

The Spartan Spirit

Volume 8 Issue 6 May 2019



Author Visit

Written by Vera Bowerman

The author of *The 57 Bus*, Dashka Slater, came and spoke at Stoneham High School in March of this year. This was a highly anticipated visit with a good turnout during both second and third periods. *The 57 Bus* is a nonfiction book about a fire on the 57 bus set by teen Richard Thomas which severely burned agender teen Sasha Fleischman. This book talks about race, class, gender, and social divides, while also talking about punishment and justice. Dashka Slater talked about this when she visited, more specifically her definition of justice, and whether she thought that Richard deserved to be charged with a hate crime, which would greatly lengthen his sentence. All students were welcome to attend because Ms. Slater started each talk with a powerpoint that summarized her book. She then opened the discussion up for people who had questions about her, the book, or any of the people in it. This was a great experience not only to learn more about everyone and what they are like in real life, but also to learn about Ms. Slater's writing process and her thoughts on each person. Even if you weren't able to attend this talk, I highly recommend reading this book because it talks about many difficult issues, though it is set up in a way where it is easy to read and understand. Copies are available in the library.

Contributors: Alison Beaton, Vera Bowerman, Neena Dilorio, Angela McKenzie, Heer Patel, Czenil Santander, Megan Ribaud, and Lindsey Rodriguez

Advisor: Rebekah Brooks

SHS Community

Author Visit (Cont.)

Various classes attended the book talk with Mrs. Connelly and Ms. Slater.



SHS Community

Rwandan Genocide Survivor

Written by Angela McKenzie

"To forgive is not to forget but rather to learn to remember differently." This is what Rwandan Genocide survivor and speaker Father Marcel Uwineza hoped to leave the audience of students and teachers with during his talk in the library on Friday, May 3. Invited by Ms. Farabaugh with the intention of bringing her Facing History curriculum into real-world experience, Father Marcel Uwineza visited SHS to share his story as a survivor of the horrors of the Rwandan Genocide. During the hour-long talk, which took place during third and fourth periods, students were encouraged to engage in the teachings of Father Uwineza as he expressed his internal journey from resentment and hatred to forgiveness. Specifically, Father Uwineza chronicled his experience as a 14-year-old Tutsi boy in 1990s Rwanda. He left home with his two parents and grandmother in an attempt to escape with their lives, encountering both adversity and bravery along the way. During this time, he watched his parents and grandmother get killed leaving him an orphan who was both alone and resentful towards his faith. However, with time and support through the later stages of his life, Father Uwineza came to forgive those who had harmed his family many years prior. It was at this time that he finally felt at peace, and now, twenty-five years following the genocide, he hopes to spread this peace to those who need it.

SHS Academics

AP and MCAS Testing

Written by Heer Patel and Czenil Santander

Edited By: Alison Beaton

Over the next few weeks, students will take AP and MCAS exams. Juniors and seniors taking AP classes will take AP exams for those particular subjects, and MCAS will be administered to all sophomores. AP exams are timed tests that have the potential of providing students college credit depending on their score. In comparison, the MCAS test is an important Massachusetts requirement for graduation. It is important for students to try their best on any exams they may be taking, but not to stress themselves out over it.

Ten Testing Tips:

1. Get at least eight hours of sleep the night before the test! Resting your brain the night before is the healthiest thing you can do for yourself to prepare.
2. Eat breakfast before any tests so that you are energized and awake!
3. Don't cram the night before. Use that time instead to relax and review test taking tips.
4. Make sure you listen closely to the proctor's instructions to avoid confusion.
5. Bring water and some light snacks to eat during breaks.
6. Do not get pressured by your peers around you, for everyone works at a different pace. Do not force yourself to rush just because the person next to you is flipping their pages faster!
7. Budget your time so that you have a few minutes at the end to make sure your answers are bubbled in correctly.
8. If you have two AP exams during the same day, with one in the morning and one in the afternoon, though you have only a small amount of time in between tests, make sure to use those few minutes to eat your lunch and rest your brain!
9. If you are taking any math exams, make sure to charge your calculator the night before.
10. Use strategies such as elimination to narrow down your choices on multiple choice questions.

SHS Sports

Sports

By: Megan Ribaud

Girls' Tennis

Under the guidance of three senior captains, Bridget Tracy, Maddy West, and Sydney Shepherd, the girls' tennis team has a current record of 3-7. After three tough losses to Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington, Coach Swett-Zizzo guided the Spartans to two wins in a row against Watertown and Melrose. Almost halfway through the season, the girls look strong in a tough league and hope to continue their pattern of improving their record each year after a strong start.

