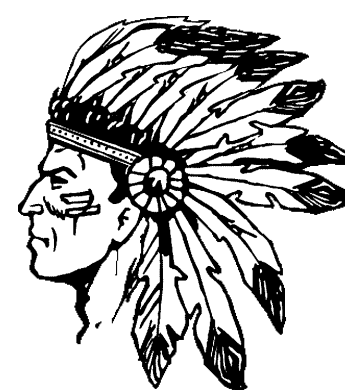


FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

The Gazette



Volume 81

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Issue 2

The Neverland you Never Knew

By: Megan Schanker; Writer

Over the last two weekends in November, Franklin High Theatre Department was proud to present *Peter and the Star Catcher* as this year's fall play.

All season long students involved in the show have worked hard on preparing the play for everyone to enjoy. Persevering through heat days and holidays off the students have come together to make sure they have a magnificent performance. With the help of Mr. Hughes, the school theater teacher and director of the after the school theater program, the students have made their imagination come to life through this fun-filled show that makes you feel like a kid again. The department envisioned an idea of what they wanted and made it possible through the set, the props, the costumes, and the actors with the goal of making a show become real and bring out everyone's inner child.

In *Peter and the Star Catcher*, charac-



The cast performed the song "Mermaid Outa Me" to smiles and laughter

ters like Black Stache (Jacob Sanchez), Peter Pan (Andrew West), Molly (Emily Signor), Prentiss (Logan Snyder), and many more fill the production with laughs and adventure.

The cast was lead by a stirring performance from Andrew West as Pan himself. He embodied the character with his youthful charm truly stepping into the shoes of the boy who refus-

es to grow up. Black Stache, the antagonist of this story, was played by Jacob Sanchez. He portrayed the comic villain with the right amount of humor and evil.

The cast was anchored by the wonderful performance of Emily Signor who played Molly, a young mother of the soon to be famous Wendy. She used the perfect combination of vocal and physical choices to bring the character to life.

This show not only has an amazing cast but it also has an incredible crew. The plays and musicals at Franklin High School are directed by the theater teacher Mr. Hughes, but many of the ideas come from students such as Sarah Wolf the prop designer, Ethan Snyder the sound designer, Gabby Trujillo the paint designer, and Noah Heilveil the stage manager.

Many more people work on the crew in the background to make the show what it is and make it possible to bring ideas to life. Without all the students that participate in the process there would be no show.

Not only is the play a great event to see it is also a great experience to be a part of. To some students theater is not just an after school activity but it's something they really enjoy and love, and the department feels like one big extended family. Theater is an important part of many students' lives and will continue to be thanks to Mr. Hughes and all the work he does.

The 2016 Franklin High School fall play *Peter and the Star Catcher* reached new heights in production and was a beautiful falling star we hope no one will forget.

Franklin Says Goodbye to Mr. Brown

By: Maddie Ballan; Writer

Mr. Brown, a former English teacher at Franklin High School, said goodbye to his tenth grade classes as he prepared for a new job. Many tears were shed and sad faces made, but the amount of goodbyes Mr. Brown received from students, not just from his classes this year, but from all eight years he taught at Franklin High, was remarkable.

Franklin High School was Mr. Brown's first teaching job, and he has been a part of the English staff for the past eight years. During that time, he has been able to help

students learn not only the curriculum, but important life lessons and has encouraged them to look at different points of views.

Mr. Brown received a job offer in the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, but decided to stay at Franklin High for the first quarter in hopes of finishing *Julius Caesar* with his students.

At the end of the quarter, Mr. Brown announced that he would no longer be teaching at Franklin High, and that his last

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Trump Wins Surprise Victory

By: Sydney Gaskins; Writer

This past election season has been a stressful and hectic time for many people. The Democratic and Republican parties have taken over the news networks and much of everyday conversation. Even now, with the election a month in the past, there are still controversy and discussion. The election was composed of a raging competition between Republican candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

On the night of November 8, 2016, many people watched the news with bated breath. As the numbers slowly came in and the

electoral votes were tallied, many were shocked by the results. All polls had Clinton taking the presidency, but as the night went on the picture was much different. In the end, Donald Trump gained the votes he needed to surpass the required amount with 279 electoral votes, making him the next president of the United States.

Candidate Hillary Clinton of the Democratic Party ran on a platform to make America a better place for all people, no matter what race, sexuality, or social class. To

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Franklin Says Goodbye to Mr. Brown

By Maddie Ballan; Writer

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day would be Friday
October 28th.

