, it is also stated in the article that Panera marks the drink as a juice product, unlike the soda drink that it is, while also serving it next to non-caffeinated drinks.

Teens should be more vigilant, as the drink the 21-year-old consumed had a higher caffeine content than both a Red Bull and Monster combined. The FDA warned that large amounts of caffeine poses a higher risk to health. Energy drinks have grown in popularity, especially within generation Z. Even if it is a pretty drink, it is important to be aware of the caffeine content in which you are consuming. The teen was enjoying a month's membership worth of Panera, not thinking it was going to be fatal. This could be you; please be careful.

# School lunch: How is it organized? How do students feel about it?

By Lilly Macomber, Staff Writer

School lunch is a widely discussed topic. Some people hate it, some love it. Many people wonder how school lunch is made, or how it is organized.

Schools have a binder filled with different meals served and the details of the meals, though each school has different menus. The meals are precooked, and frozen, lunch attendants take the meals out, and cook them.

Northeast Cafeteria Manager Susan Shriver explained the process of deciding lunches. "There are nutritional guidelines that they go through every single year, and they update the menus. Those come from our central office." Susan also states

Those guidelines are created to help children get the nutrients

they need. Shriver adds "This is considered a CEP school, every child gets free breakfast, and free lunch."

Some students enjoy certain foods offered at lunch, but other foods are not as good. Freshman Artur Krol thinks that some foods are good, but others "hardly look appetizing" He states that sandwiches he gets from the peanut butter and jelly packs are squished, and there is not much variety.

But if the students don't like the lunches that are served, why do they get them? If a student is hungry at school, they need to have something to eat regardless.

Freshman Presley D. Wilson said she would rather bring food from home because it is better quality, and she can choose what she gets for lunch. Presley still says she'll eat it if she's hungry.

Although some students may not like the lunches served, they match up to the criteria given to the schools. Northeast follows the guidelines needed for students to get all the energy needed.

# Rising Inflation Prices

By Gianna Pesce, Staff Writer

Compared to September 2022, prices have increased by 3.7 percent. Making purchasing everyday items and services seems to burn a hole in some students' pockets.

"Paying for things every month does add up, and I find myself spending a ridiculous amount", says junior Connor Gerratz. Teenagers' jobs don't provide nearly as much money needed to pay expenses.

Low-income jobs make it harder for teenagers to pay, but even teachers report struggling. "Gas goes up a few cents every day," states Chef Serata.

A few NEHI teachers mention having second jobs, or after school activities that may require more gas, but with the rise of inflation being so harsh, being able to afford it is a struggle for most.

Inflation has a continuous effect on society, limiting customers from purchasing necessary items. "It feels like I spend my life savings to just live every day" Jamie Arevalo says.

Many other students reported with the rising rates, they feel it's heavily affecting people's ability to obtain the items they need. Items from school supplies, to clothes, they feel its "constantly creating a burden."

# Black Students in the Workforce

By: Kendall Martin, Junior Editor

In the pursuit of higher education, black students face a plethora of challenges especially when it comes to entering the workforce. The barriers they encounter can be significant, impacting their journey toward professional success. A recent study conducted by National Student Clearinghouse Research Center shed light on the experience of black students in the workforce showcasing the obstacles they often confront. Research found that "Black students are more likely to face discrimination than other students, with 21% of Black Students reporting they frequently experience discrimination compared to 15% of other students.

One such student is Kalia Malave, a bright and determined student currently navigating the challenges of the professional world. Kalia graciously agreed to share her experiences and insights in an exclusive interview with me.

## Interview with Kalia Malave: Breaking Barriers and Embracing Opportunities

Reporter: Kalia, thank you for joining us. Could you share a bit about your journey into the workforce and the challenges you've encountered as a black student?

