AS "PROM" The Disney movie (and they actually made a movie about it), "Prom" is like the Olympics of high school. You wait four years, three people have a good time, and everybody else gets to live on with shattered dreams. When the time comes for that special occasion that happens only once in a lifetime and yet managers to rob you of a year's worth of minimum wage salary from your first job at the mall, people begin to divide themselves into a number of categories. Category one: the overzealous romantics who plan months ahead of time on how they'll ask their date, what dress they'll wear, how they'll do their hair, and what celebrity they will see at the event. The controlled excitement, the stress of concentrating on school activities and work. I can't say that it's not a nice culmination to a fun night when you're slowly dancing with your date and you can see that friend from math class across the dance floor with their date. Aside from creating one of the most successful businesses to attract the attention of otherwise apathetic teenagers, the inventors of prom either knew that teenagers needed one night where things actually worked out like a movie or they just felt the need to give seniors something to fret over besides grades. After all, seniors have already kicked in with their new dreams regarding summer vacation.

Prom, whether you like it or not, is a big deal to the seniors class. It's sweet, it starts dreams, it sows the seeds to building high school romances, and it probably makes more people happier than the national anthem, followed by a performance of "You'll be in My Heart" from Tarzan, sung by the Hall Decoration, the late night Battle of the Classes. The blood, hair, and what celebrity they will see at the event. The controlled excitement, the stress of concentrating on school activities and work. I can't say that it's not a nice culmination to a fun night when you're slowly dancing with your date and you can see that friend from math class across the dance floor with their date. Aside from creating one of the most successful businesses to attract the attention of otherwise apathetic teenagers, the inventors of prom either knew that teenagers needed one night where things actually worked out like a movie or they just felt the need to give seniors something to fret over besides grades. After all, seniors have already kicked in with their new dreams regarding summer vacation.

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More Than a Math Teacher

By RIA SEN, sophomore

At first glance, Mr. Peters seems like a perfectly ordinary person: he runs for fun, plays the piano and guitar, enjoys director Christopher Nolan’s work, and has been spending a lot of time training his new puppy. However, his students would disagree: “ordinary” does not describe one of the most beloved teachers of JP Stevens High School. Alternately witty and serious, always helpful and caring, Mr. Peters has made his eight years at JPS an opportunity to touch the lives of hundreds of students by making math fun. Mr. Peters spoke to me recently on several subjects, including his move to California, how he thinks JPS has changed, and the years he spent teaching at JP. Our conversation provided me with insight into the life of one of my favorite teachers.

Mr. Peters vividly recalls attending Edison High School. He considers himself lucky for having many good teachers but doubts his Calculus AB/BC teacher, Ms. Schrancz, his favorite. Although a self-professed nerd, he doesn’t identify as a doctor or something like that. Then, in my first year of college, it became apparent to me that I was so much better at math than I was at biology and chemistry that it seemed silly to fight it. I also started to realize that I was pretty good at explaining things to people, so teaching math made a lot of sense.

“When I ask him why his teaching method works, he replies simply. “I think that students just like me,” he tells me, “and I think I could be teaching almost any subject if I were knowledgeable enough to be a good teacher. I don’t think it’s pre-calculus or math, but that students take a liking to me and give me a fair crack.” His words are true; on the online forum RateMyTeachers.com, he has earned a 4.7/5 rating and is given the ultimate seal of approval with an icon of a self-professed nerd, he doesn’t identify as a teacher, but he doesn’t want what I taught. Actually, I was in band (laughs), but I decided to try out for the musical in high school. The choir teacher heard me and was impressed with my voice, and immediately put me in the highest ensemble. Once I joined the choir class, I absolutely fell in love with it. It was a remarkable experience. I never looked back. I know that this is what I wanted to teach.

As: Your husband has been diagnosed with ALS for a little over ten years now. How did you find the strength to continue teaching and supporting your husband?

MW: Simply coming to teach here every day gave me the courage to support my husband. The positive energy that I experience and the love that I receive on a regular basis has really helped me balance my teaching career with taking care of my husband. As: What has been your best moment in your career as a music teacher?

