

**What's next
in the issue...**



News A2 and A3

Students who
earned a 36 on the
ACT



Sports Section B1

Freshmen girls take
on varsity soccer



Arts and Entertainment Section D1

The Lantern



Do something great today... it will be in the paper tomorrow. Do something great today... it will be in the paper tomorrow.



The Homecoming Court



Griffin Kennedy and
Caroline Cyranek



Homecoming Court after Caroline was crowned

Caroline Cyranek Wins Heart of SHS

Camryn Larissey
Journalist

Caroline Cyranek was the winner of the five other girls who were chosen to be part of the Homecoming court. She was surprised to get the privilege of Queen.

Cyranek is part of many clubs including marching band, symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, captain of the flag team, and the basic honors societies like National Honors Society and Spanish Honors Society along with many others. She is also part of D.A.R.E. Role Models and Mustang Mentors, as well. While it does not seem surprising that she won when all of her clubs and accomplishments are laid out, Cyranek stated that “[she] was surprised...because

all the girls on there were really good.”

Along with the many clubs that Caroline is a part of, she also enjoys reading, music and volunteering when she finds the time.. She plays the clarinet and has been since fifth grade. While she does not play any other instruments, she has played some for fun, like the saxophone. Cyranek was part of the track and soccer teams, as well, but she no longer is anymore.

Cyranek's favorite subjects are math and chemistry, and she has hopes to have a job in the pharmaceutical field, which applies both of those concepts. While she is unsure of the college she would like to attend, she knows that she would like to go to one with a great pharmacy program. She has been looking at schools such as

The Ohio State University, Ohio Northern, Miami, and Purdue. Caroline offered her final words of wisdom to the freshmen who may one day follow in her footsteps, saying “make sure you start off on the right foot.” She also stated that as a freshman you should “Make your freshman year a good one with your grades and stuff, obviously, but still have fun, join clubs and get involved in the school.”



Caroline Cyranek

Sammie Husien Nationally Recognized in the Medical Field

Kristyn Kasler
Journalist

Senior Sammie Husien is being recognized by The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists for her dedication in serving the medical field at such a young age. Invited her junior year at Strongsville High School, Husien traveled to Boston, Massachusetts to attend a conference along with other students from around the country.

“I was invited due to outstanding academic performance, leadership potential, and dedication to serving humanity through the profession of medicine” says Husien.

“The conference was three days and I met a lot of interesting students with similar interests

as mine. They had a lot of highly established doctors at the conference and showed us fascinating medical procedures.”

At Strongsville High School, Husien plans for her medical education by currently taking several AP classes. She hopes these classes will prepare her for the rigorous course work she will be taking in college.

She has also been involved with many activities outside of school. These included shadowing doctors, paid internships at hospitals, and even giving up her limited free time to help those in need.

Husien is clear on her goals: “I plan to major in either pre-medicine or biochemistry in college, then attend medical school.”

From a young age, Husien was always interested in medicine. Husien comes from a long

line of doctors, which is one of the many reasons she became interested in pursuing medicine. “I definitely feel encouraged to pursue the medical field... I have been fortunate enough to see how amazing the field truly is” says Husien.

She dreams of becoming an Oncologist or an emergency room doctor. This award makes her dreams that much more of a reality.

“I was very excited to be honored with this award because I feel it defines my dedication to serving in the medical field from a young age.” Although she has achieved so much already, some may forget she is still a high school student! But that does not stop her from setting her goals high and achieving greatness. “(Boston) is truly an experience I will never forget.”

Ruta Sepetys Shares Creation of Novel “Salt of The Sea”

Julia Wayne
Journalist

Ruta Sepetys, a treehouse living, #1 New York Times best-selling author came to discuss her powerful novel Salt to the Sea, the winner of the Carnegie Medal. Salt to the Sea is the story of those who lost their lives in the real-life tragedy of the great Wilhelm Gustloff that sunk with ten thousand souls aboard. The downfall of Hitler’s reign has begun, and refugees are desperate to flee before the Russians can violently slaughter them. Salt to the Sea follows three riveting characters all fighting for survival.

Without educating herself first, Sepetys did not merely design random fictional characters to use in a story that she was not educated on. Rather, she researched the Wilhelm Gustloff for years. First, she analyzed all reports about the sunk ship available. Then, Sepetys traveled to the port in Poland where the ship boarded and departed, never to be seen again. She embarked on a journey to find people that could offer secret information, so to say. By doing so, she garnered information from Michael the diver, Virk the legendary diver, Lee Bishop, multiple survivors, and others connected to the ship in some way. In addition, a particular note in a bottle that was flung over the railing on the Wilhelm

Gustloff touched her heart. It read, “and I don’t know if anyone will know my story.” The lost lives and lost stories were the push Sepetys needed to piece everything together into a coherent story, which is now known as her award-winning Salt to the Sea: a testament to those who lost their lives trying to gain freedom.

Sepetys presented inspiring advice about facing rejection from publishers and learning from it, to which she stated that failure is the only way for one to grow, especially as a writer. She opened up by voicing, “pain makes honest art.” Therefore, Salt to the Sea was astoundingly personal for her, particularly because her father George is a Lithuanian refugee.

Likewise, emotions, she observed, are the key to writing. She remarks, “You are all storytellers. You have a story inside you that makes you you.” Then, by engaging the audience in creating a story that is inside of them, she shared the character and the character’s background. To tell the stories of those lives that were lost in a historical event that no one seems to remember: the tragedy of the Wilhelm Gustloff. In conclusion, Salt to the Sea is a breathtaking novel, soon to be a movie, about the human experience during crises, and how humanity can ascend above challenges and rebuild in the aftermath.



Ruta Sepetys speaking to Strongsville students

News

Media Center Opens Makerspace

**Madison Rowley, Editorial Staff
Journalist**

Located on the top floor of the media center, the "Makerspace" is a craft room that makes utilities, art materials, craft materials, and creative machinery available to students, teachers, and staff.

This new space adds to what the students can do in the media center and has been described as a way to bring more students to the library. Vicki Turner, Director of Instructional Technology, states that there are "high tech and low tech opportunities."

Ranging from "ozobots that can be moved by just markers and a sheet of paper, to an engraver, sewing machine, embroidery, and more."

Turner says that there is a "core makerspace team that has been working on this project for 3 years." The team is working on composing a timeline of events consisting of student orientation to the machinery and a grand opening for all to come in and create. There will be an online version of the instruction manual as well for teachers and students to use in order to learn and teach great subject matter. Turner says that "in five years every school district will have a makerspace in their building."

