

HALLOWEEN ON SATURDAY... *Continued from page 1*

a Saturday which means trick-or-treaters will be out in full force.

Russell Lowe('12) shared on his survey that he likes "that it's on a Saturday, because you get to trick or treat longer and even get to have parties."

Trick-or-treating on Saturday means that one can start earlier and end later than if it were on a Friday or any other day of the week. This increases the popularity of the holiday this year since the majority of trick-or-treaters are little kids with early bed times on school nights, and because the trick-or-treat window is larger.

Mr. Iurato, is hoping to "see new faces and interesting costumes."

Jayson P. Amaya('11) agrees despite the fact he no longer participates in trick-or-treating.

The Halloween dance comes once more with both old and new faces participating. It is an event where one can show off both their ghoulish costumes and their dancing skills.

There is a paid admission to the dance. The money earned is used to lower the cost of school trips along with various bake sales and other

dances.

The Halloween dance is the most creative event of them all since some students like to make their own costumes.

The student government's faculty advisor, Mr. Iurato, is hoping to "see new faces and interesting costumes."

Boo! ☘



Image created by A. Emmanuelli('10)

The new film may draw a varied audience. Will it beat SAW VI?

BALANCING SCHOOL... *Continued from page 1*

friendly with different aged kids." She further stated that her weekends consist of three things, "sports, friends and homework."

"Part of going to a school like this is to learn how to balance your lives." -Mr. Weiss

Henry Comes('10) felt the need to speak for all seniors when he stated that HSAS has "destroyed" his social life. When asked if he has a good balance with both academics and social life, Henry responded, "I'm a work slave," adding that: "The

school makes it very difficult to have fun on weekends. And I'm too lazy to go outside of Brooklyn."

It is clear that while some students do a great job of balancing school with their social life, there are still a significant number of students who fail.

Our beloved principal, Mr. Weiss, declared that: "Part of going to a school like this is to learn how to balance your lives."

Therefore we can assume that the high school or work load makes little difference in determining how well one balances his or her life; it merely depends on the individual.☘

WHERE ARE THE WILD THINGS?

By. Alexander Emmanuelli('10)

On October 16th, 2009, the film adaptation of the classic children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak, hit theaters nationwide. Considering its status as a highly regarded, and well known classic children's book, *Common Sense* decided to investigate if any HSAS students were anticipating its release.

First published in 1963, *Where the Wild Things Are* is a story about a boy named Max who, after being sent to bed without dinner for misbehaving, imagines a vast world in which he encounters 'The Wild Things' who make Max their king.

The story details Max's adventures in the imaginary world until a growing sense of homesickness leads to his return home.

A lunchtime survey of the student body showed a good deal of optimism for the movie. Over 75% of students surveyed said that they had read the book in their childhood and planned on seeing the movie.

Russel Lowe('12) told *Common Sense* "it was a beloved childhood story, which I read frequently before I went to night, night."

When asked if she wanted to see the movie, Julia Brown('10) gave out a shriek and repeated "I'm so excited" three times.

She added that she "read this article [about the movie] and it was really long and it made me so excited [for the movie]."

Julia then proceeded to squeal and mumble incoherently as this reporter made his escape.

While not quite as overzealous as Ms. Brown, Pheobe O'Connor('11) gave *Common Sense* a more insightful opinion in her survey, saying of the movie, "It looks well directed, and has a very good soundtrack."

Megan Schachter('13) was another student who looked forward to the movie, saying that "it was a great book and I really want to see it. It's a different world."

When asked what she thought about the movie adaptation, English

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Photo taken by R. Cardona('10)

Principal Weiss builds on the work of Ms. Luftman, our 1st principal.

HSAS PRE-WEISS IS REMEMBERED *Continued from page 1*

The general feelings towards Ms. Luftman were just slightly less positive as to what people feel about Mr. Weiss, according to recent *Common Sense* poll. Then again no current student taking the poll actually had Ms. Luftman as a principal.