Kalia: Well, being black and in the workforce comes with its own set of challenges. There is this unspoken expectation to work

harder and prove yourself constantly. Microaggressions are a reality too. I have encountered moments where my ideas were overlooked. There was a time that I suggested an idea to better help the flow of work, and it was an idea that I was confident in. But it was brushed off without much consideration. Later, a non-Black colleague suggested the same thing, and suddenly it was praised and saw as a great idea. It was frustrating and disheartening to see and made me question whether I was truly valued at my job.

Reporter: Wow, I can relate to what you've shared here sometimes I feel the same way. But with having felt this way, how did you navigate the hurdles of dealing with that at your workplace?

Kalia: Well, anytime a problem would arise where I would feel uncomfortable in a situation related to the color of my skin or not, I do go to my managers. They are good at listening to their employees and figuring out what to do to fix any problems. I also make sure that I speak up when I may be feeling some sort of way so that I can get the help I need.

Reporter: That's good, its important that you speak up for what you think is right. So my final question is: What kind of changes do you think would benefit black students in the workforce.

Kalia: I think just having people in higher positions that look like me will help. We don't have a lot of black people on the "team" as we call it. I would love to see more and maybe even a manager that is

black. I feel that would help with some of the race problems and it make people of my skin color feel more represented.

Reporter: I think these are very good recommendations, I know it always makes me smile when I see someone who looks like me be in a high position or be someone of prominence. I hope these are changes that come very soon for your job. But thank you for coming to this and discussing this topic with me.

The challenges faced by black students entering the workforce are significant, often resulting from issues deep-rooted in various industries. For students like Kalia its not uncommon to be pressured to conform to societal expectations as it is something that is also faced in schools often. There have been many reports of African American Students facing discrimination in school by their peers or authority. One example is of a Black high school student in Texas who was suspended for wearing dreadlocks, Officials felt that his dreadlocks "violated the districts dress code" (Mumphrey&Lozano, 2023). Situations like this just show students color face pressure of conformity. However, kids like Kalia continue to pave the way, showcasing resilience in the face of adversity. The journey to an inclusive and equal playing field for black students is still ongoing. By acknowledging those challenges and actively implementing changes, society can take steps that create a more supportive and diverse workplace for all.



## SPORTS

# Running Is A Mindset

by Mariyah Salmeron, Staff Writer

Cross Country is a sport most people aren't familiar with, even though it's arguably the most difficult sport and deserves more recognition. Running miles and miles each week takes a strong mindset that is impressive for high school student to possess. The mental work behind running cross country is incredible and every runner should be recognized.

Mr. Williams, a math teacher here at NEHI, is part of the training coaches for the cross-country student athletes. He reinforces, "A lot of running is mental. We don't get a break, a half time, or a sub. It is all [the runner] until we finish the race. We push ourselves beyond where we think we can go so, when doubt creeps

in, we can push through. This is a great skill to develop in life, not just running."

Ava Lipan agrees with Coach Williams. "In all aspects of my life I've found cross country being a constant. I have grown in my school space, just as I have in my races. It all kind of comes together."

Coach Williams also stated "Just because you are working hard doesn't mean you can't have fun, look around, take it your surroundings. We run in so many different places out in nature. We have incredible people on our team. Be sure to appreciate what we are able to do and the people we get to run with."

Runner Aliyah Hodge follows up by adding that running with her teammates was the best part for her. "I enjoyed every second of spending time with my teammates, they made it enjoyable and fun. They pushed me past my limits and helped me succeed."

Cross country has the hearts of many people at Northeast high school. English teacher Mr. Ryan, who is not connected to the team, added "Arguably nothing is simpler, yet more challenging than running a long distance. Running is a mental battle against yourself, and cross-country athletes show

true grit when they go out and tackle the challenge of completing in this sport."

Below Senior runner Eli Zuppa competes at the FHSA District meet.



