

# The REGISTER FORUM

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CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

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## The Dallin Knight Returns

By  
Simon Jablokow  
*Register Forum Editor*

“It’s so beautiful, I’m really happy to see it. I’m thinking of basing a lesson for one of my classes on it,” a CRLS art teacher expressed regarding the Cyrus Dallin Knight.

After it was stolen in 1978,

a statue of a praying knight by famous local artist Cyrus Dallin in memory of eleven CRLS alumni who gave their lives in World War II has been returned to the school and can now be found in the main lobby of the school.

Valued at up to \$100,000,

*Continued on page 3*



“Praying Knight” was created by Cyrus Dallin, a famous sculptor best known for the Native American statue outside the Museum of Fine Arts. Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

## Strike a Pose, Falcons CRLS Alum Swain Shares Inspiration

By  
Tessa Tracy  
*Register Forum Staff*

“When you are passionate about something, it doesn’t feel like work,” recent CRLS graduate Jordan Swain eagerly explained to a CRLS journalism class in mid-November.

Swain came to CRLS to speak about his life after graduating from Rindge in the class of 2009, specifically about his path to becoming the editor-in-chief of a new self-founded fashion magazine, *Jacamo Magazine*.

As a high school student, Swain and everyone who knew him expected him to become a doctor. He volunteered at four hospitals simultaneously and was rarely seen without his scrubs and stethoscope at CRLS. His fashion career is not a complete surprise, as he did have a clothing business in high school,

which was most successful when he designed and sold original Obama campaign t-shirts.

But in the spring of his senior year in 2009, Swain went to Los Angeles with some friends for their February break, and fell in love with the west coast culture. He began to doubt that medicine was the path for him, and ended up applying to performing arts programs.

Ultimately, Swain became a model, a career that gave him a number of connections in the fashion industry and ultimately allowed him to found *Jacamo*.

However, Swain’s story was not just about fashion; the themes he spoke of were universal. He described the importance of following one’s passions because “otherwise, you’re not happy, there is no hunger there.” He encouraged positive mindsets and an openness to spo-

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## Debating Rindge's AVF Policy

By  
Wilkins Carvalho-Lambert  
*Register Forum Staff*

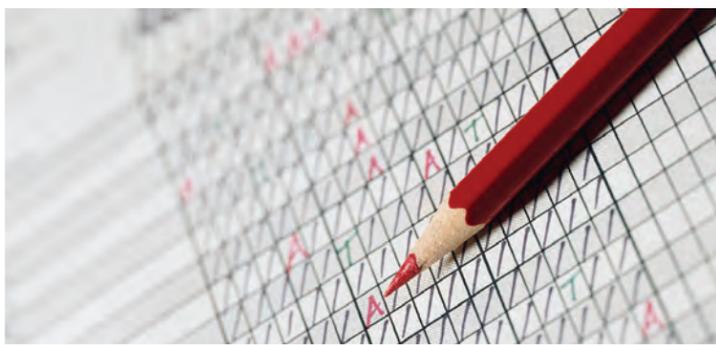
A survey was conducted recently that interviewed 36 CRLS students about the AVF policy. About 67% of the students interviewed were females and 33% were males, while the majority of the students were upperclassmen, juniors and seniors.

One of our questions asked the students to rate the AVF policy, with 1 being weak, 5 being strong. 42% of students we interviewed rated the policy a three, and 45% rated the policy a four or five, less than 20% rated the policy a one or two.

Clearly, the majority of the students feel that the AVF policy is strong.

The AVF is short for the Attendance Violation Failure Policy. Students must be in class 95% of the time, and are only allowed to be absent four times. Four unexcused absences will result in an AVF. Three unexcused tardies result in an unexcused absence. If the tardy is excused, then it doesn't count towards an AVF.

If a child is absent, a parent must call in or the student must come back with a note to school. If an AVF is given then the student can earn their grade back with a buy back. A buy back is when you earn your grade back from an AVF by reporting to lunch detentions with your dean. The amount of



CRLS teachers struggled with attendance sheets until the recent introduction of online systems like Aspen. Photo Credit: School Software

lunch detentions the student serves at the dean of the student's discretion.

When asked the question "Do you think the AVF policy is fair to all students?", approximately 50% of those interviewed

to school on time.

The other percentage of the students who were affected by the AVF policy mentioned that they are mostly 10 minutes late. Others said they live far so its hard to always get to school on time.

When interviewed, junior Celeste Singh responded by saying, "I think being on time sometimes depends on public transportation." Celeste also mentioned that a train might say it will come in 10 minutes, but arrive in 20 minutes.

After tallying up results, the *Register Forum* discovered many different opinions about the AVF policy. In terms of fairness students are split. Students who think the policy is unfair feel as if the policy gives a disadvantage to them because of how far they live from the school. Other students who felt the policy was fair felt that it's a responsibility to get to school on time.

Overall, most of the students interviewed felt as if the policy was strong. The AVF policy is a part of the CRLS school today and students from CRLS have mixed thoughts based on the survey conducted.

*Students who think the policy is unfair feel as if the policy gives a disadvantage to them because of how far they live from the school.*

felt that the policy was equitable. The other 50% felt that the policy is unfair, mentioning that CRLS students shouldn't be marked for an AVF because of how far they live from the school. Contrastingly, some teachers do think the policy is fair. The dean of school S, Mr. Prince, responded to this question by saying, "You made a mistake, and here's a way to redeem yourself [with a buy back]."

The survey also asks students if they ever been

*"You made a mistake, and here's a way to redeem yourself [with a buy back]."*

affected by the AVF policy. Results show that most of the students interviewed say that the policy never affected them because they come

much. I know what I want to do with my life, and while some of the specifics might change, I believe that my goal in life to help others and the planet will remain the same."

Other students are less sure about what they hope for their futures to hold. "I am still figuring out exactly what I want to do," admits sophomore Truman Greene. This is a common sentiment among many of Rindge's students who have yet to stumble upon their passion.

Regardless of their vocational aspirations, though, Swain sets an example to students as a young person who was not afraid to live out his dreams, even if it meant getting outside of his comfort zone.

### SWAIN

*Continued from page 1*

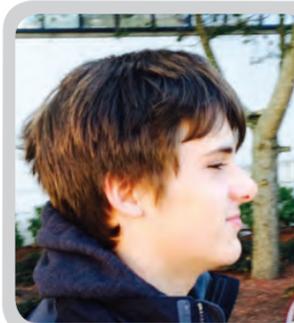
ntaneity. After receiving a scholarship to study medicine in Hawaii, everyone, including his family, was shocked when he chose to turn it down to pursue other interests.

However, Swain appears confident that this risk was worth it, as he now strives to "inspire kids to live out their dreams" as he did. Swain is a testament to the fact that the future is difficult to predict and to the power of determination.

Senior Kaya Mark is goal-oriented, but is comfortable with the possibility of her goals changing. She says, "I honestly don't expect my goals in life to change that

## CRLS RESPONDS:

What is your New Years resolution?