Christine Merrill, Media Technology Assistant at the high school, said that she thinks it will bring more students to the library and give them a new perspective on what opportunities await them during school.

Along with its contributions to the media center, the makerspace has been described as an asset to the learning skills and social skills of the students who use it.

Tonya Barba-Minor, Art and Spanish teacher at the high school, sees this space as a way for students to become involved in activities at the school. "...Creativity is shown in art classes, the art show, and the National Art Honors Society already. But, the makerspace is not so academic. There isn't any right or wrong. It's easy to get involved with, anyone can participate, and students won't feel self conscious." she says.

Barba-Minor also believes that the makerspace could help improve the skills of her art students and help the students to "work out outside of just bookwork, which would benefit them in art class."

The makerspace has been positively reviewed by many and described as beneficial to the media center and high school as a whole.



Semifinalists on the Path to Earn the National Merit Scholarship

**Lindsey Rebholz and Drew Dzurko
Journalists**

The National Merit Scholarship is regarded as one of the highest academic honors attainable by US high school students. The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is to recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States. According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, "The enduring goals of NMSC's scholarship programs are: To promote a wider and deeper respect for learning in general and for exceptionally talented individuals in particular, to shine a spotlight on brilliant students and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education, and to stimulate increased support from organizations that wish to sponsor scholarships for outstanding scholastic talent." About 1.5 million students in some 22,000 high schools enter the National Merit Scholarship competition annually when they take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), and the winners of the scholarship make up about 1% of that total amount of entrants.

This year, in the 2018 graduating class, there are nine semi-finalists of the National Merit Scholarship. The finalists include: Christina Fogwell, Erika Lee, Hannah Schmidt, Jackie Foley, James Foley, Rosemary Zaleski, Satya Nayagam, Shyam Polaconda and Suraj Srinivasan. All nine students are incredibly honored and thrilled to be selected as semi-finalists. Jackie Foley explains this honor by saying,

"It really meant a lot. I think that it is a great honor. It's something that I've always worked hard for. I've always worked hard to be a good student and get good grades, and it'll just help a lot with colleges." She also touches on the financial side of college recruitment stating, "There are certain economic benefits as well, like scholarships, so it was just really cool to find out that I had been chosen."

Not only is it a great honor for the semi-finalists, but also for Strongsville High School as a whole.

As stated by Satya Nayagam, "It's not only that the select few of us got it, but we are one of the schools in the state that was on the higher end of National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, so that is also an accomplishment for Strongsville and our class."

So the big question: What happens next? After a student is selected as a semi-finalist, they must decide if they are going to compete as a finalist. The process of becoming a finalist includes: writing an essay, receiving a letter of recommendation from your counselor and keeping up a high grade point average. The competition is utterly challenging! Out of the 16,000 semifinalists, about 7,500 students are chosen to receive a Merit Scholarship award, an even greater honor.

Suraj Srinivasan, believes that he should just focus on becoming a finalist even though "it's kind of cool to be a semifinalist." Due to the hard work and dedication throughout their academic careers, these potential scholars are finally receiving recognition for their effort!

Top of the ACT: Schmidt, Nayagam

**Michael Gallagher
Journalist**

The ACT (American College Testing) is preliminary test required by most colleges to apply and enter. According to the ACT website of statistic and data from the 2017 tests, 2,030,038 people took this test in the fall and spring of the 2016-17 school year across the country. Strongnet news describes that the highest score you can earn on this test is a 36, and out of the 2,03 million people who took the test, only 2760 people received this score. Strongnet says this is the top 10th of the top 1% of test takers. Of the 2760 students who scored a 36, two of them were at our own Strongsville High School. Their names are Satya Nayagam and Hannah Schmidt and they are both currently seniors.

Schmidt and Nayagam were both very excited to see the score they received. Before the test they took similar routes to prepare for the ACT. They both found a practice test, either from a book or the internet, and completed it, treating it like the real exam.

Schmidt said that "I would definitely recommend to not just take the test, but to do it with the timing because that's what trips a lot of people up going in with a false hope." But it is ok to just do some

questions to see how they will be worded and the difficulty ahead of time. What most people have trouble with, regardless of the difficulty, is the timing like what was said before.

Nayagam commented on this saying, "If you have a hard time finishing it in the time and see the few you missed, try and speed up. Or if you went to fast and messed yourself up slow down."

Schmidt and Nayagam both plan on going to colleges where they can earn substantial scholarships with their ACT scores. Hannah is applying to a few scholarships and looking at smaller liberal arts colleges, as well as Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Yale. Satya is looking more towards colleges like M.I.T. and Princeton, but keeping his options open to wherever he can receive financial aid. These two have a bright future with their initiative and skills.

For anyone taking the test soon, Satya says "Make sure to take your tests early. If you're a junior, front-load and take the time to improve. Don't wait till the end of senior year to take the test, take in early on as a junior so you can go back and improve on the areas you need to get a better score."



Satya Nayagam and Hannah Schmidt who both received a 36 on the ACT
Photo credit: Strongnet.org

From Marching Mustangs to Ohio State Marching Buckeye

**Susie Alley
Journalist**

Recent Strongsville High School graduate, Sydney Reik, was accepted into the Ohio State University marching band, which is a very competitive group. It is only Sydney's first year at the prestigious university, and has already accomplished earning a spot in the marching band and considering how there are only 28 trombones and even less open spots, it is considered a high achievement. When Sydney's name was called she said "it was utterly unreal to hear my name called on that day, and it was probably the best day of my life." The audition process for OSU's marching band consisted of four days, two training and the others as actual auditions. During the training days they are told what to expect, but the other two days they worked on marching and were given sets they had to memorize then perform. The final day they find out if they made it into the marching band.

Within the OSU marching band there are 28 trombones (one of which is Sydney), out of those 28 those trombones only 24 march the shows. The other four are substitutes for others if they are sick or are unable to make it to a performance and the list rotates for who will perform that weeks

show. Leading up to the the audition Sydney had numerous amounts of experience and practice with music starting at a young age. At the age of five Sydney started to play piano and grew a fascination for music, later in fifth grade she picked up the trombone. She belonged to both the jazz and concert bands at Center Middle School and later joined SHS's symphony orchestra, jazz band, wind ensemble and pep band, all on the trombone. Outside of SHS's music department she belonged to Cleveland Orchestra's Youth Orchestra, Baldwin Wallace's Senior Youth Orchestra, and Northeast Regional Orchestra, all on the trombone as well.

Sydney belonged to clubs at Strongsville High School, including Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Spanish Honors Society, and the Lantern. At OSU Sydney Reik is there for a STEM education program and Todd Anderson (another past SHS graduate in the OSU marching band) is there for engineering. Though Sydney has a knack for music, she decided to go into the STEM education program because she wants to be the mixture of "Mrs. Frizzle, from Magic School Bus, and Bill Nye."

