the word of Harpeth Hall

LOGOS

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New year brings new-trition

SAGE brings fresh dining options and a renovated lunch line to Harpeth Hall

BY DHARA PATEL
News Editor

It is 12:20 in the afternoon, and a warm, enticing plate of food is on every student's mind. This fall, Harpeth Hall will be introducing a new dining service: SAGE.

Students and faculty were able to enjoy "the SAGE experience" during the summer while working as camp leaders, attending orientations and participating in summer activities.

Ms. Stockdale, Upper School Dean of Students, dined at the Hall during the new teacher orientation. "We frequently rotated around the buffet table talking about how spoiled we are with these options," Stockdale said. With such an extravagant menu, containing items like house-roasted meats and freshly made banana pudding, it is easy to feel spoiled.

"The meals didn't taste like cafeteria food, they tasted like home-cooked dinners", Senior Grace Ann Holladay said.

Peter Fox, the new head chef, believes SAGE is different from other school lunch programs. "Everything is made from scratch," Mr. Fox said.

Renovations include the addition of six different stations: Stock Exchange, Improvisations, Classic Cuts Deli, Main Ingredient, Mangia Mangia and Baltimore Baking Co.



SAGE's kitchen: Chefs prepare meals during summer events for students and faculty. *Photo Courtesy of Ellie Truitt.*

Stock Exchange will serve a new soup every day. Most days there will be two types: a meat soup and a vegan or vegetarian soup.

Improvisations is where you will find salads and fresh fruits. On the daily, they generally have about six different options.

Classic Cuts Deli is a place for all kinds of sandwiches, such as Pastrami, Swiss Cheese and Corn Relish.

The Main Ingredient table will have five-to-six different main dishes. Usually, there is a theme that runs throughout the options. For example, Brunch has dishes such as Scrambled Eggs and Buttermilk Biscuits.

Mangia Mangia serves pizza every other day. According to Fox, the pizzas are "new and exciting, with great twists on traditional recipes."

Lastly, the Baltimore Baking Company will serve to satisfy your sweet tooth. Although soft-serve will no longer be available, a freshly baked dessert will be served. But the question remains: will teacakes survive the transition? According to the menu, teacakes won't be availble in the near future.

SAGE will offer new options to Harpeth Hall students while continuing to provide nourishment that our community needs.

Branding the bears with new initiatives

BY MARGARET GAW
News Editor

Website Update

From the bottom of the library, administrators and tech designers are busy as bees working on the new Harpeth Hall website. The new website will launch before the end of August.

"The website is our public online marking," Harpeth Hall web coordinator Ann Webb Betty said. "People move to town and they look for schools and go to our website to learn about us."

The new website will be mobile-friendly and easier to navigate. It will include new videos, an updated student directory and a calendar that syncs with Veracross.

Director of Communications and Public Relations Joanne Mamenta has played a lead role as the queen bee in overseeing the redesign. "Probably the most popular link is going to be the new lunch menu."

Lace up your tennis shoes, honeybears...

For the first time in school history, Harpeth Hall will host the Plaid Dash – a 5k and 1-mile race. It is on Saturday, August 27 at 8:00am. Runners will meet at the Hobbs Road entrance with their Plaid Dash t-shirts and energetic spirit.

This community builder will be "a great way to meet and welcome new families and kick off the year with some fun," parent coordinator Clark Harwell said.

After the run, breakfast provided by Dad's Network will greet runners at the finish line, plus music and a waterslide.

The grade with the most participants will win a donut breakfast!

Extreme makeover: Bear edition

Mrs. Emily Runzo and parent volunteers have updated the beloved Bear Necessities Store.

Still located in Souby next to the senior house, 'BNS' now sells many new items such as S'well water bottles, sustainability t-shirts, Crazy Creek chairs and fleeces.

The store itself has also been renovated. "A renovation of the space was necessary to help tell the story of who we are and to promote school spirit and the Harpeth Hall brand," Mrs. Runzo said. She encourages students to stop by.

"We will have a suggestion box in the store where students can leave suggestions for items that they would like to see in the store."

The new hours for the BNS are Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30-10:00 a.m. and from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Harpeth Hall students trek the globe

BY STELLA VUJIC AND CAMILLE PATTON
News Editors

Over the summer, girls travelled the globe in efforts to expand their curiosities.

Junior Betsy Beuter journeyed to the Grand Tetons with Moondance, where she learned important leadership skills. "This trip taught me that asking for help isn't a sign of weakness," Beuter said. "It actually shows that you are capable enough to realize that help would make the situation better."

