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## CPHS MISSION STATEMENT

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The mission of Cliffside Park High School is to provide a safe, academically focused environment within our culturally diverse community. We will challenge each student to confidently achieve his or her educational and personal goals as well as acquire the work and social skills essential to a productive member of society.

2015

November

# CLIFFSIDE PARK COURIER

## TRAGEDY IN PARIS: MOHAMMED WARRAD

On a night where thousands of Parisians and tourists were out about town, enjoying the night, a coordinated terrorist attack at six locations throughout the city was launched.

The terrorists targeted the Stade de France, La Belle Equipe, Le Petit Cambodge, the Avenue de la Republique and the Bataclan theater. The attacks left 129 dead and over 300 wounded.

As fans raved at a France versus Germany soccer match, bombs were detonated. Suicide bombings exploded in various locations outside the soccer arena. Shortly after this, shootings erupted near and inside bars and clubs. Finally, gunmen held attendees of the Eagles of Death Metal show hostage.

The assault lasted for about seven hours and used more than five thousand rounds of ammunition.

The thoroughly coordinated attacks were planned by ISIS leader Abdelhamid Abaaoud. Although ISIS has claimed there were eight active terrorists, only seven have been found. Abaaoud was traced down in a northern Paris flat.

Abu Mohammad al-Adnan, spokesman for the Islamic State group, made serious threats against cities such as Paris, Rome, and London in March. He claimed that Paris would be their first target city. Two of the terrorists managed to travel with Syrian refugees.

A state of emergency was called across France and border controls were

tightened as the country was put on high alert.

Shortly after the attacks, the city of Brussels was locked down due to potential terrorist activity. Raids resulted in 21 arrests linked to terrorist activity.

This attack has also brought about concerns in countries across the globe regarding their decision to allow refugees to cross their borders from Middle Eastern locations, especially Syria. New Jersey's Governor Christie said in a news conference, "We cannot allow ourselves at a time of great peril to put ourselves voluntarily at even greater risk just because there are some folks who believe that it'll make our country look better."

Although ISIS has since released videos which include a direct threat to the United States, officials claim there are no current credible threats to the American people.

In retaliation, France, with the help of Russia dropped jet missiles on Raqqa, the Syrian stronghold of ISIS. Targets included a command center, recruitment center, ammunition storage and a training camp. Thus far, there have been few casualties reported in Raqqa. This alliance is planning more joint Anti-Islis operations in the coming months.

**Sources:**  
[Heavy.com](http://Heavy.com)  
[Cnn.com](http://Cnn.com)

## In Recent News

- ◆ A1 gunman opened fire at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic on Friday, November 27th. Suspect, Robert Lewis Dear, is in custody.
- ◆ Rallies around the world call for leaders to hinder climate change before the major climate summit in Paris.
- ◆ Pope Francis takes his first trip to Africa and is welcomed by government officials.
- ◆ R&B star, Chris Brown intends to donate \$1 from each sale of his upcoming album "Royalty" between now and Christmas to the Children's Miracle Network.
- ◆ Surgeon Sergio Canavero has a volunteer to attempt the first human "head transplant" at the Harbin Institute of Technology in China as early as 2017.
- ◆ Tyson Fury of Britain defeated heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko, who had not lost since 2004. This was a stunning upset.

# CPHS

courier clips



class news

## FRESHMEN

- ◆ Pay your dues
- ◆ If you want a class t-shirt, they are on sale now! See Ms. Lupica or Mr. Cambareri for details

## SOPHOMORES

- ◆ Pay your dues
- ◆ The class is looking for bakers for the 12/18 and 1/6 bake sales, see Mrs. Mascolo or Ms. Serritella to help

## SENIORS

- ◆ Pay your dues
- ◆ Krispy Kreme orders are due by December 11th and will be distributed on December 22nd
- ◆ Early decision applications should be in
- ◆ Start looking into FAFSA
- ◆ Confirm recommendations with your teachers!

## JUNIORS

- ◆ Pay your dues
- ◆ Voting for officers will be 12/4
- ◆ Wreath fundraiser arrives 12/7
- ◆ Bake sale 12/22

## Principal's Corner

Thanks you to staff and students for helping the first marking period go smoothly as we introduced a number of new programs and improvements.

Commendations and congratulations to all our fall athletes who earned honors and competed this season.

Special congratulations to the Girls Soccer and Girls Cross Country teams for winning league titles in their respective sports.

Congratulations to Mr. Fucci for your induction to the Cliffside Park Hall of Fame.