MW: (laughs) It’s a process. There is never one best moment, just like there never is one best student. Every moment, every student, is the best and I am thankful for each and every one.

MW: You’ve been a teacher at John Adams Middle School before. What do you think is the difference between teaching middle school and high school kids?

MW: The energy of the middle schoolers was extremely high! (laughs) They were always buzzing around like little bees. They could be hyperactive, but I loved working with them. In high school, kids are calmer and more focused, so they’re easier to work with.

AS: What has been the greatest challenge in your career?

MW: I would definitely say that balancing family life with my career is a huge challenge. Teaching here is very time consuming and sometimes I find it difficult to spend time with my family.

AS: What will you miss most about teaching at JPS?

MW: (laughs) I’ll definitely miss my fabulous (sweetie pies) and making music with such talented students. The ability to create music with these gifted kids is an experience I will never forget.

AS: How do you feel knowing that you have improved JPS’s choral program?

MW: Absolutely! I feel very proud of all my students and the music that we can create together.
Wishes, CONT. Three Beloved JPS TeachersRetire

BY DR. BUONOMO, MS. WEIGELE, and MS. DIGIOIA-LAIRD

MS. MARUCA has dedicated her teaching career of 32 years to the Edison Township Public Schools. She has taught both English as a Second Language (ESL) and French at JP Stevens, Herbert Hoover, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, as well as teaching ESL in Edison's adult school. After a long and rewarding career as a World Language teacher, Ms. Maruca is now looking forward to a new chapter in her life. She will be enjoying time on the beach and on her boat in addition to babysitting her new grandson Cole. I (two words meaningful, Ms.)

Lastly, as with every year, the JP Stevens Chamber Ensemble sang “On the Morrow,” a meaningful and symbolic song addressed to Mrs. Wions. “The lyrics state that when the sun rises, there will be no more sorrow and pain,” senior Amy Kim said. “This song is to let the Wions family know that the future will be all right because the sun will rise the next day and we can forget about yesterday’s pain.” The Chamber co-Presidents then performed a medley of “Count on Me” by Bruno Mars, “T’Mours” by Jason Mraz, and “Three Little Birds” by Bob Marley. The last performance before the Grand Finale was “The Prayer” performed by co-Choir presidents senior Amy Kim and junior Julia Maxham, accompanied by senior Cecilia Jiang.

JP’s Jazz Band Dazzles at Extravaganza

BY STEVEN XIE, freshman

BAND KIDS RUSHING to the cafeteria, orchestral music echoing through the hall, and parents rushing from school to elections and back again, the constant motion and flurry of activities only added to the humid atmosphere, but it was all just another day for the battle-hardened band members as they prepared for the JPS Jazz Extravaganza. The show ran from 7:00 to 9:30 PM and featured a variety of excellent jazz compositions ranging from slow, heavy ballads to fast hip swing tunes. The audience, numbering over 300, enjoyed listening to both the Lab Jazz and Top Jazz bands play. The Lab Jazz band took the stage first with the “Blue Note Special,” a fast swing tune, “Kelly’s Eyes,” a deep ballad, and a funk song, “R U Chicken.” Among many other solos, one notable talent was freshman Bryan Lin, who received the prestigious solo. The Lab Jazz left the stage to be succeeded by the JP Stevens Top Jazz band, which recently placed first in the State Jazz Finals for the third year in a row. They began their performance with a Latin tune, “Fantastico,” followed by a heavy blues song, “Blue Moon,” in which senior Jason Suh performed a soulful solo. They ended with “Slide’s Derangement,” a grooving swing track.