Daryl Ramirez('11) said "I'm sure she was a nice lady and a great principal, but I really like Mr. Weiss's style of leading the students to do their best."

Though many tried to provide positive words for the former principal, most have not had contact with Ms. Luftman and were not clear on what to believe.

Katie Adrian('10) recalls hearing stories about the first principal. She shared: "I've always heard that Luftman was difficult and everyone

that graduated last year said that Mr. Weiss is better and nicer." Katie then made an unverifiable comment.

It seems that some of last year's seniors did not approve of Ms. Luftman or her style of leading the school. Perhaps it's Mr. Weiss's kind nature that draws in his students to embrace him.

The only students in the school that have not interacted with people who have had Ms. Luftman as a principal are the freshmen so it is understandable that they know even less than the rest of HSAS students.

"I haven't heard anything about her," said Avery Mathews('13). "I didn't even know there was a Principal before Mr. Weiss!" Many freshmen shared his shock.

When asked if he knew anything about Ms. Luftman, Tim Wong('10)

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE PROCESS

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college process may be, there's only one thing that can be done. It's not like we are giving over our souls; it's taking a deep breath, and diving into the wild, raging ocean that is the college process.

We (the students) need to accept all of the help we can get, be grateful that we get any help at all, and go step by step until it's all over with, even though it really does feel like a never-ending torture.

☘

had this to say: "I don't know much about her. Our current Principal is a nice guy and is doing a nice job. However, I don't think Ms. Luftman would approve of such policies as the lateness policy." Tim offered no explanation for why he believed this would be the case

"I would like to learn more about Ms. Luftman." -Russell Lowe('12)

Russel Lowe('12) said that he would "like to learn more about Ms. Luftman."

Ms. Luftman was a key player in the establishment of our school and worked hard to ensure the school's success. We can all agree that, for all she's done for HSAS, the students should be grateful.☘

TALES FROM THE RESTROOM STALLS

By Zach Jones('10)

When walking into the bathroom after school, a student at HSAS will be greeted by the sight of several half-naked students. This is a result of our school's bathroom doubling as locker rooms for our extra-curricular teams to change.

It would seem as though students go in, get changed, and come out, but what actually goes on between those four walls when no one is watching? *Common Sense* investigates.

"It's a little awkward when teachers come in and see our hot bods."

-Erluis Nacaj('11)

Students seem to be fine with the present situation. When asked how he felt about the current bathroom/locker room situation Sakib Ahmed('10) replied, "I feel at home with them changing around me."

Similarly John Beltrez ('12) commented: "I don't mind the setting."

This may be due to the fact that there are new sheriffs in town.

Jemaal Alexander('10) felt "safer now that the class of '09 is gone.

Some people in that class like to take . . . uhhh . . . advantage of unsuspecting bathroom goers."

Others however are a little more uncomfortable with the situation.

Erluis Nacaj('11) stated "It's a little awkward when teachers come in and see our hot bods."

However teachers have their own bathroom they can use, and this is only a problem when that is occupied. Also those students who do feel uncomfortable are getting used to it.

"I often hear screams through the (restroom) wall, and see people running out in terror."

-Aldiana Perazic('11)

Avery Matthews('13) said he felt "a little uncomfortable, but I'm kind of OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) about that stuff."

When asked what exactly happens in the restroom after school, Jemaal Alexander('10) shared "it's nothing but love. . . I think I've said too much."

Erluis Nacaj also shared that he'd "rather not say" what goes on in the restrooms during team changing.

There seems to be an entirely



Picture Taken by Z. Jones('10)

Students ponder the crowds in the boy's restroom after school.

different situation in the girls' bathroom. No horrible stories are ever told of terrible deeds done to freshmen, no whispers of unspeakable acts.

But being so close to the boys' bathroom, perhaps the girls could give us an inside look at what really goes on in the boys' bathroom.

