



# Words Worth

Moorestown Friends School, Moorestown, NJ • December 2013 • 2013-14, Gift Guide Issue

## Glee Club: MFS Edition

By Maura Aleardi

This year, two of Moorestown Friends' performing stars are working together to create the school's first Glee Club.

Freshman Noah Borromeo and sophomore Marirose Aleardi already have ten student signatures and are ready to bring the club proposal to Agenda Committee. The two underclassmen performers recently starred in MFS's Legally Blonde as Emmett Forrest and Brooke Windham. Now that the show has ended, they are trying "to provide a free, open environment for anyone to come and express themselves through singing," explained Borromeo.

Borromeo has been in plays and musicals since sixth grade. He is also part of the MFS Singers, but he is starting the club because he thinks that "not everyone likes the choir structure."

Aleardi is also a member of the MFS Singers, and agrees that "we should have a place where we can sing what we want and just a place to express [ourselves]." She performed in her first show with Moorestown

Theater Co. when she was six years old, and she hasn't stopped since.

In its history, MFS has never had a Glee Club. Aleardi commented, "I think when there was an a capella choir, it was similar to what a glee club would be, so there wasn't really a need for one." As the possible first Glee Club president at MFS, Borromeo said that he and Aleardi "want to make sure that [they] stay organized and cooperative, or else the club wouldn't work."

If approved, the club would meet in Hartman Hall Room 108 with Kelly Bixby, MFS music teacher and director of the MFS Singers, as proctor.

Aleardi said she hopes that "every week, we have a good time and enjoy what we're singing and become good and stronger."

She and Borromeo welcome all interested students to join. Borromeo encouraged members, "whether you're in choir or not, as long as you like to sing, you're welcome to come."

## Christmas Away From Home

By Tori Edelstein

Christmas is all about family time, presents, and lights. Well, at least that is how it is in America. Sophomore exchange student Leon Pfeiffer gave us an idea of what Christmas is like in Germany, and how strange our normal customs seem to him.

Lights have always been an important part of Christmas here, and Christmas wouldn't be

the same without people hanging up vibrant colors the day after Thanksgiving. However, Leon told us that "there are less Christmas lights in Germany," and that it is quite strange to see people hanging them up so soon. It was hard to imagine the holidays without the world lighting up at night. America seems to start everything "early" and after experiencing his first

"Black Friday," Leon was amazed at how "people were starting to worry about buying gifts so early." He informed us that in Germany, the gift buying doesn't start until a few weeks before, unlike here where we start buying gifts up to two months early.

Although Leon is enjoying the festive Christmas traditions in America, he is excited to return

home to Germany at Christmas break to spend a nice week with his family. He's looking forward to diving back into the old, familiar traditions he shares back at home. And of course, the holidays wouldn't be the same without presents. He shared with us that for Christmas this year he wants a high quality camera that he can document his memories with.

Ring in the  
MFS  
Holidays

"One of my most recent traditions is that, for the last four years, I've gone to hear my fiancé sing for the Midnight Mass in the choir at the Cathedral Basilica on Christmas Eve. It's really cool because the cathedral looks ancient Italian, it's really big, and the Mass goes on until around 1:30 in the morning."  
Kelly Bixby

"Over Winter Break, I will be building my portfolio for art school and attending various Christmas parties"--Courtney Foat

"Every year we make pizzelles, which are these Italian anise wafer-type cookies. We also go out during the Thanksgiving break to pick out a Christmas tree that we leave outside until a Sunday in early December. That's when we bring it inside and decorate it and it's a lot of fun. We turn on the Christmas music." Julia Giordano

"Every Christmas morning my family and I are part of a group that goes to the hospital to sing carols and hand out plants to all of the patients. This year my dad is the one dressing up as Santa. This tradition my family has makes me realize how lucky we are to be able to spend Christmas with our family, unlike many of those in the hospital."  
Kim Gaiser

# 2 Editorials

## NHL Rules

*By Alex Horn*

The National Hockey League is still reverberating from the jarring slapshot of a change that struck it during the offseason. The league's conferences were realigned, its playoff mechanics were changed, and its fans are now left to wonder what the repercussions will be.

