

BARBEQUE EXPECTATIONS *By Chinaza Ubozoh('09)*

It is the end of the 2008-2009 school year, which means that the annual end of year barbeque happened.

Every year, on the last day of school, not only do students come for their report cards, but they come also to exchange farewells during the barbeque as they spend probably one last time together before the summer begins. Alumni also tend to come.

“I’m looking forward to getting out of school.”
- Wilmer Vega('12)

What have students thought about past barbeques? What were they looking forward to at this year’s barbeque? *Common Sense* investigated.

When asked what he was looking forward to on the last day of school, Wilmer Vega('12) said, “I’m looking forward to getting out of school.” When asked if he was going to the barbeque, he simply said, “I guess so.”

What did students think about previous barbeques? Lennox Degrasse('11) told *Common Sense*, “they were good. I’m really looking forward to this year’s though. I’m looking forward to the food

especially.”
“For the seniors, it’s like their last time to see the younger grades. It’s the last gathering, so it’s a fun experience. And there’s free food.”
- Michael Dei('09)

“I thought it was cool but that there should’ve been more fun activities like the ones at the Lehman College festival that took place mid-May,” says Melissa Olivo('10)

It seems that the barbeque was especially important to the graduating class.

“For the seniors, it’s like their last time to see the younger grades. It’s the last gathering, so it’s a fun experience. And there’s free food,” says Michael Dei('09).

Alumni Michael Hamlett('08) told *Common Sense* about his last barbeque in 2008:

“Last year’s barbeque was ok. It rained and a lot of people didn’t stay.” Looking forward to this year’s, he said, “I like to eat so that’s always fun. Hopefully I’ll be able to reunite with the class of ‘08.”

Ms. Wong told *Common Sense*, “I’ve been to all of them in the past.



Seniors S. Infante('09) & K. Jaku('09) said goodbye at the end of year BBQ.

For a small school, there are not many times when all the students and faculty are able to spend time together, and this is a great way to do that.”

She continued, saying, “The teachers can relax, the students can relax, and it’s a nice way to end the school year. I’m looking forward to this year’s as long as it doesn’t rain.”

CS



Co-ed Bowling Team & Cross country Running Team Info Meetings are today! Right after school.

END OF THE YEAR BBQ

By Stephanie Torres('09)

It’s two monthS past the much awaited annual HSAS end of the year barbeque. *Common Sense* investigates how people felt about previous year’s barbeque and how they felt about the one in June.

Many people thought last year’s barbeque was a success. Maddie Montes De Oca ('11) stated “last years’ barbeque was fun but kind of short.” She continued to say “my favorite part was “playing sports on the field and the water fight.”

When asked if he was looking forward to this year’s barbeque, Samir Mutawakil('12) said, “I’m just finding out that there is a barbeque. I can’t wait though. It should be fun.”

Michael Dei ('09) stated his desire

for a student vs. teacher water fight,saying “the water fight was cool but this year we should make it official: kids versus teachers.”

Julia Brown('10), who was unable to attend this year’s barbeque, stated that, “it sounds like a lot of fun. I’m very sad I was not there.”

Cole Hawkins ('09) stated, “Last year’s BBQ was cool. My favorite part was the food.” He went on to say, “this past year’s barbeque is my last one so I was looking forward to it. It would be cool if they had games like at the Lehman college fair day.”

There seems to be a general consensus that this past year’s barbeque was special. The class of ‘09 is the last class from the original four years and this is their sendoff.

Officer Valentin, whose favorite part of last year’s barbeque was the ice cream, said, “I think this past year’s BBQ was special...saying good bye to the last class of the original four years.”

All in all, there seems to be a lot of excitement about the annual barbeques. Last year’s barbeque was a very big success and it seems to have inspired positive feelings toward the upcoming barbeques. The only complaints about previous year’s barbeques was the rainy weather.