### Special alert for seniors:

A number of seniors will be receiving letters stating that they did not meet the State of New Jersey's minimum threshold for graduation. **If you receive this letter, I urge you to attend a meeting on December 10, at 7 pm in the high school auditorium.**

All students are urged to take a serious approach to school as we navigate an era of high stakes testing. PARCC assessments are a requirement for graduation and the results can hold students back.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

~Mr. Pinto

### Join the Math Club!!!

The math club offers contests that are fun ways to test out your skills. The next contest is December 9th.

The club offers peer tutoring. If you're interested in being tutored, or tutoring other students, see Mrs. Fucci during school hours.

In January, the club will be doing a math SAT review.

**Are you "In the Know"?  
Join the staff of the Cliff-side Courier!  
Meetings the first week of each month.**

# SCHOOL NEWS

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## THE SCHOOL STORE RETURNS

By Julia Kotaev

Get ready Cliffside Park students because the school store is officially returning! For the past four years, the school store has been closed, but fortunately construction has recently taken place in order remodel it.

For those who are just hearing about the school store, it's located near the vending machine in the main lobby. During past years, the store has traditionally been run by the student government, however, this year, Mr. Tagliarreni's entrepreneurship class will be taking control.

Mr. Tagliarreni is looking forward to opening day, noting the experience will be a great interactive opportunity for students to see for themselves how a business is run.

Items that will be sold in the school store include school supplies, raider clothing, bumper stickers, and other items such as air fresheners. The store plans to sell during lunch periods, ninth period, and possibly during the mornings of testing days.

Our Principal, Mr. Pinto, looks forward to the return of the school store. He believes it will not only benefit the entire school, but also serve as a resource that would hold great learning opportunities for the entrepreneurship classes. If everything goes as planned, the store is estimated to be up and running by January 2016.

Students are excited for this change in the high school, since it's just one of the many steps toward revolutionizing the school and they way it works.

Any comments, questions or ideas should be directed to the student council or Mr. Tag's entrepreneurship class. They will be greatly appreciated.

## INTRODUCING THE FASHION CLUB

By Elijah Kim

A new club has flourished in the hallways of Cliffside Park High School! The Fashion club, which debuted back in September is currently being run by junior, Semarah Lafi.

The club focuses on fashion from every perspective. Meetings consist of members discussing today's trends, and break-

ing down what makes fashion, fashionable. From seasonal trends to personal styles, the team covers it all!

With very high hopes, the club is determined to make this year a successful one. The club has already had its first successful bake sale, and plans to have many more along with other fun events.

As an effort to try to involve the entire school in its endeavors, the club has organized an upcoming Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest that will take place within the upcoming holiday season. It's a perfect opportunity to take that hideous holiday sweater you desperately wish could burn out of your closet and show it off to the world!

In order to take part of the contest, participants will be encouraged to pay a small entry fee and prizes will be given out to the top three sweaters. Be on the lookout for the fashion club because it's only a matter of time before it takes the whole school by storm.

## HELLO MR./MRS. JUNIOR PRESIDENT?

By Jehan Joma

ATTENTION ALL JUNIORS! The rumor that everyone's been gossiping about, is indeed true! There will, in fact be a junior class election for student council!

The reason for this is to not only have a senior voice for the Board of Education but also a junior one. The junior class president will be responsible for fundraising and hosting fun activities, making junior year an unforgettable one. In addition, the student will have to attend Board of Education meetings as the representative of the junior class of Cliffside Park High School.

The junior class student council will be made up of four positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All juniors are eligible to run as long as class dues are up to date.

Elections will take place this Friday, December 4. Prior to the election, students will be given the chance to campaign for a couple of days, in search for support and votes! All campaigning will be strictly limited to posters on the wall.

On election day, juniors will be able to vote during lunch periods, in the lobby. Chromebooks will be used in order

to vote online. All student council positions will be announced at the end of the school day. Hold on there's a catch!

Those elected to office will only be in the office for the remaining of junior year. In order to keep their position, they must run again senior year. So, if you're interested to run for a position make sure your class dues are paid! For further information, speak to the junior class advisor, Mrs. Romano.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SEMARAH LAFI

By Katelyn Quino



Every now and then we stumble upon a student who's doing something outside the box. Junior Semarah Lafi is that particular student.