Previously, the NHL was composed of two conferences, each with three divisions of five teams. Within each conference, the team with the best record in each division was guaranteed a postseason slot. The five teams with the next best records from each conference also made the playoffs, regardless of how they placed within their own division. This system was fair and worked well; it promoted competition between teams in the same division while still ensuring that, in general, the best teams in the league made it into the postseason.

The Players' Association, many head coaches, and even some league commissioners have made suggestions over the years to change the conference system, but the lack of incentive meant that none were adopted. Then in 2011, the Atlanta Thrashers, an Eastern Conference team, moved far west and became the Winnipeg Jets. To

keep the conferences balanced, it was clear that some changes had to be made. Over the course of two years, the league came up with a plan that made many fundamental changes to how the league works. It has finally gone into effect for the 2013-2014 season, and the consequences look unfortunate.

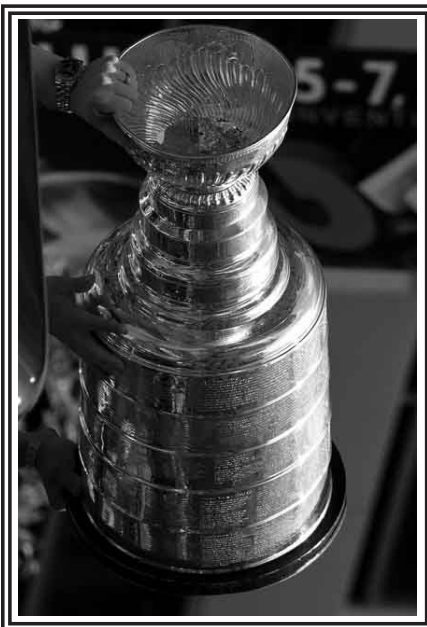
There are now two conferences, each with two divisions. The Western Conference has two divisions of seven teams, while the Eastern Conference has two divisions of eight. The top three teams from each division qualify for the playoffs, along with two wildcards that have the best records regardless of division.

At first glance, this plan seems fairly innocuous, but it will have dire repercussions when the postseason comes around. The most important factor in making the playoffs used to be having a good overall record. Now, a team's quality of play against opponents from around the league is less important than the quality of the other teams in its division. While before, among the top eight, only an eighth place team could possibly lose a playoff spot to a team below it in the standings, now

even a sixth place team could face this bizarre eventuality. This arbitrarily penalizes and rewards certain teams due to the location of their hometowns, rather than their quality of play. Additionally, Western Conference teams have a significant advantage over Eastern teams: the Western divisions are smaller, meaning that there's less competition for a coveted spot in a division's top three.

Let's put it mathematically: under the old rules, a team with the eighth best record in either conference had a 98.95% chance of making the playoffs. In the new system, an eighth place team in the East has an 89.98% chance, while an eighth place Western team has a 92.25% chance. Instead of once every hundred years, the eighth-best team in either conference will not get its deserved playoff spot an average of once every ten years. Not only did this rule inject unfairness into the system, it applied it unevenly between the conferences.

Of course, it isn't all bad. Certain changes were made out of simple common sense. Detroit and Columbus were moved to the Eastern Conference, allowing them



*Photo by Flickr user Prayitno. Used with permission under a Creative Commons license.*

to play teams in the same time zone. Another benefit of the realignment is that every team will now play in every arena, every season, allowing fans to see teams from all across the continent live. Sadly, these positive changes are outweighed by the new playoff mechanics, which replace the elegance of the old system with arbitrary, unfair, and uncompetitive rules. One can only hope that the league will either be able to adapt and flourish, or else see their mistake and reinstate the old system. Until the playoffs come, all we can do is keep our eyes on the ice.

## Home for the Holidays

*By: Vivian Bao*

Have you heard about spring festival? I can already feel Christmas approaching as it is only two weeks away. In China, a similarly exciting holiday, the Spring Festival, is also quite close.