Studying abroad also gives girls a chance to take risks. "I learned that throwing yourself into a whole new lifestyle surrounded by unfamiliar people is difficult, but...more than worth it," said senior Emma Farrar, who participated in Harpeth Hall's exchange program to South Africa.

On her Sister Cities trip to Caen, France, sophomore Charlotte Taylor also found herself in some unique situations while going to school with her host sister. "We first attended math, where I was able to piece together the concepts they were learning about despite the language barrier," Taylor said. "However, next we went to Spanish class and...they were learning Spanish in French. I can honestly say that I did not understand a single thing."



ARABIC IMMERSION: Albright stands in front of a Moroccan mosque. *Photo Courtesy of Alix Albright*

On an immersion trip to Morocco, senior Alix Albright learned to better manage her stress and focus on the important things back at home. Time management is one of the many lifelong skills that girls learned during independent trips.

Apart from sharpening her Spanish skills on her trip to Mendoza, Argentina, senior Vivian Herzog learned that Americans have more in common with other countries than they think. "Below the many cultural and social differences that make each country unique, we are all similarly curious about each other," Herzog said.



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Honeybears hard at work: summer '16

BY BUSHRA RAHMAN
Features Editor

For most, summer time means going on vacations, spending quality time with friends and family and catching up on some Netflix. For others, it presents an opportunity to pick up a part-time gig. Apart from some much needed unwinding, many Honeybears seized the opportunity for some new experiences at a variety of workplaces this summer.

While some girls such as junior Lia Hayduk interned at a local nonprofit, junior Eleonor Wright and sophomore Millie Kirkland were soaking up some sun at the pool lifeguarding.

Lia Hayduk took up a volunteer-based-internship at Harvest Hands, a local nonprofit providing jobs and mentoring to youth in the inner-city of South Nashville. "Working at Harvest Hands this summer has changed my life," Hayduk said. "I learned about how to love unconditionally and how small my problems are in the grand scheme of things. Overall, I learned how important it is to go into the world and make a difference."

Junior class president Eleonor Wright spent countless hours at the YMCA pool lifeguarding, while sophomore Millie Kirkland could also be found lifeguarding at Hillwood. "This job has helped me to be alert because we must be aware of what is going around us all of the time," Wright said. "We have to remember that we're looking out for people's safety after all. Having a job has been a great experience, but it has also taught me to be respectful of other people's time and excellent time management and organizational skills."



SUMMER FUN: Molly Gaglione (left) and Marguerite Coombs (right) pose with campers at Camp Riva Lake. *Photo by Claudia Haney*

Juniors Marguerite Coombs and Ellie Truitt and senior Molly Gaglione also had a blast as counselors for the young campers of Camp Riva Lake in Winchester, Tennessee. "Working alongside so many of my friends made this experience even more fun and meaningful for me." said Coombs. "With the experience I got this summer, I'm prepared to come back next year as a full-on counselor."

Junior Gracie Harris was also quite busy this summer juggling two different jobs. Harris worked alongside her father at a scuba shop, Island Hoppers Scuba. "I've been learning how to run and clean the store, handle the cash register, fill scuba tanks, service equipment, and prepare for the weekend classes," said Harris. "It's been great helping my dad around the shop."

Harris could also be found behind the counter for Pro Shop at Nashville Sounds. She worked behind the register at the Pro Shop and also worked at the mini golf in the outfield. "It's such a fun place to work and I have some really great coworkers who really make the job even more fun." Harris said.

Recent Harpeth Hall graduates (2016) Carrie Brake and Delaney Jacoway also worked alongside Harris with the Nashville Sounds. "Being a fan of baseball, this job is definitely a great fit for me." Harris said. "It's always fun meeting all of the people who come into the store, including player's families."

Additionally, many honeybears could be found dabbling in the food industry this summer.

Sophomore Rachel Watson had the opportunity to work at the famous Loveless Cafe while seniors Claire Gould and Kira Hinchey were the queens of shaved ice at Retro Sno.

Harpeth Hall was represented in a plethora of locations this summer and many girls had some exciting opportunities they'd surely love to share with you, just ask!

"Getting your bearings" with new dean

BY OLIVIA OLAFSSON
Features Editors

As the Harpeth Hall community has wished former Dean of Students Marie Maxwell goodbye and the highly anticipated 2016-2017 school year is finally here, Ms. Liz Stockdale joins the staff as the new Dean of Students.

Following in the footsteps of Mrs. Maxwell could be challenging, but Ms. Stockdale is well-equipped to face the everyday routine of Harpeth Hall and adjust to the many traditions and customs that are special to campus.