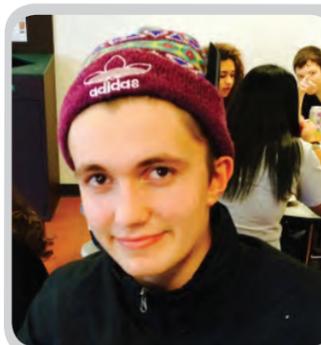
Ryan Tellingator  
Class of 2017

*"Be more likeable to all my peers."*

Nabi Tall  
Class of 2016



*"I wish to be a better person."*



Sam Fulweiller  
Class of 2015

*"Ball a little harder."*

Klara Kaufman  
Class of 2014



*"Live in the moment."*



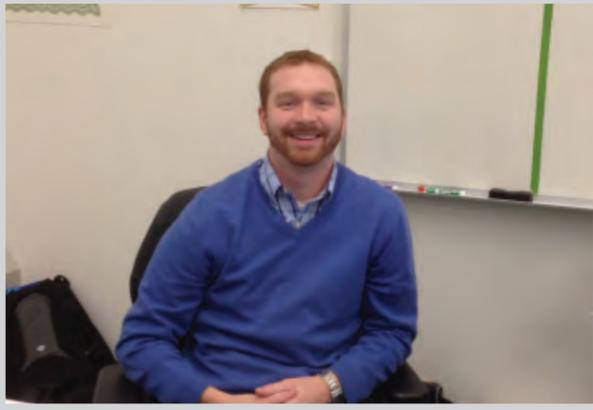
Elena McCormick  
Class of 2014

*"Be more decisive."*



Jordan Swain meeting a group of Rindge students.

Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson



By  
Sia Gale  
Register Forum Staff

# Teacher Spotlight: Brendan Kells

## *The Professional Sports Fan on Teaching and Pastimes*

**RF: Is there an aspect of your job that you never anticipated?**

**BK:** I think getting into teaching, I completely underestimated how much of a 24/7 job it is. Things that happen in your classroom, they never really leave you as a teacher. They're always kind of rolling around in your head and you're always thinking about what you could've done or not done. Your work definitely comes home with you, and I underestimated being able to compartmentalize that.

**RF: Do you think that expectations for teenagers today are higher than when you were young?**

**BK:** I think they are in terms of the overall end product for high schoolers...there seems to be a disconnect in terms of what we expect high schoolers to achieve in terms of where they're going to go for school or what they're going to end up doing and having it all figured out by age sixteen or seventeen. We kind of expect that, which is crazy, but then also on some of the day-to-day things I think we've lowered our expectations in terms of behavior and things of that

nature.

**RF: Best sports venue you've ever been to?**

**BK:** I'm always going to be partial to the old Shea Stadium, the Mets' old ballpark. It was a dump, but I loved the fan experience there.

**RF: Is there something that people can learn from sports that is impossible to learn otherwise?**

**BK:** I wouldn't say the lessons from sports are impossible to learn elsewhere, but the lessons of teamwork, and sacrifice that is necessary, are often times learned better for people in sports than they are elsewhere. And the day-to-day grind that it takes to be successful at something, I think you can see the real tangible results on the athletic fields in a way that is not always immediately there in other venues.

**RF: Lastly, best thing to eat while watching a game?**

**BK:** I'd have to go with either chili or nachos. Or nachos with chili, but tortillas with chili is pretty darn good too.

**Fast Facts:**

- Name:** Brendan Kells
- Place of Origin:** Rochester, NY
- Birthdate:** March 22nd, 1983
- Primary Interests:** Family and sports

**RF: At what point in your life did you know you wanted to become a teacher, and do you still like being one as much as you thought?**

**BK:** I knew I wanted to be a teacher in the summer between my junior and senior year in college. I don't know that I thought much about liking being a teacher when I got into it, but as I look back on it now, I definitely like it more than I anticipated.

**THE DALLIN KNIGHT**

*Continued from page 1*

the statue depicts an armored knight on a proud steed sitting upright with hands together in prayer, symbolizing an everlasting appreciation for the deeds of these alumni. Songs are sung and speeches are made, it is a memorable event that brings the community together.

*Hope was nearly lost over three decades, as there was no sign of the statue's whereabouts.*

Many years passed and hopes of finding the statue began to diminish. Perhaps the school's unique memorial to its fallen students had met its end. In any case, there was no telling. Hope was nearly lost over three decades, as there was no sign of the statue's whereabouts. Until one day last year, when a family in Somerville attempted to get the statue appraised in an attempt to sell it.

One must not jump to conclusions in assuming this family stole the statue and waited to sell it, as they may have had no idea the financial and spiritual value of the statue. The surprise is exemplified by junior Dakota Sanford's reaction: "It's so weird how close the statue was for so long."

One of the construction workers had taken the statue during renovations and given it to his wife, who thought nothing of it. When the police came to repossess the statue there was no resistance.

Superintendent Jeff Young was incredibly thankful to the police department and amazed at their skill, stating the recovery was "like something out of a movie." He later expressed gratitude that the statue now has a "safe



Register Forum editor and senior Rabia Khalid interviews a spectator at the return of the Dallin Knight. Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

place" to rest.

Now the statue has come to return to its place of former glory, and its christening was no small occasion. Many CRLS alumni came to the school, as well as several city council members, the Mayor of Cambridge and the owners of the local Cyrus Dallin museum, located in Arlington.

The owners and operators of the museum were also crucial to the recovery of the knight, as they were able to properly identify the statue as being property of CRLS.

As Founder of the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum James McGough told the *Register Forum* last fall,

"I was in shock when the collector told me he was in possession of the 'Praying Knight.'"

Without them the statue may have never found its rightful home. They called the opportunity to do so "a thrill." Detective O'Connor, the detective responsible for ultimately

*While some may view the praying knight as specifically religious and thus somewhat exclusionary, it is the polar opposite of that.*

finding the statue, said it was "a great pleasure to return the artwork to the city." A plaque is being produced to again eternalize the sacrifice of those students who offered their lives for the freedom of the American people.

While some may view the praying knight as specifically religious and thus somewhat exclusionary, it is the polar opposite of that. Praying isn't exclusively a religious act; it demonstrates reverence and careful calm thought, and in this case, it represents a silent appreciation for the sacrifices that allow the citizens of the United States to appreciate our art, life, and education.

The knight will sit in the school indefinitely, serving as a sign of the commitment that has been made by those in the past to bring the community to where it is today.

# Sneakerheads in Cambridge

By Daniel Walsh  
Register Forum Correspondent

Walking through Harvard Square on a late February night, a woman approaches a line of teens slouched in lawn chairs in front of “Concepts,” a sneaker boutique.

“What’s this line about?” she asks.

“Royal 1’s,” a kid answers casually, as if camping outside of a shoe store was a completely rational way to spend a Friday evening. Much to the woman’s confusion, another teen clarifies that “Royal 1’s” are the new Air Jordans that will be released the next morning for \$140. Does this situation seem crazy to you? If so, you are most likely not a “sneakerhead.”

The growing community of sneaker-obsessed teens is bigger than ever, as sneakerheads today spend hundreds of dollars on kicks: buying, selling and trading their products, never fully satisfied with their collections. “I don’t understand it,” sophomore Bella Fix says. “I think there are better things to spend money on.” But to sneakerheads like sophomore Owen Gallant, the art of collecting is more than just a way to spend money. “It’s a great way to connect with people,” he says.