However, the most anticipated performance of the night was yet to come. After the Top Jazz finished their show, a multitude of JP Stevens alumni who had returned to enjoy the show began to take the stage. The alumni ranged from grown men who had known the conductors of the program, Andrew DeNicola and John Zazzali, to college students who had only just graduated. Their numbers were augmented by members of the Top Jazz and Lab Jazz, and soon a massive ensemble held the stage. They played through several tunes such as “Mackinaw Park,” “Frank Granatas Blues,” and “Hey Jude.” The reaction of so many people with connections to the JPS Band had been a truly moving experience. The audience was blown away by the extraordinary talents of young college students such as Terry Peng and Tiffany Peng as well as professional musicians like Joe Mosello on trumpet, Bobby Harinkle on trombone, Eddie Hirschman on trumpet, and Kenny Weill on tenor saxophone.

The entire night was filled with a certain air of remembrance; old friends, old stories, and old songs were heard with sweet triumph. The JPS Jazz Extravaganza was quite simply an amazing experience. Many thanks to the band parents, John Zazzali, and Andrew DeNicola for organizing the event and conducting the bands, the alumni for the value and care they placed on the band program even after they have left our school, the audience for finding time to attend the spectacle, and — of course — to the performers who practiced hard to ensure a magnificent performance.

MS. FERRERI is retiring after 28 years of service as an English teacher and co-advisor of the Rutgers Academic Challenge and STARS for ten years. After three consecutive years of winning Rutgers Academic Challenge, the state of NJ commended her with a resolution. The township of Edison also awarded a resolution to Mrs. Ferreri and her students when her college studies skills classes won the NBA Community Service National Competition. In 2001, Mrs. Ferreri was nominated as Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Ferreri has three sons, three grandchildren, and a German shepherd puppy. She was recently married and is moving to Doylestown, PA.

MS. DIGIOIA has dedicated her entire professional career, spanning over 40 years, to JP Stevens. Though she teaches biology, she has committed much of her time outside the classroom. Ms. DiGioia has served as an adviser for Key Club, NHS, and NHI; a coach for the Cheerleading squad and the LifeSmarts team; and co-curricular adviser for over ten years. When not advising classes, Ms. DiGioia participates in them. After joining the knitting club, she created several baby outfits, afghans for the homeless, and scarves for the 2012 Super Bowl volunteers in Indianapolis. Ms. DiGioia will be spending next fall enjoying the weather, vistas, and culture of Germany.

By DR. BUONOMO, MS. WEIGELE, and MS. DIGIOIA-LAIRD
They are your students, classmates, and friends, but even four years later, how much do you really know about the Class of 2011? Hawkeye asked seniors to make it their final act as JP students to anonymously submit their secrets on the back of a card. Secrets may have been edited for the sake of printing quality.

