

MFS Presents *Twilight, Los Angeles*

by Maura Aleardi

This winter, Moorestown Friends School is performing the play *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*. Traditionally a one woman show, the performance portrays the different reactions of people who were involved in the L.A. Riots twenty years ago.

These riots followed the arrest of Rodney King, who was beaten by several Caucasian police officers. The officers claimed he was under the influence of PCP and therefore acted violently towards them. A video of the incident, paired with a negative drug test, proved otherwise.

Director Mark Gornto chose this play because, "Looking at the fact that it has been 20 years, it's interesting to revisit the conversation that deals with race and how nothing has been changed in 20 years."

Gornto cast each character after listening to each actor recite a monologue from the play. He paid no attention to the physical appearance of the actor, as some men are cast as women and vice versa.

“The story is universal; it's a human story, not a male-female, black-and-white story.”

He believes that "the story is universal; it's a human story, not a male-female, black-and-white story."

In preparation for this play, the actors will each have to dive into an intense character analysis, plus investigate a

historical background of the events.

Gornto explained, "Imagine the typical character analysis covered with a very intense historical exploration." He added, "I think the cast that we've assembled really appreciates the story that's being told and really cares about the message."

The final production will involve a number of audio and video appearances, including live scenes from the events in 1992. Gornto said, "Making that happen seamlessly and easily is challenging."

Looking toward the future, Gornto said, "I'm excited about seeing how all the pieces come together and seeing how much of a conversation we can generate in the community itself, not just the cast."



photo by Larissa Morgan

Senior Miranda Remington rehearses her monologue for the play.

A Day in the Life of a Class President

by Jailene Jaquez



photo by Jailene Jaquez

Freshmen class president Mitchell Mullock.

The freshman election has taken place, and Mitchell Mullock, who is also a part of our WordsWorth staff, is now the president of the class of 2016. Fellow presidents David White (sophomores), Steve Mannion (juniors), and Eric Harkaway (seniors) seem to have welcomed Mullock with open arms.

This election puts pressure on Mullock; not only is he a new president trying to live up to the reigning class presidents, but he is also representing the class of 2016.

Being a class president requires one to be calm, cool, and collected. Presidents also have to have patience, and most impor-

tantly they have to be unbiased.

WordsWorth wanted to know: What advice did the reigning presidents have for Mullock? What advice would Mullock give to the future generations of class presidents? Most importantly, what can we expect in the upcoming years from him?

"I like being the class president. It's really cool," Mullock stated earnestly about his fledgling presidency.

When asked what advice he would give to aspiring class presidents, he answered, "You have to be liked and you also have to know what you're doing to be a class president."

Initial reactions to Mullock's presidency seem positive. Ninth

grader Natalia Queenan, for example, said, "I think Mitchell is a good leader and he is easy to bring up issues to."

Being a class president is being the representative voice of the class. Students may not like the opinions of their peers and that can turn into total chaos, but a class president can cut out all of the chaos and make a decision that is a compromise of everyone's opinions.

Sophomore class president David White offered advice in this area for future generations of presidents: "People will get mad no matter what, but it is your job to make good decisions for the class."

Robo Recap: What the Robotics Teams Have Been Up To Lately

by Callie Cramer

The three Moorestown Friends robotics teams are off to a good start this year. The MFS Foxes, MFS Hawks, and MFS Falcons have all been working hard on their robots and working towards their championship matches.

The MFS robotics teams participate in the FIRST® Tech Challenge. Each team must first compete and qualify at a qualifier event in order to move onto the State Championship matches towards the end of the season. The Foxes and Hawks have both qualified.

This year, the challenge that the robots must complete is called Ring It Up!. Each robot is build, designed, and programmed by the students. The

robots must place rings on a wall of pegs in specific patterns in order to gain points. The challenge is set in a square arena with the two competing alliances at either corner. Each alliance is made up of two robots from opposing teams.

On November 17, the 3 teams

competed at an FTC qualifier at Cherokee High School. There, the Hawks were in the second-place alliance.