Prior to Harpeth Hall, Ms. Stockdale first worked at several schools including Foxcroft School in Virginia and Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania where she was a history teacher. Then, she worked as a student life coordinator at Emery/Weiner in Houston, Texas. Her education includes a master's degree from Wesleyan University and is currently finishing a second master's degree at Vanderbilt University.

With a warm smile and cheerful demeanor, Ms. Stockdale has the natural ability to make others comfortable and especially upon meeting new students, gains trust and confidence quickly. "Ms. Stockdale is really enthusiastic and passionate about girls' education." says Stella Vujic.

As the Dean of Students, Ms. Stockdale has upcoming plans and goals for the school year.

"I really want to emphasize quality over quantity." Ms. Stockdale said. "I recognize that I only have so much time and I only have so much energy that I can dedicate." These plans include the introduction of the weekly email "Get Your Bearings" that will replace the Daily Announcements and students will no longer need to pay $1 in order to benefit from casual days. "It's clear that Ms. Stockdale has a lot of innovative ideas and she's not afraid to implement them immediately," history teacher Dr. Adam Wilsman said.



BUILDING REALTIONSHIPS: Ms. Stockdale speaks to student Olivia Olafsson. *Photo by Sarah Tolbert*

In being a new faculty member to Harpeth Hall, complications are inevitable, and Ms. Stockdale's biggest concerns about the job include being the rule enforcer of the school and how to work effectively with the students and faculty to make clear the meaning behind certain rules.

"I think having a dialogue about why those rules are in place and understanding them as a community is a good place to start," Stockdale said.

Ms. Stockdale is very excited to join the Harpeth Hall family. "I'm excited about getting to put together dances and getting to have fun as a community," Ms. Stockdale said.

With Ms. Stockdale bringing a new perspective and enthusiasm on campus, the 2016-2017 school year is bound to be exciting for new and returning students and faculty.

Fresh faces at the Hall



WELCOME TO HARPETH HALL: New Teachers together after the annual faculty dinner on August 12, 2016. From left to right: Mrs. Tokin, Dr. Fulwider, Mr. Sanderson, Mrs. Stevenson, Dr. Jacobs, and Mr. Wang. Photo by Adam Wilsman

BY SHAYE HENDRICKS
Features Editor

Harpeth Hall is welcoming a host of new changes this year from the upgraded dining hall to the new uniform guidelines. With these changes comes the newest additions to the faculty and staff. Although some students have had the privilege of sitting in on mock classes with these new teachers, to most, they are unfamiliar faces. Want to know who loves Jeni's Ice Creams as much as you do or lived in Mexico City for a year while receiving a PhD in Latin American History? Look no further; here are the new teachers for the 2016-2017 school year.

- Math teacher Robin Tokin's favorite restaurant is Two Ten Jack in East Nashville. "It doesn't hurt that Jeni's Ice Cream is next door," Tokin said.
- Future US History teacher, Dr. Ben Fulwider's dream destination is Tokyo. "Having grown up near New York City and lived in Mexico City, I am fascinated by megacities," Dr. Fulwider said. Also on his bucketlist is to compete in the Ironman Triathlon.
- Although Cory Sanderson is new to the Art Department as the printmaking teacher, he is not unfamiliar with Harpeth Hall due to the fact he coached for the Varsity rowing team this past year.
- Dina Stevenson, the new learning specialist, might be new to Harpeth Hall, but she is a very experienced educator. She has served as a part of the learning services at Christ Presbyterian Academy for 16 years and as the director of the department for five years.
- This summer, the new Modern World History and World Cultures teacher, Adri Jacobs, rented a camper-van in Portland, Oregon and spent a week camping, hiking and bird watching with her husband, Alex.
- Nick Wang taught chemistry, honors chemistry, and AP chemistry at both Dr. Martin Luther King Magnet School and Brentwood High School.

Parting the Big Red Sea

BY SOPHIE MCKENZIE
Opinions Editor



GENTLEMEN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETES: MBA boys enjoy a 2012 game at Tommy Owen stadium. *Photo courtesy*

Welcome, freshmen! It is your first year of high school, and without a doubt, many of you have plans to go to the first MBA football game of the season. Social gatherings as a high school student must seem very different from ones in middle school.

This presumption is correct: as you age, you become more mature, and that changes what you want to do to meet people and be with your friends. MBA games are one aspect of your social life that will not change.

For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure to attend one of these functions, the games are loud, sweaty and red from the paint that drench the senior boys.

You end up with soft serve you did not want, even though you convinced yourself that it would cool you from the impossible heat; red paint on those stark, white converse you got for school; frizzy hair and a flushed face.