To view and comment on more secrets, visit www.jpshawkeye.wordpress.com.
Most Memorable Moments
My senior BOTC. I've been on the team for three years and senior year BOTC was so sweet. -Malisha Shah
Challenge Day. -Derek Patrocinio
Hosting Mr. JPS. -Ela Lehrer
Prom/After-prom: 31 seniors winning Roxbury Festival 2011 with the JPS Choir. -Alex El-Fakir
Having a snowball fight in the senior lot after being sent home early because of heavy snowfall. -Nirupama Natarajan
Last show night of "Rent." -Katie Brundage
Water main break. -Mehul Patel, Melody Wong
Sock-racing down hallways. -Ashley Jiang
Winning 1st place gold in the 2011 FCLLA state competition. -Amanda Cukier
Winning jazz state championships for the third time in a row. 3PEAT! -Michael Endicott
When the girl of my dreams agreed to go to prom with me. -Rahul Ghosal
Try to branch out and make friends with anyone and everyone. -Cristina Castelo
You know you went to JPS when...
no one can pronounce the birthday names on the morning announcements. -Mike Velte
juniors take 8 AP tests. -Valentina Lyau
you spend your entire life's savings for prom -Nikki Lee
the senior section is empty at BOTC because it's the day before SATs. -Nirupama Natarajan
seniors win BOTC every year. -Ashley Jiang
an entire lunch table is empty because they are home watching cricket. -Brenda Li
the junior section is empty at BOTC because it's... -Nikki Lee
Winning Roxbury Festival 2011 with the JPS Choir. -Alex El-Fakir
Winning costs just as much as college. -Chris Harrilal
you hear songs Friday morning and see teachers singing along. -Kevin Green
Try to branch out and make friends with anyone and everyone. -Cristina Castelo
you get more homework the day before prom than you've had for months. -Jaimee Glenn
at the end of 4 years, you haul JPS gear to your dorm room in boxes. -Grace Cho
snow takes up more of the senior lot than cars. -Neha Jhaveri
your calculator is the most valuable thing in your pocket. -Chris Harrilal
scoring my 100th goal for lacrosse this year. -Madison Margon, Casey Dougan, Casey White, Parth Patel, Gurpreet Longia
you have six worksheets on one page because of the paper shortage. -Nikhil Patel
there is at least one person in your class that you won't recognize at graduation. -Rebecca Margon, Casey Dougan, Casey White, Parth Patel, Gurpreet Longia
there's a baseball game during prom. -Nicholas Montalbano
students take AP tests. -Valentina Lyau
they play Indian songs at prom... and everyone immediately breaks out their best dance moves. -Alina Rashid
two class sections consolidated at BOTC. -Nikki Lee
with it. Fighting peer pressure isn't all that hard. -Dhaval Mehta
participate only in activities that truly interest you — dedicate yourself to a handful of enjoyable activities, not an endless list of things that "look good." -Grace Ma
Get the key to the swimming pool on the roof. -Diana Huang
Do not look forward to an easy senior year; there is as much work in senior year as any other year. -Ansh Jhaveri
Do not worry about other people think about you. -Stephanie Gaspar
you have to rescue an African village to get into college. Or take 20 APs. -Valentina Lyau
There is no step to your loafers. -Ilan Penzel
Try to branch out and make friends with anyone and everyone. -Cristina Castelo
try to rescue an African village to get into college. Or take 20 APs. -Valentina Lyau
Try to branch out and make friends with anyone and everyone. -Cristina Castelo
Don't sacrifice sleep for ANYTHING. -Justin Marson
Don't get senioritis frosh year. -Nick Kausch
You had the hall pass for a whole week. -Isabella Marie Flores
Your calculations are not a stepping stone toward loftier goals; it is a journey in itself — one that expands our minds, uncovers our passions, and defines ourselves. Let us end this adventure together.
-Yahui Liang, EJC
Before every day you wish for graduation to come sooner, but secretly never want it to end. -Kyle O'Grady
words of wisdom
Don't get senioritis frosh year. -Nick Kausch
Don't be a try-hard. -James Yang
Get to school functions! -Ashley Jiang
Go to school functions! -Ashley Jiang
You won't regret taking more APs. -Valentina Lyau
You won't regret taking more APs. -Valentina Lyau
You won't regret taking more APs. -Valentina Lyau
No one can pronounce the birthday names on the morning announcements. -Mike Velte
you have to rescue an African village to get into college. Or take 20 APs. -Valentina Lyau
Don't be a try-hard. -James Yang
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University of Pennsylvania
Andrew Huang

University of Pittsburgh
Shivani Pandit

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Chiodzie Chukwunieke
Alec Huang
Joe Ho

6 Year Pharm D Program
Ami Patel
Naiya Patel
Avani Yenamandra

Nova Southeastern University
8 Year BS/DO Program
Rahul Patel

University of Miami
Nikki Lee

Georgia
Morehouse College
Devon McRimmon

Maryland
Johns Hopkins University
Mili Roy
Thomas Shi
Rohini Siva Srinivas

Hampton University
Briana Wright

Purdue University
Deepak Jonnalagedda

5.2% are moving out west

California
Chapman University
James Duer
Loyola Marymount University
Anissa Tweedel
San Bernardino Valley College
Johannes Weku
University of California, Berkeley
Letters & Science
Amanda Chen

Ohio
Case Western Reserve University
5-Year Masters in Biomedical Engineering
Bryan Wey
Kent State University
Danielle Johnson

Rhode Island
Rhode Island School of Design
Ellen Shi

Vermont
Champlain College
Computer Networking Information Systems & Security
Charles Izard

