

# THE ORACLE

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## Lottery stops parking woes

By Mike Waldron

Oracle Editor

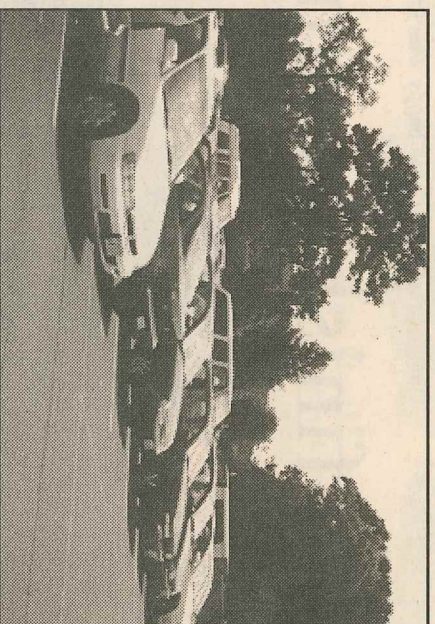
Nearly 300 WS students won a lottery before school started, but instead of winning money, they won the right to purchase a \$100 parking space in the student lot.

Last spring, WS sent out letters to seniors and who had asked for an application. Before school started, the administrators read over the applications and held a lottery, which in their opinion, was the most objective way to pass out parking spaces.

"We simply put all of the names in one hat, and all of the numbers in another hat," said Assistant Principal and Senior Administrator Richard Griffin. "Then we just matched names with numbers."

Of all the seniors that completed applications, roughly 95% received parking spaces for the 300 car lot.

"I think the lottery was fair, because it pretty much guaranteed that all seniors who wanted a space would get one," said senior Earl Sutton, whose application was denied for his junior year but accepted for his senior year.



Bree Vrotsko

Almost all seniors who applied for parking passes received them. This year's process was much less chaotic than last year's.

However, only seniors were allowed to apply this year, because in the past, more applications meant more chaos.

The administrative team in charge of this operation, Security Specialist Zion McKinney, Assistant Principal Bart Kramer, and Griffin, decided to use the lottery format because there were several complaints and problems regarding the former first-come, first-serve procedure. So far, they have been very pleased.

"It was 100 percent better than last year," said Griffin. "The process was really fair, and it went very, very well. We haven't had any complaints."

## For some, it's a rerun New, old faces greet students

By Emily Morris

Features Assistant

Barbra Martin taught here 18 years ago and is returning to the school after an 18-year absence.

She will be teaching World History and Geography in the learning disabilities department. Martin stopped teaching when her daughter was born to be a full-time mom.

"Now that she is off to college, I realized how much fun teaching was and how much I missed it, I have returned to WS again, and I am really excited," said Martin.

Some new teachers even grew up in the area and attended surrounding schools. "I graduated from Lake Braddock, and I always came to WS for our away games," said business teacher Bryan Buser.

New teacher Ann Wynn also graduated from Lake Braddock.

Not all teachers are from this area, though. German teacher Christine Bonhlem grew up in Germany and later moved to the states and the West Springfield area.

Another teacher from overseas is



Bree Vrotsko

New teachers Darlene Bleier, Martha Beall, Shiela Allen, Jolene Piazza, and Jim Jones sit together at a new teacher function.

Olusegun Olaimoji. He was born in Nigeria and moved here shortly thereafter.

"I went to college in New Hampshire, and I have been a substitute for Fairfax County Public Schools for several years," said Olaimoji. "This is my first year as a full time teacher."

Some students cannot believe that teachers have a life outside of school. But all of the new teachers have interesting backgrounds and hobbies.

Buser is a thrill seeker who has gone bungee jumping and skydiving.

## Attendance process changes with 2000

By Maggie Atteberry

Oracle Photographer

Shiny metal robots parking cars and bathrooms that refill themselves with soap and toilet paper by the simple press of a button.

Yes, teachers and staff members have been busy preparing over the summer for the new school year, but

New PE teachers Jim Jones and Jolene Piazza also work in the athletic department. Jones is an assistant coach for the varsity football team and Piazza is the head athletic trainer.

Day Leary taught at WS for four years before trying administration. She returns to teach ninth and tenth grade English.

"In my year away, the most important thing that I learned is that you should do a job you really love," said Leary. "This is the job I really love and I really love kids, so that's why I came back."

Unfortunately it will be a while before students see robots roaming the hallways.

WS may not be up to speed with the "Jaxsons," but as new technology is being born WS is changing with the times, and is bringing some of the latest technology into the classrooms such as a new attendance program designed by a company called NCS.

What this new program does is allows information from the attendance office to be seen by teachers on their own

## Department plays musical chairs yet again Spartan choirs get third leader in three years

By Amy McKeever

Inside Story Editor

With the beginning of a new school year, the WS choral department has received an opportunity to start anew. Former part-time teacher Merbeth Puckett has taken over the reigns as the WS Choral Director.

After the sudden departure of last year's director, Robert Swingler, Puckett was offered the full-time position of head director. She accepted this offer for various reasons.

Last year, Swingler replaced Jodi Porter, who replaced long-time director Debbie Duncan in 1998.

"The opportunity presented itself," said Puckett. "I felt it was important for the kids to have some familiarity, instead of a new teacher."

This familiarity was created in the past two years that Puckett has been teaching music at WS. Throughout these years, she has been the director of the show choir Piazazz, the music theory teacher and the co-director of Women's Select Choir.

The students that she has gotten to know over the past couple of years are grateful to Puckett for providing them with continuity within the department.

"I'm really glad Mrs. Puckett took over because we actually know her," said senior Kerstin Roper. "It was nice of her to think of us."

The school has also hired a new part-time teacher, Candace Modlin, to help Puckett with AP music theory and Piazazz. With Modlin's assistance, Puckett is prepared for the challenges in reshaping the choral department.

"This new position will definitely take a lot more time and energy," said Puckett. "Still, I hope to have a great year."

computers. So if a student is going to have a pre-arranged absence, instead of the attendance office sending a note to the teachers classroom, that information will be automatically sent to the teachers computer. Some teachers find this program to be very useful such as English teacher Marcey Mihalalo. "It will make it a lot more organized for me," Mihalalo said.

This program not only gives teachers See ATTENDANCE Page 8

**WHAT'S INSIDE**  
**5 FOLLOW SARAH KELBAUGH ON HER FAMILY'S ROAD TRIP.**  
**7 GET THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE NEW PRACTICE FIELD.**



# Parking doesn't drive people wild

The administration finally did it. They managed to avoid total parking mayhem during the first week of school.