They also won the THINK award, which is given to the team that shows the best engineering process.

The school hosted a state qualifier on Sunday, December 9. The Hawks and Falcons both competed.

The Foxes did not compete, and instead ran a children's robotics event.

However, the teams have not just been competing. They have also been using their talents to enrich the community and educate about robotics.

They have become involved with the Friends Enrichment Program. They will begin to help out the Friends Academy of Westhampton's budding Lego robotics program. They will also be visiting several schools in Camden to educate about robotics. Finally, they have been helping out our own middle school robotics teams.

Upcoming Competitions:

Saturday, February 9th - NJ State FTC Championship at NJIT in Newark, NJ

Saturday, February 23rd - PA State FTC Qualifier in Phoenixville, PA

Saturday, March 2nd - PA State FTC Championship in Millersville, PA

In this issue:

Reena reviews *The Silver Linings Playbook* by Matt Quick, the basis for the Oscar-nominated motion picture.

Sloane Gandler writes about her experience with the infamous "Baby Project."

Junior Mike Brill goes in depth about the sport of fencing.

The Baby Blues: A Junior's Real Life Experience with the Infamous "Baby Project"

by Sloane Gandler

Babies: we all love them. They're cute, they giggle and smile, and are so fun to play with. However, a baby is also a big responsibility. You have to feed it, change its diaper, and wake up multiple times in the middle of the night to care for it when it cries. Every year, the juniors at Moorestown Friends get an early taste of parenthood with the infamous "Baby Project." Each junior gets a baby doll that cries, needs to be rocked, and wakes you up at 1:00 in the morning, just like a real baby.

My experience with the dreaded "Baby Project" started out joyfully. I was excited to get my new child, much to the surprise of my classmates, most of whom were dreading it. They thought I was nuts for wanting the baby, but I didn't care. I had names picked out in advance and when I walked up to the health room, I finally met my new daughter. I decided to name her Dylan, after the famous Manhattan candy store "Dylan's Candy Bar." She looked so cute in her pink pajamas and her carrier. She came with her own bottle and diaper and diary sheet, on which I logged the times she cried and what she wanted.

Carrying her around school all day was not as easy as it looked. That baby was incredibly heavy. My arm still hurts just thinking about it. I was especially nervous for the end of the school day because I had to drive home with Dylan in the backseat of my car. I was so nervous that she would cry while I was driving, and I wasn't allowed to pull over and do anything.

Just like a real baby, I had to take Dylan everywhere. That night, that place was dance class. She sat in the corner of the dance studio and watched as I took class.

She hadn't cried once since I took her home from school, but that was about to change. After class, I took Dylan out of the dance studio and when I turned back around after getting water, Dylan wasn't in her carrier! A dance teacher had taken her out of the carrier and was holding Dylan by the arm without supporting the neck. That was the beginning of my nightmare. Dylan wouldn't stop crying for the next half hour and I felt like I was going to cry right along with her. The screaming was ear-rattling and was loud enough to wake someone a mile away.

The rest of the night was a mess. She woke me up a total of six times that night, so by the time I had to go to school, I was like a walking zombie. However, even though I was exhausted and couldn't wait to get rid of Dylan, I still managed to somehow appreciate the experience. There are mothers that do this every day. Sometimes there is more than one baby to take care of. This project definitely taught me that I am not ready to be a mother for a while and that when I am one, I will keep hoping that my baby doesn't wake me up at 3:00 in the morning. I

do think that this project is necessary for our curriculum; it definitely has a valuable lesson to be learned. If a high school student makes the decision to be sexually active, and a baby is the result, this project teaches us how great of a responsibility a baby is and how we are definitely not ready as high school juniors to take care of another human being. This project was effective for me, and I hope it was effective for my fellow juniors as well.



Photo by Austin Harris

Juniors must be prepared to drop everything and take care of their babies if they cry.