While some collect for the benefit of the community, sneakerheads like junior Nathan Harbinson wear flashy kicks for the style. “I like to break necks,” he comments. “I love the feeling of walking past somebody and seeing their reaction to what’s on my feet.” Nathan estimates his collection’s worth to be over \$1,000 dollars. This may sound outrageous, but he says it’s not a problem due to the way the sneaker community functions. If he ever gets tired of a shoe, he can trade or sell it for just as much as he bought it for.



A campout outside Central Square’s Expressions this summer for the Air Jordan Fire Red IIIs.

Photo Credit: Sneaker Museum

“It’s easy money, if you know your stuff,” notes Nathan.

But why are teens dishing out hundreds to acquire the newest sneakers? Perhaps this attitude stems from celebrities like Kanye West, Jay-Z and LeBron James. When the first Air Jordan sneaker was released in 1985, brands began to realize the value of celebrity-endorsed sneakers. Today, there is a plethora of athlete models and celebrity-designed kicks from multiple brands.

Sneakers are a fundamental staple of a celebrity’s appearance, as rappers and the hip-hop community have been wearing flashy kicks since the 70’s. The rap group Run-DMC is fa-

mous for sporting Adidas jumpsuits, topped off with classic black and white Adidas sneakers. Even today, the iconic rap group collaborates with Adidas to make their own models.

The growing community may appear crazy to anybody who cannot differentiate Jordans from Pumas, but to sneakerheads, their craft is more than a hobby--it’s a contribution to urban culture.

Even by examining the hallways of CRLS, it is apparent that sneakers have the ability to spark conversations and gather attention. Today, the sneaker community is larger than ever, and Michael Jordan still makes over \$60 million dollars a year through sneakers alone.

*...to sneakerheads, their craft is more than a hobby. It’s a contribution to urban culture.*

## Culture Shock: CRLS Club Seeks to Inspire Greater Cultural Awareness

By Rabia Khalid  
Register Forum Editor

“Culture Shock is great because it is a place where we not only learn, but take action on topics existent all around the world today together,” shares Kabir Singh, a sophomore at CRLS.

Culture Shock is a club at CRLS that started on November 2010 upon being founded by Tamanna Syed, a junior at CRLS.

The main focus of this club is to raise awareness about cultures throughout the world.

Tamanna Syed elaborates, “We want CRLS students to accept each other for who they are and become a more open-minded community.”

This club not only raises awareness about current global problems, but also helps other countries during difficult times brought on by disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. The club helps relief efforts by raising money for different relief institutions.

Senior Akhi Begum shares, “I love Culture Shock! It’s one of those

pate even if their schedule conflicts with meetings.”

In 2012, the theme was womens’ rights and how females can have a better place to stand in society. This year’s club theme is education: how to make a difference for those who are unable to afford a basic education.

The club fundraised for Bangladesh after a garment factory collapsed in April in one of the industry’s most devastating tragedies in history.

Ms. Nathan who was the former advisor for Cultural shock expresses, “the scope of the tragedy was so immense it felt so good to do something proactive. It was good not only to fundraise but to also educate the community around working conditions and the importance of safety standards.”

Fortunately, \*raised enough money to help people in Bangladesh. Culture Shock also raised money for Burmese refugees escaping ethnic and religious genocide.

The money raised goes to different international countries through BRAC, Red Cross, Care, UNICEF, and other organizations.

Ms. Otty, the present advisor, shares, “I want students to join this club and be challenged to look more deeply at issues going on in other countries that I think a lot of American students could get away without understanding.”

If you are interested in joining Meetings are held every Wednesday in room 2314.

*“I love Culture Shock! It’s one of those clubs that actually made me feel good after finishing a project...”*

clubs that actually made me feel good after finishing a project. It brings smiles to people’s faces, and I know it will be more successful in the future.”

Kabir continues “Although the work in Culture Shock is serious, there is a relaxed atmosphere, and a great flexibility where club members can partici-

1. Homelessness	16. Collection
2. Homework	15. Equitable
3. Concepts	14. Harvard
4. Exhibit	11. Jordan
5. Company	9. AVF
7. Swain	8. History
10. Four	6. Boston
12. Read	3. Concepts
13. Magazine	Across
DOWN	ACROSS
FALCON CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS	

# CRLS Alum Bill de Blasio '79 Elected New York Mayor

By Ben Austin  
Register Forum Editor

The two elections were not too different for Bill de Blasio: same person on the ticket, same core values. There was one main difference, however: one had a million voters, and the other had a hundred. In his most recent election, the one with one million voters, CRLS alumnus Bill de Blasio was elected as Mayor of New York City on November 5th, 2013.

The other election took place in 1979, in the hallways of Rindge, as de Blasio (then known as Warren Wilhelm) was chosen by his students to represent them at the State Advisory Council. At the time, every high school in Massachusetts sent a student to the State Council. Clearly, even in high school, de Blasio was a true leader.

Senior Alonzo Solorzano, the current Student Body Vice President, understands the power of student government better than anyone else. "Student government connects interested students with administration and allows them to build relationships with those in charge. De Blasio is a clear example of one taking advantage of that opportunity." Solorzano continues, "For students who want to follow a similar path into [electoral] politics, student government gives a welcoming entry to that career path."

Dr. Ray Shurtleff, de Blasio's dean at the Pilot School, the alternative CRLS program that de Blasio attended, described him as "committed to social justice, and committed to listening to

people."

Teachers and administrators were not the only people who viewed de Blasio as someone destined for politics. CRLS classmates recall times when students would sing "Hail to the Chief" when he walked into classrooms. De Blasio was a leader in other regards here at school. He was a member of the National Honor Society and founder of the Italian Club, prompting the common nickname "Senator Provolone."

The great diversity here at Rindge was

*"[de Blasio was] committed to social justice, and committed to listening to the people."*

something that a concerned de Blasio embraced. At a time filled with racial tension, de Blasio was "very committed to diversity and

looked forward to it. He wanted to learn about other students," according to Dr. Shurtleff.

This commitment to diversity was one of the core values that de Blasio carried with him during his mayoral election. A popular slogan that he used throughout his campaign was bringing together a "Tale of Two Cities."

De Blasio speaks

about "spending every waking minute of being Mayor fighting to bring opportunity to every New Yorker." This attitude is part of what crafted sophomore Aida Muratoglu's view of him. Muratoglu foresees that he will be "an amazing mayor" and feels that "social justice is an issue in NYC that must be taken care of, and de Blasio is perfect for the job."

A huge social justice issue that is extremely prevalent in New York is the "Stop and

*"He is a servant to the people and represents what we cherish at CRLS."*



de Blasio pictured in the Class of the 1979 yearbook.

Photo Credit: NY Daily News

Frisk" policy. In essence, the policy allows police officers to stop whoever they would like to on the street and "frisk" them. Controversy surrounds the policy because statistics show that police officers demonstrate a clear prejudice towards African-Americans and Hispanics.