Lafi is determined to make a positive impact on our community. Channeling the spirit of the upcoming holidays, Semarah has teamed up with the well known foundation *Toys for Tots* run by the U.S Marine Corps Reserve. The organization's main goal is to collect new toys during the months of October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

With the help of her family and friends Semarah has decided to host a Holiday Party to collect as many toys as possible for the organization. Music will be provided from DJ'D Original. There will also be tons of food and Santa and his elves will be available to take pictures with everyone. Tickets start at \$35, however with a donation of a toy, admission is lowered to \$25. The main idea is for everyone to bring one toy donation. Keep in mind all toys donated must be brand new and unwrapped.

Date: Friday December 11th

Place: The American Legion, 1165 River Road, Edgewater

Time: 7pm-11:30pm

Not only is the event itself for a great cause, but it's also a way for students to get together and enjoy each others' company around the holidays.

If you're interested in attending, feel free to reach out to Semarah in school or follow her on instagram, @Semihemmi\_

**INTRODUCING RAY GOREN**

By Mohammed Warrad

Before he was even three years old, Ray Goren played nursery songs on his toy keyboard.

By the time he turned five, he started playing his favorite melodies from musicians like Thelonius Monk, J.J. Johnson, Lee Morgan, Milt Jackson, Miles Davis, Jackie McLean and Oscar Peterson. While he was browsing through YouTube a couple of years later, he came across a video of BB King, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Buddy Guy, and Albert Collins playing together.



Goren also discovered many other blues and rock musicians, and talked his parents into getting him a guitar. Goren started to write his own songs inspired by gospel, R&B, rock, jazz, and blues.

In the winter of 2013 and the spring of 2014, he went to the studio and recorded some of his songs. He released his first EP called *Save My Soul* early in the summer of 2014.

Goren has been performing all over the United States since he was ten. He released his album *Songs For You* on August 21, 2015.

I listened to two songs from this album called Those Days and Light My Fire. Although Ray Goren has accomplished many things at such a young age, his voice is still shaky and he does not suit the style of music he categorizes himself in. While he deserves recognition for developing a brand at such a young age, he has yet to develop a sound that will attract the masses.

**HELLO, ADELE!**

By Katelyn Quino

After 3 years of silence, it's time to say hello again to the beautiful and talented singer, Adele.

The 27-year old British singer released her first single last Friday called "Hello," along with its music video, leaving fans amazed. According to a recent statement by the company Billboard, music video "Hello" is the second-fastest video to

receive 100 million views on YouTube, a feat accomplished in a matter of hours.

Back in 2011, Adele's album "21," sold more than 11 million copies in the United



States making it the biggest-selling record this decade. The album took fans by surprise and swept the 2012 Grammys, winning album of the year and song of the year for "Rolling in the Deep."

Over the past three years, Adele has kept a low profile, separating her personal life from the media. In 2012, not only did she get married to businessman Simon Konecki but she also gave birth to her first son.

If you thought "21" was a painful, yet emotional response to a devastating breakup, "25" is all about a wiser view life, or how others like to see it, the aftermath of "moving on" after a breakup.



In a recent interview Adele offered an apology for the delay of her new album "25", which was first estimated to be released in 2013.

"'25' is about getting to know who I've become without truly realizing it, and I'm sorry it's taken so long for it to happen, but you know, life happened," Adele said.

Adele debuted her album, "25" on November 20th. It sold 3.38 million copies in the first week, making it the first in Nielsen history to break the 3 million barrier. This surpassed NSYNC's 2000 album "No Strings Attached" by nearly one million copies and makes "25" the biggest selling album in 2015.

If you haven't already, make sure to check out her music video "Hello" on YouTube, and purchase her new album on iTunes for yourself.

**MASTER OF NONE**

By Angela Maria

Ever since the major publicly of "Orange is the New Black", many directors and producers have begun collaborating with Netflix to create Netflix Original Series. One man who decided to do this was Aziz Ansari.

After less than a year of filming the last episode on "Parks and Recreation", Ansari decided to make a show of his own called "Master of None."

Aziz plays Dev, the main character, who's in his 30's and takes part in a Go-Gurt commercial. The show addresses common situations and problems a typical man in his 30's would encounter. Dev struggles with the idea of having kids,

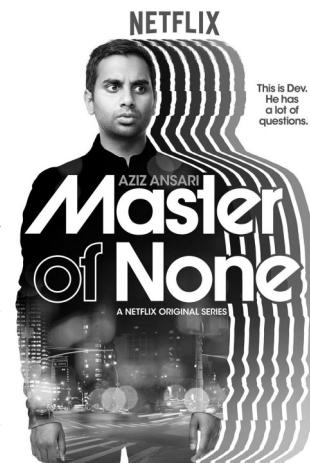
when if in fact he will ever meet the girl of his dreams, and if he'll one day become a star in the entertainment industry.