Rather than dealing with seniors camping outside the school at midnight or trying to sell passes at lunch, a new lottery system was developed. Rising seniors received parking applications in the spring and the completed applications, along with the lottery tickets, had to be returned to the school by August 24.

Seniors that won the right to buy a parking permit were chosen randomly through the lottery. Juniors and other underclassmen, however, had no chance at receiving a

parking permit, since the administration made it a senior

privilege this year. Though juniors aren't too happy with the new rules,

## Editorial

the lottery system alleviated a lot of the administration's stress over parking from past years. Since seniors' parking permits activated on the first day of school, the need to wake up at the crack of dawn to get a space in the lot during the first week was eliminated.

It is surprising that a situation that is as simple as parking places at a high school can cause such an uproar. Last year, chaos erupted when the parking system proved to be unorganized. This year, it worked.

Underclassmen may be upset that seniors stole their usual ten spaces in the lot this year, but there is no need to worry. Their chance for a spot will come soon enough.

# Even slackers finish summer reading in July

By Amy Whipple  
Oracle Editor

You're going to have to sit down for this one. I, Amy Whipple, world's biggest slacker since the third grade, did my summer reading - all of it. And I finished in July.

The thing is, I had decent books to read while we were out of school. For English, I was to read *A Tribe Apart* and *Old Friends*. I kind of cheated, since I had read *A Tribe Apart* the previous winter.

Out of all my books this was the most interesting. It is a study of teenagers in Reston. Not only was it well written, but it hit close to home.

*Old Friends* went to the other side of

the spectrum and told the story of a community of older people in a nursing home.

For Applied History I had to read *Preserving Memory*, the story behind the making of the Holocaust Museum. This was followed with a trip to the museum, which I also took before school started.

So how did this happen? Why didn't I choose to complete high school in the same slacker style? It's easy. These are decent books. One of them was good enough for me to read on my own. Is this the answer to summer reading problems? I think so.

Even Borders understands how hard summer reading can be. A sign on the table of selected summer reading books read, "The shortest books go the fastest,"

or something along those lines. That's a good message to be sending.

It doesn't look like WS English teacher Brooke Nelson is the only teacher smart enough to assign books teenagers will actually read, or books that don't require Cliffs Notes to understand or appreciate.

A friend of mine who will be a sophomore in Honors English had to read three choice books off of a list. The list was full of novels that normal people actually read.

I remember the summer before my sophomore year: a Shakespeare, a Steinbeck, and a choice. That's definitely not anything that your average teenager reads.

I know I have a hard enough time

getting through them when I have worksheets and a teacher picking apart the story line. I don't think I'm the only student at WS who doesn't quite get this. Why not save Shakespeare for the school year when there is a teacher there to help us?

During the summer let us read something off the *current* best-seller list. Maybe starting now will let us gain a better appreciation for reading, instead of turning us off when we get frustrated.

So there you have it. We're still enriching our minds, keeping them active, a mental workout, whatever you want to call it. The groans won't be as loud, the struggle not as hard, and the battle not as long. It's just a suggestion, but it's one that gets this slacker to do her work.

# Spartan Spotlight

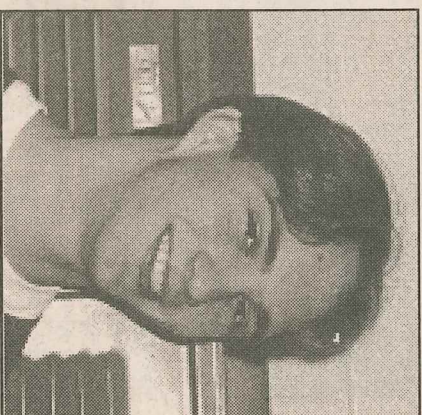
## What will be the best part about the 2000-01 school year?



"I'm a cheerleader so going to see all of the games will be fun."  
-Julia Anne Cole, 9



"I'm really excited about drill team, and I hope the dances will be bigger."  
-Ashley Hoffman, 11



"HOPEFULLY, I'll be receiving acceptance letters from college."  
-Peter Thaxter, 12



"Watching my senior girls whooping on the little juniors."  
-Boone Clayton, 12  
-Compiled by Maggie Atteberry

## THE ORACLE

West Springfield High School  
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# Soar high, dip low

## Rollercoasters reach new heights, set records

### records heights, set

“I like Busch Gardens the best because it has more looping roller coasters rather than just bumpy ones,” said sophomore Sherri Boone.

Another ride at Six Flags is the Joker’s Jinx, which weighs 500 tons and can blast riders from zero to 60 mph in just over three seconds.

The 30 vertical curves, 25 horizontal ones

and four upside-down loops last a total of one minute and 30 seconds.

Six Flags is not the only park trying to attract thrill seekers. Busch Gardens in Williamsburg is pushing Apollo’s Chariot as the ultimate thrill ride.

Apollo’s Chariot plummets passengers a total of 825 feet in nine drops. Seconds of weightlessness may be experienced when the coach races up and down camelback humps at 73 mph.



As Busch Gardens has Apollo’s Chariot, Paramount’s King’s Dominion has Volcano The Blast Coaster, the world’s fastest suspended coaster. Volcano goes up to 70 mph, rockets 155 feet up, and has a final drop of 80 feet.

Another popular coaster at Kings Dominion is Outer Limits: Flight of Fear. This ride lasts two minutes and 24 seconds,

goes up to 54 mph, and has a 156-foot long corkscrew. Kings Dominion has had an 11% increase in attendance since introducing Outer Limits.

“I like Outer Limits because its really fast and in the dark so you don’t know what’s coming up,” said sophomore Ashlie Elder.

As theme parks try to attract customers with thrill rides, Kings Dominion plans to open next spring with the world’s first compressed-air launch coaster, HyperSonic XLC. HyperSonic features zero gravity, unique acceleration, and free-fall sensations. It also has special shock absorbers for a smooth ride. Next year, Kings Dominion may even win the roller coaster war with the HyperSonic.

“I can’t wait to ride the HyperSonic,” said Elder. “It sounds like no other coaster and I would go to Kings Dominion just to ride it.”

Busch Gardens Priyanka Tandon and Nisha Rai take a ride on the Loch Ness Monster at Busch Gardens. Roller coasters are getting faster, wilder and more extreme at amusement parks nationwide.

**By Priyanka Tandon**  
Business /Systems Editor

It’s 2,000 feet tall, blue, red, and yellow. It even has the familiar symbol known to countless people.