The "Stop and Frisk" issue is one that freshman Liam Simons notes AS one that needs to be addressed. Mr. de Blasio has promised a "reform," and Simons commends that decision. Simons expresses that "this is a good choice for de Blasio because it would challenge the constitutionality of the current laws. It shows that he has continued to embody the same values that he embodied here at Rindge."

Sophomore Rawan Dareer concludes, "[de Blasio] is a servant to the people and represents what we cherish at CRLS."

## Homelessness Looms Over Cambridge

By Tali Shalaby  
Register Forum Staff

As winter dawns on Cambridge, the homeless men and women of Harvard Square begin to pack up and move to shelters for the night to avoid bitter, dark nights in the increasing cold. Cambridge citizens and CRLS students have learned to turn away and ignore the people begging for spare change, and while the homeless population has decreased by 17% since 2005, it is still a prominent issue.

According to a national poll conducted by Gallup, approximately 37% of the US cares "a great deal" about issues revolving around hunger and homelessness.

Out of a pool of 45 CRLS students who took a recently conducted survey, 22 students shared that they knew an "average" amount

about the reasons for homelessness. Still, a majority of these students said they "never" give money to the homeless as they pass them on the street.

There are, of course, still a few people who take an interest in helping the cause. CRLS' Club 4 makes food for the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Senior and Club 4 President Michael Scarlett is doing an individual project "re-

*...approximately 37% of the U.S. cares "a great deal" about issues revolving around hunger and homelessness.*

searching homelessness, its prevalence in America, and looking at what some potential solutions may be in the local community."

According to Scarlett, there is no one solution, but "there have been successful attempts at subsidized housing around the country which seem to be working." He has discovered that getting the private

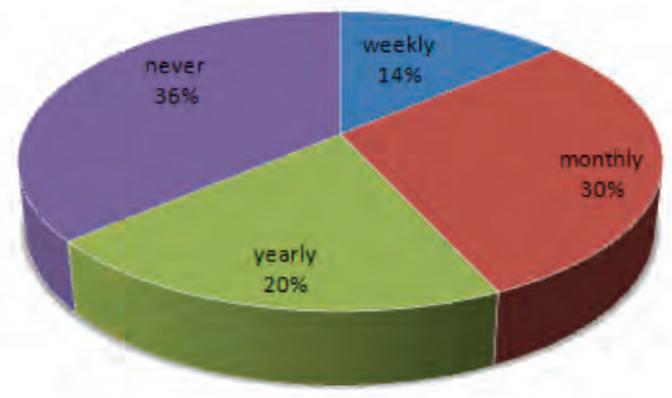
sector involved in funding these projects is one of the most effective techniques.

So, what are some of the real reasons people find themselves with nowhere to go but the street? One man says that he and his wife rented out a basement in Boston for 4 years. His wife kicked him out of the house due to drug abuse and, though he is now sober, will not let him back home. He has been homeless and living in Harvard Square for 4 months.

Another woman in her twenties on the street looks after her dog and asks for money to get some food. "My boyfriend works at a convenience store in North Cambridge for minimum wage; begging for money is all I can do for our income because I didn't get a big enough education to get any work," she says.

When asked about stereotypes of reasons for

### How Often Do You Give Money to the Homeless?



The results of a poll conducted by the Register Forum in November covering 45 CRLS students.

homelessness, junior Brennan Lee says, "I don't know...like violence and stuff?" Senior Zoe Burbridge says, "I guess there are a lot of reasons, but substance abuse seems to be the most prominent."

The New York Times confirms that 75% of the homeless population does, in fact, have some drug addiction. Many free clinics have opened up all over the country for this purpose and are growing to become more successful.

There are some

simple, almost effortless, actions that can be done to help. For instance, why not donate clothes, food, or money to someone in need? Get some community service hours by volunteering at a shelter, and help get rid of the stereotypes by learning about the different reasons for homelessness, as every situation is unique.

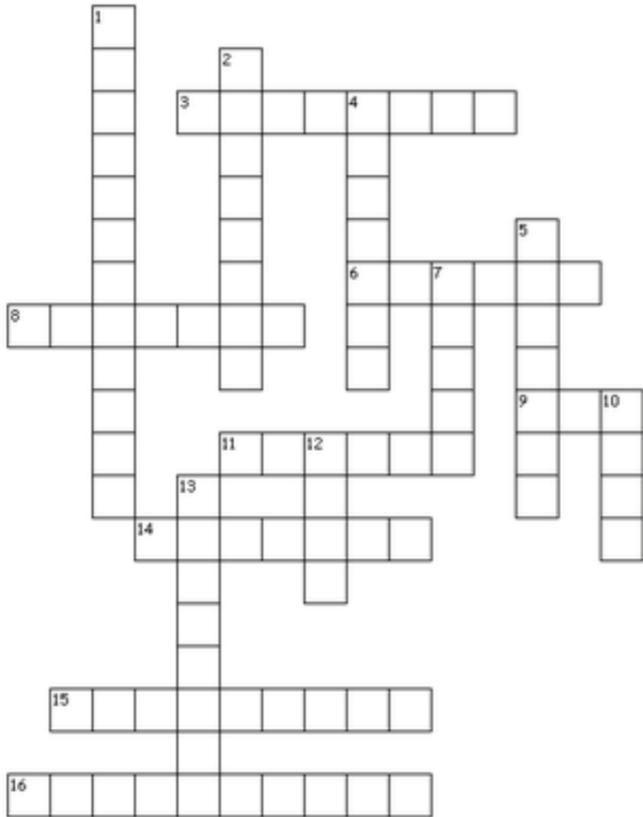
Most importantly, you can raise awareness of the issue, and encourage people to lend a helping hand when they can.

# RAGTIME: THE MUSICAL

STORY ON  
PAGE 11



## FALCON CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 3. Shoe Store
- 6. MFA in
- 8. This Week in
- 9. Attendance Violation Failure
- 11. 1985
- 14. Homeless and living in \_\_\_\_\_ for 4 months
- 15. 50% felt it was
- 16. Worth \$1,000

### DOWN

- 1. Decreased by 17% since 2005
- 2. "Extra Challenge"
- 4. "She Who Tells A Story"
- 5. Modern Dance
- 7. Jordan
- 10. Club that helps the homeless
- 12. Shoutout to Ms. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Jacamo

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### December 16th:

- 1773- Boston Tea Party occurred.
- 1907- Ethiopian movement to abolish british rule started.
- 1920- An earthquake measuring 8.5 magnitude on the Richter scale hits Gansu, China.
- 1960- A United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collide over New York City, killing 134 people.

### December 17th:

- 1933- Official NFL stat-keeping starts.
- 1987- *The Simpsons* debuts.
- 1991- Cleveland Cavaliers beat Miami Heat 148-80, by a record 68 pts.

### December 18th:

- 1787- New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the Constitution.
- 1892- "Nutcracker Suite," Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet, premieres.
- 1932- Chicago beats Portsmouth in the first NFL playoff game.
- 1966- Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* airs for the first time.

### December 19th:

- 1732- Benjamin Franklin begins publication of "Poor Richard's Almanack" under the name Richard Saunders.
- 1823- Georgia passes the first US state birth registration law.
- 1917- The first NHL game on artificial ice is played in Toronto.
- 1920- The first US indoor curling rink opens in Brookline, MA.
- 1961- British government begins the decimal coin system.