"I had an opportunity, and I didn't want to have any regrets," Mr. Brown responded when asked what made him choose to leave Franklin.

After leaving Franklin, Mr. Brown now has a national security position. "I will be traveling the country to different bases, and doing weapon testing."

Students from

all of his English and SAT prep classes from current and previous years were saddened to see such an amazing teacher leave Franklin. Mr. Brown received cards, hugs, and an unbelievable amount of thank yous and goodbye notes on his back chalkboard

Jackie Flam, a 10th grade student in Mr. Brown's previous third period English class, said, "I'll miss his enthusiasm the most. It made me look forward to coming to his class each day."

The sadness

was mutual between Mr. Brown and his students. "I'll miss the students, coworkers, being in front teaching, and having the ability to help, the most. I'm going to miss teaching literature and life," Mr. Brown commented.

Lexi Taylor, one of Mr. Brown's GT English students, said "I will miss how willing he was to help us. If we put in the effort to get good grades, he would do whatever he could to make sure we got the grades we deserved. I will also miss his enthusiasm



Mr. Brown at his desk on his last day at Franklin High School.

about each and every lesson, especially *Julius Caesar*."

Before leaving Franklin, Mr. Brown

wanted everyone to know how appreciative he is of the faculty and students. "Thank you Franklin for eight

wonderful years and for always showing me love and support. I will truly miss everyone. All the best."

Mr. Yaure took over Mr. Brown's class at the beginning of second quarter. Mr. Yaure taught at Franklin at the end of the 2015-2016 school year while Ms. Luckie was out after a car accident. His students have already gotten to know him in the short period of time he's been with them.

Class of 2017 Makes Moves to Improve Final Year

By Julia Weinick; Writer

As winter break approaches, the senior class has started planning their spring and end of the year events. The class is starting early to raise as much money as possible for their prom and senior picnic in May. Both events are important to seniors. However, they are very costly and take a lot of time to coordinate. With the help of the class advisors and elected board members, the seniors are trying to make the se events for the Class of

2017 the best class yet.

Senior Class President Cyrique Pitt recently expressed that he has made a huge list of fundraisers for the Class of 2017 to participate in this year. He has divided each fundraiser into the categories of small, medium and large based on the amount of profit the class can make from each. The class already has many fundraisers planned that can possibly double their funds. Pitt said "We are very flexible and

would love any input from any of the seniors for future events and fundraisers".

The class of 2017 president believes this year has been a major improvement compared to the previous three years. Pitt has seen improvements in engagement and participation with many seniors interested in the class. He has seen this in events such as the Powder Puff game and the Senior Tailgate which were huge successes.

Pitt said, "In my opinion, I honestly think the greatest thing about this year will be cherishing all of the great moments I get to spend with my classmates and fellow seniors. I definitely would like more people to get involved in senior events and activities, but overall I am pleased with how this year is going".

The class of 2017 is planning some major events for the end of the school year. Pitt would love to cre-

ate a senior "fun-day" which entails all seniors participating in activities on the football field such as jump houses, sports games and much more.

In the beginning of the year the class raised \$500 within the first 10 days of the school year from Chipotle and Rita's fundraisers. The class is also planning on profiting greatly from an ongoing food catalog sale right now.

The senior class is in the process

of organizing an apparel fundraiser so all seniors can represent their class in cool clothes.

Pitt expressed that he is keeping fundraising to a minimum right now but after winter break the class is going into full gear and will have a fundraiser almost every week. The members of the Class of 2017 are looking forward to seeing every senior involved this year.

Mock Trial Preps for Season

By: Sydney Gaskins; Writer

Last year the Franklin Mock Trial Team went 10-1. The team closed the season with a bittersweet taste in their mouth. Although happy to have made it to the State Championship, the team was upset that they lost that one important match.

This year's team is more motivated than ever to put their

all into this season, go undefeated, and take home the State Championship win.

Tryouts were held in October, welcoming over ten new members. The team received the official case for the season on Thursday, November 10th.

On November 11th the team held a four hour meeting where

they analyzed the case thoroughly. Split into two teams, defense and prosecution, the members of the team went over every detail of the case. Through a heated debate, the team came up with some great ideas on how to attack the case on both sides.

Senior Attorney McKenna Logie states, "I was so happy to see everyone, in-

cluding the new members, work so hard and be so enthusiastic about this case so soon! Even after one day of having the case, the members were so passionate about it. I believe it's going to be a great season if everyone keeps up the hard work".