It’s the newest, tallest, and fastest ride at Six Flags America, the Superman Ride of Steel. Passengers climb over 20 stories right before they plummet 200 feet into a 70 degree drop. This three minute and 20 second thriller is over a mile long and reaches speeds up to 75 mph.

“The Superman is one the best roller coasters I have ever been on. I like it especially because it didn’t go upside down,” said freshman Lauren Frawley.

Many theme parks this summer are waging a roller coaster war to attract more people and most of the time it’s working.


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*Life is a road trip. Sarah Kelbaugh, Class of '00, proves this in her photo essay of the family's trip to North Carolina. Can you see yourself in these images? Enjoy the ride!*

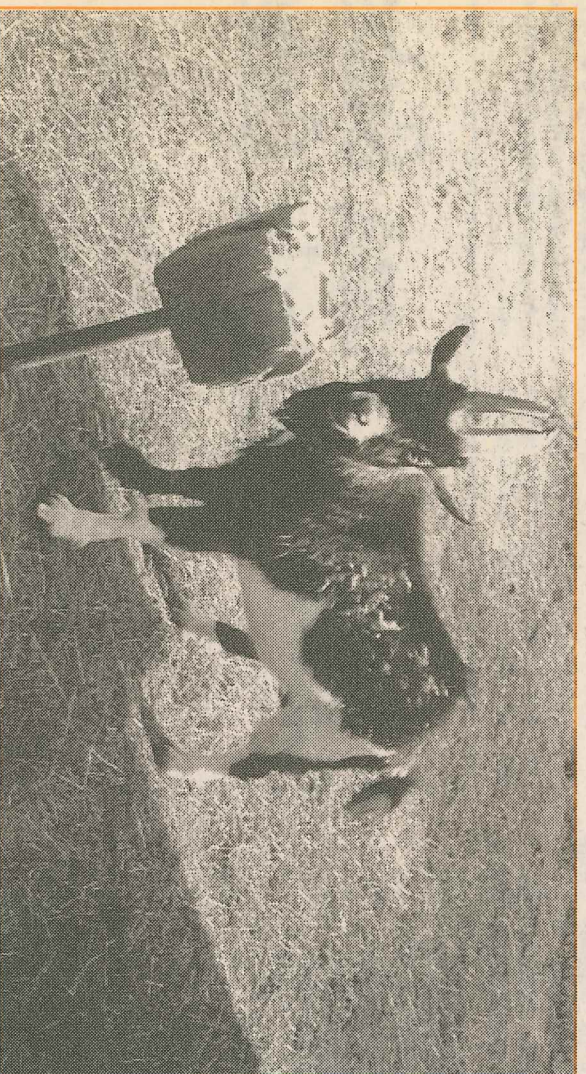
### Photo Essay

**By Sarah Kelbaugh**

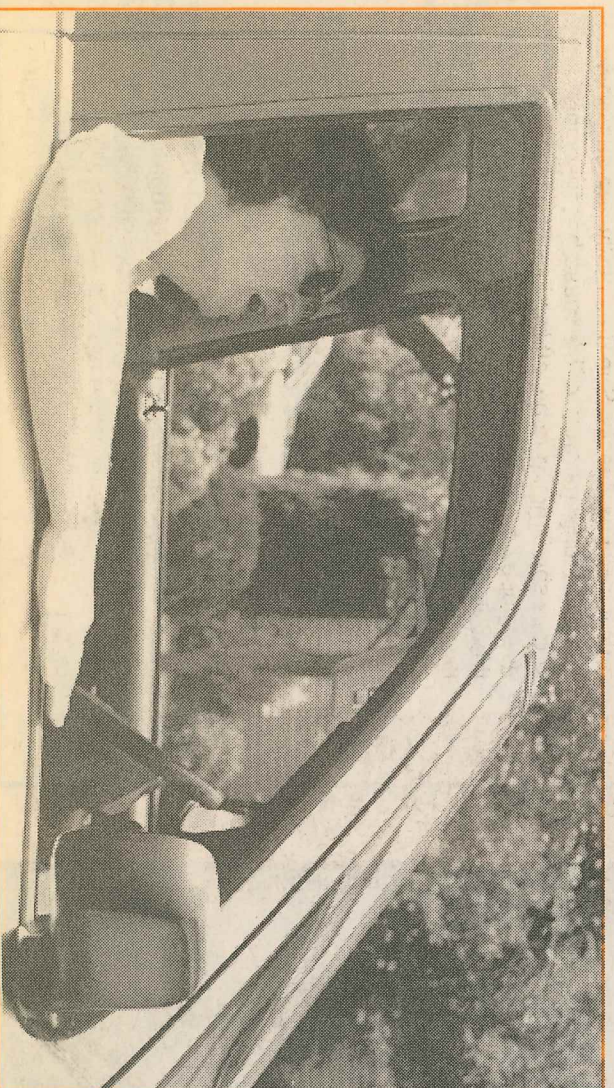
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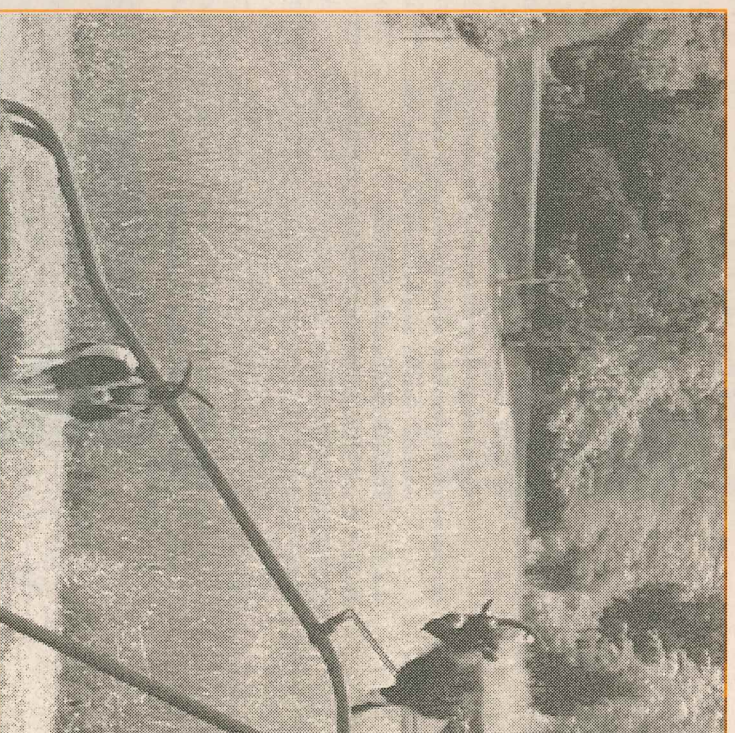
After the six hour drive we finally reached our destination: Concord, North Carolina. As soon as we arrived, my family went out to their normal chatting spot in front of my grandmother's house. The swing and green chairs have been there as long as I can remember (Above).