### December 20th:

- 1790- A Pawtucket, RI mill becomes the first successful US cotton mill to spin yarn.
- 1860- South Carolina becomes the first state to attempt to secede from the United States.
- 1924- Adolf Hitler is freed from jail early.
- 1941- World War II: The first battle of the American Volunteer Group, better known as the "Flying Tigers," begins in Kunming, China.
- 1989- The United States sends troops into Panama to overthrow the government of Manuel Noriega.



# The Musician's Responsibility

By  
Sun-Ui Yum  
*Register Forum Editor*

Art's a form of expression that revels in the inexplicable and seemingly irrational. It's an umbrella that only spreads wider the further you debate its borders: and to an extent, art's lack of definition isn't an issue. But music's the sole, crucial exception.

Most art that could be considered potentially harmful or disturbing is effectively restricted through R ratings and limited access. But music? Music is almost impossible to censor effectively -- you can take it anywhere, you can hear it everywhere. Far more kids listen to Kanye West than watch *The Dark Knight*. And so that means the discussion of music's transformative power is a lot more pertinent than that of the power of the silver screen.

Music isn't necessarily autobiographical, nor

is it entirely conjured up from fake memory; it primarily lurks between the two. Sure, it's doubtful any of Eminem's listeners legitimately think that he's a murderous, violent criminal, but you won't find many kids reciting and memorizing

*It's easy to separate actors from their characters -- not so much with musicians and their real selves.*

lines of The Joker, will you?

Eminem's the one on posters in kids' rooms, he's the one whose lyrics are going to be written on arms and committed to memory, and he's the one that kids are going to be looking up to. It's easy to separate actors from their characters -- not so much with musicians and their real selves.

Very few girls between the ages of eight and thirteen don't listen to Miley Cyrus. So does that mean Miley Cyrus has to censor her music under the knowledge that kids are following her example.

And does that standard extend to hip hop, a genre that's arguably more rife with "bad influence" than any other? My love for hip hop aside, it's a subsection of music that can get very difficult to defend in its unapologetic misogyny and encouraging of violence and crime.

Hip hop also heavily appeals to a demographic that's devoid of "typical white American" heroes -- inner-city minority youths -- and so it's natural that they'll look past traditional hero figures towards the celebrities that've fought their way out from their own terrible inner-city environments into fame and fortune and prominence in white America. It's a double-edged sword: hip hop isn't just a bad influence, it's possibly the most important one.

But who am I (or anyone, for that matter) to tell a musician that the music that they're spending countless hours on isn't so-

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Established in 1891 as the C.M.T.S Register

cially acceptable? A world saturated (contaminated?) by controversial and potentially harmful art isn't exactly ideal, but a world where art, one of the most important forms of self-expression, is limited is even scarier.

Maybe the problem isn't that Chief Keef is rapping about gang violence or that Big Sean really enjoys the company of women, but that we've fostered an en-

vironment that lets art with purportedly "bad" subject matter thrive. How can we criticize artists when we're indirectly supporting them with our iTunes money and ad-watching and radio play?

Ultimately, we need to come to terms with the truth. Art's not sentient - it can only affect us to the extent we allow it to. It's only manipulative when we let it be. That's its beauty and its danger.

# The Season to Give, Not to Get

By  
Simon Jablokow  
*Register Forum Editor*

As the country gears up for holiday season, there's widespread speculation as to what one will receive from one's friends and family. Lines for Black Friday form early on Thanksgiving as people forgo a holiday of togetherness to take part in the rabid consumerism that is an integral part of this time of year.

Now, consumption is what drives our economy, and I am not advocating against supporting our capitalist economy. However, I do feel that entirely too much attention is shifted to material goods at this time of year, and remaining in this stream of consciousness is not healthy.

Santa today is not the Santa of old. He originally went by Saint Nicholas and did not even live near Europe. Saint Nicholas was a bishop in the Ottoman Empire, now Turkey, that wished to promote giving gifts to those in need during Christmas.

Saint Nicholas was a bishop of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and he began giving gifts to commemorate the gifts given to Jesus at his birth from the Three Wise Men.

The monetary value of the gift was not important, and neither was the ultimate reciprocation. Gift-giving was conceived to promote an escape from materialism through giving away all but the essentials.

Now more than ever it is impor-

tant to focus on the original meaning and intent of gift-giving and move away from mindless consumerism.

Buying things simply as an obligation or as a method of "proving" oneself to friends or family takes away from the true meaning and purpose of this season. Instead, it is important to take this time of year to remind oneself of the gifts that one already has and reflect on their value.

At a time in this country where the gap between the wealthy and the impoverished is an unprecedented level and there are countless people without homes, it is important to focus on what one can do for others.

What one may receive should not be relevant, nor should it dictate any decisions. Instead, focus should be shifted to what one has the ability to provide. I believe the holiday season will be enriched if the goal becomes improving the lives and experiences of others as opposed to ones own matters.

Placing love or value in a physical item is unwholesome, and instead the that love should be directed to the kindness and caring that motivated the giving of that gift.

The original intent of this season must be appreciated and reflected in modern society. Now more than ever there is a divide between social classes, and the impoverished feel very little hope. Through the collective power of giving during the holiday season and throughout the year, I believe we can noticeably improve the quality of life in this country.

# The Whip: Teens and Cars

By  
Evan Kuh  
*Register Forum Staff*



Cars are a big responsibility.

Photo Credit: Evan Kuh

**On a cold March day I turned sixteen and begged my parents to take me to the RMV in order to get my permit. I passed the test on the first try, and six months later obtained my license.**

Then, I had assumed that many of my classmates were not far behind, but as time has gone by only a few of my friends have gotten their licenses. What has caused such a sudden decrease in the desire to get a driver's license? Is it because Cambridge has excellent transportation services and it is unnecessary to drive? Or have rising gas prices restricted teens financially from getting their own cars and in the process deterred them from the whole "driving thing" to begin with?

**Personally I believe driving is an important part of growing up and getting your driver's license should be a priority.** The ability to go places on your own and help one's parents with picking up siblings or grocery shopping is a necessary skill to have. In addition, having the opportunity to operate such a powerful machine teaches youths to be responsible and allow them to feel independent. Whether or not you have taken action to get a license or not, it's not too late to start. Take advantage of the opportunities you have and get on the road!

# An English Student in a Math World

By  
Heather Bildman  
*Register Forum Staff*

I remember the day I discovered that math is not my strongest subject with stunning clarity. It was third grade, and the unit was fractions. My teacher instructed my classmates to take a seat on the rug when we had completed the problem set.

I don't remember exactly how long I spent struggling with the mixed fractions assigned before I looked up and realized, to my horror, that I was the only person still left sitting.