Throughout the show, Dev and Rachel start a romantic relationship which reveals the reality of how difficult maintaining a healthy relationship really is. The couple deals with issues regarding Rachel's messiness, and her moving away for 6 months to take on a job opportunity.

While the show is a rom-com it does deal with many serious and real problems that occur today. Overall, the show's goal is to reveal the truth about Hollywood glamour.

One thing that everyone is taking notice of in the news is that Aziz uses his real life parents in the show to play his parents. Not many creators would take this risk, but he did and everyone fell in love with the idea.

Within the first ten minutes of the first episode, viewers can relate to almost all of the characters due to their charm and uplifting personalities. "Master of None" is definitely one of those shows that steals your heart.



## BRIDES FOR SALE

*By Maria Restrepo*

People express their feelings and emotions in different ways. Sonita Alizadeh is someone who expressed her feelings in a song, a rap song.

Born in Afghanistan, Sonita had to flee with her family to Iran because of the Taliban and money issues. In Iran, women are deprived of many rights, including the right to sing. Sonita's family was very poor so they needed to sell her to a man she did not even know.

The first time that her family thought of selling her she was only ten years old.

The second time her family thought about selling her she was fifteen, her family needed to sell her in order to pay for her brother's wedding. She was fifteen at the time.

Sonita did not believe that was right and instead of keeping her feelings bottled up like many women in her situation, she spoke up.

"Let me whisper, so no one hears that I speak of selling girls. My voice shouldn't be heard since it's against Sharia. Women must remain silent... this is our tradition," is the beginning of the song "Brides for Sale."

In her music video she has a barcode on her head and bruises all over her face. The video and the meaning behind it are extremely powerful. Sonita wrote the song to portray the reality of being a woman in her country.

In Iran, Sonita committed a sinful act



## UFO

On the evening of November 7, 2015, fear and speculation spread as residents in a southern California community caught sight of a strange glowing light in the sky.

People couldn't identify the object, and many even assumed it was a UFO. Residents turned to social media, in order to spread the word about the mysterious object. The hashtag #UFO trended worldwide on both, Instagram and



by singing, especially a solo, since women are not allowed to sing. Sonita uploaded her song to YouTube and the it went viral which could have landed her in jail or even dead. Her family did not make her get married however for some time her mom still wants to get her married because that was all she knew.

Now Sonita's mother is very supportive and her number one fan. Sonita goes to Wasatch Academy a college prep school in Utah. Sonita was lucky. Many young girls in her situation do not get to choose who they marry and are sold at a very young age. She has started making music to support women and try and gain social equality for them.

Listeners can feel the emotion of the song even though it is in a different language. It is not the only song she has written regarding women and their rights.

Recently she wrote a song for Farkhondeh,

a woman who was stoned to death for supposedly burning a Koran. In that song Sonita wrote about how nobody even cared enough to listen to her because she was a woman and killed her without thinking about the worth of her life.

Sonita is a women's rights activist and she wants to help stop child marriages and the selling of woman. She also wants to be viewed as an equal to men.

*Sources: bbc.co.uk*

Twitter.

One of the pictures posted showed that there was a gas or a mist at one point of the glowing light that showed up unexpectedly. Hysteria and confusion died down after the people were notified that the object they saw was a missile being tested. The Navy confirmed the missile was fired as a test off the California coast.

Officials tweeted the following, "Light seen in OC sky was confirmed through JWA tower to be a Naval test fire off the coast."

## SEAWORLD TRANSITION: ORCA SHOW BECOMES A "MORE NATURAL" EXPERIENCE

*By Nadia Abdelfattah*

As SeaWorld faces one of the most drastic declines in attendance and profit, the park has decided to end its current killer whale show.

They plan to transition the show to a 'more natural' experience, which will focus more on the whales and their natural habitat. The 2013 documentary Blackfish, aired on CNN and Netflix, is assumed to have raised enough awareness to affect the overall success of SeaWorld.

Activists and average citizens were disgusted by the documentary which focuses on the captivity of Tilikum, an orca involved in the deaths of three trainers, and the consequences of keeping orca's in captivity.