Suffering through Scoliosis:

How Backpacks are Weighing Us Down

by Jackie Sackstein

Dragging yourself through a day of school is hard enough, but how about doing it with unrelenting back pain? That is the life of a student like me who has scoliosis. Scoliosis is the unnatural curvature of the spine that can cause many problems in the future. It can crush the respiratory system, impair the skeletal system, and hinder the ability to walk straight.

The curvature in my spine has not only misaligned by hips and feet, but it has also brought on a merciless pain that comes from carrying my backpack. On top of my daily activities, I now have to see a chiropractor multiple times a week, as well as doing physical therapy for my back in order to attempt to ease the pain. My chiropractor told me that my backpack should only weigh 10% of my body weight, but we all know that will never happen. When asked why I didn't use my locker to lighten the

weight, my answer was that I simply couldn't with a locker in Hartman Hall. I had been asking for months before now to get a locker in the main building, but my request went unanswered. I find it saddening and unfortunate that it took this diagnosis for the school to finally listen to my cries for help.

It is even more disturbing to find out that I am one of many Moorestown Friends students suffering through this pain. The simplest solution is to not have to carry books back and forth to class. If each class had a class set of textbooks and we could take all of our notes on laptops, we would be able to stop weighing ourselves down with backpacks. This is my solution to dealing with scoliosis, and I sincerely hope that the student body can come together to help other students like me. It is time to stop the suffering.



Photo By Lauren Lowe

After the Apocalypse

by Breanna Riddick



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Unchaining Controversy

Editor-in-Chief's Column

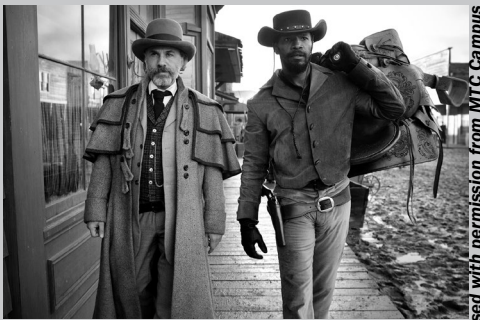
by Austin Harris

An effective film gets people talking, and Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained has most definitely gotten people talking. The film, which tells the story of a freed slave (Jamie Foxx in the title role) who becomes a bounty hunter in order to save his still-enslaved wife from an evil plantation owner, inspired controversy even when its first trailer came out. Right before the film's release, prominent filmmaker Spike Lee said on Twitter that he would boycott the film because it was "offensive to his ancestors."

Well, I think that Spike Lee is a bit misguided. Unlike him, I actually went to see the film, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Yes, it is touchy subject matter, and yes, there are many parts of the film that made me uncomfortable, but that was the point of the film.

The film was made as an homage to the spaghetti western films of the 1960s, films like The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly. Tarantino definitely did a good job emulating that genre of film, but many critics had an issue with Tarantino depicting slavery in this style.

Spike Lee's exact Twitter quote was, "American slavery was not a Sergio Leone Spaghetti Western. It was a holocaust." Well, Spike Lee was telling the truth, but perhaps he was not considering that fact that the real "Wild West" was not a Sergio Leone spaghetti western



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either. Those types of movies also tended to gloss over major injustices as well, the biggest being the way Native Americans were treated. Yes, oddly enough, none of Sergio Leone's movies talked much about the Trail of

Tears. I don't think that it's too far off to assume that Quentin Tarantino considered this when deciding to tell his story about a freed slave in this specific style.

One of Spike Lee's major criticisms of the film was its use of the n-word. Personally, I think that criticizing a movie that takes place in 1858 for using the n-word is ridiculous, for obvious reasons. To be fair, Spike Lee's anger about Quentin Tarantino using the n-word goes beyond Django Unchained; he has criticized Tarantino in the past about his other movies that have used the word. Personally, I think it's ignorant when people just throw that word around, but unlike most rappers and kids who think that they're being cool, Quentin Tarantino knows the power of the word, and he definitely uses that power to further the story.

My suggestion to anyone boycotting the film or calling it offensive is to actually go and see it before you form your opinions. I found it powerful, entertaining, and thought-provoking, and I think most other people will, too.