News

C.A.R.E. Club

Morgan Heuser
Journalist

Strongsville High School has formed a new club in which students are able to reach the goal to collect and fundraise various sources in need and participate within other classmates and teachers. While collaborating with local businesses and working with students to make the feeling of a family stronger, they will bring light to every event.

At these meetings, Angie Baishnab and Nicole Ganiere, leaders of the club, introduce new events and ideas for further ones. Anyone can attend CARE Club events even if not a member of the club.

Nicole described the events "fun and different" talking about the first event, where children K-5 are able to come to the school and eat snacks, play games, and watch a movie. Both Nicole and Angie emphasized how their plan is to come up with unique and specific events for everyone so it does not become boring or "the same thing over

and over again".

The CARE Club is somewhat similar to Key Club. So how is it different? Well, students do not have to have a total amount of hours. Instead of going to an event and making sure a student receive a full hour or two, in CARE Club, they can have fun participating in the event.

For more information and to stay up to date, there will be a twitter page, along with an Instagram account. These accounts will let members know what the upcoming events are and share the fun and excitement!

For anyone who wants to join, the club meets the first Wednesday of every month in 805 at Strongsville High School. Lastly, for the members of the club, each person will receive a sweatshirt to wear for the events and anytime after that!



Medical Careers Club

Malini Gaddamanugu
Journalist

Morgan Hyun, a senior at Strongsville High School who is planning on pursuing a career in the Medical Field, started Medical Careers Club. She started this club with one main goal: to educate others on possible careers in medicine. In this club, many guest speakers are brought in who can talk to students about their jobs and what it takes to pursue it.

According to Morgan, this type of exposure is great for students because "people don't realize how many jobs there are in the medical field." When she was a sophomore, Morgan attended a National Youth Leadership Program in New York for students interested in exploring careers in medicine.

While she was there she was exposed to numerous opportunities which deepened her passion

for pursuing an occupation in the medical field. She also wanted others with the same passion to experience what she did in New York, but locally. Morgan hopes that her work in the club will continue to grow and expand under the guidance of Alex Boron, the current advisor.

"I'm leaving my club in very good hands, Miss Boron's hands. She originally intended to be in the medical field, so she's got a lot of experience and background with that... I think I've got a pretty good team of underclassmen too..."

Her main goals for this year in the club are to obtain more guest speakers, hold more service projects, and become affiliated with Science Night. As this school year marks the second year of this club, Morgan hopes to attract more students to join, and to guide them for possible career options.

RAY'S Club

Jordyn Prok
Journalist

Seniors Maria Vassanelli, Maria Ong and Sophia Banez began RAYS at Strongsville High School during the 2016-2017 school year. When asked why they wanted to start this club, Vassanelli said "To incorporate the small things. High school isn't always a positive place. We wanted to spread little acts of kindness that can make someone's day." RAYS is all about spreading positivity, whether it be large or small.

The girls use a remind system and they send out texts with small little challenges that someone can do throughout the day, such as helping their mom with the dishes or giving three peers a smile in the hallway, but this is just the beginning.

At each monthly meeting, RAYS tackles a new project looking to top past years. Last year, their big project was the sticky note project. During their meeting, they wrote out hundreds of positive sayings and

encouragements and then stuck them to all the lockers around the school. This year, they are continuing on with the project, but they are also associating it with an anti-bullying week. They want to help bring attention to the bullying that happens in teenagers' lives everywhere, but with a positive response by including the sticky notes and many other ideas that the girls have to replace the negativity that bullying creates.

"That's the goal," Vassanelli said. "To make just one person's day."

Their favorite project, by far, was when they made paper flowers for the staff, such as janitors, aides, secretaries and others who help out everyday at the school.

"It made them really happy" Maria Vassanelli said, with a smile on her face.

The three senior girls asked Kevin Klein, a math teacher, to advise the new club last school year and he told them that this club sounded similar to a club called "Friends of Rachel" that

had quietly disappeared from the minds of high school students. The students and Klein talked to Ann Walz, who ran "Friends of Rachel" and they agreed that they would take over the club and incorporate it into RAYS. These three seniors have done a great job of putting these two clubs together and creating a club that makes you smile when you think about it. They truly just want to create a club that does good and makes you smile when you think about it.

Meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month in Klein's room, 636.



Students of Science Magazine Club

Bilal Haider
Journalist

Avijit Kumar was intrigued for making a club involving his favorite subject at Strongsville High School, Science. He says, "Well, for me, I think that science is one of my strongest subjects." He is fascinated in many ways by this topic.

Besides simply enjoying the subject, Avijit says "I think the concepts, and other stuff involved are very interesting. I knew that there are some other people who share the same interest, and so I decided to make this club..."



During every meeting, each member prepares a specific topic of science that interests him/her, and then present that topic to the rest of this club.

To prepare each other's topics, Avijit will give a certain field in Science, and subjects will be picked. He hopes to also implement this information gathered to certain events, such as Science Fairs.

In response to Science Club only being a club "for nerds" or "research papers", he mentions that they will enjoy food and have a family-like atmosphere where everyone is friends.

Avijit has already planned ahead. He said he has a Remind101 to encourage communication; not only that, but also a website! The website will mainly help with nonmembers to acknowledge his club, and maybe even become members. As he would talk about his club and ask people to join, many of

his closest friends agreed to be in the club, along with sharing their joy for science!

The meetings are on Wednesdays after school in room 725. Although it is a new club with rising ideas this year, Avijit says, "It's still a work in progress, but my advisor, Mr. Felton and I hope to consider changes made to have the betterment of the club." betterment of the club."



Comedy Club

Gabby Rudolph
Journalist

Comedy Club is for those who are silly and enjoy making jokes with each other. As a matter of fact anyone is allowed to join! There is no hoops to join, just show up and be ready to have fun.

According to a marketing teacher and adviser of comedy club at Strongsville High named Jessica Frenchik "Comedy Club was originally intended to be a group of people who periodically meet to discuss humor and explore the different mediums of society such as improvement,

stand-up, sketch, written and etc."

"It was meant to brighten the moods of students and staff of SHS, and to give an opportunity for people to share jokes together." According to Jessica Frenchik "the meetings are annual in the gym".

In fact when interviewed by founder and president of Comedy Club named Joanne Munshower she stated "we had our first meeting on picture day which was September 11, 2017 and at least 100 member showed up.