It was reported earlier this year that SeaWorld's net income dropped from \$37.4 million in 2014 to \$5.8 million in 2015, an 84-percent decrease. The park recently announced that they'll be cutting their famous Orca trick shows by 2017. However, the whales will continue to be presented among the public in a con-



fined setting.

The US Rep. Adam Schiff, who will introduce the Orca Responsibility and Care Advancement Act to ban the captive breeding and wild capture of whales, stated that their decision to end the famous trick shows, is a positive step. However, at the end of the day, these orcas are still being held in captivity, whether presented in a natural habitat or not, they're being deprived of their freedom.

Source:  
Csulauniversittimes.com

## WHAT THANKSGIVING MEANS TODAY

By Judrianna Pimentel

The purpose of celebrating Thanksgiving is slowly being forgotten. Over the years, Thanksgiving has been converted into a day filled with food and festivities, instead of a day for being grateful. How ironic, considering the fact that the name of the holiday itself is made up of the words “giving” and “thanks”.

Nowadays, if you ask a kid what he or she is grateful for, you won’t get much more than a shrug. Most likely, that same kid has many things to appreciate. It’s not big news that technology, including smartphones, tablets, and other electronics have slowly taken over our daily lives. Things that now taken for granted were once considered lavish.

Many of us have simply just stopped caring, and no longer consider the small things in life. Lately, our society has been focused on the bad, ignoring the good. Those polite enough to open the door and let someone else through first are no longer recompensed with an effortless “Thank You” anymore.

It’s almost as if the word “thanks” has been forgotten, never to be heard again. In other words, gratitude has become an unfamiliar feeling.

Humankind needs to start being grateful for what and who they have in their lives. After all, it’s not difficult to do. Being more aware of one’s surroundings; saying thank you whenever someone holds the door, picks something up, or helps out; and realizing that electronics like iPods, iPads, computers cellphones, and televisions weren’t invented to distract us from society, but to improve our society are all necessary for us to feel connected.

Americans have many privileges others don’t. We’re provided with a free education and the right to vote. We have a bed to sleep in, rooves over our heads, clothes to wear, and food to eat, others don’t.

Think of how different our lives would be without many of the mundane things we are familiar with. Being grateful might actually make you enjoy things more and even make you savor the holiday season a little bit more. Take a minute or two out of your day, and count your blessings. Notice all the good, things this world has to offer because they might not be there forever.

## RECAP: DEV ZAVERI

By Katelyn Quino

Last year the Cliffside Park COUrier composed an article on the young and talented current senior, Dev Zaveri. The article explored Dev’s passion for photography, and filmmaking, and how he landed a job with the popular liberal news company called Vice.

Today, Dev is determined to connect with the young community through his memorizing photography, and captivating films. Just last week, he launched his own website called Zaverick, which focuses on urban culture, art, and style.

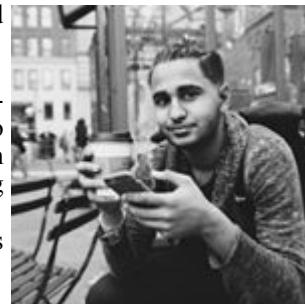
Recently, many young rappers in Cliffside Park High School have gone public with original songs and recording. Dev hopes to promote these young artists through his website. With the help of his close friend, Omer Yucel, Dev has also been able to come out with an exclusive line of clothes made up of graphic t-shirts, and sweaters.

During an interview, when asked why he does what he does, he responded, “I like to connect with people, and if I can at least get someone to smile, I know I did my job.”

His main goal as an artist of many talents is to express today’s issues in a way that people can connect to and take notice of.

Besides photography and filmmaking, cycling has also become another passion of Dev’s. He plans to take part in a race in April 2016. With senior year taking its toll, Dev plans to attend college while expanding his horizons in the media industry.

Make sure to check out his latest video on Youtube called Lights, a short film on Diwali. The documentary consists of beautiful images and clips of this years festival of lights, which is celebrated every year by the people of India. Don’t forget to follow him on instagram, @devzaveri and check out his new website Zaverick, [www.zaverick.com/urban/](http://www.zaverick.com/urban/).



## A SIDE OF HUMOR

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?

*Plymouth Rock*

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

*Pilgrims*

Why can’t you take a turkey to church? They use FOWL language.

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive?

*It had 24 carrots.*

What happened when the turkey got into a fight?

*He got the stuffing knocked out of him!*

Why did they let the turkey join the band?

*Because he had the drumsticks*

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

*The outside*

Why did the police arrest the turkey?

*They suspected it of fowl play*

## THE COURIER STAFF 2015-2016

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