North Carolina
Duke University
Andrew Luo
Wake Forest University
Sean Taylor

South Carolina
Clemson University
Chris Campione
Coastal Carolina University
Andrew Aquilini

Tennessee
Vanderbilt University
Ariel Kramer

Texas
Honor Academy-Garden Valley Texas
Nataly Rodriguez

Virginia
College of William and Mary
Nicholas Montalbano
Richa Patel

Indiana
Indiana University Bloomington
Kelley School of Business
Tony Sun

6.1% are swinging down south

D.C.
Georgetown University
School of Foreign Service
Jane Chang
McDonough School of Business
Brenda Li

George Washington University
Hayley Silverman
Elliot School of International Affairs
Renee LeSaux

Florida
Florida International University
Chris Harrilal

6.9% are serving in the Armed Forces

Air Force
Shadha Bagland

Marines
Tim Tobin

Marion Military Institute
West Point U.S. Military Academy Civil Prep Program
Sodera Kakoulakis

Valley Forge Military Academy and College
Robert Delmonaco

Hawkeye apologizes for any information that is inaccurate, misspelled, or omitted.
Senior Lovers, Can You Go the Distance?

By KELLY GONSALES, junior

THIS JUNE MARKS the much- awaited end of a major chapter of millions of teenagers’ lives: high school. Unfortunately, the end of high school also marks the beginning of a difficult obstacle in the child of romance — one that brings about the demise of many relationships. As high school rapidly draws to a close, many senior couples face the impending romantic doom of college: four years of definite separation from one’s significant other. The options for seriously-involved, middle-grade lovers are unfortunately limited: choose to end the relationship before being shipped off to college, or attempt the challenge of a long-distance relationship.

As expected, people often choose the path of least resistance. Why would anyone attempt to maintain a hopeless relationship across potentially thousands of miles? Cutting romantic ties before the start of college is much more practical, considering the multitude of problems bound to arise due to such a distance — jealousy, dishonesty, and even loss of interest. However, does the possibility of these problems make staying together impossible? Contrary to popular belief, maintaining a relationship in spite of distance is viable for couples willing to put in the effort. Depending upon the exact circumstances and the particular pair in question, sustaining a long-distance relationship (LDR) can actually make much more sense than breaking up.

When weighing the options, couples should consider the nature of their specific relationship to determine if an LDR is right for them. Every relationship falls under one of two categories: practical or long-term. Practical relationships, or “just because” relationships, involve two people who date simply because both like each other and feel that being together makes sense. These couples date casually because they know their relationship will inevitably come to an end. Practical relationships will never withstand an LDR because LDRs are never practical. If a relationship is merely casual, many argue, then why try to continue it through the complexities of going long-distance? Such arrangements cause impracticalities and dysfunctions, and therefore, for those reasons, breaking up makes more sense.

However, not everybody desires romance that is “practical”, much less “temporaries”. Many couples that share intimate bonds want to be able to overcome hardships in order to stay together. Bianca Ng, junior, has been dating her boyfriend John Gonzales since he graduated JP in 2010. They’ve been together for nearly a year and a half, even though John has been at New York University for most of the relationship. When asked how they decided to pursue such a difficult relationship, Bianca admits that they never officially discussed anything. “For us, there was never really a question. We just knew that we had was real, and it still is,” she says. “When he came home every once in a while, when he’s here next to me, I know it’s worth it.”

Michael Causing and Natasha Antony, another long-distance couple, talk about how they had a slightly different experience. Michael, a junior, has been dating JP Class of 2010 graduate Natasha for almost a year now. Michael explains how he and Natasha made their decision to make their relationship long-distance: “We had this one walk, where we went to the park after it had just rained. We came across this gigantic puddle, and she said, ‘Let’s turn back.’ But I told her ‘no.’ We can do the impossible,” I said. And from that day on, that just became the theme of our relationship.”