Joanne Munshower's main purpose in creating the Comedy Club was because she believed that it would be a good idea to gather everyone together and to have a good laugh with fun. Comedy Club in a way is a lifestyle- just be your goofy-self all of the time.



Starting a
new club?

Contact
The
Lantern
for an
interview!

Sports

Freshmen Overpopulating Girl's Varsity Soccer?

Olivia Trizzino
Journalist

Madi Snyder, Sarah Robertson, Shelby Sallee, and Peyton Felton are making their mark at Strongsville High School as freshmen by proving their talent by earning spots on the varsity soccer team. The four of them have been improving on their chemistry for many years. Sallee, a center defender and forward says, "We help make the game more fast paced, I mean we've been playing together (us four freshman) for a long time, so we really know how to play together so I think it's a good kind of input to the team."

At this point in their season, they have only lost one game. Three of the four girls play defense, so they have had a huge impact on the wins and keeping the balls out of the goal on the defensive end.

On the offensive end, all four girls have contributed to many of the Lady Mustangs goals, either by scoring or assisting. These girls have big expectations for the remainder of the season with the state tournament always in the backs of their minds. Snyder said, "We expect to go pretty far, but we focus on one game ahead."

Strongsville has a long history of rivalry with Medina since the past seven years the two teams have tied. This year, that streak ended and the Mustangs came out on top. This game is the most important game of the season to many of the girls and winning could not have felt better. This was all of the freshmen girls first 'Strongsville vs Medina game' and to be able to win the game meant so much to them. Emotions came out after the game; Felton said "I was crying after the game; it was so exciting." Hard work really does pay off when you are working towards something that means so much to you.

Sometimes what matters the most is what happens off the field. The Lady Mustangs took a trip to Boston this season, and the most fun they had was off the field.

All of these girls have big futures at Strongsville and even after, all hoping to move on to the next level of soccer in college.



Freshmen on Varsity Soccer

SHS's First Powder-puff: 2017

Ashley Mullins
Journalist

On Thursday, November 2, junior and senior girls will go head to head in Strongsville High School's first ever powder-puff football game.

Powder-puff football is a flag football game typically between junior and senior girls that serves as a fundraiser.

The SHS Stampede, a sports management class at the high school, alongside the boy's football team and Team Strongsville helped put this game together for the first time in school history. The SHS Stampede members dealt with the business aspect of the game such as reserving the field and ordering t-shirts, while the junior and senior boys football players are acting as coaches for the girls.

Currently, there are over 123 students signed up to participate in the game. Practices are set to begin Sunday, October 15, 22, and 29 from 3p.m. to 5 p.m. led by the football players, Coach Cirino and Coach Parsons to help ensure that the game is a success. Both a percentage of the profits from the selling of t-shirts and the tickets for admission will go to the athletic department and

the Kailee Mayher Scholarship Fund.

Junior Ammal Shpeb said, "These shirts are being sold to the junior and senior girls competing in the game, and there will be general shirts to anyone interested." All shirts are \$15, and a percentage of the profits from each shirt are going to an undecided organization.

Tickets to the powder puff game will also be sold leading up to the game. Tickets will be sold for \$5 either at the door or in the athletic office during school hours. Senior Mohammad Mohammad, a member of the SHS Stampede, said "50% of the [ticket] proceeds are going to the Kailee Mayher Scholarship Fund." And underclassmen, do not think this is only a one time thing! Mohammad Mohammad said, "We [the SHS Stampede] hope to create this as a yearly tradition to increase school spirit and serve as a fundraiser." For this night to be a success they would love supporters to come out and watch them so this event can be continued in the future. The first ever game will be held at the high school on Thursday, November 2 at 6p.m.!

Girls Soccer Takes on Boston

Angelina Baishnab
Journalist

The girls' varsity soccer team travelled all the way to Boston, Massachusetts for a competition. During September twenty girls competed, and the coaches and parents of the seniors accompanied them. Leaving after school on Thursday, returning just in time for school on Monday. The overall 20 hour drive to Boston went by quickly with games and movies. The team bonded while competing and enjoying their leisure time and fun activities during the remainder of the trip.

The girls participated in two games, both against Massachusetts state champs. Their first game took place at Central Catholic High School on Friday

night, and ended with a 2-2 tie. Afterwards, the team ate and talked with their opponents. After a deserved day of rest from games, the second game was on Sunday at noon, before the team began their voyage home against Hingham, which ended in a tie. Although the trip was for the soccer games, much of it was spent doing other fun not-soccer-related activities. The team visited Harvard University and spoke with the Harvard soccer coach.

The team took advantage of their free day Saturday by driving down to Cape Cod for the day. They paddle boarded at the Cape Cod Surf School, and enjoyed lunch on the coast. Every girl just happened to fall into the freezing water... The reason they all fell in multiple times is unknown, but

there has been suspicion about the senior girls' motives.

When asked about the experience, senior Ally Sidloski said "It was amazing to see how pretty the Cape is and experience new things with the team and coaches."

Later, the athletes cleaned up for a high class restaurant called Pepé's Wharf and spent their final night in Cape Cod.

The team returned around four in the morning on Monday, just in time to nap an hour or two before going to school! Coming home with two tie games against Massachusetts state champs, lots of new knowledge about Boston, and a ton of amazing memories, the girls call the trip a success.

Lou Cirino Leads a New-and-Improved Football Team

Chris Meaney
Journalist

Lou Cirino, the newly hired head football coach for SHS, has completely changed the culture of the formerly 2-8 Mustangs football program.

Cirino has implemented a new offense and defense for the team. Senior Ryan Puzzitiello says "On defense we ran a 3-4 last year. We run a 4-3 mostly now, and the offensive game is just a completely new offense, so we had to learn it."

The 3-4 and 4-3 defenses refer to the linebackers and defensive line, a 4-3 has four defensive linemen, and three linebackers. A 3-4 has three defensive linemen, and four linebackers. The 4-3 defense is more of a standard defense than the 3-4 which may help the defense to be more effective.

Coach Cirino has a saying called six strong which is the six basic units of football. "the backs, wide receivers, and [offensive] line, and defensive

line, linebackers, and [defensive backs]," says Puzzitiello. The six units come together to make six strong units for the football team.

Cirino says, "...as long as our guys do what they're supposed to do at maximum capacity, we'll beat anybody, but if we're one unit shy of that, we don't have a chance."

Not only has Cirino changed the X's and O's, but he has also improved the culture of the football program to create more of a team atmosphere.

"On the back of [our shirt] it says F.A.M.I.L.Y."

Cirino uses this as an acronym for "forget about me I love you" because "the game of football is not about you. The game of football is about other people, and that's the way life is [going to] be."