My mom was the first one in the family who was ready to go. She amused herself by waiting in the car and singing to the radio. She had no idea I was taking this picture of her, and after I was finished she wanted me to take another so she could make funny faces. Although I was tempted to, I didn't want to waste my road trip film (Below).

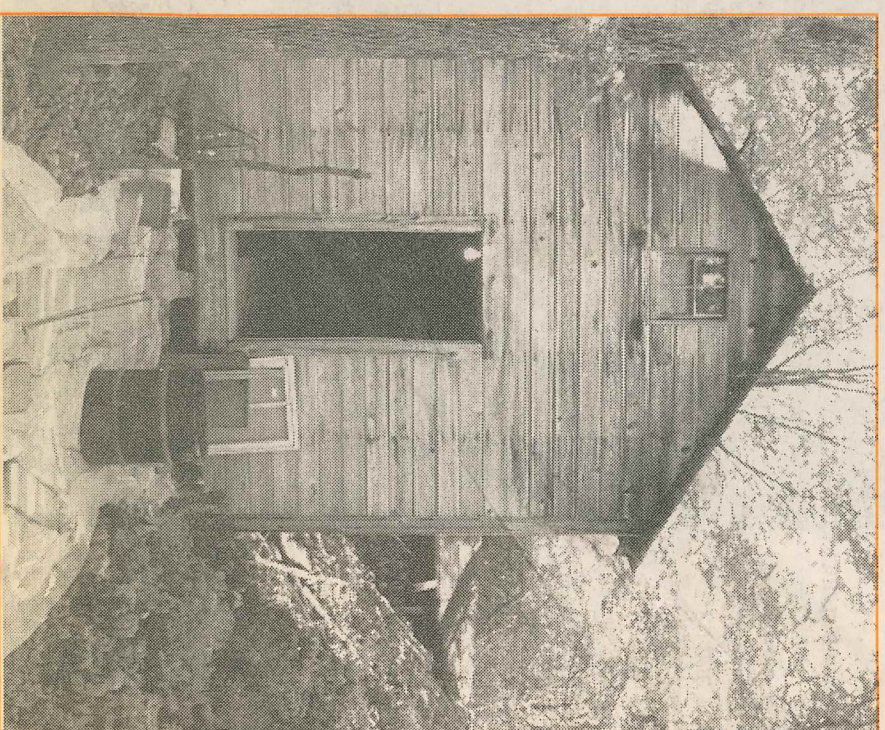


# ROAD TRIP



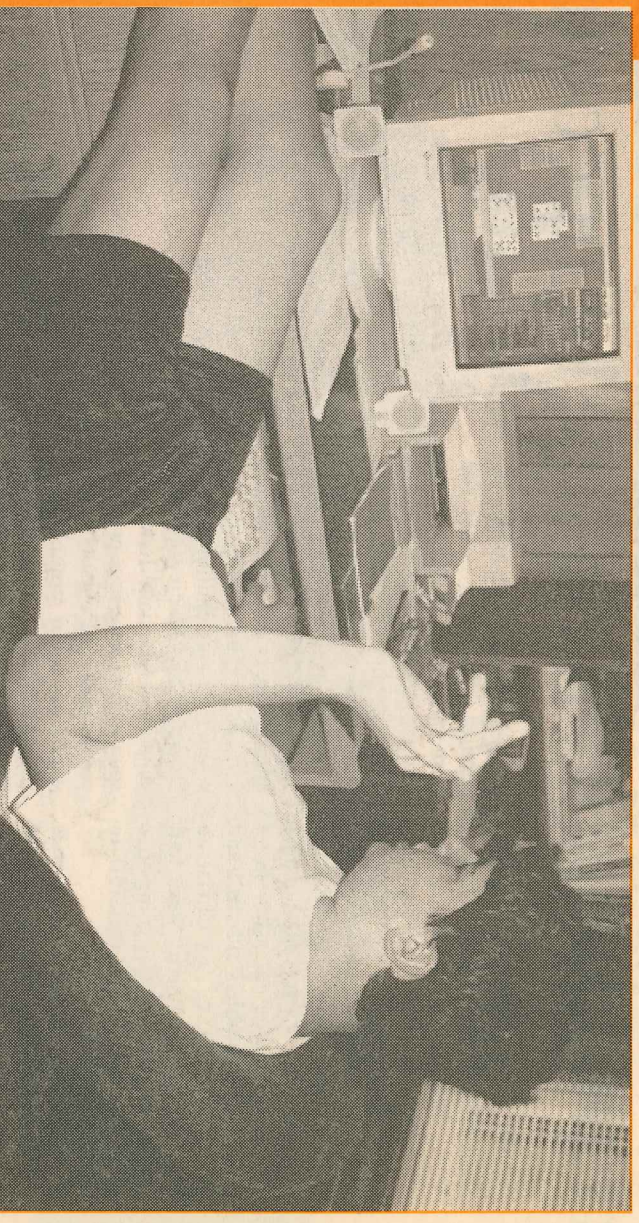
I found it very amusing that Spanky and Buckwheat, my cousin picture. They like to run up and down the slide butting into each other constantly getting into trouble (Above).

Here is Buckwheat. He was cute when he was little, and although he was a bit of a trouble maker, I would not recommend them as pets. The goats are (Left)!

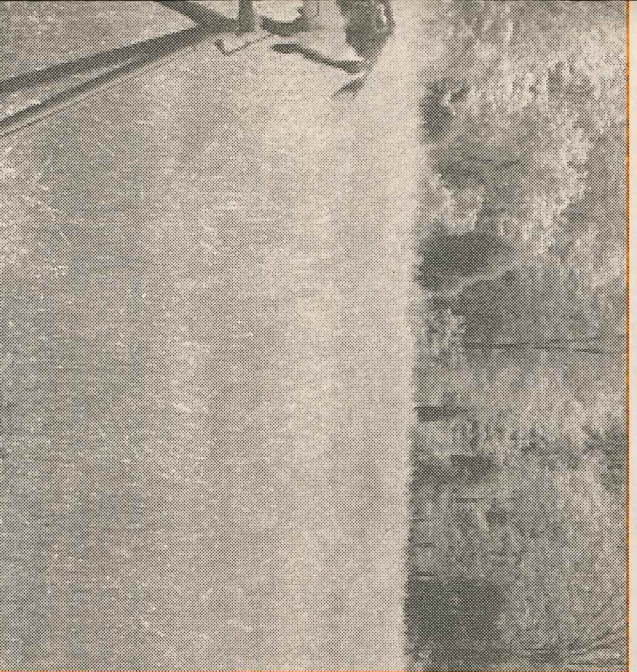


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# ADD TIP!