## Team Rewrites History

By: Jada Moten, Editing Team

In the world of high school sports, there's something special about a team breaking a long-standing playoff drought. Northeast High school, 2023 playoffs marked a historic moment as they advanced past the first round for the first time since 2001. This achievement had to include hard work, dedication, resilience of the players and the coaches. The 2023 season proved to be a turning point for Northeast high school team. Head Coach Shawn Davis mentioned "Hard work and believing in each other had a lot to do with it, during the season we had a hiccup of losing a few games but after that we focused as a team and went on winning more and more games, he says we got to get better and have the momentum and build from it to be better next year." The coaching staff instilled a winning mentality, emphasizing the importance of each player's contribution to the players success.

The Viking football team went 8-4 this year for the season, the team served a newfound of strength and determination. Coach Mosley says "hard work and consistency and a lot of discipline contributed to the game and having a lot of good individual players getting to know how to work with each other to get far. The Northeast Vikings are no longer just a team, they are a symbol of determination, unity, and the unwavering belief that with hard work and dedication any obstacle can be overcome. Senior Trey Whirley mentions "As a football player it was my favorite

high school experience out of all 4 of my years, I really appreciate coach Davis for everything he's done for the team and had my best year playing football here at northeast."

The Viking football team are fun to watch they make good plays for an exciting game. Students like Junior Marko Butina says "I think their hard work has played off you see that at the games, and they really give it their all, they overcome literal mistakes that happen in the game that results in winning. The team's impressive performance on the field reflected the countless hours of practice, strategic planning and a commitment to excellence. Freshman Teunie Franklin says "my first game was an experience, when I found out they won the first playoff game I was happy and excited that they were moving forward in the season and how much hard work pays off. As the Viking football team won past the first round of playoffs in 22 years, it's really a memorable memory for players and coaches and even the students and faculty. The achievement they made was one for the books and from there to keep growing and building a program for athletes.

## How Sports Impact You

By: Alicia Green, Staff Writer

Camila Riera is a soccer player and plays for the varsity Northeast Girls Soccer team. It's a sport she's exceptionally good at and has been playing since she was young. In the fall of November of 2022 during a soccer game, she tore her ACL. It took up to a year to heal with her going into physical therapy to get the blood flowing and back to playing the sport she loves.

She got into playing the sport when she quit ballet. When she was 6 years old, she moved from Venezuela, and she quit ballet because she didn't want to continue. Ms. Riera says, "I'm attached to it and it's fun". Sports can help with staying mobile and could become a possible hobby.

According to ScholarshipsStats.com, a little over 7% of students will continue to play the sport after graduating from high school and continue as a future job. On the other hand, Ms. Riera doesn't want her life to revolve

around soccer, "But it can be in my life" she says. Positioning someone's life into just a sport comes with great responsibility and she wants her sport to be off to the side it's in her life but not her main priority. Students will get or become inspired, or something drives them to want to play any sport. In an earlier statement made by Ms. Riera, "Neymar inspired me to continue to play because he's also a soccer player and I admire him very much." Neymar is a famous soccer player in Brazil and is a talented soccer player.

All kinds of sports have impacted student's schooling by putting sports before school. However, "The sport doesn't impact me academically," Ms. Riera says, and her grades prove that she can balance both sports and school.

Finally, many students and coaches who like to be involved in sports can impact a person. But Ms. Riera says, "Sports don't impact me" She isn't sure how it impacts her. How sports impact you can lead to persevering and balance and can help to stay healthy.





# Bowling with a Purpose and a Passion

By Ta'nayshia Grover, Staff Writer

Junior Brady Spencer of Northeast Highschool is nothing short of a sedulous doer. Standing at 6 feet tall, the 16-year-old is jam-packed with motivation and drive. Born in Florida with a bloodline that meets Thai and Laotian blood, the 4.0 student made sure to pick up a second

talent aside from his academics. With his optimistic, trail-blazing spirit, came a trial that takes a lot of endurance. In the early days of September, Spencer lost his grandfather.