Not only has the team atmosphere changed, but there has also been a change in the way the team trains, and the demand that the coach has for his players. Who agree that the demand he has for everything they do is more than that of the previous

coach.

Coach Cirino came to Strongsville to bring back a winning culture that the school has not seen for more than ten years. "There was a rich tradition of football back with Russ Jacques. Russ Jacques was the coach here for [20] years, he took the team to the playoffs for the last time I think it was about 2008, and they had great runs in the late 90's and early 2000s, but since 2008 we have not made the playoffs, and that's been my drive and motivation is to get this school back into the playoffs so they understand, and feel what that's like." Cirino explained.

As they look to improve from last season's woes, and bring the winning culture back, the football team can be found training in the off season.



Coach Lou Cirino

The team made it to sectionals this year but lost on a tight match.

As the team scored well but still lost, freshman Sam Webb advanced as an individual. As the girls only lose a few seniors, they will look to regroup and be better next summer.

The DRIVE of Women

Connor Hennessey
Journalist

Their record was not perfect, but they had more ups than downs. As for the season as a whole, they always posted good scores, they were just pretty inconsistent. Injuries along the way played a key role in holding the team back.



Girls Golf Team

The two co-captains for the girls this year were Rosemary Zaleski and Julia Estephan. Both co-captains were seniors. Zaleski stated, "we feel as if we are leaving the program in great hands as we have very talented underclassmen."



Samantha Webb, Molly DuPerow, Antonia Puzzitellio, Rosemary Zaleski, Julia Estephan

Editorial

Strongsville's Steps Towards School Togetherness

The Lantern Editorial Staff

With approximately two thousand students enrolled at Strongsville High School, it is simple to proceed with your four years of education without ever feeling a true connection with the blurry faces you pass everyday in the hall. School togetherness seems unachievable, especially for a school with such an impressive number of students, but the efforts shown within the first quarter of this school year are steps in the positive direction toward a united student body that fosters a sense of familiarity with one another. These independent moments of peer companionship hinted at the full potential of the student body as a unified whole, which can only be improved if we all make an effort to get to know one another.

The first moment that cultivated togetherness among students was the light blue themed football game in September. This theme was chosen in memory of Kailee Mayher, whose loss was painful for her many friends and all those in the community. After a moment of solemn silence before the kickoff, four hundred light blue balloons

were released from the student section as a tribute to Kailee's life. In this moment, hundreds of SHS students were bonded together in the beautiful memory of a friend gone too soon.

This inclusive feeling among peers was revived within the senior class just a few days later. During their sophomore year, a small group of currently senior girls established a group chat for the girls of their class. This chat contained approximately forty girls, until senior year that is. In an effort to plan the balloon release, this group chat began to promote togetherness by attempting to include more senior girls in order to be united as a class. Over the course of three days, the number of senior girls in the group chat rose to one hundred and eighty collaborators. This communication between the seniors serves as a prime example as the positive steps the student body is taking towards cohesiveness.

Another great opportunity is the individual Twitter accounts each grade speaks from. Each class that goes through SHS has an account made by class officers specifically for the students in their grade. They use this to interact between each school day

and notify everyone of upcoming events and interactive activities that each and every one of the student body can partake in. This also helps each grade to communicate with one another and share with each follower their insight and ideas for all the events at SHS that our student body organized. Joanne Munshower, the senior class president, describes this communication outlet by saying "In an instant, the entire school can become aware of any event happening in the school. Twitter is an easy way to encourage collaboration between students through this instant connection." This also helps to form friendships between each grade that will last a lifetime. In addition, these accounts reach out to their peers in times of needing academic or personal support.

The next effort for student bonding was seen at "Fright Night", an event held at Pat Catan Stadium for students to play games and watch *Insidious*. Over two hundred students bought tickets for the event. These eager SHS students were welcomed at the stadium with cornhole boards, kan jam, and other games that encouraged friend-group integration and wholesome fun. As

the movie began, students joined together on the turf and jointly felt terrified at the film. Simple ideas such as a movie night prove beneficial for comprehensive togetherness because they provide opportunities for students to get to know each other outside the classroom.

The final effort of this productive quarter was the introduction of a powder-puff football league. For the first time in the school's history, the junior and senior girls will go head-to-head in a friendly football game. The teams will be coached by the boys football team, and the proceeds will go to a fundraiser. This game not only unites the junior and senior girls in a lively competition, but also other student spectators as well. The game will take place in November, but the anticipation has already sparked togetherness between classes.

These efforts to encourage unification between peers have proven to be beneficial for the student body, and consequently have inspired a renewed sense of school spirit; however, there is more work to be done. The bulk of the effort towards a familiarized student body takes place within individual endeavors. In order to fully know your peers,

you must be willing to approach these strangers, willingly expanding your friend group. Next time you are walking down the hall, fight the urge to look away from the stranger passing you. Instead, smile and introduce yourself. Who knows? That person could one day be your best friend. Either way, these relationships will benefit your learning experience.

According to Visible Learning, an organization that studies effective teaching methods, positive student relationships actually enhance the classroom experience. If students are comfortable around their peers, they are more inclined to speak up in class and be willing to make mistakes, which in result allows for better understanding of the material. There are about two thousand students with a story of their own and a perspective that differs from yours.

Once students realize that there is much to learn from their peers, SHS may finally be able to be unified as a cohesive whole with students who are not only connected collaborators, but also friends.



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New Teacher Spotlight: Mollie Mason

Julia Pivovar
Journalist

Mollie Mason is the 2017-2018 addition to the teaching staff joining Jessica Frenchik and the business staff of Strongsville High School. As a child, Mason displayed the qualities of an instructor. She laughed when reminiscing about teaching her younger brother how to escape the crib. As she grew up, she tutored students throughout high school and college.

Mollie Mason's passion for school inspired her to be an educator, even though in high-school, she realized many kids faced certain obstacles in motivation such as believing other aspects in life possess a greater importance than being at school. This translates into her teaching philosophy today. With her outgoing-kind hearted personal-

ity, she began to develop the idea that students should receive as many opportunities as possible. She wants school to be a place where students attend willingly. She wants to impact her students positively by enacting small changes such as smiling and talking to the students at the beginning of class.

"A goal was to make a difference in someone's life whether it was to be a friendly face or inspiring them to attend college" said Mason.

According to Mason, the best part of being a teacher is getting to know students through their personalities and stories.

"You could teach someone context all day long, but the impressions I make on you and the relationships you have are what you are going to remember about school."

Mason attended Bowling Green for five years where she received

her Bachelor's degree for Science in Business Administration and the Arts in education.