Boys' Tennis

With Coach Jim Carino and three senior captains, Evan Celli, Colin Campbell, and Marco Sanella, boys' tennis is off to a stellar start this season. With a strong team full of returning players from last year's roster, Evan Celli and Kevin Sarkis lead the team as first doubles and look to improve on their incredible season last year. Their current record is 1-9 with a win against Watertown, and incredibly close games against Melrose, Burlington, and Wilmington.



Girls' Track

A Stoneham High School Alum, Coach Bob Sargent, took over this year as the new head coach with the help of six very experienced senior captains: Nicole Aronson, Annalisa Eramo, Ashley Desameau, Lindsey Desameau, Angela McKenzie, and Kelly Powers. The five returning seniors are spread across all disciplines and show strong leadership in taking charge of the large and hardworking track team. After an impressive win against Watertown, they've lost close meets to Burlington and Melrose despite many individual accomplishments. Recently, the 4x100

Relay Team was impressive in their meet against Wilmington, gaining enough points to tie the meet in the last event. The girls' track team also had an impressive showing at the State Coaches Invitational, where the 4x800m Relay Team of Angela



McKenzie, Nicole Aronson, Aly Simpson, and Cat Seibold took home first place. They finish up their regular season dual meets on May 8 at Wakefield High School, where they hope to add one more win to their 1-3-1 record.

The girls 4x800m Relay Team at Mass State Coaches Invitational after their impressive win.

Boys' Track

New Head Coach Corbett, and senior captains, Greg Raso, and Eoin Dooley, return to the outdoor season ready to win. With their regular season dual meet on May 8 at Wakefield, the boys hope to improve on their 2-3 record after wins against Watertown and Melrose. So far, the boys have 4 state qualifiers as Eoin Dooley qualifies in the 2-mile, James Kotowski in the Javelin, Chris Belliveau in the Shot Put, and Mike DiLeo in the 100m. As the season progresses, they hope to add more names to that already impressive list.

Girls' Lacrosse

With a relatively new program, the girls' lacrosse team is off to a strong start this year. Their current record is 3-7 and they are coached by Katie Morin. Despite a tough season so far, the team is under strong leadership of two captains, seniors Jenna Bragalone and Paige Jordan, and they have a strong roster full of upperclassmen. So far, the girls have wins against Medford and Saugus, but with many games to go, they hope to add more teams to that list.

Boys' Lacrosse

Under the guidance of three senior captains, Stephen Chatelle, Adam Webb, and Joe Auriemma, the boys' lacrosse team has a current record of 1-9. After some tough losses to Arlington, Melrose, and Cambridge Rindge & Latin, first-year head coach () guided the Spartans to wins against Saugus. Almost halfway through the season, the boys look to stay strong in a tough league in order to add some more wins to their record.

Softball

Coaches Scott Giordano and Jess Anthony have put in hard work with captains Julia Lally and Vanessa Bryant. Almost halfway through the season, the team has a record of 2-7. With a very young team, the softball team has some impressive wins against Watertown and Belmont despite tough losses to Melrose and Wilmington. They have an upcoming game at Wakefield before they take on three Middlesex Liberty schools at home: Woburn, Winchester, and Reading.

Baseball

With new head coach, Coach Davidson, and a senior-junior captain duo of Wally Conway and James Gorman, the baseball team's 3-6 record shows extreme improvement from the past few years. In their first game of the season against Arlington, Wally Conway pitched an incredible game for the Spartans to win 1-0, including ten strikeouts. Other notable wins include Belmont and Watertown where junior pitcher, Nick Bamforth struck out a total of 28 batters in two games. The team fought hard in games against Melrose and Wilmington, showing major improvement despite these losses. In upcoming games against Wakefield, Woburn, Winchester, and Reading, the Spartan baseball team hopes to win a few more before their season wraps up.

We wish all of our spring sports teams the best of luck in their second half of the season!

SHS Voices

Quotes for the Seniors and Well Wishes

Written by Alison Beaton

As seniors prepare for their next journey, the following faculty members would like to share their favorite inspirational quotes:

Mrs. Polizzi, Guidance Secretary:

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." – Anatole France

"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential." – Kerry Washington

Mrs. Paglucia, English Teacher:

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." – Henry David Thoreau

"Live the life you have imagined." – Henry David Thoreau

Ms. Tupaj, Math Teacher:

"Let me tell you something you already know. The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place, and I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward; how much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done! Now, if you know what you're worth, then go out and get what you're worth" – Rocky Balboa

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game". – Babe Ruth

Ms. G, Resource Teacher:

"Keep your face always towards the sunshine – and shadows will fall behind you" – Walt Whitman

"It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities" – Albus Dumbledore