Spencer's bowling habit has only been birthed for a year. He states that his cousins Amari and Dre inspired him to bowl. But something ethereal occurred after his grandfather's transition. Within the same period, Spencer won Athlete of the Week and was even interviewed by local news-station Bay News 9. He kept his grandfa-

ther close and shaved his head in tribute to him. "I had to be a Monk at the funeral, and to be a Monk you have to shave your head and eyebrows." But the high achieving athlete didn't commit to the eyebrow shaving. "What makes me, me is that I am very family-driven." It's what he respects and admire about his culture. He says that the respect for his elders drives the communal aspect.

In Brady's culture, the closest living male relative of the deceased shaves all hair on the body as an honorary act. The boy

(or man) is a monk approximately for a week, from the report of death to the time of burial. During this time, they are to be respected and not touched, especially by a woman or young girl. Sacred Buddhist women (nuns) typically cook and prepare the meal while the father serves the young monk the food.

He keeps his grandfather alive, no matter the divine distance. "My favorite memory that I share with my grandfather is that we did a lot of fishing together." It makes all the sense as to why he loves fishing, Pompano is his favorite.

# College as an Athlete

By: Leila Phrasikayson, Staff Writer

1 in 13 High school student athletes attend a college or university to play a varsity sport. Their status within their academics and athletics plays a pivotal role in college level competitive sports. For many athletes, their dream is to earn a scholarship and go to school free or for a lower cost while actively playing their sport, but it is difficult with only 2% of student-athletes receiving any type of help to pursue their goal.

Having the opportunity to go to a division 1 school isn't as unattainable as people think. 2 years ago, graduated Northeast High student D'Angelo Hutchinson signed and NLI to play for the Louisville Cardinals, becoming the 3rd to commit to Louisville in November 2021 according to Si.com.

This year the National

Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has removed standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for all student-athletes who initially enroll full time.

To secure a place at any NCAA division 1 school, aspiring students must acknowledge the constant evolving criteria. Schools are no longer prioritizing rigorous test but now recognizing their skills, managing multiple responsibilities and also their commitment.

Northeast High School seniors Jayden Rahdert and David Williams are shining examples of dedication and talent for finding the perfect balance. With juggling extracurriculars, multiple sports, and their personal lives as seniors.

Rahdert's dedication and talent shines light on the commitment of excellence in all categories, beaconing to her academic and athletic skills. Playing soccer and lacrosse, she committed to Brevard College in North Carolina to continue to be a star on the lacrosse field at a D3 level.

Her GPA of 4.4 shows a tes-

tament of her determination of balance in her schedule with excelling in a number of society's including but not limited to Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society, and FBLA.

Meanwhile, Williams' embodies what most regular student-athletes' lives are currently, with pursuing opportunities for sport scholarships but also maintaining a backup plan.

He states that "I am still looking for more school offers for sports but if not, I am going to USF for computer science."

He doesn't just excel on the field with soccer and lacrosse like Rahdert, he is also a leader in JROTC as Baliton Commander along side engaging in various organizations such as Student Government, Asian Culture Association, NHA and club soccer.

Students at Northeast are fighting a constant battle of having high academics and excelling in sportsmanship but are not being able to pursue their passion. With society's constant changing econo-



my, students mainly rely on scholarships but despite being involved in school and having high academic status, it is still a struggle to this day.

Northeast athletes' stories collectively exemplify the evolving landscape for student-athletes aspiring to compete at the collegiate level. These students offer a glimpse into the dream that success has no boundaries when passion, commitment, and skills converge.

# Freak Accidents in Professional Sports

By Maddie Johnson, Staff Writer

Freak accidents in professional sports can be life ending but can sometimes be prevented, like in Adam Johnson, Clint Malarchuk's case. However, Damar Hamlin had an unpreventable situation. Adam Johnson played for the Nottingham Panthers in the challenge cup. He also used to play for the Pittsburgh penguins in the regular NHL season. On October 28, 2023, he suffered a severe injury to his neck.