Also, no matter how hard you try, you will not be able to take a good picture due to poor lighting and how cramped the space is. The older boys are terrifying, covered in dirt, sweat and paint that they splatter carelessly on you. At one game, a senior even jumped on top of a friend of mine. Even with these negatives, going to a football game almost feels like it must be required: all the Harpeth Hall girls there, the pictures on instagram and watching everyone else flock to the fields.

Remember it is okay to resist the social pressure to go to these events. What sounds better: being hot, covered in paint, watching people you do not know playing football and then wandering around a foreign school aimlessly; or hanging out with your friends, going to see a movie, or just staying at home?

And if you are concerned about meeting boys, I have met one boy ever at a football game, and more than I can count at my extra school activities. Boys and girls are largely separated at these events anyway. But, when in doubt, remember

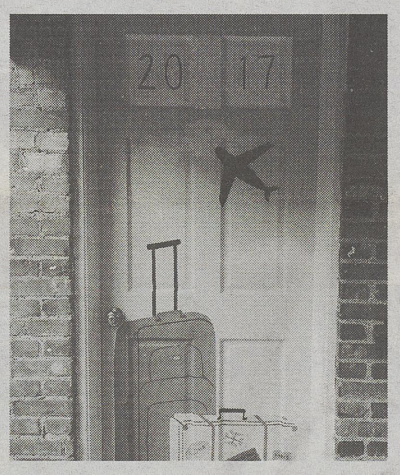
Time to unite behind the senior theme

BY CARRIE HAYNES
Opinons Editor

The Safari seems to be infiltrated with a new kind of animal as the 2016-2017 school year kicks off. Tourists of all kinds have been seen roaming across the Harpeth Hall campus. The safari of 2016 has been replaced as the "Tacky Tourists of 2017" officially become seniors.

But our explorations have not been without a bit of tourist turmoil. Many of this year's seniors were dismayed by the decision about the theme. An extremely close vote followed by a revote caused some seniors to resent the current theme and react negatively. One senior described the theme as "sad, but fine." There have been calls for re-votes and coups, claims of tears and petitions.

But, it was clear that the tacky tourists won. Many seniors learned the hard way that the real world does not have second chances or re-votes. Real democracy does not care that you changed your mind.



SOARING INTO SENIOR YEAR: The class of 2017 moves into the senior house. Photo courtesy of Mary Triplett.

Girls upset by the decision often overreacted and forgot the most important piece of a senior theme: seniors. The theme is much bigger than a catchy phrase or a single person. Instead, the theme should be a chance for the entire senior class to unite. Our last year at Harpeth Hall should be a celebration of everything that we have done and will do. Our theme should only add to our community, not diminish or divide. "The Places We've Seen in 2017" has the possibility to expand beyond each person to unify the class of 2017 in anticipation of our own futures. Now is the time for seniors, and the whole school, to embrace the new year and the new theme along with it.

As seniors, the places we've seen and will see appear within reach. In 365 days, we will be going out into the world and exploring new places. The senior theme encompasses the possibilities and the future that awaits all 103 girls in the senior class. As Mary Triplett, senior class president, said, "'The Places We've Seen' literally means where we've been in the world, but it also represents what we've accomplished." The places we have seen are truly out of this world and there is so much more the seniors of 2017 have yet to see.

All-school read uncertainty

BY BIANCA SASS
Opinions Editor

For many, summer is reminiscent of tan lines, road trips… and required reading. At Harpeth Hall that means not only the novels for English, but the additional all-school read. This year's is designed to help bring the community together under the motif of sustainability.

A large portion of girls appreciate the idea of the all-school read, thinking of it as a good way to be introduced to books they may not have read otherwise without an impending assignment.

Logos surveyed Harpeth Hall students to gauge their feelings on this year's all-school read. For the first time, students had a choice between four books (except for the freshmen, who had two). 87% of students valued this change.

Moreover, about half of students surveyed feel that their book of choice made them change their perspective.

One student even said, "I became a vegetarian a couple years ago because of [The Omnivore's Dilemma]. So reading this book was like revisiting an old friend."

The all-school read as a concept is also designed to cultivate common ground between all students.

"It gives everyone a common topic when they get back to school," one respondent said. "And it usually brings up an important discussion."

However, Harpeth Hall cannot force girls to use the books as a conversation starter. "No one just walks up and starts talking about it," a student said.

Students have identified other flaws as well. "While the themes often are accompanied by some hope of change or a new focus for the school year," another survey-taker said, "nothing is ever done to sustain that focus or create action beyond the first few weeks of the semester."