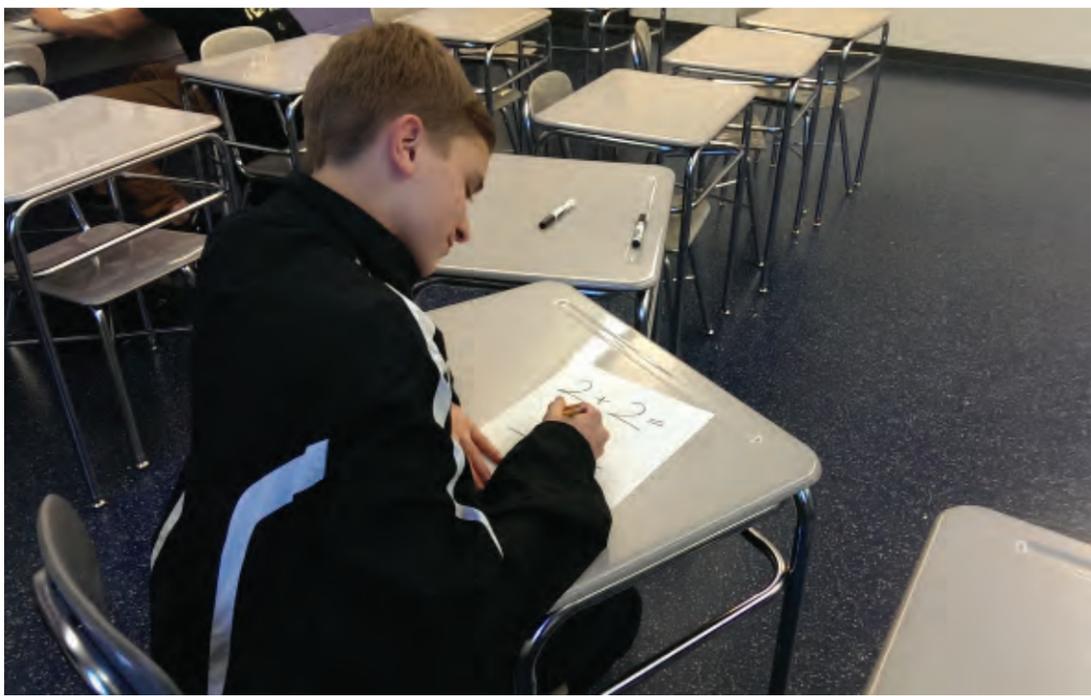
At that moment, I didn't just conclude that math was not my strongest suit. Instead, my takeaway was that I was not as smart as my peers. The same revelation occurred multiple times, as I was introduced to (and struggled to master) long division, solving equations, and graphing polynomial functions: I was not as good or as fast as many of my classmates at math, therefore I must not be as intelligent.

It took me until my junior year of high school to realize that I was as smart as my middle school classmates, and that the reason I did not feel so was due to the math-favoring educational system that I was brought up in.

During my time in middle school, I watched my math-savvy peers get invited to join the Math Olympiad team and be awarded with the option to take higher level math classes at the high school.

My brother, who is currently an 8th grader at the Rindge Avenue Upper School, received extra "challenge homework" in his 7th grade math class due to his strength in the subject, and also had the opportunity to take part in a before-school math club. The teacher reportedly offered the extra homework to the entire class, but only required that a few certain students complete it.

Had I been in my



A Register Forum editor struggles with a difficult addition problem.

Photo Credit: Sun-Ui Yum

brother's peers' shoes, I would have been very disappointed if I was not deemed gifted enough to do the challenge assignments, since there were no such assignments in my English or

never be denied the opportunity to advance. What is not justifiable is the lack of the same type of opportunity for students who are strong readers, writers, and even historians.

*I was not as good or as fast as many of my classmates at math, therefore I must not be as intelligent.*

"The English programs, however strong they may be, are limited," states Rindge Avenue Upper School student Lucy Lyman in expressing her desire for more English-oriented clubs at school. "Generally, teachers and schools focus more on math and sciences."

Programs such as

co-teaching (where a special education and standard teacher conduct a class together) or mixed-grade classes could potentially be implemented and allow students in all subject areas to advance above their grade level's restrictions if necessary.

Though measuring success in math is quantitative, numbers are not the only way to determine a student's ability. If a teacher notices that a child is particularly gifted as a reader or writer, the proper steps should be taken to allow that student to advance like a student skilled in math.

history classes.

The opportunities afforded to students who excel in mathematics, such as being able to take higher level math classes, are justifiable; a student should

student Lucy Lyman in expressing her desire for more English-oriented clubs at school. "Generally, teachers and schools focus more on math and sciences."

Programs such as

## Iran Agreement is One Step of Many



Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif and French Foreign Minister Fabius smile after the announcement in late November.

Photo Credit: Gallup

By  
Shubhan Nagendra  
*Register Forum Correspondent*

**The EU has even given the green light to easing sanctions on some Iranian firms by December.** Last November's historic agreement between the United States, European Union (EU), and Iran has begun to bring new hope for the relations between the west and Iran.

The European Union and Iran have had tense relations ever since Iran started developing a nuclear program. In 2012, the EU decided to levy an embargo on Iran. These sanctions put restrictions on trade, financial services, and energy sectors. The EU has been so hostile to Iran that they do not even have a delegation in Iran.

Iran responded by saying that they would

close the Strait of Hormuz, an important route for oil. The embargo on Iran brought much misery to the oil-dominated economy of the country and it affected the nuclear program of Iran because it got harder for Iran to get the resources.

At the moment, the EU has only said that they would remove sanctions off two firms out of a long list of firms.

Lifting the sanctions off Iran would not only help the Iranian economy, but it would also help improve relations between Iran and the West.

**The sanctions display mistrust between the EU and Iran.** The EU is wary of how Iran could backtrack on the agreement. Hence, they are not lifting all the sanctions that have been placed on Iran. The situation looks tricky and the agreement does not mean the end to the hostilities. The agreement might improve relations between the West and Iran, but it could easily go back to square one.

## Reflections of the Season

By  
Sung Kang  
*Register Forum Correspondent*

It's the holiday season, the time of the year that everyone has eagerly waited for. To me, Christmas is the first word that comes to my mind when I think of holidays.

Beyond the obvious benefits that the holidays offer – food and gifts, of course – the holidays are an endless source of memories for me.

The most memorable holiday I had was Christmas when I was in third grade. With both of my parents away in New York, I was home alone with my older brother.

As the snow started piling, my brother and I decided to take advantage of it. We made a snowman, invited a few friends over for a snow fight, and simply played around the snow.

Though mundane, thinking back, this day was the only time I ever had a childish but special time with my brother.

While I miss these times greatly, I am happy to have such unforgettable memories. I hope everyone can also take advantage of this time to create and cherish their own special memories.

## New Moves for the Modern Dance Co.

By  
Sophia Nikolayev  
*Register Forum  
Correspondent*

The CRLS Modern Dance Company (affectionately referred to as MDC) has progressively flourished throughout the years and has taken a huge part in representing Rindge's thriving arts department.

As junior MDC dancer Renata Watson states, "MDC is continuously thinking outside the box as they bring in new choreographers of various styles who educate us dancers."

MDC's innumerable influential visitors have left a grand effect on those in the company, getting them more involved in dance and more adjusted to different styles they may not have experienced before.

Modern Dance Company co-captain Alonzo Solorzano enthusiastically shares, "We are really branching out in different styles this year, including horror, contemporary, and hip-hop, so I'm more than excited for the

January show. Company classes have also expanded to different styles and I have had a lot of fun teaching classes and recruiting new dancers."