The case this year is criminal. It is about a student who

was possibly poisoned by lead contaminated drinking water in school. The question in this case is whether the Superintendent of Schools acted with misconduct in office and reckless endangerment.

In the weeks up to Thanksgiving, the team held a series of mini-trials. The team members acted

as different parts in each trial to show the coaches, Mr. Lambert, Mrs. Lambert, and Mr. Reid what they have to offer the team this season. These trials will be one of the main deciding factors in who is a starter this season, and who is not. The first

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Mock Trial Preps for Season

By: Sydney Gaskins; Writer

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mini-trial was held on November 15th.

New members on

the team and sophomore Maddie Ballan states, "I think it was very productive and everyone did very well. I feel like the new members on the team could

work harder on making eye contact with the judges and speaking loudly and proudly. I'm looking forward to getting to know the case better and seeing

everyone, including me, grow and take on these parts".

Senior Mckenna Logie states, "I think that we are very lucky to have a team that all

genuinely wants to be here. Even if people are nervous or unsure, everyone is showing a lot of enthusiasm. I'm excited to see what will occur as we move for-

ward into the season and see all of the new talent thrive".

Forensics Students Begin a New Experiment

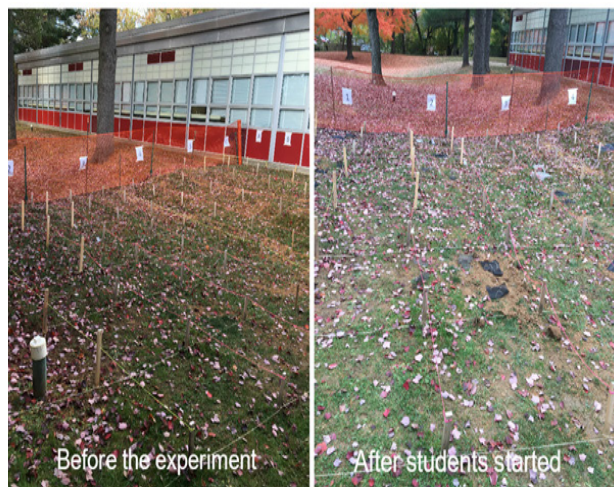
By: Max Mitin; Writer

Franklin High Forensics started a new interesting experiment this year involving of all things, chicken necks.

For those who don't know, Forensics is the combination of sciences like chemistry, physics, and biology to help solve crimes. One of the most important pieces of evidence at a crime scene is the body. By analyzing the body, the investigators could possibly answer questions such as the cause of death and/or the approximate time of death.

The experiment

itself would last over five weeks until Winter Break. There are currently two teachers responsible for the experiment: Mrs Merrill and Mrs Mogase. Each group that performs the experiment gets two necks and each group gets to choose what kind of conditions they would like to study. The students will then bury the necks under these different conditions in order to see how a body decomposes under different circumstances. For the sake of the chicken neck experiment, the conditioned included



Franklin's small body farm outside the science classrooms.

covering it in sulfuric acid, burning it before burying it, burying it without extra changes, submerging it in salt water or fresh water, and wrapping it in a plastic bag. Some of

the chicken necks were not buried at all, but left out in the natural elements of Franklin. Students will be checking up on their necks every week to collect data from what they

observe. Some of the data includes the temperature, mass, length and circumference. At the end of the experiment students will write a report stating what they learned from the experiment.

So where did this idea originate from? There are places around the country called body farms. Body farms are research facilities where decomposition is studied under various settings by groups like the FBI and universities looking to understand forensic science more. The first body farm in

US was created by anthropologist William M. Bass. He started his body farm at the University of Tennessee in 1971. The goal of body farms is not only to study how the decomposition process works, but also being able to tell the reasons behind someone's death simply by examining the body. Franklin's forensics students recreated a small body farm to conduct the very same experiments.

Best Buddies Celebrate Thanksgiving

By Savannah Bowen; Writer

On Wednesday, November 16th, the members of Best Buddies came together to celebrate Thanksgiving and what they were thankful for. They met in Mrs. Spivak's room. Upperclassmen Megan Lipo, Hailey Garfinkel, Reva Lancaster, Mlaika Malik, and Rachel Talbot make up the class officers.

The goal of Best Buddies is to create one-on-one friendships, employment opportunities, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, otherwise known as IDD. This includes people with disabilities

like Down syndrome or Autism. Best Buddies helps them form meaningful friendships, obtain successful jobs, and feel valued by society.