Both couples’ relationships are united by a basic belief: their ability to envision a future with their significant others. No, this does not mean that maintaining an LDR equals marriage or staying together for life. But, undoubtedly, an LDR is a long-term commitment, and not an easy one at that. Staying in an LDR requires work and dedication, perhaps more than what is needed for more conventional romances. But, for couples who feel that being apart is more difficult than being together, an LDR makes a world of sense regardless of the obstacles, as long as they separate them. Conquering the distance is just a matter of confidence. If one can treat their partner and has enough faith in the feelings they share, distance will not be an issue. After all, one does not need to see somebody every day to be in love.

From ABCs to SATs: The End of Childhood

By POONAM GUPTA, freshman

THE POET ROBERT FROST explored the value of growing up real and young, declaring that nature’s maturest first green is “gold.” However, in today’s society, the value of innocence — particularly in children — has disappeared. Children are no longer allowed to be immature and free; instead, they have been forced to grow up too quickly in every aspect of their lives, from academics to play dates and everything in between.

Our generation has unknowingly morphed into a bizarre pseudo-adult population in response to pressures from adults — namely, parents. Increasing competition, a rapidly changing world, and the growing notion that success is the only thing that matters have led to over-anxious parents who will do anything to ensure their child’s success. They enroll their children in piano lessons, dance classes, and a multitude of extracurricular activities, hoping to gear their children into suffocating schedules in an effort to give their child some sort of advantage over everyone else. Contrary to popular belief, we need to develop at a gradual, steady pace that improves one’s expectations in spite of children’s strengths and intellectually stunts their growth. Children learn acceptance, sharing, fairness, and equality, and many other valuable life lessons at younger ages. Parents are so wrapped up in pushing their child ahead that they forget the importance of letting their child experience life.

A long time ago, a child acting or her age wasn’t such a bad thing. Any parent or grandparent could tell you what “being a kid” was like back in the day. There was never a care or worry. Playing outside and getting dirty was the norm. Nowadays, children at alarmingly young ages crave more sophisticated lifestyle by dressing, acting, and speaking like teenagers. These quasi-teenagers are referred to as “tweens,” and simply unable to handle these self-induced changes. Tweens cannot fully comprehend mature concepts like sex, drugs, and violence, and suffer when they try to do so prematurely.

Where are the parents in this catastrophe? Most of the time, parents aren’t aware that forcing their children to grow up early is unfair, and even actively encourage their kids to do so. The role of parents in this problem has been recognized nationally, and was even covered on an episode of The Tyra Show. The episode, titled “Generation Divas,” featured parents who proudly admitted that their pre-teen daughters regularly receive manicures and pedicures, and usually wear multiple layers of makeup. Parents have promoted the idea that “older is better” as their child’s first day of their children’s lives, and undoubtedly making their children feel uncomfortable with themselves and craving to be older.

Tweens’ inclination to act like adults isn’t just a mental phenomenon, either. Over the last few decades, rates of reaching puberty have decreased in age, especially in young girls. According to The Pediatrics Journal, 15% of girls begin puberty by the time they’re seven years old. Early puberty is on an alarming rise, and is mainly due to the difference in nutrition. Although many wonder if tweens’ early medical and psychological transitions are correlated, critics all agree that this is not safe. Without a doubt, the too-young-too-soon trend is making an undeniable mark upon today’s society, and only the older generation can stop it. Children tend to exhibit a “monkey-see-monkey-do” habit of mimicking the behavior they see around them. Therefore, positive examples must be set for them, and upright parenting must be toned down. For one thing, parents push them to grow up too fast — they’re proud that they are reading before they’re crawling. On the other side of the spectrum, a different kind of parents keeps their children from actually growing up at all by incessantly helicoptoring (remember the Tiger Mom?) to solve all their problems for them. As in all other things, children must seek a proper balance in their lives in order to truly achieve success and happiness. By allowing their offspring to choose activities that they enjoy, parents can foster their children’s independence and positive development. If children have a say in their futures, they can feel more confident and more aware of the obstacles as individuals. In short, children must seek a balance in their lives in order to truly achieve growth. This, not SAT classes or beauty pageants, will produce the most successful children.
Artistry Versus Absurdity

No Ivy? No Problem

By AIMEE MALIK, freshman

DA VINCI IS NO MORE. Dalí is gone. Andy Warhol is a thing of the past. Today, it is evident that the baby ginnicks such as wearing dresses made of flesh and attending ceremonies in giant eggs can suffice as stardom. What does artistry end and absurdity begin?