The introduction of a full-year theme behind the all-school read is meant to allay this concern, though some students remain skeptical.

Some believe that the all-school read contributes unnecessary stress to their vacation. 10% of students surveyed choose to opt out of the mandatory all-school read, deeming it not worth their time.

"We talk about it for [approximately] 30 [minutes] for the first advisory and then never again," said a respondee.

There is no unanimous verdict from the student body concerning their feelings towards the all-school read.

For something with the objective to bridge a gap between students, the Harpeth Hall community sure is divided concerning their opinion on the all-school read.

LOGOS

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Based on the theme, our centerspread showcases student summer travel, ranging everywhere from Rock City, TN to Hawk



to Hawk's Bay, New Zealand. However, our theme reflects on not only where we've been, but where we hope to go some day.

Live on the Green

BY: AVA BONEY
A&E Editor



GROOVE OF THE DAY: Artists Allen Stone and Andra Day perform a duet at Live on the Green on August 11.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Krueger

As the 2016-2017 school year begins, students will try to conjure up ways to make the summer last. Thanks to Lightning 100's "Live On The Green," the summer fun is seemingly endless.

Every Thursday night from August 11 until September 3, Lightning 100 hosts their annual music festival on the lawn at Public Square Park.

Live On the Green is an outdoor free music festival that features a wide variety of artists. The festival began in 2009 and has been a quintessential activity for the youth of Nashville ever since.

This year, over 30 different artists and bands will flock to Nashville in order to perform at Live on the Green.

On August 11, Allen Stone and Andra Day brought soul to Music City as they took the stage at Live on the Green. Students took to social media overflowing with praise for their performances.

As for the festival dates to come, Music City has a lot to look forward to. On August 18, Indie-pop will take over Public Square with performances by JR JR, Passenger and closing the show at 9:45pm is Jenny Lewis.

If you enjoy rock of all varieties, be sure to make your way to Live On The Green on August 25 to see performances by The Record Company, Kurt Vile & The Violators and Dawes.

Labor Day weekend marks the ending of Live on the Green 2016. As always, this year's Live on the Green will be going out with a bang.

On September 1st, SIMO, BØRNS, COIN, and Young the Giant kick off the ending of the event. Fan favorites such as Rayland Baxter, The Wild Feathers and Band of Horses take on night two of the festival finale. The final night of Live on the Green is a guaranteed good time with alternative rock bands such as Bully, The Weeks and Judah & The Lion bringing the festivities to an end. For a full festival schedule be sure to visit www.liveonthegreen.com.

An out of this world musical

BY: MADDIE FORBES
A&E Editor

As an eclectic play combining Shakespearean language with aliens, monsters, and the rock and roll music of the 1950s, "Return to the Forbidden Planet"is coming to Harpeth Hall, as the show runs from August 31 and September 1 at 6:30 pm, along with September 2 at 7 pm and September 3 at 2 pm.

The show centers around an eccentric scientist and his journey to test his miracle drug for immortality, all while balancing conflict with his supposedly evil wife and the failure of his latest concoction.

"Honestly the actors are great, the costumes are phenomenal, and this is the most ready a musical has been this early in the process," senior actress Amber Steigelfest said.

Senior Kat Trotman added," It's a really fun, crazy character play, but I love doing musicals because we spend so much time together and it's a mix of a bunch of different personalities. We have a great time rehearsing and performing, and everyone should come see it!"

Kat plays Gloria, the wife to Prospero, the genius scientist, and her intentions are misunderstood throughout the play but revealed as good and true at the conclusion of the show.

By mixing Shakespeare's The Tempest with the 1956 sci-fi movie thriller "The Forbidden Planet," the unique result and outstanding cast are sure to bring in lots of viewers. The lines of Shakespeare accompanied by rock and roll and the backdrop of a sci-fi thriller, "Return to the Forbidden Planet" will be a show like no other.

Ode to the Olympics

BY: LIZZY ASAD
A&E Editor

Every Summer Olympics, a new song is chosen in order to rile competitive spirits, promote global unity, and serve as a symbol for that particular Olympics. This year, the song is "Alma e Coração (Heart and Soul)." Sung by Thiaguinho and rapper Projata, the song embodies the musically diverse sound of Brazil. In fact, it was influenced by a blend of local genres like samba and Tropicália. With its chaotic drums and passionate voices, "Alma e Coração" serves as a perfect Olympic jam.

"This song sounds like Brazil," said singer Thiaguinho. "It's about giving your best, with your heart and soul."

For those who enjoy international music, the songs chosen for past Olympics will provide you with an unique and multilateral listening experience.