Buddy Pairs meet twice a month to conduct fun activities like baking or seeing a movie together. The dynamic duos also have to stay in contact throughout the week, whether it be through text, facetime, or even an old-fashioned letter.

Best Buddies is an international organization with participants on six continents, in fifty-four countries, and in all fifty states. The majority of Best Buddies chapters are

found in high schools.

At the beginning of every meeting, the Buddy Pairs sit together and the whole group has an ice breaker. For this meeting's ice breaker students said what they were thankful for. Many students said they were thankful for their friends, family, good health, and of course, Best Buddies. One buddy, Jacob Franklin, gave a humorous response. He said he was thankful for his sister moving out and going to college.

After the ice breaker, the club members split into groups of three or four to create a paper bag turkey.

There were feathers and beaks that could be colored and glued onto brown lunch bags to give it a turkey-like appearance.

Following the creations of their turkeys, the groups put on little skits. Some groups were more serious, like in freshman Zoe Gimbel's group. Their turkeys learned the meaning of friendship and why they should be thankful for what they have.

Other skits were more comical, like Alex Trujillo's skit, as well as Jacob Franklin and Hunter DeMarcy's skit. Alex's group of turkeys had a dance party, while Jacob sang



Franklin's small body farm outside the science classrooms.

a rendition of One Direction's song "Perfect". Hunter DeMarcy put a unique spin on the origin story of Thanksgiving, saying it didn't start in Massachusetts, but at a high school when students began skipping class on the last Thursday of No-

vember.

Each meeting at Best Buddies is a fun experience and is a great club for everyone.



Model UN Delegates Travel to Towson University

By Maddie Ballan; Writer

On Friday November 18th, select tenth grade GT World History students traveled to Towson University for a Model United Nations introductory meeting. They left school around 8 am, and picked up students from Owings Mills High School on the way.

Students were put in pairs and received their country before boarding the bus. Colombia, Israel, Guatemala, United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, France, Latvia, Niger, and Zimbabwe were Franklin's designated countries. Students were brought into Towson's Union and Potomac Lounge building, and received name tags along with a folder and booklet to keep until March. Some schools were running late due to bus-ing issues, so students were able to grab some

fruit, granola bars, and juice for breakfast while waiting.

An introduc-

the millennial devel-opment goals, such as creating a global part-nership for develop-

professors. One group talked with Dr. Ebacher about the Latin American countries

followed by a list of rules, were explained. Students learned how to communicate with other countries during the conference, and the meaning of different colored cards.

Later, they were taken to Glen Dining Hall where they were served an all you can eat buffet, including soft serve ice cream, freshly made pizza, burgers, and salad.

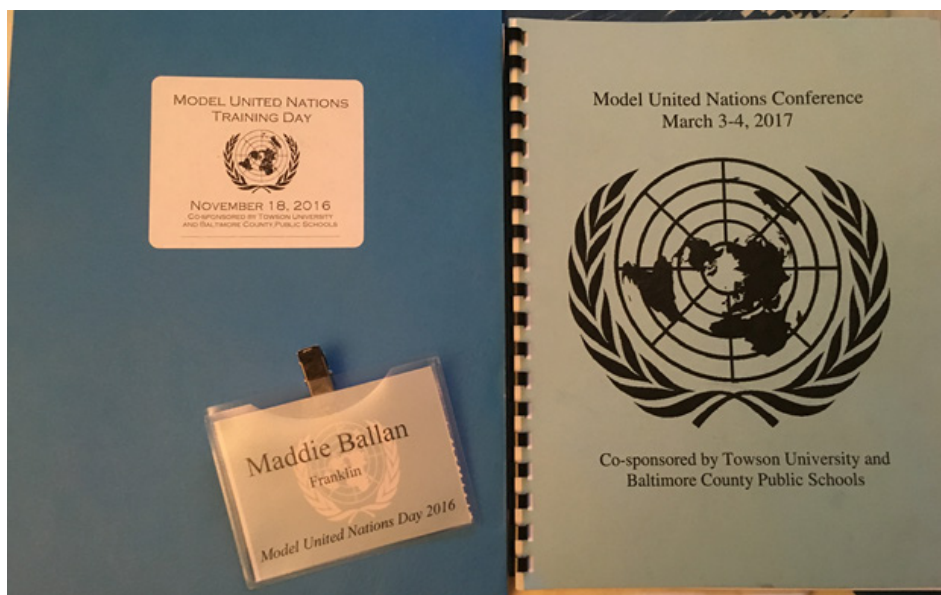
Jenifer Fridman, one of Franklin's delegates who is representing the United Arab Emirates said, "The food was my favorite part."