My family and I took a little road trip to see family in North Carolina. We were supposed to leave the house at 10:00 but once again my brother made us late. While we thought he was packing his things, he was actually playing on the computer and listening to music. Instead of hitting the road at 10:00, we finally made it on our way at 11:15 (Above).



his goats, were playing on a slide, and I had to take a  
h other. Buckwheat is the more playful of the two and is

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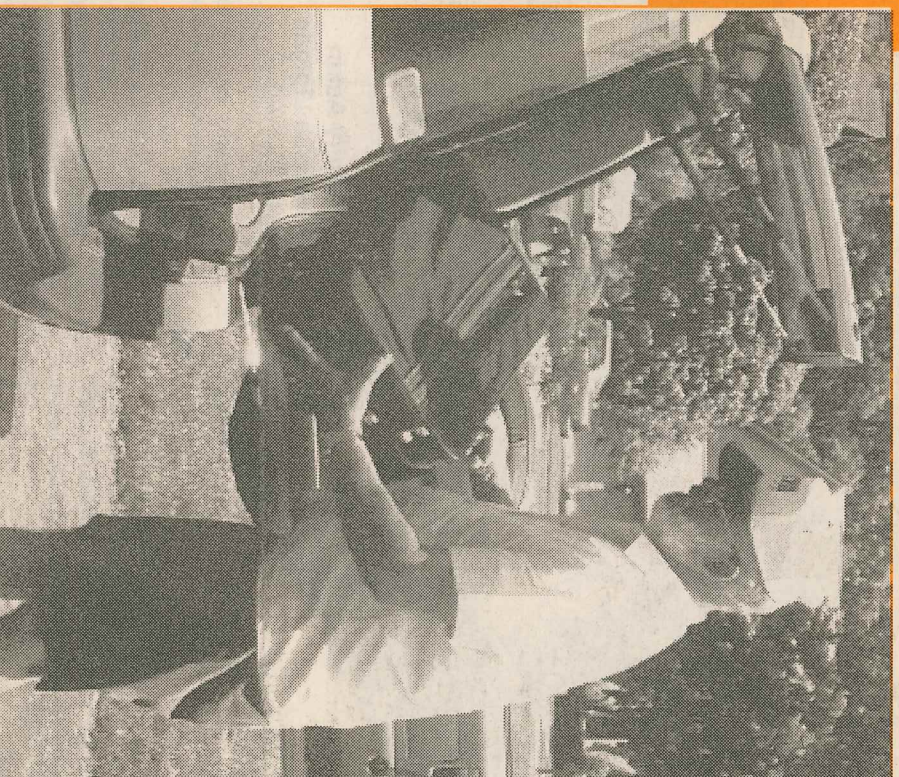
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on our way back

(Left).



While my brother was relaxing in the basement, my dad was loading the car with our luggage. It is amazing how much luggage a family of four can have. My mom feels the need to pack anything and everything she could possibly use or wear on the trip, so the car is always fully loaded (Left).



This is my dog Cassie. She gets really nervous when she sees luggage around the house because she knows she is going to be left behind. She looks for every opportunity to get out of the house and jump into the car. She found that opportunity when my dad left the door ajar, and she darted out of the house and into our CRV. We all find it very amusing and we let her sit in the car, at least letting her think she was coming along for the ride. Little did she know we were going to take her back in the house when it was time to leave (Above).



This is a very old barn that my great-grandparents used back in 1850's. It used to house cows, horses, and litters of kittens. There are still remains of hay in the loft upstairs. It has an inside and outside structure because part of it was rebuilt in the early 1900's (Left).

# Phish hooked on line of upcoming fall music

By Jenn Carlson  
Viewpoint Assistant

Just in time for a new school year, area venues are welcoming artists from all over the music world to their stages.

Performers gracing the stages provide a variety of musical styles for different tastes. From the inseparable Faith Hill and Tim McGraw to Christina Aguilera to Phish, there will always be something going on in the music world this fall in Washington.

One anticipated concert is that of country singing husband and wife duo Hill and McGraw. As they bring their Soul2Soul Tour to Washington's MCI Center, they try to live up to McGraw's reputation as the

bestselling touring act in country music. The date is set for September 15, and those lucky enough to get their hands on tickets are in for a terrific show.

Coming to the Merrimether Post Pavillion for a September 16 show is Christina Aguilera with special guest Destiny's Child.

This is the Grammy-award winner's first headlining tour. During the 37-city outing, supporters Sears and Levi's are sponsoring a campaign awarding youths under the age of 18 who work on local community-

improvement projects. Throughout the tour, youths will receive a \$500 grant for use towards their projects, free tickets to Aguilera's concert, as well as an opportunity to meet

with the singer backstage.

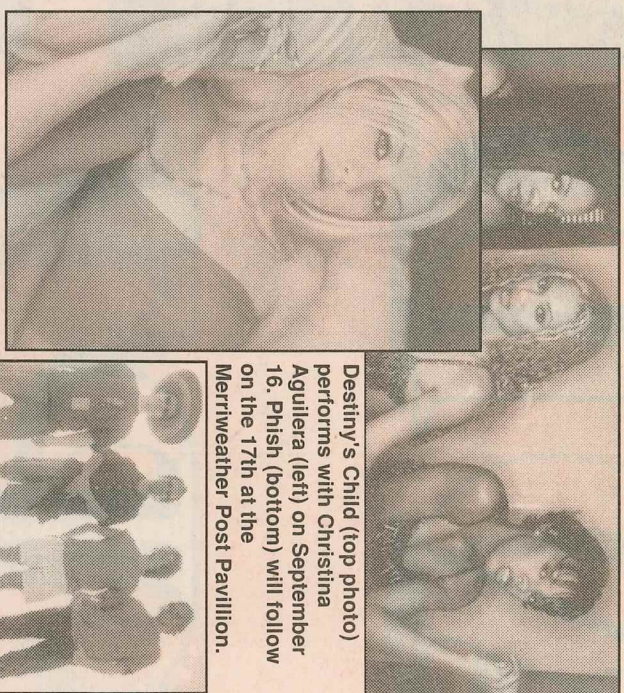
Also performing at Merrimether Post Pavillion is rock quartet Phish. The

September 17 show comes at a perfect time to get away from school stress, but unfortunately for those who do not already have a ticket, the concert is sold out.