BEACH TUNES: Songs are blared from an Olympic stadium's speakers at a volleyball event. *Photo courtesy of Hannah Haynes.*

SONGS FROM THE OLYMPICS

1988, Seoul: Koreana's "Hand in Hand"
1992, Barcelona: Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballe's "Barelona"
1996, Atlanta: Gloria Estefan's "Reach"
2000, Sydney: Tina Arena and the Sydney Children's Choir's "The Flame"
2004, Athens: Bjork's "Oceania"
2008, Beijing: Liu Huan and Sarah Brightman's "You and Me"
2012, London: Muse's "Survival"
2016, Rio: Thiaquinho and Projota's "Alma e Coração"

Curtain opens on "Cursed Child"

BY: LIZZY ASAD
A&E Editor

If you use the Internet, chances are that you have heard about the newest addition in the extensive Harry Potter franchise: a two-part play titled "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child."

Based on an original story by "Harry Potter" creator J.K. Rowling, playwright Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany, the play takes place nineteen years after the events of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." The story revolves around both Harry Potter's reluctance to give up the past and his son's, Albus Potter's, struggle to step out of his father's shadow. The play first premiered on July 30th at the Palace Theatre in London, England.

New characters (such as Scorpius Malfoy and Rose Granger-Weasley) join the venerated characters from the book series in an epic plot that has to be shown in two two hour-and-forty-minute parts. The combination of award-winning actors, spectacular technical effects, and a solid script has led "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" to gain international praise and a plethora of five-star reviews.

On July 31, a Special Rehearsal edition of the script was released worldwide. The Special Rehearsal edition contains the script used by the cast and creative team during the play's production. However, during the next few months, the script will be tweaked based on audience reaction.

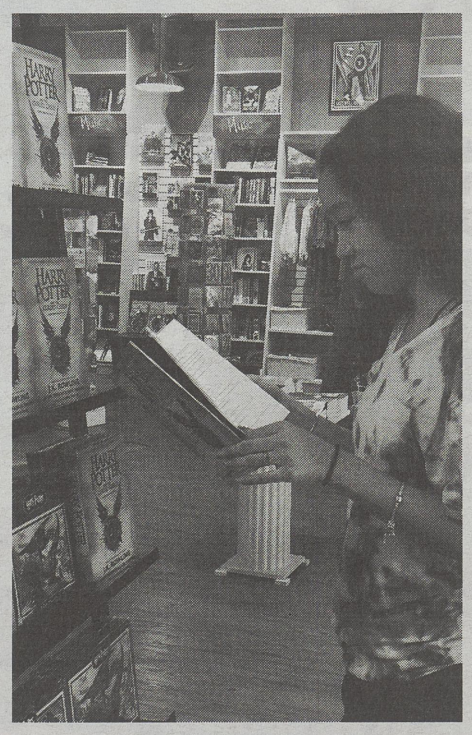
The Definitive edition of the script, which contains a perfected version of the script with final stage direction and extra content, is slated for release in early 2017.

So far, reader response to the Special Rehearsal edition of the script has been mixed. Many claim the play format of the story detracts from the reading experience; on the other hand, readers also claim that the story provides a refreshing and exciting take on the Wizarding World. Due to the polarizing scale of reviews, many people are hesitating to pick up the script.

"Despite the controversy, everyone should read it. It completes the Harry Potter stories while being original in its own way," junior and Bibliobears president Maya Misra said. "And even if you don't like the book itself, it won't ruin the previous books at all."

Tickets for performances leading up to December 10, 2017 are available on the play's official website. Although ticket resale is banned, the tickets for the play are relatively inexpensive, ranging from $30 to $170. However, negotiations are currently being held for the play to appear in the Shubert Theatre of New York.

Whether through attending the performance or reading the script, "Harry Potter" fans are able to revisit the Wizarding World in its entirety with "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child." For many, this is what makes the experience truly magical.



BEARS BUYING BOOKS: Senior Kaylah Whalum takes a sneak peak at the new Harry Potter book.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Krueger.

Harpeth Hall girls take Olympic Trials

BY EMILY JENKINS
Sports Editor

As most of the Harpeth Hall community was settling into the lazy days of summer, three honeybears headed to Omaha, Nebraska, to compete in the Olympic Trials for swimming.

Sophomore Ella Nelson, freshman Alex Walsh and her sister, eighth grader Gretchen Walsh, represented both the Nashville Aquatic Club and Harpeth Hall with pride as they competed with some of the biggest names in swimming during the weeklong meet from late June to early July.