Not only is Modern Dance Company a place to grasp and absorb dance technique, but it's also a place where dancers feel free to express themselves without any form of judgments.

Gabi Chiriboga, a sophomore MDC dancer, passionately describes her experience in the company by saying, "In the company, there is no such thing as exclusion or cliques; everyone always feels welcome and supported." Being in an accepting and comfortable environment allows the dancers to ask questions and take new risks.

The CRLS Modern Dance Company gives everyone involved the chance to participate and leave their own mark. The members work together to create each show and learn to be independent.

Each year more and more people participate in MDC and work towards



MDC practicing before their January show last school year.

Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

making it as professional as they can. Senior MDC dancer, Sophia Santos tells us: "People bring their own styles to the floor which helps everyone improve in different areas. It's so great because people are always so open to looking for a way to improve personally and as a whole."

The Modern Dance Company took a leap into professionalism this year by making it a credit course.

Junior dancer Sofia Engelman explains, "With this shift has come the introduction of new student leadership positions, writ-

ten work for dancers and choreographers outside of rehearsal, and events such as our company photo shoot and mid-semester showing."

This gives the dancers more opportunities to

*"...there is no such thing as exclusion or cliques; everyone always feels welcome and supported."*

successfully assimilated dancers of different styles and has been extremely supportive to anyone involved who is willing to improve. It does an excellent job of reaching out to everyone at Rindge to get a taste of the dance world.

The company provides dancers with the opportunity to open up artistically rather than academically.

Year by year, as dancing virtuosos proliferate and raw talent resumes to be brought on to the dance floor, the company blossoms.

The Cambridge Rindge and Latin Modern Dance Company has suc-

Year by year, as dancing virtuosos proliferate and raw talent resumes to be brought on to the dance floor, the company blossoms.



THE REGISTER FORUM

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH

*Grace McCabe*



By  
Tessa Tracy  
*Register Forum Staff*

A master at balancing academics with her demanding schedule, senior Grace McCabe is at the core of the CRLS theater program. She may not be the star of the show, but Grace's tireless, behind-the-scene efforts throughout high school have proven invaluable to every production.

Grace is one of three stage managers for *Ragtime*, the 2013 fall musical. In the past, contrary to popular belief that she does lighting, Grace has operated the sound for every show. Her theater career began as a performer in middle school. However, the summer before her freshman year at Rindge, Grace found her true passion was for tech.

Regardless, Grace loves being a part of the production process. "There is a certain fulfillment that comes from seeing a finished product with every person embracing

their role with pride" she explained.

Mara Zinky '13, the student director of last fall's musical, has worked closely with Grace and praised her for her reliability: "Grace has the rare ability to take her work seriously and be super reliable while also being funny and lighting up tech (not literally though because she does sound)."

The week before the show, all of the musical's participants were at school until at least 8PM for rehearsal. "The biggest challenge is always the time commitment," Grace admitted.

Indeed, Grace's hard work is noticed and admired by the cast: "Grace has been super organized and helpful during the rehearsals, she's been a really great stage manager!" exclaimed senior Federico Roitman. Grace's ability to balance her strong academics with her commitment to the production is admirable and exemplary for all students working to balance school with extracurriculars, and it certainly paid off with *Ragtime*'s success.



# Ragtime: The Musical Comes to Rindge

By  
Leah Cohen  
Register Forum  
Correspondent

With five packed performances and upwards of 2,500 tickets sold, the fall musical was an undeniable hit. CRLS' production of *Ragtime*, a period piece that follows an African-American man seeking equality under the law, was three months in the making and boasted a cast of sixty-five.

The December musical ran from Thursday the 5th to Sunday the 8th. Broadway's original production, based on Terrence McNally's book of the same name, premiered in 1998 and ran for two years. But this Tony-award winning show spoke for itself in the Fitzgerald theater: it took a dedicated team to realize the production at CRLS. Senior Ariela Schear recognized the incredible accomplishment, noting, "Ragtime was ambitious and full of talent!"

It was Anne Marie Bookwalter's first time directing at Rindge, and she was thrilled by the outcome. Glowing, she explained, "My role as director is to sort of be a Mary Poppins, to set high expectations, make the students believe in themselves enough to reach them, and then fly away on my umbrella and let the stu-



The cast of *Ragtime* take their curtain call.

Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

dents shine. I could not be prouder of all the students who really trusted each other and worked as an ensemble to do this incredibly meaningful and complex production."

In contrast to the racially-themed CRLS musical of 2011, *Hairspray*, *Ragtime* is certainly complex and arguably grim. With sympathy and kindness, it weaves together the conditions and stories of its three ensembles (immigrants and black and white Americans) at the turn of the century, exposing the growing interconnectedness of these American experiences.

Isabel Goldstein, a junior, praised the structure

of the plot as well as the show's success: "I loved how the different stories overlapped. And the acting was incredible!" But while *Hairspray* ends on a high note, this musical traces the transformation of protagonist Coalhouse Walker from

*"Ragtime was ambitious and full of talent!"*

gentle pianist to ideal-driven terrorist, and ends in his execution.

Senior Stacey Badgett, who plays Coalhouse, reflected in Sunday's after-show talk-back that, "It was difficult to play Coalhouse at first, because I couldn't identify with somebody so violent. But after a

while I began to understand how everything that happens to him informs his decisions, and that his journey is very human."

Technical design was key to the musical. Joanne Farwell, the technical director, described her all-female crew and stage managing team as "girl power."

The same phrase loosely describes the production ensemble; beside Bookwalter was the high spirited costume team led by Masha Kapustina-Carriou, which included juniors Roxanna Higginson and Isabella Stephens and senior Sasha Forbath, spent weeks collecting authentic (sometimes even 100 year-old) period pieces

for the show.

Choreography was designed by Lauren Simpson, a CRLS dance teacher who was aided by junior Renata Watson, the dance captain. The beloved males on the team were Dr. Ivan Stefanov (music director) and Jimmy Smith (production assistant and voice coach).

*Ragtime* is part of a larger, intentional effort within Rindge's drama department to celebrate diversity and to tell stories that matter to the CRLS community.

First came *High Gear*, a show notable for its racial-blind casting, but which addressed a non-racial subject. The theme of race surfaced in the next year's *Hairspray*, a relatively light musical about the interaction of music and race relations in Baltimore, Maryland.

And last year the department produced *Urinetown*, exploring the connection between social class and civil rights.

*Ragtime*, a comprehensive examination of race, immigration, and privilege at the turn of the century, is only the next step. Hopefully, reflects Bookwalter, equal access the the arts has taken root in the CRLS culture, and the diverse casts of the past four

## New Photography Exhibit Opens in Boston

By  
Klara Ingersoll  
Register Forum Correspondent

"She Who Tells a Story" is an exhibit currently being shown at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston. It is a display of works done by women photographers from Iran and the Arab world concerning young people's lives in these countries.

As the MFA describes it, "These prominent photographers have tackled the very notion of representation with passion and power, questioning tradition and challenging perceptions of Middle Eastern identity."