The date of the Spring Festival varies from year to year, because it is according to the ancient lunar calendar, which is constructed in a different fashion than the Western solar calendar. In the Chinese calendar, the beginning of the year falls somewhere between late January and early February. The Chinese have been using the Western calendar since 1911, but the lunar calendar is still used for festive occasions. This year, the Spring Festival will fall on January 31. It is actually the Chinese New Year, but it gets this name for it symbolizes the arrival of spring.

The other Chinese name of this festival is "Nian", which originates from an ancient story. It is said that a monster called "Nian" would come to a village to disturb the residents there during this day every year until villagers finally learned that firecrackers could get rid of it. This is why people typically like to ignite firecrackers during the Spring Festival.

The Spring Festival lasts 15 days from the beginning to end. The last day of this significant festival is also called the Lantern Festival. During that period, almost all the activities can be related to food. Chinese People eat "JiaoZi" on the first day and "TangYuan" on the last day. This festival is important to the children. While visiting all the relatives in the family, kids always receive a big pocket of candies and get a red envelope filled with money.

Like all the other festivals, the Spring Festival has evolved. Almost 40 years ago, when televisions became widespread in China, a new tradition was born of watching a special TV show with relatives on the night of Chinese New Year's Eve. Also, more people travel on vacation during the festival than before 2000. Like Christmas in America, a lot of big shopping malls started giving big discounts during the holiday.

Celebrating Spring Festival is a 2000-year old tradition. Though some parts are modernized, other parts can still represent the people's beautiful but simple wishes towards harvest two thousand years ago.

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# 3 Special Feature

## 'Tis The Season For Video Games

By Samuel Milligan

Every fall and early winter, an influx of new games for Xbox and Playstation flood the market, vying for the attention of kids from kindergarten to twelfth grade. This year is no different. For people without video game experience, there may be too many to choose from without a little inside information. Here are six popular and highly-publicized games that are prime gift candidates this holiday season.



### Battlefield 4

This installment of the highly successful Battlefield series is, in a word, excellent. The graphics are superb, and gameplay is smooth for the most part, with only a few glitches. The campaign mode has just the right mix of cutscenes, firefights, and sequences that require frustratingly exact precision and stealth. Though there are only seven missions in the story mode, Battlefield 4's campaign is very strong and entertaining. It also has a great ending.

The multiplayer is also quite good. Although several of Battlefield's game modes take too long per contest, the multiplayer is still engaging and interesting. In some respects, it is a little too complicated, but still very enjoyable. This game is suitable for just about anyone, whether he/she is new to first-person shooters or was raised on them. Battlefield 4 is rated M.



### Assassin's Creed IV

Assassin's Creed IV is another excellent gift option. This game is predominantly a story mode game, though there is an enjoyable multiplayer option. However, the real attraction is the campaign. One of the problems for previous Assassin's Creed games was that the real story took too long to reach; there were way too many cutscenes, backstory, and pointless missions before the meat of the story. For the fourth Assassin's Creed, this problem is almost nonexistent. The main story is good, but Assassin's Creed IV is at its best when the player is free to roam around its beautiful, scenic, Caribbean landscape. There are plenty of worthwhile side missions, and the graphics and environment are impressive. Additionally, the naval battles that frustrated many in Assassin's Creed III are much improved and easy to control. The Assassin's Creed series has a different set of controls and style than most other games; therefore, it is hard to adjust to the game without playing other Assassin's Creed games first or having friends to help you through some of the discrepancies between this and other series. Assassin's Creed IV is rated M.



### Call Of Duty: Ghosts

The tenth Call of Duty (COD) is certainly not the series' high point; however, that is not to say that it is not worth buying. The Call of Duty: Ghosts campaign starts off very slowly, but picks up with each mission. It gets more entertaining as the story gets more and more crazy and ridiculous. After all, who isn't impressed with shootouts in space and dodging sharks on the ocean floor? Ghosts' ending really is its saving grace; it is unexpected, and leaves unfinished business for the main characters that could easily translate into a sequel in the coming years.