Aldiana Perazic('11) told this *Common Sense* reporter "I often hear screams through the (restroom) wall, and see people running out in terror."

Apparently some strange things go on in the bathroom we call a locker room. When asked if he had ever gotten any complaints from students about things happening to t

hem in the bathroom, Mr. Weiss told us "No, not once."

Whatever the case, students should not feel unsafe entering the bathroom after school. Everyone has a right to go and nothing should stop them, and if a student really feels uncomfortable changing, he or she can always change in the stalls. Deshawn Lynch('10) shared, "I felt uncomfortable, and so for a while I changed in the stall."

He added that he's "gotten used to it and now I change with the rest of the guys."

Perhaps changing together brings our teams together. There seems no reason to change the present situation. ☪

LUNCH TIME STRESS OUTLETS By Devin Mullin('11)

Lunch is the one time of day when the students of HSAS have free time. We can use it to eat, socialize or possibly catch up on homework. Many students want to use this time to engage in some form of physical activity.

Very often, students are prevented from playing sports by the campus' safety officers. *Common Sense* investigates.

Many students feel these activities help students blow off steam in a regimented and sometimes often stressful school day. Popular lunch time sports have included football, ultimate Frisbee, and most recently handball.

This reporter asked Officer Ventura what the reason for the restriction was and she replied: "the staff of the speech and theater department complain about the

noise being made and a window that was broken."

These safety officers are not really the enemy of students engaging in physical activities, as they are simply doing their jobs of keeping the peace. In fact they do not stop students from playing handball by the stairs directly outside the lower cafeteria exit anymore.

This practice shows that they are not driven by an innate desire to prevent sports, but rather by an obligation to do their jobs.

Some students have suggested other reasons for the prohibition on lunchtime sports. Noah Krimstein('12) stated the reason they stop us is that "as kids they were never respected, so they're taking out their emotional pain on us." Noah's belief suggests that the safety officers stop us to gain a sense of

personal satisfaction, which doesn't appear to be the case.

When asked if it might have to do with the college's liability if a student were to get hurt, Caesar Arias('11) responded "that's probably part of it."

Zach (Z-money) Jones('10) believes the reason might be that "some people in Lehman complain, and they (the peace officers) feel like they have to (intervene)."

This is a pretty solid belief as it matches up perfectly with the reasoning given by Officer Ventura.

It is still a practice that annoys many of our students. In a school where on average we have only two or three gym classes a week, many believe that there should be some other time where we could get in some physical activity.

Andre Vogel('13) believes that "there should definitely be somewhere on the campus for us to play sports," suggesting that maybe the college could set aside a specific place for these sports to take place.

Despite what many students may want, it doesn't seem like the policy is going to change. Perhaps if it were up to our school's administration it would, but this decision belongs to Lehman College.

So for now those craving physical activity during the school day will have to make due with gym, or play handball outside the cafeteria. This appears to be the only place where we're able to forget about tests, quizzes and homework while simply focusing on playing our games. ☪

WHERE ARE THE WILD THINGS?

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teacher Ms. Mosco queried: "What won't they make a movie about?"

She also issued a warning to the filmmakers that "it better be true to the book, and not take any creative license, because there are some things you just don't mess with, and Maurice Sendak is one of them."

There were some skeptics of the movie; several surveyed students expressed that even though they were fond of the book they had doubts about the movie or thought that it would be too childish.

"It's a recreation of a horrible children's story."

-Jonathan Williams('10)

Jonathan Williams('10) was the only student that had both read *Where the Wild Things Are* as a child and still showed a complete dislike for it, stating, "I don't plan on seeing the movie because it's a recreation of a horrible children's story. Besides Dr. Seuss wrecks Maurice Sendak!"

Despite the doubts of Jonathan and other students, this reporter believes that the film *Where the Wild Things Are* will at the very least leave audiences with a sense of nostalgia and remind us of those fantastic days of childhood we all miss. ☪