These three girls considered it an incredible accomplishment and opportunity to swim in one of the biggest meets on American soil. To be able to compete in the meet, the girls first had to qualify by swimming a certain time in any given event. The top two athletes from each individual event at Trials advance to the Olympics to represent the United States.

"I first made it about a year ago at a smaller swim meet at the Sportsplex and I remember being the happiest I think I have ever been." Nelson said. Gretchen Walsh agreed. "Once I heard all my teammates screaming, I knew I had made it and I burst into tears."

Being surrounded by other Olympians, like Katie Ledecky, Missy Franklin, and Michael Phelps, was truly special. "The coolest thing about seeing them was realizing that they are real people too, and that they put in the same work that we do," Nelson said.

Freshman Alex Walsh even had an Olympian ask her for a favor: "One of the coolest moments I experienced at Trials was being able to put on Missy Franklin's cap. I was sitting two seats over from her in the ready room right before the prelims of the 100 backstroke and she turned to me and asked, 'Can you cap me?' It was so cool."

With Nelson in the 400 IM, 200 IM, and 100 Breast; Alex Walsh in the 100 Back, 200 Back, 100 Breast, and 200 IM and Gretchen Walsh in the 50 Free, the girls together covered a wide range of events. Amidst all of these races, the atmosphere kept them going when the fatigue started to set in. Of the crowds in the stadium, Alex Walsh said, "All the cheers and noise really got me pumped up to race." Gretchen Walsh added, "The trials were unlike any meet I had ever been to."

Throughout their week in Omaha, all three girls loved the chance to swim on a bigger stage. "All I wanted to do was have fun and just race as hard as I could," Gretchen Walsh said. For Nelson, the meet was "definitely the coolest thing I have ever been a part of and such a humbling experience. Having the chance to represent my country and something greater than myself was an amazing feeling and carried with it so much pride and happiness." For these three, qualifying for this meet was, as Alex Walsh put it, a "dream come true."



BEARACUDA PRIDE: From left to right: Nelson, Alex Walsh, and Gretchen Walsh in Omaha before the start of the meet. *Photo courtesy of Ella Nelson.*

Russian doping scandal shakes Rio Olympics

BY HALLE PETRIE AND EMILY JENKINS
Sports Editors

Approximately one-third of Russia's 2016 Olympic Team was disqualified because of the use of performance-enhancing drugs. In the 2012 Sochi Winter Olympics, the Russians substituted the urine of their drug-consuming athletes with that of those who were clean during the standard drug-screening tests. The government also played a role in keeping Russia's doping policies under wraps.

In response to this discovery, the International Olympic Committee tested the Russian Olympic team and ended up banning 118 athletes from this year's competition, including the entire track and field and the weightlifting teams. Because Russia's weightlifting team has been dominant in past years, there is now a chance for other countries to step up to the plate, filling the gap that Russia left.

Evidence of Russia's illegal substance use came to light after Vitaly Stepanov, a former employee at RUSADA, an anti-doping agency in Russia, along with his wife, Yulia Stepanova, a former international competitor in the 800 meter run, presented the evidence in a German documentary in 2014. Stepanova served out her two year ban from competition as punishment for doping, but the two are disappointed in the International Olympic Committee's decision not to ban all Russian athletes from the Olympics this year. Senior Corinne Brien agrees: "I think the IOC should have done more... The Russian government should take responsibility for what they have facilitated among their athletes and admit their wrongdoing."

While Stepanova remains unable to compete in Rio even after her competition ban was lifted, the couple hopes to raise awareness in order to prevent Russia from getting away with doping in the future. However, the two have been forced to relocate several times, as they are now viewed as traitors in Russia, even to family members.

Still, Stepanova and Stepanov do not regret their decision to expose Russia's illegal actions. While many Russian athletes currently do not even question this system of performance-enhancing drugs, they hope that one day Russia will be held responsible for their system of illegal doping forced to compete drug-free.



OLYMPIC DOMINANCE: Ledecky after winning the 400 meter freestyle, breaking her own world record and beating the second place finisher by five seconds. Photo courtesy of WBUR.ORG.

U.S. Olympic standouts

BY HALLE PETRIE
Sports Editor

Katie Ledecky	At age 15, Katie came home from the 2012 Olympics with a gold medal in swimming and is now considered by many to be the best female swimmer in Rio. At only 19 years old, this is Ledecky's second Olympics. So far in Rio, she has won 3 gold medals and one silver.
Simone Biles	Also 19, Simone is on the USA gymnastics team. After being only person to win the all-around world championship three times, she has proven herself in Rio by helping the USA's "Final Five" team of gymnasts to a gold medal, as well as winning the gold medal in the all-around category.
Ibtihaj Muhammad	A member of the fencing team, she is the first Muslim woman on the US team to wear a hijab while in competition. She will be competing in the Women's Team Saber competition. She has won four bronze medals and one gold from her experience at the World Championships from the past three years.