Call of Duty's multiplayer, as usual, is excellent. The basic pattern that has made COD multiplayer so much fun in the past is still present, with the right mix of new material and fan favorites from past games. The default maps are varied and diverse; everyone will have their own particular favorite, from run-and-gun types to camping snipers (don't be that guy). This aspect of the game is simple yet outrageously entertaining and infuriatingly competitive. Experience does not matter in this game; any player can jump in and understand it quickly, so it will be perfect for someone with little video game experience.

COD: Ghosts is rated M.

*Images used with permission from publisher.*



### Fifa 14

Fifa 14 is very much in line with its predecessors, with entertaining multiplayer options and addictive solo experiences. Fifa Ultimate Team and Online Pro Clubs are ridiculously fun, especially with friends. Though the game offers little revolutionary or innovative features, it is still very, very cool. The graphics are sharp, and game play is smooth and realistic. It really is an awesome game, but try getting through a game without yelling about offsides calls. Just try. Fifa 14 is rated E.

### Grand Theft Auto V

Grand Theft Auto V is the fifth Grand Theft Auto available for Xbox and Playstation. It is mostly a one player game, but the somewhat limited multiplayer is also nice. The story mode is exciting, funny, and above all, entertaining. Grand Theft Auto gives the player freedom that does not exist in many other games. Players are mostly free to roam through an extensive, interactive world and do just about anything they want. If you are looking for nearly endless gameplay and liberty to play however you want, this is the game for you.