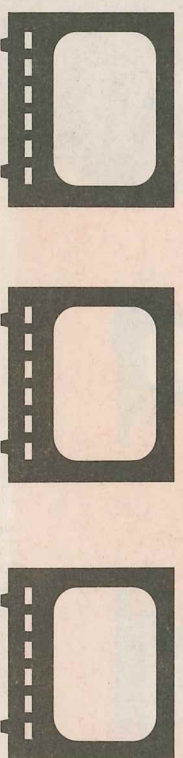
"School brings me a lot of stress so a concert is a good way to get rid of it," said senior Pat Becker.

Returning to the MCI Center are the boys of \*N Sync, in town for a November 11 show date.

Even though getting back into the school year may be hard for many students, there is still plenty of fun to be had at area venues seeing your favorite bands live.



Destiny's Child (top photo) performs with Christina Aguilera (left) on September 16. Phish (bottom) will follow on the 17th at the Merrimether Post Pavillion.



## New technology adds high definition to tube

By Jenny Askin  
& Melissa Lipman  
Oracle Staff Writers

Chances are the television in your house will be obsolete within the next ten years.

The new technology coming is called high definition television, otherwise known as HDTV. Currently, HDTV is in the process of being instated all around the country in order to enhance the television experience. HDTV will make the picture sharper and clearer, and it uses the Dolby Surround Sound System.

"I want to get great definition of all the climaxing moments in all my favorite movies," said junior David Panzykowski.

HDTV is different from regular television in the way it sends information. The televisions in most homes right now show what's called an interlaced picture, the odd numbered lines are shown for one-thirteenth of a second and the even numbered lines are shown for the same amount of time, separately. The two sets are really shown apart, but are then put together by the human eye creating one picture.

The way HDTV works is that more lines of the picture are added, so more detail can be shown. This idea is similar to pixels in pictures on a computer screen; the more dots of color that are used, the clearer the picture will be. In addition to this, all the lines of the picture are shown at once, giving viewers a much sharper picture. The clarity of HDTV would allow

a viewer to see a five o'clock shadow on a sports player's face.

Official broadcasting of HDTV began in November 1998, but for the most part even network affiliates in metropolitan areas typically only show a few hours of HD programming every day. Direct satellite services only offer one channel of HD HBO and a HD Pay Per View channel. On the CBS website, a calendar of shows that use the new HDTV system can be found.

However, one of the biggest drawbacks to HDTV is all the equipment necessary to use it, and perhaps more importantly, the high cost of that equipment.

There are two types of HDTV systems. Integrated sets include all the pieces, receiver circuitry and a screen. These types of sets generally start at \$3,000.

The second form is a component system, which come in multiple pieces like many home stereo systems. These kinds of sets require users to buy a receiver, in addition to a high-definition monitor to view the programming. Both options would have similar high prices.

Because of those high prices, only around 10,000 HDTV sets have been sold so far. Compared to the 25 million regular TV sets sold each year in the United States, the number of HDTV sets is relatively small.

While various groups involved with the entertainment industry are hoping that HDTV will quickly take over, chances are it still may be a long time coming.

## The 'Survivor' Challenge

Summer's number one show and the hottest "Real TV" show to date is finally over. Or is it? CBS plans to re-air "Survivor" this January and "Survivor 2" is on the way, set to take place in Australia's outback. So you think you're survivor material? Take Oracle's 'Survivor' Challenge and see.

- Who was the first survivor to be voted off the island?
    - B.B.
    - Sonja
    - Stacey
  - How many original castaways arrived on the island the first day
    - 21
    - 16
    - 25
  - Rudy was a retired...
    - Navy Seal
    - Army General
    - Airforce Fighter Pilot
  - Who became a couple on the island?
    - Jenna and Sean
    - Gervase and Ramona
    - Colleen and Greg
  - What was NOT eaten on the island?
    - rats
    - eels
    - frog legs
  - How many people originally applied to become a contestant on "Survivor"?
    - more than 100,000
    - more than 6,000
    - about 2,000
  - The name of the island was...
    - Kota Kinabalu
    - Kuala Lumpur
    - Palau Tiga
  - What was the date of the last episode when it aired?
    - August 17
    - August 21
    - September 1
- (a) 8 '(a) 7 '(a) 9 '(a) 5 '(a) 4 '(a) 3 '(a) 2 '(a) 1 :s:answ:ry

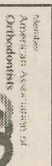
—Compiled by Jenny Braudaway

## Help Wanted!

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# Tugwell remembered as Munoz takes over

By Jenny Askin  
Production Editor

On game day many players from the past came to support their high school coach's retirement. At the event the field was dedicated to Tugwell. Signs were posted around the field with the new name, Tugwell Yards.

This year the baseball program has gone through some changes. Long time head coach and WS counselor Ron Tugwell retired after a highly decorated career. The school honored him by renaming the baseball field "Tugwell Yards". Ken Munoz, the coach of the junior varsity team, was named Tugwell's successor.

"Tugwell Yards is a great honor and a sign of respect for all the years and hard work Mr. Tugwell has put in," said Athletic Director Todd Chappell. "We are very excited about Mr. Munoz. He is bringing a great deal of experience to the program."

On August 12, the first alumni game was held in honor of Tugwell, and the field was full of players from past WS teams.

During the game a ceremony was held to rename the field.

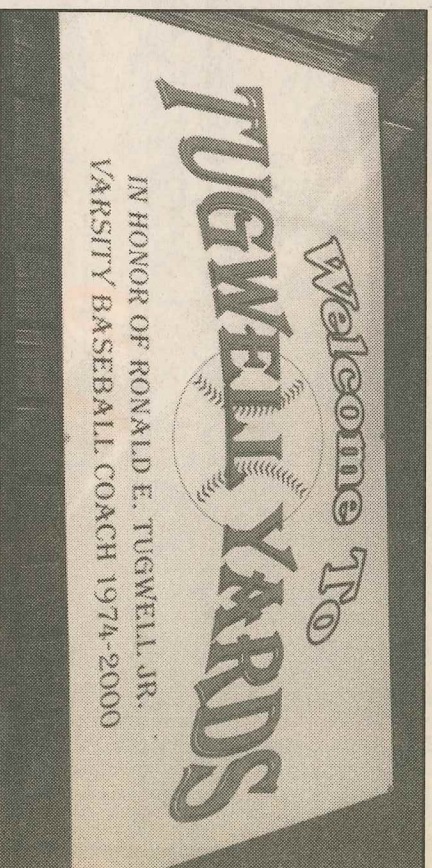
"I was very honored, but a lot of people thought that I died unexpectedly," joked Tugwell.