Hopefully this year we will see better weather and maybe even get the chance to get some teachers wet. CS

SUMMER SCHOOLING IS UNAVAILABLE *By Timothy Narine('09)*

As summer approached last year many of us looked forward to sleeping in late, taking long vacations, or making money. However some students did not have these options as they are forced to go to summer school. *Common Sense* investigates.

Alex Emmanuelli('10) shared his previous experience in summer school: “I went in 3rd grade. It was the worst.” He continued to share his hatred for summer school by saying “I’d rather repeat a grade then go to summer school.”

Isaac Suero('09) said “As a senior that would have really sucked if I had to go to summer school. If the college said that I didn’t have to go then I just wouldn’t go.”

However not everyone has such a negative view of summer school.

Jordan Tucker('09) went to summer school last summer and said: “I loved it. We had so much fun in Clinton. My friends and I who all failed English were in one class and we took it over.”

Even though Melissa Olvio('10) hasn’t gone to summer school she said “I heard from my friends summer school was fun. Then again they’re weird.”

She also wondered, “why doesn’t the school offer summer courses so we can get ahead in school?”

Mr. Weiss responded to that by sharing “for budgetary reasons, it hasn’t been offered in years. Summer school is reserved for the kids who need to catch up.” He also added that “I think it’s a dangerous precedent to replace our rigorous courses with summer school

classes.”

Mr. Mansdorf added that “Summer School should be for the kids who refused to do their work. It should be punishment. They should suffer and sweat in the hot class rooms.”

Maybe these kids have nothing to worry about as Duncan Figuiski('11) shared that he “heard because of budget reasons that there wasn’t going to be summer school. Then again I’m probably wrong.”

When Matthew Rodriguez('12) heard of this rumor he said, “wow that would really be great.” Matthew was not in danger of attending Summer School anyway.

It’s unlikely that Summer School will be shut down; however it’s a reality for some students. Hopefully they will have an improbable experience like Jordan Tucker. CS

AMERICAN STUDIES MATRIX *By Esteban Gaviria('09)*

**REMOVED
FOR POSSIBLY
INCITING STUDENTS
AND NOT HAVING
RESEARCHED &
CREDIBLE
INFORMATION.**

**REMOVED
FOR POSSIBLY
INCITING STUDENTS
AND NOT HAVING
RESEARCHED &
CREDIBLE
INFORMATION.**



Our new seniors take control from our old seniors of our school's social scene.

A PLANNED SUMMER VACATION

By Daniel Karaban('09)

Summer vacation is one of everyone's favorite breaks from school. Over this time, students get jobs and relax, waiting for the new school year to begin. This reporter wonders what the students of HSAS planned to do this summer. *Common Sense* investigates.

As it turns out, Mr. Halabi, HSAS teacher, had a busy summer ahead. He planned to "finish the school schedule in July and then go on vacation."

Toni-Anne Drummond('12) also planned a busy summer. She said in June that she was "going to Disney World for my sister's quiz competition" and then she plans on "going to Jamaica."

The then juniors were most likely to have an entertaining summer.

Fanta NGom('10) shared that her summer will be filled with "college visits"

Kate Kelly('10) thought she might go away for the Fourth of July, but she planned on working most of the summer.

Alex Emmanuelli('10) planned on "going to camp," like Noah Sider('12) who planned on doing the same.

Unlike the hardworking future seniors Michael Cadenas('11) planned on "doing nothing for the whole summer," except maybe training for XC.

For the current seniors going away to college, two things are of main concern. One of these is "finding a job" according to Valarie Gonzales('09) and preparing for a "new college experience," according to Andrew Michalski('09).

In the end, summer is always a great adventure, full of experiences and memories and at the end of the long two month vacation, school will await us again. ☞

WALKER ASKS: "LET US GO!" *By Whitney Walker('09)*

We're coming in to the last stretch of high school and some of us are asking "what's the point?" Most can afford to slack off and do next to nothing but there are the few who are still trying to make it out.