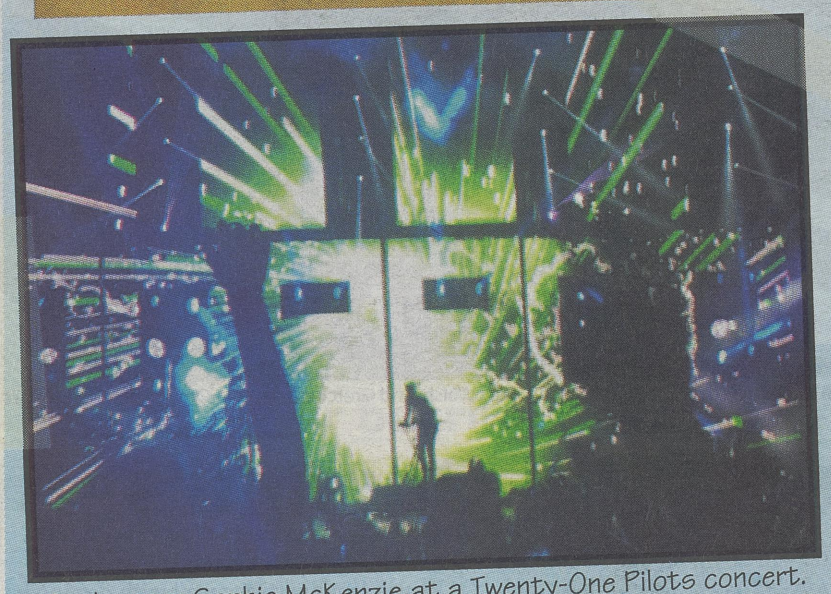


Junior Valerie Sheehan at Green Door Gourmet: "I couldn't have picked a better strawberry picking partner, thanks to my sister for making it worthwhile!"



Of her trip to Thailand, Senior Sterling Akers said, "The experiences that I've had have reminded me that beauty can be found in the simplest of moments."

summer fun



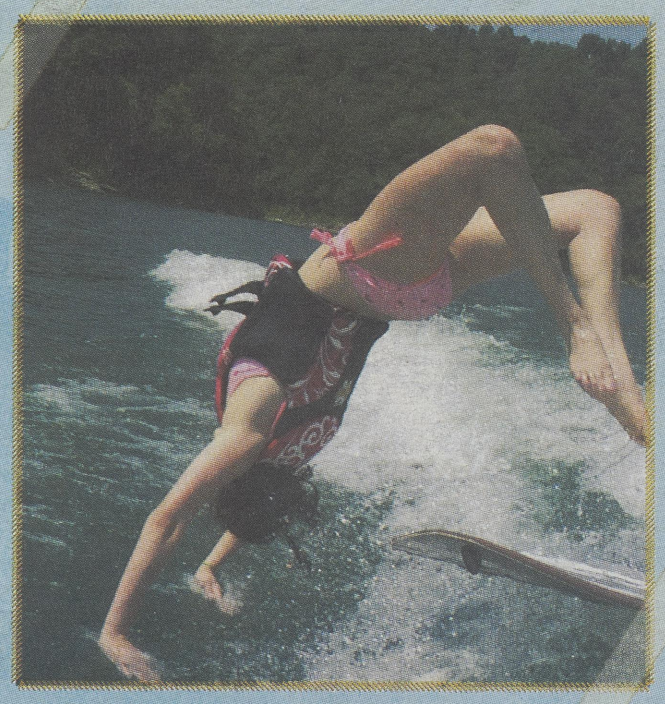
Sophomore Sophie McKenzie at a Twenty-One Pilots concert. She says, "I had been wanting to go since I got into the band in 5th grade and Ella promised me tickets last year!"



Juniors Kathleen Norton, Grace Miller and McKenzie Darnell eating kebabs at the American Friendship Festival in Germany



Sophomomres Cole Hastings and Charlotte Taylor jetskiing at Rock Island, TN.



Senior Grace Ann Robertson doing a backflip off a wakeboard at Center Hill Lake. She says, "The lake is my favorite place to be in the summer!"



MBA Cheerleading camp performing over the summer

Senior Karin Scott hiking in Switzerland



BY CAROLINE SPINDEL AND ASHLEY ZHU
Backpage Editors