Since leaving WS, Tugwell has started a substitution position at Hayfield. During the fall baseball season Tugwell will be coaching a 12-year old team affiliated with the Northern Virginia Baseball Academy. Tugwell will help with the varsity team but will not be on the coaching staff.

"Tugwell will always be a presence in WS Baseball," said Munoz.

Munoz has a long list of credentials, including being named an All American in high school, playing for George Mason University on scholarship, and playing one professional season with an independent team in Canada. In 1994 Munoz was introduced to Tugwell, beginning his coaching career. Munoz left coaching at WS for a coaching position on the George Mason staff, but he returned last year as head coach of the junior varsity team, which won the district title.

Munoz earned many coaching techniques from Tugwell, such as practice



Lauren Sheffield

Tugwell Yards was renamed during an alumni game in honor of long-time head coach Ron Tugwell, who retired last year.

organization and skill development. But he says his approach toward game situations will be different.

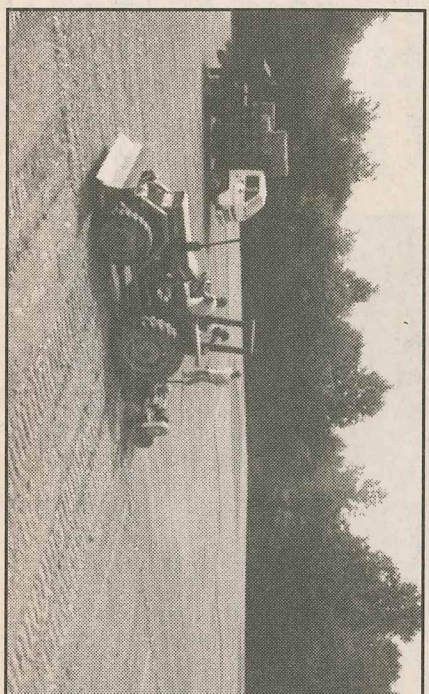
"Tugwell is a vocal coach. I think that I am more reserved," said Munoz. "I want the guys to be as comfortable as possible. I think that players react best without tension, so I want to be intense without being tense."

Munoz has a lot of expectations for the team this year. Along with a hard work ethic, he will be working with talented players.

"I am very excited," said Munoz. "I am looking forward to the season. We have a lot of returning players, and some coming up from junior varsity. I expect the team to go out competing hard every day."

## Practice making perfect

Field gets fixed  
By Katie Walker  
Production Editor



Lauren Sheffield

Imagine practicing on a field full of brown, dead grass, a field full of holes just waiting to twist ankles. This is a reality for the many teams who play on the dreaded practice field.

Reconstruction of the WS practice field was recently completed. The construction was done to make the field safer for the athletes that utilize it.

"The field was in bad shape," said head football coach Bill Renner. "There was no drainage, the field was uneven, and it was dangerous to play on"

The project involves a lot of work and is very costly.

The practice field just had a \$200,000 makeover

"It's a \$200,000 project, but everything has been donated, so it's at no cost to the school or the county," said Director of Student Activities Todd Chappell.

Administrators are not sure when the reconstruction will be completed. They had hoped that it would be done by the end of August, but bad weather delayed progress.

The construction has gotten in the way of the practices for the football team this season.

"We haven't been able to practice there all year," said Renner. "We've had to bus all of our players over to Irving."

Though the construction has caused many problems for sports practice right now, most believe that the project will pay off quickly.

"It's been a minor inconvenience," said Renner, "but we've been more than willing to wait so the field the field will be ready to benefit all of our teams."

## Locals athletes go for the gold

By Roberto Garcia  
Production Editor

It's every athlete's ultimate goal. The chance to stand on the podium in front of thousands of adoring fans, receiving a medal at the most prestigious sporting event in the world—The Olympics.

This year's games, which are being held later than usual because of the Australian winter, will showcase the athletic abilities of 10,200 athletes competing in 28 different sports. Some local names will be included.

"I'm very excited about women's water polo because I love water sports, but water polo has always been exclusively for men," said junior Amy Block.

Most of the games will take place in the newly built Olympic Park, located near downtown Sydney.

The main venue in the park is

the 110,000 seat Stadium Australia, where the opening and closing ceremonies will take place, as well as the track & field and soccer competitions.

The DC area is being well-represented by several athletes this year.

Swimmers Tom Dolan, from Arlington's Yorktown High School, and Ed Moses, a University of Virginia swimmer and Lake Braddock alumni, will both be swimming the 200-meter and 400-meter individual medley. Moses will also be competing in the 100-meter breaststroke.

"Ed Moses and I have the same coach at the Curl-Burke Swim Club, and I've seen him training really hard," said junior Ann Blaschke. "I can't wait till he brings home the gold." Dolan is also a longtime Curl-Burke swimmer, and won gold at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Several track and field

athletes from the area will also be competing.

Allen Johnson, another Lake Braddock graduate, will try to defend his Olympic gold medal in the 110 hurdles, while Bryan Woodward from Arlington will compete in the 800 meters.

In gymnastics, Dominique Dawes will compete in her third Olympics. Dawes is a Silver Spring native who trains in nearby Gaithersburg.

Another Braddock grad, Mia Hamm, will once again lead the women's soccer team in its attempt to repeat as Olympic champs.

Hamm was a standout growing up in Texas, as a Braddock midfielder, and at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

"Our area is sending a lot of athletes to the Olympics this year," said Blaschke. "I know they will all do a spectacular job."

## Football kicks off on a winning note

By Emily Morris  
Features Assistant

WS kicked off its football season this year with something the Spartans haven't seen in years—consecutive shutouts.

The Spartans blanked Centerville to open the season, then cleaned Lee's clock September 8, 17-0.

Two-a-day practices, which started in early August, are paying off, according to players and coaches.

"All the practices are worth it," said sophomore John Massie. "They build our endurance and in the fourth quarter of games we are not tired like the other team, and we can take advantage of that."

Players endured the practice schedule to toughen up for the season ahead. "They are a lot of hard work, and some days they burn you out, but in the end it is worth it," said junior Jared Butler.

This year the team has both good prospects and a new coach. Assistant Coach Jim Jones transferred from Langley, where he worked with second-year coach Bill Renner before Renner transferred to WS last year.

"I was thrilled to hear Jones was coming to coach with me again. He is a great person and a great coach," said Renner.