GTA V is rated M

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# Gift Guide 2013

Lit Club @MFSWordsWorth

Same old season, same old classics. #TheGhostOf-ChristmasPast

Ping Pong Club @MFSWordsWorth

#tennisracquet

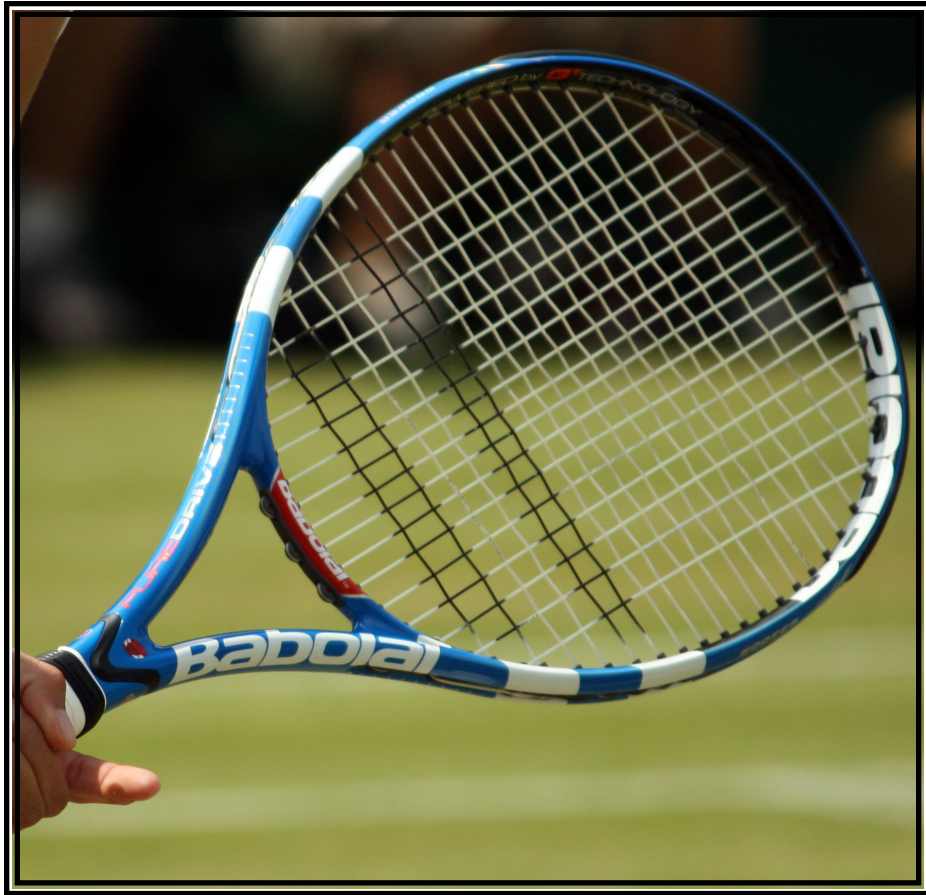


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Sit-Com Club @MFSWordsWorth

Reality TV #WelcometotheRealWorld #KeepingUp-WithTheKardashians

Pride Club @MFSWordsWorth

A ride on a rainbow-colored slide big enough to fit all the #wavesofsupport and #acceptance

Algorithms Club @MFSWordsWorth

#01000001010011000100011101001111010100100100  
10010101010001001000010011010101001103

Badminton Club @MFSWordsWorth

A football. #TimeToTryARealSport #ByeByeBirdie



Photo by Wikipedia Commons user Double Blue.  
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Barbecue Club @MFSWordsWorth

Spend \$5 to wait in a 20 minute line #TakeANumber #RoboticChefs



Photo by Flickr user silverfuture. Used with creative commons license.

Service Committee @MFSWordsWorth

Make it rain! #ACardFullOfMoney



Photo by Wikipedia Commons user stillframe. Used with creative commons license.

Dance Club @MFSWordsWorth

Tons of talent #TheMovesLikeJagger

Disney Club @MFSWordsWorth

IT DOES EXIST!!!! #waltdisney'shead

DRAMA CLUB @MFSWordsWorth

A photo album to collect the many #DramaticMoments

AP GYM THEORY @MFSWordsWorth

Someone call the board of education #APCredit



# Gift Guide 2013

*Agenda Committee* @MFSWordsWorth

If pro is the opposite of con, what is the opposite of progress? #MoreEfficientThanTheUSGovernment

*Animal Awareness* @MFSWordsWorth

It sure is lonely in Newman's room today #HereAre-SomeMembers

*Future Educators Club* @MFSWordsWorth

A bag filled with apples and students on time for class #SorryWeDontRunFromHartmanhall #Apples-ForTheBest



Photo taken by Lauren Buck

*Computer Club* @MFSWordsWorth

A fire pit to burn the Macs #WhereAreTheApple-fans?

*Diversity Commitee* @MFSWordsWorth

A ten minute audience with #BigMouth #PaulaDeen

*MLK Club* @MFSWordsWorth

Burned off Thanksgiving Dinner, gained it back with Soul Food Fest #MOREFOOD



Photo taken by Tyler Carstarphen

Gender Equality Forum @MFSWordsWorth

"I know you want it" ;) #RobinThickesNewAlbum



Photo by blogger josepvinaixa. Used with Creative Commons license.