Many others would agree with her, and students said that it was cool to see what it was like to eat in a real college dining hall.

For one last time, students came back together in the Union building and were split up into

groups again. They worked with Towson University students on writing a preliminary statement about how their country feels about migration and what actions they think should be taken. Students learned how to address other countries, and not make anyone feel unwelcomed or excluded. They learned about diplomacy and negotiation writing along with learning how to present their statements. This was also a chance for students from different schools to interact and get to know each other, and they were also given helpful feedback.

The trip was very successful, and all of the Model UN delegates are excited to meet up again in March for the conference.



Names tag, folder, and booklet students received at Towson University.

tion was held by Dr. Alison McCartney and Mr. Hugh Kearney after everyone had arrived. Students sat with others from their school, and analyzed an article with Towson University students and alumni. It was planned for each school to share what their article said about

ment with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief or eradicating extreme poverty or hunger. But, unfortunately they ran out of time and weren't able to share.

Students were split up into groups based on their countries, and talked to Towson University

and the problems they are currently dealing with.

Students reassembled and were split into two large groups, one of which went to lunch while the other stayed and talked with Mr. Kearney. A detailed overview of the conference and its basics in March,

Preparation Begins for STEM Night at Franklin

By Danielle Stein; Writer

The Franklin High School Science National Honor Society is hosting their annual STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Night in a few months on February 9th, 2017 beginning at 6:30pm and ending at 8:00pm. The Science National Honor Society and STEM club together are beginning to prepare for the eventful evening. The STEM Night, in short, is described as an evening where the SNHS performs science experiments and talks about all different fields of science with local children.

The members of the club are beginning to prepare for the night right now, a few months in advance. At the next club meeting on December 1st, the students need to have a plan turned in. They need to get in a group of four with other members in the club and create an outline. These outlines need to be made from a list of certain topics and there needs to be three separate ones. The outline needs to be on a sheet of paper to be turned in. The topics to choose from are biology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, ecology, geology, zoology,

earth science, oceanography, psychology, biomedical sciences, and computer science. There is a variety of activities that the students can plan based on these topics using creativity, knowledge, research, collaboration, and teamwork. It may be difficult for some groups because the children that come to this event range in age from kindergarten through middle school. The set-up needs to engage all ages, which the club members will need extra consideration when preparing.

In past years, the STEM Night has run very smoothly

and has had high attendance. The board of the club has been working extremely

that she is very excited to her first STEM Night as president and has set her goals high.



Class of 2016 seniors work on their experiment for their last STEM Night last year.

hard to prepare in making this year's better than years past. President of Science National Honor Society Juliana Sherchan says

She plans to reach or even surpass these goals such as higher attendance, more variety in science subjects, and more community

involvement. Second-year members in the club and the club advisor, Mrs. Boruta, have been through this experience before and know what to expect, which is very helpful to the new members.

Last year, an article about the STEM Night made it on the front page of the Community Times. It explores the "adventures of science" and provided pictures of fascinated children observing an experiment. The goal for the club is to be featured in the newspaper once again.

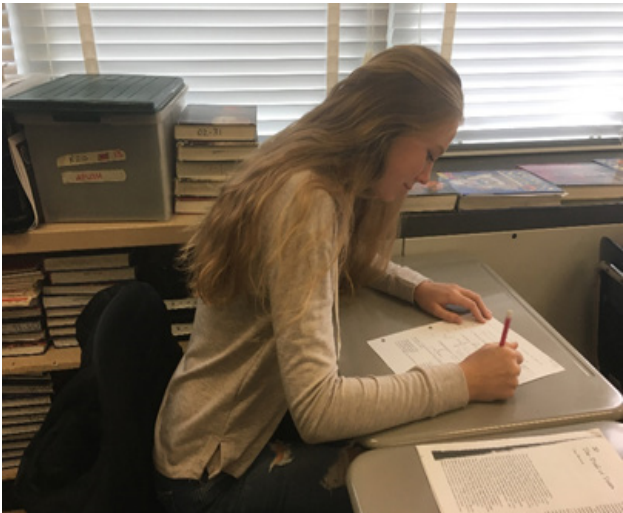


Students Juggle School and Workplace

By Jayme Gede; Writer

Many students face the harsh struggle of the usual workload of a hard working student while also trying to find rides to work and pick-up shifts. Having a job while also being a full-time student is a time consuming task that takes real commitment, and students at Franklin know the difficulty of this lifestyle.