Reviews

Clown Catastrophe

Bailey Klingbeil
Reviewer

Childhood fears tend to be something that one overcomes fairly quickly, once the realization hits that they are silly or just downright impossible. However, for the young protagonists in the latest Stephen King film adaptation, It (directed by Andres Muschietti), those supposedly irrational fears are not as easy to shake off, simply because they are children.

The main premise of the film centers on a group of middle school kids who take it upon themselves to look into the mysterious disappearances of children in their small hometown of Derry, Maine. As the self-proclaimed "Losers Club" investigates further into the matter, they encounter a terrifying clown named Pennywise, their own childhood fears, and the local hell-raising bullies.

What makes Stephen King's books so off-putting and chilling? It's simple- he takes something that is ordinary and makes it terrifying, and that translates especially well into the film adaptation of It. While it is firstly a horror movie, it is also a coming-of-age tale, complete with youthful crushes, dumb jokes, and the struggles of growing up. These qualities set the movie apart from its re-

cent counterparts- as you get to know the Losers Club, you are invested in their wellbeing, and fear for them when Pennywise the Dancing Clown is lurking in the shadows.

While I would not call It horrifying, I would say that it does have its fair share of gruesome scenes, and I would not recommend it for the faint of heart. Every scene that includes Pennywise (or any of the other entities the kids run into) is filled with intensity and terror. The clown's cracked, pale head contradicting its crimson, drooling mouth can terrify the audience just as much as it does the Losers. The movie does a very good job of squeezing half of the 1,300-page book into two hours and fifteen minutes, though some character development on the behalf of some of the Losers would have improved it further.

Overall, It is a great film largely due to its characters, who we see change from the beginning of the story to the end. The last five minutes show the characters metaphorically step over the threshold of childhood into the world of adults, which will be a precursor to what will come when the greatly-anticipated second chapter is released.

Mute and Deaf in a World of Trouble

Dominic Mancuso, Max Prok, Julia Stephan
Reviewers

Have you ever been so thrilled, but scared at the same time from watching a horror movie that you are afraid to be in your own house? If you looking for a scare, watch the thrilling movie "Hush" directed by Mike Flanagan. This movie has many thrilling moments that any scary movie enthusiast would enjoy. However, Rachel Glinsky, Freshman, said "I always love a good scary movie, but this one wasn't one of my favorites".

The movie starts with a deaf girl living in the middle of the

woods in her house surrounded by very little neighbors. Her home is invaded by a man in a mask who tries to torment her and to make her life more of a struggle than it already is.

Although she is struggling and hurt, she stays strong while trying to protect herself and her home. The movies climax was not one of the most exciting movie with this much action, but it was quite interesting how it made you wonder what was going to happen next.

In addition to what is stated above, I think we can all agree that the film could be improved in numerous ways, however we most importantly feel as does our

interviewee, that the plot could have been thickened to be more suspenseful.

Rachel Glinsky stated that she was "on the edge of her seat" and that she felt a "sense of empowerment" while the girl in the movie protected herself from the man in the mask. Overall, it is not a horrible movie, although we think it is a film worth watching, it does have a interesting story line. If you do not own a netflix account, we would not recommend spending money on this movie.

Bottom line, you should definitely watch this movie if you have a Netflix account or this review has been interesting, we recommend watching this movie. That is all we can say about the movie without spoiling it!



Hush Movie Poster

Baby Driver Movie Poster



It Movie Poster



John Gallagher Jr. in Hush

Ansel Elgort, Star of Baby Driver



All Photos Credited to IMDb

"Oh Baby, Baby"

Cole Hinton
Reviewer

In this movie filled with car chases, romance, choreographed action scenes and old music will have you leave the theater with you with only one word only, "Baby!"

Baby Driver is an action/crime movie directed and written by Edgar Wright released in late June and has since almost tripled its 34 million dollar budget. Starring actor Ansel Elgort plays

Baby, a getaway driver for the crime lord Doc (Kevin Spacey) to pay off debts for wrecking his car as a teen. After losing both his parent in a car accident, he suffers from tinnitus (ringing in the ears). To make up for his tinnitus, baby listens to music on several ipods to drown out the ringing which makes him fearless. That is until, Baby stumbles upon the love of his life, Deborah (Lily

James) and wants to leave his past and just head west listening to music until they run out of gas together. Can Baby leave escape from his crime ridden lifestyle? You'll just have to watch to find out.

I think this movie may have been one of the best, most creative movies, I have ever seen in theater. The action and car chase scenes intensity will keep you on

the edge of your seat. The way Wright molds each scene around the soundtrack and choreographs the rhythm of the music to the action works almost seamlessly. The romance between Baby and Deborah seems very genuine and sweet. My only personal gripe with the movie is that there is a death scene with a certain character which I find way out of tone with the rest of the movie they

make sure not to dwell too much on the scene and quickly starting another fast action scene. Overall if I were to give Baby Driver a grade I would give it a solid B+. You can pick up Baby Driver on Blu Ray starting October Tenth.

Jennifer's: An Oldie but a Goodie

Cammy Bly, Julia Ostrowski
Reviewers

After a long week of tedious school work and never ending stress, Cam and Julia got to find their zen through the most beautiful of all meals: breakfast. For their first restaurant review of the year, the gang headed out to Jennifer's in Strongsville down Pearl Road. They were greeted, as always, by friendly faces upon their early morning arrival. Once seated with no wait, Julia immediately channeled her inner dad

and ordered a coffee. Because of her tight high school budget, Cam stuck with a glass of water. Their breakfast orders were placed and delivered in a very timely manner. Julia ordered a stack of chocolate chip pancakes and Cam ordered the same, but spiced up her groove with a side order of bacon. Julia said, "The pancakes were fantastic. They were perfectly cooked and paired extremely well with the syrup and whipped cream." Being a crowd favorite, chocolate chip pancakes tend to be a safe order

at most breakfast restaurants. Cam would describe her meal as "Better than my mom's cooking!" Overall, their dining experience is not to go unrecognized. The meal caused a very slim dent in their wallets, only being about ten dollars each. Even upon leaving the restaurant, the hostess was very kind and treated them like family. Friendly service and prompt meals always lead to satisfaction. They would recommend Jennifer's to those of all ages, whether it be teens or the elderly. The family atmosphere



Jennifer's is a widely known breakfast and lunch restaurant around Strongsville. If you haven't gotten a chance to check it out, stop by for an inexpensive and delicious meal!

makes one feel as though they're eating in their home without the stress of preparing a meal. Using

one word to describe Jennifer's, they looked at each other and simultaneously said, "Amazing."

Arts & Entertainment

Unpopular Opinion: PSL Enthusiasts Beware!