*CHESS CLUB* @MFSWordsWorth

A club that actually plays chess #misnamed

*Girl Up Club* @MFSWordsWorth

For the lack of recent meetings #ameeting #with-somepeople

*ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB* @MFSWordsWorth

A bronze statue #ThefirstUltimatePlayer

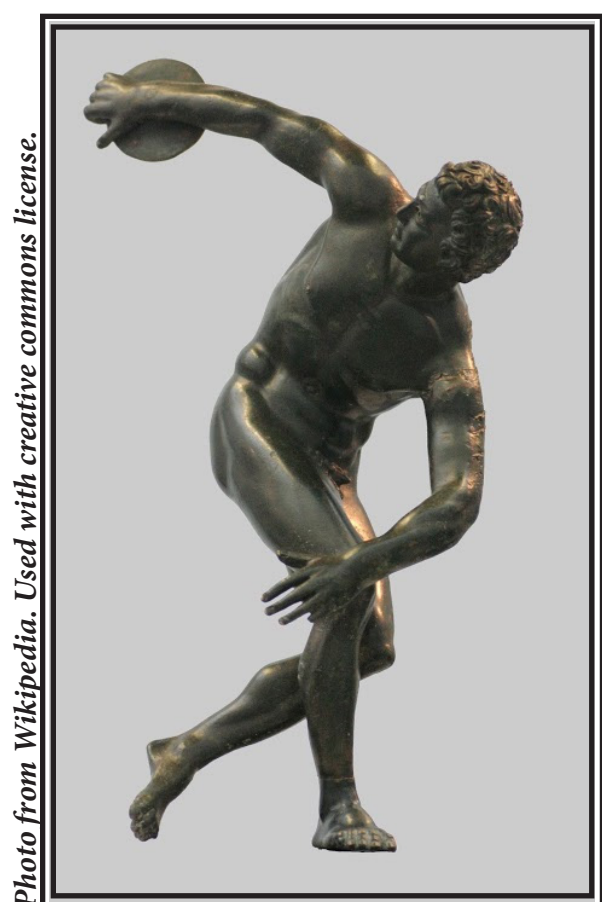


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*Dungeons and Dragons Club* @MFSWordsWorth

C'mon guys, it's time to up the realism. #OrcAnd-BattleAxe

*Environmental Club* @MFSWordsWorth

You and the environment deserve the very best for Christmas. #NewSUV



# 6 Pop Culture

## Fashion Spotlight

By Chelsea Maddred

“I’d describe my style as comfy but cute,” explained sophomore Jade Ernest. Since her freshman year, this fashionista has walked the halls of MFS sporting outfits that catch the eyes of all who pass by her.

“My favorite season for clothing would be fall because I’m into the whole sweater-and-scarves thing,” she said. “I love cardigans, and I like to wear Earth tones all the time, so fall is a good time for [fashion].” She has sweaters and cardigans in nearly every color, and she is accumulating a collection of scarves.

Sometimes students wake up feeling reluctant to get dressed up, but Ernest has a plan for those days: “For a lazy day I normally just throw my hair into a messy bun and wear an oversized sweater with leggings and boots.”

Ernest suggests that when out shopping for clothes, “Get what you like. Don’t try to have a particular style. If you see something you like, just get it, because chances are, if you like it, you’re going to feel good in it, and you’ll look good in it, too.”

Photos of Jade Ernest taken by taken by Chelsea Maddred



## TBS: Very Funny?

By Edward Gelernt

No matter how often TBS’s commercials tell me that their new shows are “very funny,” my disappointment in them is not swayed.

Within the last month, three new shows debuted on TBS, bringing with them a new agenda for the network’s late-night programming. The first show to premiere was *Trust Me, I’m a Game Show Host*, a comedy game show that first aired on October 22. Six days later, the first episode of *The Pete Holmes Show*, a new talk show, was released. Several weeks later, on November 14, the world watched the pilot of *Ground Floor*, a romantic comedy. Since their premieres, I have followed each of these shows, and overall, I have found them to be disappointments.

The worst of the three shows is unquestionably *The Pete Holmes Show*. The talk show’s humor centers around slapstick comedy, but the slapstick is not so blatant that one cannot help but laugh (i.e. *The Three Stooges*). Rather, the jokes are generally boring and not funny, making me wonder why I bother watching. Holmes often plays with fire during his monologues at the beginning of each episode; he attempts to make quasi-profound statements while still maintaining humor. He tends to struggle mightily with this undertaking, although as the show has progressed, he has grown gradually more adept at it. At it’s best, the program is enter-

taining and induces an occasional chuckle; at its worst, it makes me yawn, shake my head, and wonder what the world has come to that a good comedy channel like TBS is putting out such a poor show. I give *The Pete Holmes Show* one star out of five; it is not always boring — just most of the time.

Significantly better than the aforementioned show is *Trust Me, I’m a Game Show Host*.