People have forgotten the true meaning of art. Deviation is not only characteristic of art, but also of absurdity and garbage. There is nothing brilliant about a pop star wearing an outfit made out of beef couture. Regardless of the shock value, such purposeful strangeness is too often mistaken for boldness and novelty rather than what it truly is: vain attention seeking.

Our inability to differentiate between art and rubbish stems from our inability to perceive the separation between creators and their works. We think that if a musician has made a few great songs, she should be considered as a master of songwriting. If she is also a charismatic media personality, we generally think that her fans will love her regardless of the quality of her work. This lack of distinction can lead to the annoyance of PETA and other animal rights activists about such artists becomes blasphemous, as if the beauty of Lady Gaga, on the other hand, should think outside of the socially constructed box — that is, the ivory. Many artists, from Salvador Dalí to Lady Gaga, who famously bailed out of Harvard — and thus that success often comes through hard work, persistence, motivation, and unraveled skill rather than through merely the attendance of a prestigious academic establishment. As senior classes across America pack their bags and embark on their journeys to college, their stories offer some inspiration to the thousands of students each year who are rejected by the nation’s most elite academic institutions the Ivy Leagues.

Despite the entrepreneurial successes of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, college is still the principal gateway to professional achievement; it is what ultimately prepares us for our careers. Simply, Ives are still the average Joe's best bet at making something of himself; riches and job security arrive easier when a nice degree from a prestigious institution is at hand. However, this does not mean that students should develop an unfavorable apathy towards their education. The well-deserved prestige of the Ivy cachet and the enormous hard work and dedication of the students who make the cut still deserve respect.

Yet however valuable an Ivy League degree may be, it cannot make the most exclusive schools on Earth do not condemn you to a life of meedoladyic and disappointment. True, the Ives do offer an unavailable network of alumni scattered across seven (yes, seven) continents. Furthermore, prestigious degrees and high-level connections can often be the “magic ingredient” in winning a lucrative post in a selective sector such as finance or business. Additionally, with an Ivy League education, one might receive a superior education from some of the most distinguished faculty members on the planet. But ultimately getting into the Ives will itself not automatically ensure success; conversely, it enforces the importance of not guaranteeing failure. Ability, competence, and perseverance are the major factors in determining the degree of one's success.

In the modern job market is not necessarily guaranteed for an Ivy League graduate, since many companies in elite schools no longer ensure a cushy position at a major company. Whereas half a century ago, an Ivy League degree would have guaranteed an associate position in investment banking firms like Goldman Sachs, today’s market is much tougher. Less than 10% of America’s largest companies are headed by Ivy League graduates — a figure significantly lower than it was several decades ago. In this age of booming tech-start-ups, entrepreneurial efforts and innovation matter much more than they once did. This trend, headed away from prestige, has shaken up previously static social orders. A prestigious degree is not a prerequisite for imaginative business savvy; Steve Jobs could attest to that. In recent years, thousands of men and women have pulled themselves up to the forefront of society, despite the odds. Even more impressive is the fact that many of them began their journey without a Harvard or Yale education. Instead, they tirelessly fought their way to the top through the virtue of their boundless energy and brilliant acumen. Ivy League rejects count among them the chief executives of billion-dollar philanthropists, CEOs, best-selling authors, and other leaders of business, politics, and media. The U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, was rejected by every single Ivy League university that he applied to. Instead, Secretary Chu settled for Rochester University and went on to not only win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1997 but also serve in President Obama's Cabinet. Television personality Meredith Vieira, similarly, was rejected by Harvard. She went on to become one of the most successful media personalities ever, hosting NBC's Today and the game-show Who's the Millionaire.