Shubh Thakkar
Columnist

As the leaves start to change colors and fall from the trees, an SHS student can see stereotypical trademarks of fall all over their lives. Whether it be over-edited pictures from Mapleside Farms on Instagram, or notoriously soft UGG boots, there's one sign that's the most obvious over all of the rest: the Pumpkin Spice Latte from Starbucks.

The coffee brand describes the drink as "signature espresso and milk highlighted by flavor notes of pumpkin, cinnamon, nutmeg and clove to create an incredible beverage that's a fall favorite." Junior, Rama Coimbatore describes the drink as "the perfect mix between pumpkin and spice." However, the drink tastes as if someone accidentally spilled an entire bottle of vanilla extract into a glass of milk and then added the entirety of a cheap bottle of cinnamon spice to compensate. Bottom line- it tastes horrible.

An uncomfortably large proportion of students walk into school during the fall months, tired from a night of studying with a PSL in hand. This trend, for infinite reasons, needs to stop. If you're going to go out of your way in the ungodly hours of the morning to buy a drink, at least buy something that actually tastes good?

When asked about the gut-wrenching taste of a Pumpkin

Spice Latte, junior Jenna Deal replied with a simple "They're not good." Not only do PSLs taste like gritty cat litter, they're also terrible for your body. One 16 ounce serving of the drink (if you can even call it a drink) contains 50 grams of sugar and 8 grams of saturated fat. Do you really hate yourself that much that you'd subject yourself to not only an unhealthy drink, but a drink that tastes like car exhaust too?

Not only is the PSL unhealthy and nauseating, it's also a trap for consumers. For example, junior Maria Davila says "I feel like Starbucks is a corporate scam, and is very corrupt." When asked about the actual flavor of the drink, however, she declined to comment. Starbucks uses enticing advertisements and attractive promotions that scam their customers into buying a stereotypical, repulsive drink. The company traps customers into buying Pumpkin Spice Lattes for their money, since they have become so normalized and commonplace to drink in the fall. Sadly, the PSL has not become just a symbol of unpalatable drinks, but one of corporate greed.

Pumpkin spice lattes are a symbol of corporate greed, provide no important nutrients and taste bad. Honestly, there are a thousand cons and next to no pros of drinking a PSL. Many of the students at SHS believe the same, but if you want to continue drinking PSLs after reading this article, feel free to do so. We can't stop you.

Better Than Nothing?

Vardaan Shah
Columnist

We all have it, the box in the attic filled with stone bases and cheap brass inscriptions as well as brightly colored ribbons with medals metallic writing. A few of the trophies come with a certificate too! But on most of the trophies, ribbons and certificates, you see just one word: participation. Why do we have awards for participating? How do they even help the recipient? All those awards are doing now is taking space up in the attic. That box needs to go, and more importantly, participation trophies need to go. Participation trophies are unnecessary and detrimental to America's youth because they encourage laziness and overlook the achievement of talented youth deserving of awards.

Laziness is a quality most, if not all Americans dislike. We drill it into our youth to be good students and manage their time effectively, and we expect everyone at the workplace to be working hard most of the time. Yet, even as we indoctrinate our youth that laziness is terrible, we hypocritically give them participation trophies that only promote laziness. The trophies encourage youth to be satisfied with their mediocre accomplishments rather than striving for more. The kids doing the bare minimum receive the same rewards as the kids who strive to become better and toil for long hours in order to do so. The message we are indirectly sending to our youth is then, "Don't do anything besides the bare minimum. It won't help." This message is toxic

and disastrous to society.

To the kids who end up doing more than the bare minimum despite our best efforts to hamper them, participation trophies are highly unfair. A trophy is no longer a point of pride for the youth or their family, it is only a decoration. When those less dedicated receive awards constantly, the impact of any trophy is diluted. The simple act of handing a trophy to someone takes on a whole new meaning to the recipient if they had to work for the trophy. To earn a reward, one needs to do more than just show up. They have to be truly dedicated to what they are doing.

Participation trophies are a horrific concept for society. They encourage laziness even as Americans discourage it in all other aspects of life. Participation trophies do not adequately reward those who put in extra work, and excessively reward those who put in the bare minimum. Why do we have awards for participating? The practice is pointless. How do they even help the recipient? They do not. All the brightly colored ribbons, all the cheap plastic trophies, all the ivory certificates that say "participation" need to go, not only from the box in the attic, but from American society.



The Nerd's Corner

Morgan Hyun
Columnist

Bouncing Back From the First Quarter Mania!

With the start of every new school year comes fresh highlighters, charged calculators, new classmates... and the dreaded first quarter grades. Adjusting to a new level of school is a mutual struggle among students. Do not fret if you find your grades and tears falling as fast as the leaves outside-We are all in this together! Although the ways in which students cope with subpar grades can vary from avoiding all responsibilities, to studying-induced sleep deprivation, it is clear that bad grades mentally affect all of us.

In order to bounce back and improve our grades for second quarter, it is important that we take some time out of our busy schedules to reflect on what went wrong. Sitting down at the begin-

ning of every week to map out various after school activities and tests helps prevent them from creeping up on you. Planning out your week will not only ease your stress, but will also improve your grades! Senior class valedictorian, Suraj Srinivasan, offers his own advice: "Realize the reason why you got bad first quarter grades. Usually you can't just blame it on something simple like 'Oh, I don't like the teacher' or 'I didn't do my

homework.' You have to realize the deeper reasons why you're actually failing a class. If you need help with a class, it's alright to reach out. Don't be negligent about your grades; it's important to take an active role in maintaining them."

Satya Nayagam, grade 12, also recognizes the importance of reflecting upon the first quarter of every school year. He says, "It's better, especially in the beginning

of the year, to take your time to figure out how you're going to go about doing your work in a class.

So if you get grades that aren't what you expected, that's alright because it's the beginning of the year and by the time second quarter comes around, you should be able to do better because you know what's expected of you."

As high school students, receiving a grade on a test every now and then that makes your insides curl is inevitable. However, how we cope with such grades and what we can learn from them is what really matters. Being emotionally resilient to grades, continuing to work hard and persevering through hard days are valuable life skills the most successful nerds bestow.



Drew Dzurko drowning in schoolwork.

College Application Checklist

Nicole Ganiere
Columnist

Yes seniors, the time has come. It's here: college! The last 12 years of schooling have finally paid off, kind of. It is so hard to become an organized individual when you constantly have deadlines, essays and all kinds of other paperwork to fill out right at the beginning of the school year when you are just getting settled in. Here is a checklist to help you stay organized and less stressed throughout your application process.

Here is the list that you must refer to BEFORE handing in your application! This is approved and recommended by the college board organization!