Four students work less than 25 hours a week and work at a variety of establishments. From Party City to XP Lasersport, each place has its advantages and disadvantages. Junior Sasha Shrubstock works at Party City for 16 hours a week. She says that it is very stressful to juggle both school



Here Scarlett Horn works on her homework in order to stay organized.

and work. Sasha takes Advanced Placement courses and works really hard to stay on top of her homework and assignments. Sometimes she'll do schoolwork while at Party City just to stay on top of things and keep from being overwhelmed.

In order to stay

on top of her schoolwork, 11th grader Emily Dioguardo does most of her homework during school in any down time in class. Emily is in Advanced Placement courses as well and runs track after school. Because she works at Glyndon Grill, she doesn't have down time to work

on her assignments. Emily works 20-24 hours a week and says that it makes her very stressed, but she says ultimately it is worth it because she loves the people she works with.

Now obviously having a job in high school is more than just juggling school and work because these students get that special slip of paper every couple of weeks that makes those stress-filled weekdays worth it. Junior Scarlett Horn works at Panera Bread for 11 hours a week. She plays tennis and is enrolled in Advanced Placement classes. She says that "having money of your own that you earned is a great feeling." It gives her a

sense of independence and responsibility.

Senior Majenta Thomas works at XP Lasersport and says that the stress of working is completely worth it because, "having extra money to go out with friends alleviates the stress and pressures of school. It can be a little overwhelming at times, but when that paycheck comes, there's nothing to complain about." The reward of all that hard work is completely worth it to these students.

Receiving that paycheck is a moment of pure satisfaction but this isn't the only thing these students collect. Scarlett says that it is a good feeling to know that going into

college she will have work experience in the real world with real working people. That it is satisfying knowing that you were able to get hired based on your skills and ability. Sasha says that having a job teaches her life skills that she can take with her as she gets older.

These skills and lessons that students receive while working through high school are extremely beneficial to their future. They learn time management and how to work in a real environment. These students will go on to do great things partially due to their determination through their time in high school and the workplace.

Trump Wins Suprise Victory

By Mannat Khattak; Writer

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clearly express her intentions, her slogan was "Stronger Together".

Clinton stated many times that she was working towards affordable college tuition and an overall better quality of education. In this election Clinton stood as a representative for not only women, but for the disabled, the lower class families, immigrants, and for those in the LGBT+ community. She demonstrated her concern for evident



Photo of Donald Trump presenting his acceptance speech (photo via Tampa Bay Times)

economic issues in the U.S. and her approaches were very progressive towards a variety of social and economic issues.

Republican Party candidate Donald Trump expressed

himself in a completely different way for the election. He has made it clear that he is against illegal immigration and has proposed to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He has

stated multiple times that he plans to minimize opportunities of immigration by making people go through extreme screening if they wanted to live in America. He plans to temporarily suspend the immigration of citizens from countries that have a history of terrorism.

Trump also plans to reduce taxes for everyone, no matter what class and has stated that federal minimum wage should be raised. He has focused much of his campaign on the job market and trade reform. Through

his campaign, Trump has expressed his belief that America is not as great as it once was with his famous slogan "Make America Great Again".

Both candidates seemed to be surrounded in controversy. From emails to old interviews, the candidates seemed to be constantly putting out fires of their own making. Both candidates accused the other of misdeeds and running negative campaigns.

To many people, Trump was seen as a man with very extreme plans to 'fix'

our country, while others saw him as a man who was determined to change the country for the better. Clinton was a role model to many people, especially women. Both candidates were strongly supported because of their distinct values and purposes.

Although polling consistently had Clinton coming out ahead, Trump's victory by the electoral college was a suprise to a large portion of the nation.

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Fall Athletes Finish Their 2016 Season

By Megan Lipo; Writer

The fall sports banquet was a major success and had a fantastic turn-out. All of the teams from the fall season showed up and they were honored by their coaches. Every Junior Varsity team gave out a Coaches award to an outstanding athlete and every Varsity team gave out an MVP award and an Unsung Hero award. This banquet was held to show the hard work and dedication that these teams have put into their sports and teams thus far. For the seniors, this was a very sentimental time because most of them have attended these fall sports banquets for the past three years and this was the last one they would be attending, whether it was for soccer or for cross

country, the seniors have been grateful for the rides they've had in their four years of fall sports.