So, if you haven't received any acceptance letters from the Ivy League schools, don't sweat it; it's not the end of the world. Any college across America will offer a degree of intellectual growth, professional prospects, and an entire universe of opportunity. Eminence and success, waiting to be discovered by the unwary undergraduate, will ultimately be found by brilliant youths, irrespective of the Ivy stamp of approval. Recent years have seen a trend towards more talented, persistent, and passion are always rewarded in the end.

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By HOWARD CHANG, columnist

IN 1972, the eighteen-year-old adopted son of parents who had never graduated college dropped out of Reed University after his first semester. After working menial jobs to make ends meet, he managed to pull together enough funds to start a small company specializing incontinental brands. In the years that followed, Dalí's status quo with his devotion to the pitties at which his paintings were sold. His integrity distinguishes him as one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. Today, it is evident that the baby ginnicks such as wearing dresses made of flesh and attending ceremonies in giant eggs can suffice as stardom. What does artistry end and absurdity begin?

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JPS’s 4x800 meter

Who are the captains?

1. Brownie Cruz, pitching in his final

Fall and Winter Overview

By MICHELLE ZHANG, junior, and ANISH KADAKUNI, sophomore

TOP SPORTS

Girls soccer wins their first game against Edison High, 25-30.

Girls tennis defeats East Brunswick, 6-1.

Boys cross country runs past the area, 3-2.

Girls cross country defeats South Plainfield, 46-44.

Boys bowling wins 4-0 over South Brunswick.

11/2/20 Boys bowling wins 4-0 over South Amboy.

Girls bowling dismantles the heavily-favored Woodbridge, 4-0.

Boys basketball beats Wardlaw-Hartridge, 54-50 in a thrilling double overtime game.

Girls bowling demolishes cross-town rivals EHS 4-0 for the second time in the season.

2/3 Jessica Goldbach scores her 1000th point for girls basketball on Think Pink/ Senior Night.

2/4 Wrestling invades Edison High 54-23, winning all the high-weight match ups.

2/12/18 The hockey squad defeated Hudson Catholic in a thrilling 5-4 victory.

12/20/10 Hockey blows out Colonia 5-0.

9/19 Boys cross country runs past the Edison Eagles, 25-30.

9/23 Girls tennis defeats East Brunswick, their top opponent in the Middlesex County area, 3-2.

9/25 Girls soccer wins its first game against Edison High, 2-1.

9/28 Boys soccer battles their way to a 2-1 victory over North Brunswick on homecoming night.

9/29 Girls volleyball, after trailing early on, comes from behind to edge out East Brunswick 2-1.

10/19 Girls cross country defeats South Brunswick 28-29.

WINTER SPORTS

12/1 Boys bowling wins its first game, defeating Piscataway 3-1 in a season-opener.

12/17 Wrestling wins its season-opener, pinning down South Plains 45-33.

JP Spring-ing into Action

perfection, currently undefeated as of May 25. On May 16, the girls made their way to states. The boys entered states on May 19.

Boys VOLLEYBALL won eight consecutive games and on May 17, defeated Bishop Ahr for a GMC victory, lifting JPS to 11th in NJ.

GIRLS LACROSSE BEAT North Brunswick 10-4 on April 19. The game ended at 9-2, an impressive team effort led to an 11-10 win, with senior Hannah Mativy scoring the game changer.

BOYS LACROSSE CINCHED a 12-11 victory over North Brunswick. On May 11, Senior captain Luke Kraft was nominated for second-team All-GMC and senior captain Greg Nemeyer won an honorable mention.

OLYMPIC TENNIS has a stellar record with only two losses to date. At GMCs, sophomores Jessie Wu and Kevin Ho won silver medals playing first doubles and junior Ali Nadjafi received a silver medal at second singles.
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Dr. Baldev is actively involved in educational research projects in New Jersey. His research interests are students' transition from arithmetic to algebra and professional development programs for math teachers. The title of his dissertation thesis was "Urban Students Developing Algebraic Ideas in an Informal After-School Program" which helped him to understand the learning needs of students outside of school. He has over 28 years of teaching experience and has taught 15,000+ students worldwide.

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