"There should be more safety regulations in hockey to prevent 'freak accidents' that have happened before" Said by Michael Munger (freshman). He touched on an especially important part of this situation. This situation has happened before but has not killed someone yet.

"Clint Malarchuk also got cut in the throat by a blade so how did it happen again is what I've

been thinking" Said by Michael Munger (freshman). Malarchuk did survive luckily but there should have been international safety regulations put in place to prevent another freak accident like this.

"My brother used to play hockey and he would wear a neck guard" Said by Sanna Singnoth (freshman). She pointed out the fact that there are neck guards for players, but they decide not to wear them because they are uncomfortable, but their safety is more important than comfort.

There are also examples of freak accidents in football like Damar Hamlin. Hamlin is a safety for buffalo and suffered from cardiac arrest on the field mid-game. He left the field with his heartbeat restored.

Not every freak accident can be prevented but if there are options to make sports safer. Hamlin was in a situation where he could not prevent cardiac arrest. However, Johnson and Malarchuk could have both prevented their injury by wearing a neck guard.

# Mike Evans' Uncertain Future

By Izayah Freeman, Staff Writer

Mike Evans is a star receiver for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and has had major success with them. He's had 9 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons and is on pace to have 10 which would put him one step closer to Jerry Rice's seemingly unbreakable record of 11. He's been through ups and downs with the Buccaneers, having quarterbacks like Ryan Fitzpatrick and Jameis Winston being the downs, and winning a Superbowl with Tom Brady, possibly being the highlight of his career.

Though everything he's been through with the Buccaneers could be coming to an end, due to the Buccaneers having big upcoming paydays, and not a lot of money to share. This could be Evans' last season with the Buccaneers and will ultimately be more beneficial for Evans than the Buccaneers. For Evans, he still has a few more seasons left in the tank, and a lot of teams could use a receiver like

Evans. While the Buccaneers on the other hand, could struggle with their next best receiver being Chris Godwin, who isn't a bad player, but isn't the same type of receiver as Evans is.

Julian Seitz who is in 11th grade says, "Without Mike Evans, the Bucs are probably going to be trash, unless their defense steps up to balance out losing Mike Evans, which probably won't happen." This has happened before when the Buccaneers didn't re-sign star Linebacker Kwon Alexander in 2019. After that offseason, the Buccaneers defense was slightly better, but they were missing having another veteran locker room presence, which showed when they missed the playoffs, continuing their 12-year playoff drought. All the Buccaneers can really hope for is to draft a suitable replacement for Evans if this really is his last year for the team.



## SPORTS CONT...

### Senior Athlete Commitments

By Haley Thompson, Junior Editor

For many seniors across the nation, college is just another part of life. However, for the students on campus, it's much more than that. In an athlete's world, college is another opportunity to advance athletically, academically, and personally.

Senior Eli Zuppa feels like he "could get the most out of my athletic career as well as academics on a very high level" with his commitment to Florida Southern College. Florida Southern athletes typically have accomplishments on a high level, which Eli can relate to.

With five of Florida Southern's cross-country stars earning all-conference honors, they've become top athletes by opposing coaches, which is highly respectable. As an award-winning

cross-country and track athlete, Eli will be a perfect fit as a Moccasin at Florida Southern College.

Not only are the athletics important, but the ability to feel at home helps seniors decide their future paths. Senior Lexi Baum knows this feeling well. She "decided to commit to Georgia college because the minute I got on campus it just felt like home and I could see myself playing there and spending the next four years there".

With Georgia colleges' beautiful campus, Lexi feels confident that she will fit right in with the rest of the bobcats. Their historical brick buildings, oak trees, and beautiful weather secures this decision of the stunning volleyball athlete. Not only does their campus finalize the decision, but so does the sport she loves.