1. Make sure you get your transcript request form and turn it in with a \$10 check made payable to Strongsville City Schools. Do this way before the deadline of your application!

2. Determine which college you are going to apply to and which schools accept the common application and which schools require their university's specified application.

3. Send all of your standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) to all of the colleges of your choice. You can do this through the ACT website or the SAT website. Again, do this way before your application deadline!

4. Ask any teacher or other mentor you are close with to write you a letter of recommendation! Make sure you tell them every extracurricular you are involved in so they know just the kind of person you are.

5. After you receive their letter, send whoever wrote it a thank you card for all of their hard work! Make sure you review essay prompt selections and choose one that you feel passionate about. Pour the entirety of yourself into this essay and have at least 2 other people read and edit it for you.

6. Keep editing your rough draft until you feel it is perfect enough to send to your dream schools.

Press submit!

7. Schedule an interview at your college choices that require one and make sure you are prepared to speak about your accomplishments and personal and professional goals.

8. Sit down one night with your parents and submit your FAFSA application to receive financial aid and make note of the date that the application is due.

9. Wait for those acceptance letters patiently! Try to relieve some stress by preoccupying yourself with fun activities and good people.

Arts & Entertainment

The Circus

A Halloween Story

Erin Sievers
Columnist

I stepped past the threshold of the abandoned circus, a spot of cold fear trickling through my brain like spilled ink on white carpet. I wiped my sweaty palms on my jeans and grabbed my camera so it would stop thumping against my chest- an extra pounding heartbeat that was doing more harm than good. With the viewfinder in front of my eye, the circus burst into motion. Colors seeped into the world like a watercolor painting and joyful music rained down from the speakers above. I aimed the camera at the old carousel. As I snapped a photo, it creaked to life, the laughter of children ringing out as it went round and

round. The smell of fried, doughy treats wafted over to me and I took a picture of the food stand, where a man dressed as a clown was handing a little girl a bag of popcorn. He looked right at my camera and winked. The maniacal urge to laugh bubbled up inside me and I covered my mouth to hold it in before I became as insane as I felt.

In my euphoria, I let the camera fall from my eye. And, like someone had drawn a shade, the magic was gone. The circus was no longer fun and welcoming, but diseased with wandering souls.

I shuddered and turned away, trying to forget how easily I lost myself, and hissed my breath in between my teeth. A whole



neighborhood of tattered red and white striped tents flapped in the wind, beckoning for me to join them.

I accepted one of the invitations, lifting my camera up so I could pretend it was the ring-leader, urging me inside rather than the overwhelming sense that I was being watched out in the open.

The tent was empty, except for the short wall that kept the performers from the audience and a fun mirror on one side. I stepped in front of the mirror with my camera ready and felt the urge to laugh again. That is, until I heard the giggle of a madman from behind me.

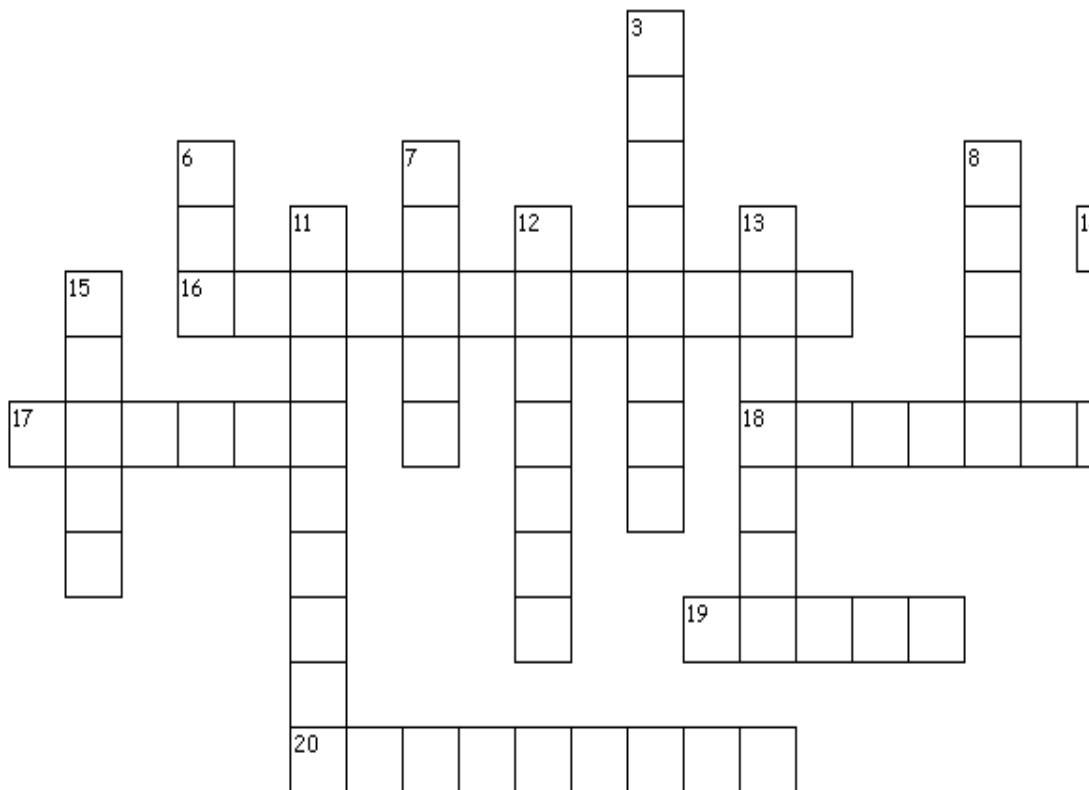
I dropped my camera and whirled around, the chuckle fad-



Halloween Jargon:

Crossword Puzzle

1					2		
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Across

1. the month in which Halloween appears
4. what someone would place you in to bury you alive
14. what you may have after watching a scary movie
16. "who ya gonna call?"
17. what a witch may brew to kill you
18. orange, white, and yellow sweet treat
19. what you give trick-or-treaters when they come to your door
20. where they engrave your name and what they place onto your grave

Down

2. what zombies eat
3. where they place the coffin they buried you alive in into the ground
4. what you wear on Halloween night
5. 8-legged creatures that are hairy and spooky
6. a mist that causes you to lose sight of what is in front of you
7. pointy chins, usually can find them on a broomstick
8. a person that is covered in gauze from head to toe
9. black creatures that sleep upside down
10. what you may have toward spooky movies and haunted houses
11. what werewolves look at to turn into their animal self
12. round, orange, and can be carved
13. the most famous vampire
15. invisible, follows you around everywhere you go