This is a result of poor motivation in the first place but as the year comes to a close old habits come into play, and these few want to slack off like everyone else.

It is understood that as teachers you guys have some sort of code of ethics. But really is it that hard for you to just let a student get out of here and go on to college? I mean really is the freshman algebra class being made up really that important when you're about to graduate and go on to college?

Will it make that much of a difference so that a student will look back and say "I'm glad I spent my last days of school studying for my AP class after I took the test already"?

Ms. Wise feels that there should be relevant end of the year programs for the seniors but "there's no one to take care of it." She expressed interest in how other specialized schools are dealing with their departing seniors.

AP English teacher Ms. Wong is taking a sympathetic view on seniors. "Now the AP's are over I'm not really giving homework, and I let them pick the plays were reading in class." She doesn't expect them to do much work because she feels like they worked very hard coming up to the AP exam. However, she expects them to be here, adding "I understand that the students

have one foot out the door, but it's also my job to make sure the other foot stays here."

"In other schools seniors get out early and we don't...that's retarded."

-Maddie Montes de Oca('11)

Cindy Chen('09) said "I totally agree that teachers should give students making up a class a break. I think in every single senior class they should just give us a good grade so we can get out." She also vented saying her "Spanish teacher gave me a 65 knowing I'm a senior, knowing I missed stuff because of APs, and knowing I suck at Spanish. Why can't she just give me a break?"

Maddie Montes de Oca('11) agreed with the general consensus and also added that, "in other schools seniors get out early and we don't...that's retarded."

Freshman Samir Mutawakil('12) who is expecting to make up at least one class his senior year said "in my opinion the make-up subjects don't really matter if you're a senior about to graduate. They should just help us out."

There seems to be an agreement throughout the school. If a senior is in a class regardless of whether they're making anything up, they should unjustly get a break. Nothing is achieved by giving them a hard time other than giving them a fair chance to learn something that they were too selfish to focus on the first time around. ☞

CHANGE IS COMING, PROBABLY *By J. Gardner('09)*

So with the class of 2009 now gone, we can only assume change will come to *HSAS*. What kind of change you might ask? Is it a change in school spirit, a change in style? Perhaps these things may be true, but an even simpler change is going to occur. *HSAS* will give birth to a new class of seniors, the class of 2010.

"I think they're probably going to do better than us when it comes to applying to college."

-Dan Dopstadt('09)

The class of 2010 is viewed in different ways at our school. Some think they're going to be a more intellectual class than the class of 2009, like Daniel Dopstadt('09).

"I think they're probably going to do better than us when it comes to applying to college," he stated.

Others such as Stephanie Brooks('09) thinks they're going to be a different kind of grade, socially and personality wise.

She commented that "they have a lot of life, as well as personality. There are a lot of great characters there, and I'm going to miss them."

Danny Morel('12) agreed with Stephanie Brooks. "I think that they would be good seniors," he stated. He then continued saying, "Maybe not as fun as the graduating senior guys but they're going to be pretty

badass."

When asked to comment about his own grade, Julian Watts('10) expressed his feelings. He told *Common Sense*: "I feel that it has been a long time coming. We have the chance to leave a great impact on our school, so our class is remembered well, sort of like the class of '06."

"I feel that it has been a long time coming. We have the chance to leave a great impact on our school, so our class is remembered well, sort of like the class of '06."

-Julian Watts('10)

However not everyone believes that the class of 2010 will be a great senior class. Brandon Nguyen('11) feels that they "wont be that greats." He also stated that "they're not as funny as past classes and I don't know most of them."

Even math teacher Mr. Halabi doesn't seem so excited about the senior class to be. When asked what he thought about the class of 2010, he simply stated "nothing jumps out at me about them."

So what will the class of 2010 be like? What kind of personalities will they bring with them? Are they going to be viewed as a good senior class by their peers? I guess we'll have to wait until September and see. ☞