Less is More with the New iPad Mini

By Gaelyn Gregory

Although it's smaller, skinnier and lighter than its predecessor, the iPad mini is not much different than the iPad. Costing only \$329, the iPad mini comes in black and slate or white and silver. The iPad mini is easier to type on, as it can be held with one hand, and it is easier to carry around than the regular iPad. On the other hand, the iPad mini's camera is not as good as the iPad and when magnified, pictures on the iPad mini are more pixelated than on the iPad 4th generation. Although it's named the iPad mini, it is not that small. The iPad mini, at 7.87 inches tall and 5.3 inches wide, is more than half the size of the regular iPad, which is 9.50 inches tall and 7.3 inches wide. The iPad mini is not much of an upgrade from the iPad2 either, as it still does not have a flash camera and the battery life

is still ten hours of surfing the web on Wi-Fi or nine hours of surfing the web using cellular data network. Despite this, the iPad mini is a quick and easy way to search something on the Internet, play games or check your email. Overall, the iPad mini is a great gift for a family member or friend. I would recommend it for anyone who is interested in buying an Apple product.

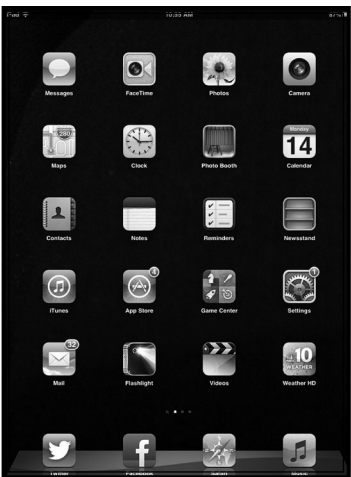


Photo by Gaelyn Gregory

And the Oscar Goes To ...

By Austin Harris

The nominations for the 85th Annual Academy Awards were announced on January 10. The show, which will be hosted by Seth MacFarlane, is scheduled to air on Sunday, February 24. As the date of the event comes closer and closer, it is always fun to guess which nominees will go home winners. These are my predictions as to who will win this year in some of the major categories.

Best Picture: Argo
Even though Ben Affleck did not even get nominated for Best Director for this movie (which is just wrong), this film has already won the Golden Globe for Best Picture (Drama) and the Critics' Choice Award for Best Film. It was also immensely popular with both critics and audiences, which is always a good sign for a Best Picture winner. Ben Affleck's snub was probably a result of his perceived arrogance.

Best Director: Ang Lee for Life of Pi
This is an odd situation. Normally I would say that Ben Affleck would win, but he wasn't even nominated. This is the category that I am most unsure of because so many expected nominees weren't nominated (the others being Kathryn Bigelow for Zero Dark Thirty and Tom Hooper for Les Miserables). I'd rather call this a guess than a prediction, and my guess for Best Director is Ang Lee because Life of Pi was both artistic and powerful.

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis for Lincoln
This is probably the most obvious category. None of the other actors nominated in this category disappeared into their roles as much as Daniel Day-Lewis did. Also, he's playing a real person, which tends to help actors win.

Best Actress: Jessica Chastain for Zero Dark Thirty
At first, it seemed obvious that Jennifer Lawrence (star of The Hunger Games) was going to win this award for her portrayal of Tiffany in Silver Linings Playbook. But Zero Dark Thirty came out late, and critics have been raving about Jessica Chastain's performance. She's also won the Critics' Choice Award for Best Actress, as well as the Golden Globe.

Best Supporting Actor: Phillip Seymour-Hoffman for The Master
This is another tough category. So far, Hoffman has won the Critics' Choice Award, but lost the Golden Globe to Christoph Waltz for Django Unchained. However, Waltz just won an Oscar two years ago for another Tarantino film, so I'm going with Phillip Seymour-Hoffman.