The banquet started with some words from our awesome athletic director, Mr. Scrivener and then from one of the major coordinators of the athletic boosters, Mr. Stern. These are two people who put a lot of time and effort into making sure that the athletic programs at Franklin are successful and well-provided with things varying from volunteer support to different pieces of equipment. These two people genuinely care about the teams at Franklin and every coach and athlete is grateful for them.

After hearing from these very

important figures, the ceremony continued with welcoming each respective team up to the stage and the coaches named every one of their athletes. As the teams stood on the stage together united by the memories and experiences they shared in the past season, their coaches spoke about successes, highlights, and fond memories of the season. There were some really moving stories including the close games Girls' soccer played to teams they have struggled with in the past and Senior Max Herman, Captain of the Boys' Soccer team, being honored because of the hard four years of work he has put into the Varsity soccer team that was unfortunately cut short



Boys Junior Varsity soccer players stand on the stage as their coach recognizes the accomplishments in their season.

by a terrible injury he endured in a game against Pikesville. Senior Hunter Rich was also announced to be a State qualified cross country runner which is so exciting and a

great step in his running career.

Overall this banquet was a fantastic wrap-up to the well-played and hard-fought seasons most fall sports teams

played. The word most is used because Franklin is proud to have the Varsity Football team competing in the State Championship game at The Naval Academy. The Varsity Football team did not attend the banquet because they were still involved in State Playoffs and have recently won the game to bring them to the State Final game. Franklin High School is very proud of all of their teams, athletes and coaches for their continuous support and dedication to bringing Franklin a respected reputation, and hopes to see everyone there to support the Varsity Football team in the fight for the state title on December 8th at The Naval Academy Stadium in Annapolis.

Girls Basketball Practices for a Winning Season

By Anna Coleman; Writer

The girls' Junior Varsity basketball team at Franklin High School had a great season last year, ending with an 8-3 record. This season they look to do the same thing but get more wins and gain some talented players this year at tryouts. The Varsity girls' team had a pretty good season with their final record being 8-9. Although they lost more games than they won, they battled hard and fought against more competitive, skilled girls and played more games than Junior Varsity.

This year, a very skilled and great player named Dominique Doss came to



Franklin in year's past has always had a strong team and looks to continue the tradition

Franklin High School in order to play on varsity and help them greatly. She is a very competitive player who will really help

make a difference and hopefully help Franklin achieve more wins than losses this season.

Tryouts are run well and are very com-

petitive. There is a lot of fitness involved and it requires the girls to be very active and stay in shape in order to keep up with the team. Tryouts include many drills that involve running and other fitness such as wall sits, jumping jacks, sprints, weights, and more. The coaches are very experienced and know what they are doing. The tryouts are meant as a showcase of the player's skills and fitness level which will allow the coaches to truly determine if the player is cut out for the team.

Last year the Varsity girls' team lost to Century, Hereford, Loch Raven, Fallston,

Lansdowne, Towson, Chesapeake, Perry Hall, and Catonsville. All of these schools are very good teams who gave Franklin a tough run. This year the team is looking to beat these teams and redeem themselves. It hurt to lose some seniors but they gained a few good players that have the potential to do very well this upcoming season.

The Junior Varsity team lost to Hereford, Lansdowne, and Towson High School. Last season they lost to Lansdowne 25-30, so this year with the game being so close in the past, the girls expect to take home a victory in that game.

Since they had a very good record last year with five more wins than losses, the Junior Varsity team is looking to work hard and try to improve but also keep up the hard work from the previous season.

Franklin Girls Basketball is very entertaining to watch and draws big crowds among parents and students. Whether Junior Varsity or Varsity, the girls always play very hard and make an interesting game out of their opponent. This year both teams will be very skilled and competitive. They will work hard and improve with good training and coaching.



Wrestling at Franklin Looks to Pin Opponents

By Andrew Nelson; Writer

Wrestling is a staple sport for the students at Franklin. Unforgiving in training, our wrestlers are driven. Referencing student Dip Shah's words, "After wrestling training, all I could do was get home and sleep. When I woke up the next day, everything hurt." They must really push our boys! This

devotion is what wins us championships and we are often the host for matches. Rolling out the iconic Karate Kid-esque circular mat, people know what is to come.

wrestling got Bryan and students like him in incredible shape; and quickly too. State champs already, our school has a reputation to maintain. The training required has already knocked some students off the team for this year's roster.