This program attempts to mix the essence of comedy with the world of game shows; it features two hosts, both of whom read bizarre-sounding factoids, one true and one false, to a contestant, who then must choose which host is telling the truth in order to win cash. In undertaking this daring attempt to mix two entirely different types of shows, TBS knew it had to produce something above average, but unfortunately it failed. The show is certainly entertaining and sometimes even crosses the threshold into funny, but all in all, the show is not nearly as good as a comedic game show has the potential to be. The problem the program experiences is the most easily foreseen issue: it often struggles in bal-

ancing the drama of a game show with the humor of a comedy show. However, the contestants often aid in adding to the dramatic flare and tension, while hosts D.L. Hughley and Michael Ian Black do a good job in keeping the mood light and humorous. I give *Trust Me, I’m a Game Show Host* a tentative three stars out of five; it has the capabil-

ity to be a great show, but it is truly nowhere near meeting that potential.

While the two previously discussed shows have been large-scale disappointments, the third and final new program shows some promise. *Ground*

*Floor* is a romantic comedy about a bigshot banker who falls for a ground-floor maintenance worker. The two of them do their best to sustain a relationship, even though both of them get pressure from colleagues to break it off. Skylar Astin and Briga Heelan do a stellar job portraying these two awkwardly situated characters, but the best acting comes from the supporting characters. Rory Scovel does a great job as Harvard, a ground floor worker who has a crush on Jenny (Heelan); and John C. McGinley is absolutely hysterical as Mr. Mansfield, the owner and

CEO of the company where Brody (Astin) works. Overall, the show is funny and maintains a consistent plotline. I am concerned that the show will quickly run out of entertaining ideas for new episodes; however, there have been glimpses that the program will explore the characters in greater detail in the future, which would solve that problem. I give *Ground Floor* four stars out of five; it is funny, engaging, and I look forward to watch as the show develops in the future.

Overall, I am not impressed by TBS’s new programming. *The Pete Holmes Show* is unengaging and dull; and *Trust Me, I’m a Game Show Host* falls far short of the high expectations one might set for it. The only show of the three that is funny enough to deserve its late-night spot is *Ground Floor*. I think the network’s primary mistake was releasing all three shows in such a short time span; viewers would have benefitted from a period of time to watch a new show, decide to stick with it or kick it to the curb, and then take in another dose of new programming.

New episodes of *The Pete Holmes Show* airs every weeknight at midnight.

New episodes of *Trust Me, I’m a Game Show Host* air Tuesday nights at 10:30 P.M.

New episodes of *Ground Floor* air Thursday nights at 10:30 P.M.

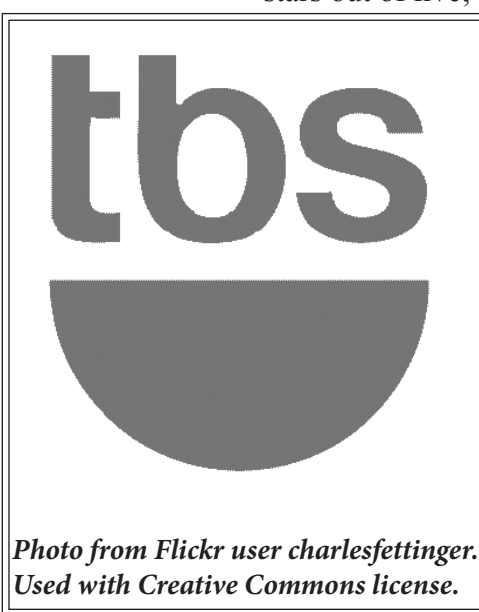


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# 7 Sports

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## Boys Basketball

By Wesley Share

### Coach's Corner:

Returning as head coach, former University of Maine forward Colin Haynes is hoping "to at least double our win total from the 2012-2013 season, make the NJSIAA playoffs, to make the Friends School League playoffs, or win the newly-installed Quaker Cup." He continued, "We have several players returning from last year's team, we have 32 student athletes signed up, and our coaching staff is extremely excited to see what they bring to the court."

among others, is returning to the team. "His quickness gives him the ability to make defenders look silly", said sophomore forward Joe Beideman. "Pierce's speed gives him the ability to score many fast break points," continued Beideman, "His defense will also be very helpful to our team this year." Many fans consider Williams to be a player who could ease the heavy load that senior point guard Dan Richards - who found himself eighth in the Friends League in points per game - shouldered last season.