Al Seib/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Best Supporting Actress: Anne Hathaway for Les Miserables
This is another obvious one. Anne Hathaway has been winning almost every Supporting Actress award for her role in the film. She has all of the aspects of an Academy-Award-winning performance (those being tears, desperation, and general pathetic-ness), as well as a solo that is apparently flooring. She's also been in the movie industry for a while, so the Academy will probably agree that it's time to honor her.

Best Adapted Screenplay: Chris Terrio for Argo
Argo was one of the most well-made films of the year, hands-down. It thrilled audiences, and the reason behind that, beyond Ben Affleck's direction, was Chris Terrio's terse script. He brought to the screen a story that most people did not know that was strange, intriguing, and suspenseful. If Ben Affleck can't get an Oscar for this, at least the screenwriter can.

Best Original Screenplay: Quentin Tarantino for Django Unchained
Even though it was considered a surprise that Tarantino won the Golden Globe for Best Screenplay, I think he deserved the award. He was robbed when Pulp Fiction did not win Best Director and Picture in 1994 (Forrest Gump did instead), so perhaps the Academy will try to pacify him here. Also, his screenplay has inspired a lot of conversation (see the Editor-in-Chief column), which is something that Oscars love.

Best Score: Michael Dynna for Life of Pi
I have an issue with the Best Score category. For whatever reason, the actual best score of the year almost never wins, and many times it isn't even nominated. It's sort of like the Academy just chooses five adequate scores from the Best Picture nominees. For instance, last year, War Horse had the most well-written score, but The Artist's frankly annoying score only won because people really liked the movie. I just chose Life of Pi because it's a nice score that's been winning the other awards. I'm still mad that The Dark Knight Rises wasn't nominated.

Best Original Song: Adele and Paul Epworth for "Skyfall"
I usually have the same issue with the Best Original Song category. Last year, only two average-quality songs were nominated, and "Man or Muppet" won, which was just a strange choice. However, this year, some pretty awesome songs are nominated. The competition is pretty stiff, but I think it's safe to say that Adele's "Skyfall" will win the award – after all, it's a great song, and it's the only one on the list that was #1 on the Billboard Top 100.



Book Reviews by Reena Karasin This Month: The Silver Linings Playbook by Matt Quick

The Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick is the story of Pat Peoples, a mentally unstable optimist. As our narrator, Pat can only show us what he remembers and understands of his world, making him an impressively unreliable storyteller. Pat's sole goal in life is to improve himself both mentally and physically in order to win back his beloved wife, even though all his family and

friends are set against their marriage. Quick shows how everyone in Pat's life is affected by his instability, and how each character copes with it. In many ways, Pat acts as a child. He has immature names for aspects of his life, such as "apart time" and "bad place." It was unnerving to see a grown man's extreme dependence on his mother, to see how vulnerable and

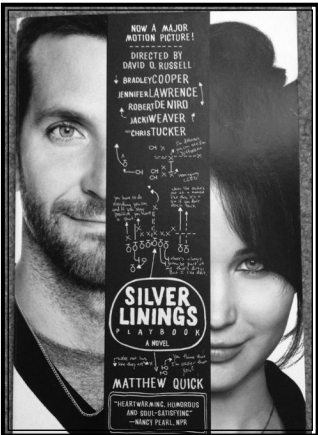


Photo by Reena Karasin

temperamental he is. He throws what are essentially temper tantrums, but as a mentally unstable adult they are uncontrollable and often violent. It was also an odd experience reading a story set in South Jersey – Quick often references places in Collingswood, Oaklyn, or the Cherry Hill Mall, but I felt that this actually enabled me to further visualize the

scenes. Overall, however, I was surprisingly disturbed by this book. Pat narrates the story, and therefore we only know and understand what he does. Pat's confusion, desperation, and anger was upsetting and heartbreaking to experience. However, the fact that the novel had such an effect on me proves that it is a piece of quality literature.

A Fencer’s Journey

By Dylan DiFlorio

Fencing, a sport that dates back hundreds of years, has become a global practice. It requires quick, flexible reflexes; allegedly, the tip of the fencing weapon is the second-fastest object in sports, with only the marksman’s bullet moving faster. It’s a fun, fast-paced sport that Moorestown Friends is proud to be a part of.