Determined in their cause, wrestlers have to be in incredible physical form. One student, Joshua Kreshtool, although unassuming in presence, is actually quite to the contrary. Taking weight training with him, just yesterday I witnessed him bench 135 pounds 13 times! That can't just be weight training because his muscle is substantial and he is incredibly lean with

almost all muscle.

Students in the roster for the 2016-2017 wrestling team have been obligated to pass "hydration tests". Drinking plenty of water and eating little, these tests are rigorous and impose a rigid lifestyle on those on the team. Crucial steps are taken to ensure students fall within a specific weight class before the season's start. These hydration steps have three essential steps necessary for continuity. The first is a urine test that checks for a minimum hydration level in the body. The second is a test to ensure that male wrestlers have a minimum of 7 percent body fat, and female wrestlers have a minimum of 12

percent body fat.

Once hydration level and body fat are accounted for, height and weight are measured, and given these, a wrestler is assigned a minimum weight class for the season. The idea is that a healthy weight, made without extreme water loss, is established, so no wrestler is dangerously cutting 15 pounds in three days to be the biggest in a smaller weight class. Such rules are also in place at the college level, and have prompted wrestlers to eat the night before a match. Ensuring no extreme health risks are taken, students are told to drink plenty of water before the test. Wrestling is no joke, span-

dex aside. A relentless demand on their bodies, wrestlers must stay in shape and work constantly. Decades before, wrestling weight classes were skewed. My father, who was a wrestler at Wilde Lake High School in Howard County, talked of being defeated by guys at least three times his size at the time. Fortunately, new reforms have been made and wrestling is now fairer than ever.

Our team is the best in the state and we'll take the cake this year! Go Indians!



Franklin wrestling is a staple of the winter season.

ing, all I could do was get home and sleep. When I woke up the next day, everything hurt." They must really push our boys! This

Out of shape when he began, Bryan Webster stated that it will tear you down and build you up fast. As an efficient program,

Fall Athletes Finish Their 2016 Season

By Megan Lipo; Writer

Thanksgiving football has become an annual tradition for sports lovers and/or people that enjoy spending time with their family. It's one of the few times people can yell at an inanimate object for nine hours and not be considered insane. However through all the yells (happy or sad), you are doing it with your family, which is what this holiday is really about.

This tradition started in 1933, when the league began getting popular. However then they only played two games. The Cowboys and the Lions both always host games and those were the two games played annually. Then in 2006, they added a night game and that is played but two other teams. The Cowboys and Lions

always play different team every year. The Detroit Lions started playing a thanksgiving game because their city's baseball team, the Tigers, were very successful so people figured if they played on thanksgiving, it would be enough publicity for them to get recognized and develop a fan base. The cowboys also began to play a game with the intentions of becoming more popular. This obviously worked because the Dallas Cowboys are now considered "America's Team."

This year the games were no disappointment. The Cowboys are the best team in football currently and the Lions never fail to make spectacular/entertaining plays. The Cowboys are start-

ing a rookie at quarterback, Dak Prescott, and a rookie at running back, Ezekiel Elliot. These two have been playing great together since they have won ten straight games and the only loss they have had in their entire careers were their debuts.

The Cowboys faced a divisional rival, the Washington Redskins. The NFC East has been one of the most consistently good divisions this year considering they are projected to have three teams make the playoffs. So we could assume this would be a good game. Also we can't forget that Kirk Cousins (a rising star in the NFL) is leading a very hot offense that came off of a 42-point game. Basically this had all the potential for a close game, and

it was. The game was very one sided because the Cowboys were winning the whole time but in the fourth quarter, a comeback began. The Redskins scored 20 points in the fourth quarter but it was a little late so the Cowboys won it 31-26.

The Lions too played a divisional game against the Vikings. This game had a little less expectation because the Vikings are a defensive powerhouse and the Lions offense has been up and down. The game was very tight scoring wise. And it was no surprise that the score was low at 16-13. However seeing a close divisional game is never bad from a football fan's perspective.

The third game

this year was the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. the Indianapolis Colts. This was an interesting game because the overview of it could've been: "The NFL's fu-

and TY Hilton was hurt too. So this game went as expected and Antonio Brown caught three touchdowns, as he does.

The tradition



Eric Ebron fighting for a few extra yards against a tough Vikings Defense.

Credit: Bruce Kluckhohn

ture stars, Andrew Luck and TY Hilton, take on the offensive threats of Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown." However, Andrew Luck got a concussion,

of Thanksgiving football will live on and continue to be something that people look forward to in the years to come.