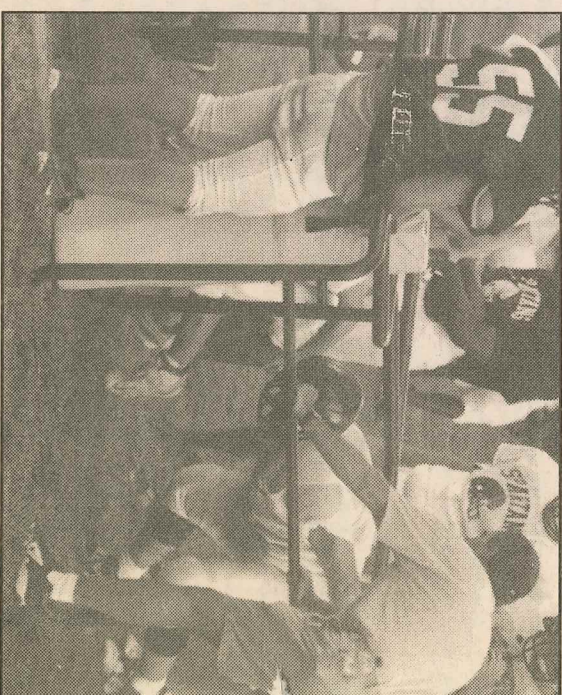
This year, the defensive line could be one of the best in the Patriot District. The line is led by all-district and all-region players Brian McLain and Mike Keller. "The defensive line has a lot of speed and skill this season," said Jones.

One player on the injured list is Keller, who broke his foot earlier in a scrimmage against Yorktown and will not be able to start playing until later in the season.

"I get my cast off in four weeks and then two weeks of physical therapy, but I will be back this season," said Keller.

In the home win against Lee, senior running back Aaron Brantley rushed for 101 yards in 19 carries. Brantley's success brought back memories of running back Damone Boone's successful WS career in the '90s.

At the helm of the Spartans, quarterback Matt Smith completed a 44-yard touchdown to receiver Jamie Langley. Junior kicker Meggie Goddish kicked a 21-yard field goal.



Bree Virostko

WS' defensive line is looking at big gains this year.

**10** Don't make fun of your teacher's name too loud during class, no matter how funny it is.

**9** Chew a lot of gum and see who can blow the biggest bubble.



a bottle of juice (preferably the red kind) to your class. Just watch out for the carpets.

**4** Take a little nap. Twenty minutes out of ninety will not hurt anything.



**3** Come to class just after the bell rings.

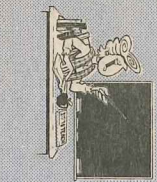
# TOP 10

## Ways to impress your teachers

**8** Forget to bring your Emergency Care Card and everything else in that packet.

**7** Keep asking questions about their classroom policies, just so you don't forget them.

**6** Make sure you socialize with your friends. It's a new year and there is much to talk about with them.

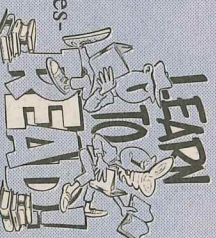


**5** Don't forget to bring

**2** Pay the least amount of attention to everything and daydream. It helps to pass the time.



**1** Well, if you really want to make a good impression on your teacher, try something that is NOT on this list.



—Compiled by Bree Virostko

## WS attendance, grades go online

Continued from ATTENDANCE Page 1

information about a student's attendance record in their own class but in the students' other classes.

Last year this type of information was only available to a few staff members, but now every teacher in the building will be able to see if their students were absent from other classes as well.

This system is so new that Fairfax County is one of the first counties in the country to be trying out this system, and WS is one of the few schools in the county that will be trying out this system. Eventually more schools will begin to use this new program.

"We will be working through the kinks making sure things run smoothly," said Administrator Joan Galdi.

There are four other new programs that will be added into the new technology used at WS.

If all goes well, by the end of the school year teachers should be able to keep track of their grades on the computer.

Instructional resources for both students and teachers will also be accessible.

The final stage will allow parents access their children's report cards through the computer.

"I think that this is a very good idea, because it will allow parents to be more involved in their children's education," said senior Dane Whitworth.

Even though some students may think that this program is a good thing, others including senior Brian Kilday, believe otherwise. "They should be kept private."

As the new millennium continues WS is moving along with it. Some may be worried that as a school we will depend on technology for too much.

"As teachers we have to make the right balance between how much technology we use, and combine that appropriately with personal attention, which is truly the root of learning," said Mihalo.

# September/October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	10 Field Hockey @ Hayfield JV - 6:15 V - 7:30	11 Senior Career College Unit Senior Coffee Golf @ Twin Lakes 4:00 Volleyball @ L.B. JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	12 Senior Career College Unit Field Hockey @ Annandale V - 4:00 JV - 5:15 Golf vs. Annandale 4:00	13 Junior Career College Unit Junior Coffee Football vs. Centreville F - 5:45 JV - 7:30 Volleyball vs Annandale JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	14 Junior Career College Unit Senior Coffee Football vs. Centreville F - 5:45 JV - 7:30 Volleyball @ Centreville JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	15 Junior Career College Unit Football @ Centerville V - 7:30	16 CC @ VA Tech Girls - 10:00
	17 18 Field Hockey vs T.C. V - 4:00 JV - 5:15 Volleyball @ Hayfield JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	19 20 Back to School Night	21 22 New Senior Orientation Football @ Robinson V - 7:30	22 23 CC @ McAlpine Greenway V - 8:40 JV - 12:15			
24	25	26 Freshman Coffee CC @ Robinson V - 4:30 Field Hockey @ W. Pot. V - 4:00 JV - 5:15 Volleyball vs TC JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	27 Sophomore Coffee Football @ W. Pot. F - 5:45 JV - 7:30 Volleyball @ W. Pot. JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	28 Football vs W. Pot. V - 7:30 Field Hockey vs L.B. V - 4:00 JV - 5:15	29 Football vs LB 7:30	30	
1	2 PTSA Meeting Spartan Hall 7:00	3 Volleyball @ Robinson JV - 5:30 V - 7:00	4 Field Hockey vs Hayfield V - 4:00 JV - 5:15	5 Football vs LB F - 5:45 JV - 7:30	6 Football vs LB 7:30	7	
8	9 State Golf October 9-10	10 Cross Country @ Burke Lake 4:00	11 PSAT Registration	12 Field Hockey vs TCW V - 4:00 JV - 5:15	13 Senior sack lunch	14 Cross Country Battle of Bull Run SATs	