“It’s strategic, exhilarating, and fun,” said varsity fencer and junior Mike Brill. “To be a fencer, you need to be tough, smart and positive.”

As of late January, Michael is 1-1 after a victory against Saint Augustine. He had a couple of extremely close and intense bouts, and is using his energy to propel him even more into the focused, determined realm that he believes gets you winning results. The team season so far is “pretty good with high hopes.”

When asked about the opponents Michael will face throughout the season, he responded “All will be tough. But fencing’s a tough sport, and that’s why I enjoy it.”

When asked to describe the team chemistry, Brill responded, “the upperclassmen really help and show the younger classmen. It’s a cool thing to be a part of.”

There are three types of fencing, and each has its own weapon. Foil is a light thrusting weapon, which targets the torso, groin, back and neck, but not the arms. Touches are scored with the tip of the weapon.

The next weapon is Sabre. This is a light cutting and thrusting weapon with which fencers can target the entire upper body, except for the hands. Hits with the edge of the blade or point are valid.

Epee is a heavier thrusting weapon that targets the entire body.

Fencers are simultaneously allowed to hit, rather than dueling back and forth. “Sabre is really fast pace, wild and aggressive and spontaneous. You get a burst of adrenaline from it,” Brill said when describing the style of fencing he practices.

Brill worked hard during the offseason and summer, commuting to camps and the FASJ (Fencing Academy of South Jersey). His notable efforts have put him on a new level in the sport. Last year, Brill was on JV. This year, he is a top contender on the Sabre varsity squad. When asked how he would describe his offseason efforts, he said that it was “challenging but fun.”

Centrulo, an important tournament, is coming up, and Brill is ready for it. “I want to keep getting better and training hard. As a team we just want to get better and compete. I’d like to thank Mr. McGinn and woman’s Sabre world champion Jane Eyre for their help.”

Player-to-Watch: Brandon Beach

By Alex Creighton



Photo By Emily Tatum

“I’ve been swimming since I was a little kid, but I’ve only been competitively swimming for five years,” sophomore Brandon Beach told WordsWorth.

Beach is a varsity swimmer at Moorestown Friends, but before MFS he swam for the Metro Village Country Club, the SJAC, and Pheasant Run. Last year at the Friends League Championships, Brandon finished sixth overall in the 200 free, which he calls “one of [his] best accomplishments.”

Before his best swimming, he did suffer an injury. Beach was almost going to perform in his first championships in the summer of eighth grade, but four days before, he broke his wrist while playing basketball. He was unable to swim at the championships.

Now fully healthy, Beach said, “I wanna get well under five minutes in the 600,” when asked about any goals he’d like to accomplish this year.

To conclude the interview, WordsWorth asked about his favorite swimming memory. “This past meet I had to swim the 500 and swim the first 50 free and I almost got my best time,” he said.

Brandon Beach is a talented swimmer, which is why he is the player to watch.

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Super Bowl - Check out our coverage!	4 USVGB Home vs. Haddon Hts.	5	6 5:30 USBB V/JV and GVBB Home vs. Kings Christian	7 7:00 US Admissions Open House	8	9 ACT 3:00 US Swimming FSL Championship
10 TBA US Fencing Fr./Soph. Tournament	11 5:30 USBB and GB V Home vs. LEAP	12	13	14	15 Winter Break - No School	16
17	18 Winter Break - No School Presidents Day	19 USGB V Home vs. Maple Shade	20	21 1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	22 5:30 USGB Home vs. Overbrook	23
24 Winter Play Tech Week JV Sports Awards	25 Tech Week	26 Tech Week	27 Tech Week US Photo and Media Arts Show	28 Tech Week US Photo and Media Arts Show	1 7:00 <i>Twilight</i> , Los Angeles 1992	2 7:00 <i>Twilight</i> , Los Angeles 1992

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