### Last Season:

The boys basketball team regressed last season, finishing last in Friends League. They were 4-21 overall and 0-7 in Friends League play, eight games out of a playoff spot.

Haynes has also been eyeing some incoming freshman. "I followed the 8th grade team and Coach Schmidt last year," he said. Regarding these incoming freshmen, he added, "They are an impressive group and have had success on the court. The transition into high school sports is difficult, a learning process, and the coaching staff is intrigued with who will rise up to the challenge. We got to see some freshmen over our summer workout sessions, as well as some who played in our Fall league, and they competed at a high level."

### Players to Watch:

After last season's absence, senior guard Pierce Williams,



Follow the QR code and check us out online!



## Swimming

By Everett Aldrich

### Coach's Corner:

Chris Brookover and Allison Funk are this year's swim coaches for the Foxes. Funk said that she and Brookover want "everyone to give their best effort in practice and therefore give the team its best chance of winning dual meets." Along with winning meets, Coach Funk also said she strives to "[place] as high as possible at the Friends League Conference Championships."

### Players to Watch:

Coach Funk said she wants "breakout years from all of [the] swimmers," but there are a few from whom she expects leadership and stellar performances because of their "experience, past performances and leadership."

These talented swimmers are, according to Funk, sophomore Edward Gelernt, juniors Brandon Beach and Stephanie Walker, and senior Lisa Eiffes.

### Last Season:

The swim team last year placed fifth out of seven in the Friends League and had one win and eight losses at the end of the season. Beach said, "We had some strong moments, but we definitely left some room for improvement. Luckily, we only lost a few swimmers to graduation, and participation is up this year. We are looking forward to a successful season for swimmers, new and old." We'll see if things change for the better in this new swim season.





# 8 Sports

## Girls Basketball

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By Mitchell Mullock

### Coach's Corner:

Coah Mike Brunswick expressed his expectations for his girls' basketball team this year: "As long as we stay healthy, we should be able to do well in both the Friends League and in South Jersey." He was hesitant to make bolder predictions about the fate of his squad because he did not yet know his team's full roster; however, he did know that he has many returning upperclassmen. Coach Brunswick recognized that "[as long as] our team can play together well like last season, we have a good chance at being successful this season."

### Players to Watch:

The lady Foxes have many returning upperclassmen this year, including seniors Jasmine Brown and Katrina Savon and junior Sarah Henig, who together form what Brunswick called a "three-headed monster down low." Brunswick added, "Emily [McKeown], a very good three-point shooter, and No-

elle Smith, our point guard, should both have good seasons as returning seniors." Among these seniors, Brunswick also talked specifically about Sarah Applegate, a returning senior slated to play basketball at Dickinson next year. He predicted that this well-rounded player "should have a good season if she stays healthy."

### Last Season:

The girls' basketball team last year had 10 wins and 13 losses, with a 4-4 record in the Friends League. The .500 record in the Friends League last year gave them the 5th seed, missing the playoffs by half a game. Notable wins in the Friends League consisted of away victories at George School and Westtown, where they beat their opponents by double digit scores. Last year's season ended at the hands of Gill St. Bernard's, in the Non-Public B State Tournament, by a score of 93-26.



## Fencing

By AJ Dunham

### Coach's Corner:

Milos Vasic is returning as head coach of the team this year. His goals for the team this year include qualifying the épée team for the state championships as well as qualifying senior Christian Aguilar for the state championships. Along with Aguilar, Juniors Matt Scalandre and Alex Master are expected by Coach Vasic to play key roles for the team.

### Players to Watch:

Coach Vasic expects a strong season out of senior

Christian Aguilar. His goals include a state championship qualification for Aguilar. Last year, he placed second in district championships and sixth in state championships to earn a spot on the 2nd all-state squad.

### Last Season:

The 2012-2013 season was an impressive season in accolades for the team. The épée squad qualified for state championships and finished 8th. Christian Aguilar qualified and finished 6th in the individual épée.