Displayed throughout the gallery are large-scale portraits that are effective in helping the viewer identify with the subjects, in many cases the subjects are teenagers who look like they could be at our school. Larger-than-life portraits of young women and men with writings from the Koran superimposed onto their skin show how inescapable these ancient religious ideals are in everyday life.

Another sequence of pictures shows a mother and daughter progressively more covered up until they practically disappear. One of



The cover for the exhibit's book compilation.

Photo Credit: Museum of Fine Arts

the most striking images in the show is a giant triptych showing a young woman lying flat on her back on a decorated bed and background completely covered with a mosaic of bullets.

Junior Yonathan Alemayehu says, "As a society, we often take our freedom of expression for granted. It's important to see how people, and women specifically, in other places face certain restrictions we do not see as prominently in our

lives, and this exhibit explores their perspectives. I am definitely interested in seeing it." The powerful religious fundamentalist ideology and harsh regime from which these works stem make the outspoken, bold, graphic images even more inspiring.

This exhibit is open through January 12, 2014. The museum is free for youths (ages 7-17).

# CRLS Hockey Carving Up the Ice

By  
Bence Szechenyi

Register Forum Correspondent

As the winter sports season begins, Cambridge Rindge and Latin hockey enthusiasts can now turn their attention to the ice rink and hockey, an important New England sport that often gets overshadowed by more popular sports.

The boys hockey team has sometimes stumbled in the past on the road to reaching state success. Last year, although they struggled to win important games they more importantly came together as a squad, creating the foundation for an improved following year.

With all the work of past teams now leading into this year, the players are certainly feeling the pressure. But with senior talent and new young promising freshmen, the team has all the necessary components to get even better.

Senior captains Jake Heller and Ethan Brazo are notably optimistic for the upcoming season.

Brazo cheerfully expressed, "We have the perfect balance of new talent and veterans; we are really bonding as a squad and if things continue on like this we have the potential to do very, very well this year."

With the large influx of talented freshmen entering the program, they have the backing to have a long run of good form and consistency.

Heller confidently added, "I think we have the potential to make the state tournament due to our increased motivation as a team. We are working harder and that will pay off in the long run."

Sophomore Julian Cohen attributed the program's high hopes to a different aspect of the

## BOYS VARSITY HOME HOCKEY SCHEDULE

12/23 WESTON	4:00 PM
01/08 EVERETT	4:00 PM
01/15 SHAWSHEEN	4:00 PM
01/22 BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY	4:00 PM
01/25 SOMERVILLE	5:20 PM
02/01 MEDFORD	5:20 PM
02/03 DRACUT	4:00 PM
02/10 BROOKLINE	4:00 PM

All the games Boys Varsity Ice Hockey will be playing at home at the Simoni ice rink, go show your support!

team that Heller and Brazo were more loath to mention, saying, "We have great leaders at the helm who are pushing us to train harder and harder which I think will definitely lead to our success."

This year is especially important to the hockey program because it is the last year that

*"We have the perfect balance of new talent and veterans; we are really bonding as a squad..."*

the team will be playing in the Greater Boston League (GBL).

The GBL title is in a league that is very much within reach for this team. "The teams are beatable," said Cohen, "with a lot of hard work we could easily win it all."

Cohen acknowledges the difficulty of the task, noting that "we have not won since 2003, so it is not going to be easy to just turn that around."

The captains agree that their number one goal is to win the league and subsequently qualify for the state tournament. In Brazo's words, "We want to go on a run, string some wins together and progress as far as possible into the state tournament."

With an inspired work ethic and high spirits, the team is preparing for the long and hard season ahead. With so much to gain and so little to lose, they have the potential to bring hockey back into the spotlight of CRLS sports fans.

The home games are played at Simoni Ice Rink, located at 148 Gore Street, Cambridge, MA 02141.

## Athletes: Working Hard or Hardly Working?

By  
Evan Kuh  
Register Forum Staff

Parents and students often debate whether or not one should play a sport in high school. Do athletics indeed affect academic performance?

CRLS students had different opinions, as some argue that if one does not play a sport they will have more time for homework. However, others believe that participating in athletics relieves stress and helps with time management.

When asked whether or not he believes sports impact grades, sophomore David Watt responded, "Sports keep my grades the same because after sports, I know I have to go home and do my homework."

High school sports can add another level of intricacy to teen's lives. Unlike college athletics, high school teams do not study together. College teams

are joined athletically and academically. Many high school athletes are left to their own devices at home and feel overwhelmed by the time commitment of sports.

Time management is constantly stressed in high school, and while everyone has different ways to manage their time, some people just can't handle both academics and athletics.

Senior and soccer captain Jeremy Sternbach commented, "Some people need to take time off from sports in order to concentrate on academics. The system seems to work as they often come back very motivated to succeed."

However, according to Charles Basch, a professor at Columbia University, "Dropout rates were signifi-

cantly lower for youth who consistently participated in interscholastic sports. Sports can help with self-esteem and teach valuable lessons to youth that can be used on and off the field."

In a recently conducted Register Forum survey that asked 75 CRLS students how many days a

week they played a sport, the average number of days was just over five. However, the mean grade point average of students surveyed

was a 3.6 with the highest

GPA being a 4.0 and the lowest a 1.9. These numbers seem to align with student's responses as to whether or not sports have a positive effect on GPA where 47% of students surveyed believed sports had a "positive" or "very positive" effect and 38% believed there was no

effect at all. While the pressure can have a negative effect, many students, such as senior lacrosse captain Abby Borron, agree with Watt exclaiming, "Sports take up time after school, which means less time to do homework, but it also helps people, or at least me personally, at learning better time management."

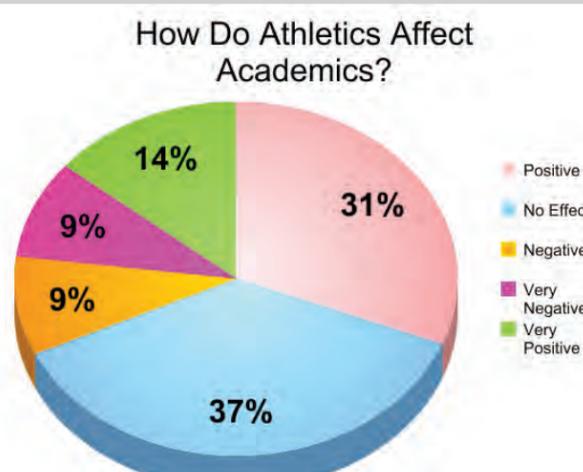
Another pressing issue is the minimum GPA of

70, or a C- average, that one needs to play a sport. Borron advocated her opinion that teammates had an obligation to help each other succeed on and off the field, saying, "I definitely think teams should do more than just practice and play games together!"

CRLS has a system set up to help athletes who are struggling in school. According to the Cambridge Public Schools website, "If a student has less than a 73 GPA, he/she will be required to attend homework center once a week before going to practice."

As another season of sports comes around, the question remains: does the school provide enough of a safety net while still holding its students to high enough standards?

Attending homework center or going to a teacher directly are great ways to get extra help. As a student-athlete it is important to remember one is a student and then an athlete.



The Register Forum surveyed CRLS students about the effects of athletics on academics, these are the responses, showing the majority claiming it has a positive effect or none at all.