As a setter, Lexi finds herself in charge of the offense on the court. She is a vital component to the team, which is why deciding

for college is so important for her. Lexi feels confident that, "the next four years are going to be great not just for my volleyball career, but as a person."

Becoming personable is a vital component of being a college student. While seniors discover brand-new campus, it's important to find the people that will bring out the best in a student. Not only is connecting with others important but maintaining a positive relationship with academic work is important to progress through your major's path with success.

Senior Jayden Rahdert has experience in looking for the right path for her academic career. As a future Tornado at Brevard College, she is looking forward to bonding with her lacrosse teammates and becoming an academic weapon. As she states, "I chose Brevard because they have a good academic program for criminal justice, which is what I want to major in, their teachers are very one-on-one with

students, and their lacrosse program is very good".

Furthermore, colleges with strong major programs are just as important for seniors as their athletic programs. All of these seniors are confident that their commitments to colleges will allow them to become the best person possible, athletically and academically.



Lexi Baum signs her National Letter of Intent to attend Georgia College in the fall.

## NATIONAL INTEREST CONTD...

### Police Activity on Gandy Boulevard

By Colin Campbell, Staff Writer

Thousands of people use Gandy Boulevard daily. A part of those thousands are students at Northeast High School. With that many people driving on the bridge it might not be surprising that 200 speeding tickets were given over the weekend of November 4th and 5th.

Senior Liana Billey doesn't drive on Gandy often but when she does, she says, "I don't notice large police presence." On the contrary, Senior Julian Waters drives on Gandy close to once a week and he says, "I have seen an uprise in police presence in the past few months."

With 156 warnings and over 200 tickets being issued on Nov. 4th and 5th. Liana and Julian both agree that a larger police presence causes everybody to be safer on Gandy. The police making themselves seen lower the chances of reckless driving and speeding.

When driving on Gandy Liana says, "I'm not as focused on

my speed as I probably should be" However she says, "If there was a larger police presence it would make her more cautious as a driver." In addition, Julian says "I am normally a cautious driver, but the police do make me drive slower than I usually would.

During the weekend of the bust, there were 6 agencies involved in distributing 223 citations. This crackdown was "The operation is in an ongoing multi-agency effort to address street racing and speeding along the span between Pinellas and Hillsborough counties," said the police departments. Police officers also gave out tickets to drivers not following the "move-over law." The move-over law states drivers must move over a lane for any vehicle with warning lights.

The 6 agencies were the Florida Highway Patrol the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office, the Pinellas Sheriff's Office, the Pinellas Park Police Department, and the Tampa Police Department. Combined the agencies gave out 223 citations and 156 warnings. The police making themselves more known on the bridge would decrease speeding and street racing on Gandy Boulevard.

### Sudoku (hard level)

3		6	2			5	4	
4		9			6			
	8	1		9		3		6
				4		2		
9								3
8							1	
				1			8	
		3						1
	2		4		5			

### Pirates or Parrots

After a life spent on swashbuckling, four pirates retired and buried their loot on different islands. Who was the richest?

- Exactly one of the pirates had the parrot of the same color as his nickname.
- Only the pirate who buried 300 doubloons has the same initial in its nickname and in the island's name he hid his loot. However, he wasn't the owner of the green parrot.
- The owner of the blue parrot buried 100 doubloons less than the loot buried in Barbados.
- Neither Greenbeard nor the owner of the blue parrot lived in Trinidad.
- Among Bluebeard and the pirate with the silver parrot, one of them had 100 doubloons.
- There were 100 doubloons less in Granada than in Trinidad.
- Either Silverbeard or Bluebeard had 300 doubloons.
- Exactly one of the parrots had the same initial in its color and in the name of the island its owner hid the loot.
- The owner of the black parrot didn't have 300 doubloons

**SENIORS!!!  
GRAD BASH TICKET  
SALES BEGIN  
JANUARY 8TH. MORE  
INFO IN ROOM 1-216**