

The Spartan Spirit

Volume 7 Issue 2 October 2017



SHS Community

Student Advisories

Written by Czenil Santander

Edited by Juliana Choi

As a new program that started last year, student advisories aim to establish strong relationships between students and staff members. Our first advisory this year took place on September 26, with returning students meeting familiar faces from last year and freshmen getting to know their advisories. During September's advisory, we all participated in individual scavenger hunts where the students in each advisory were assigned to groups and were challenged to complete certain tasks in a specific amount of time. Through this activity, students were able to learn the importance of teamwork and time management while still keeping a light and friendly environment. Teaching students such lessons are one of the main goals of advisory teachers and the Peer Leaders that lead them. Another goal is providing all students with teachers and peers in the school that they can visit and talk to if needed.

Contributors: Ali Beaton, Isabella Childs, Juliana Choi, Gianna Egitto, Angela McKenzie, Grace Mullane, Heer Patel, Megan Ribaudo, Lindsey Rodrigues, Czenilriene Santander, and Gabrielle Tammaro

Advisor: Rebekah Brooks

SHS Teacher Feature

A Passionate Teacher: Mrs. Rubin

Written by Heer Patel

Edited by Juliana Choi

Mrs. Rubin is a teacher dedicated to the improvement of her students. She is known for her strict and effective teaching style that perfectly suits the rigor of the history courses she teaches. Mrs. Rubin's wide array of knowledge of history makes her an excellent and engaging teacher. She grew up in New York and is an ardent Yankees fan; however, she chose to go to college at UMass Amherst, leaving her New York roots for Massachusetts. Teaching history never gets dull for Mrs. Rubin because she is able to keep the class interesting by tying historical events to current situations. Mrs. Rubin's classes are challenging for many students, but most will find that the rigorous pace has allowed them to truly comprehend the course material.

Mrs. Rubin is a personable teacher and students feel comfortable sharing jokes and anecdotes with her before class. During class, Mrs. Rubin pushes her students to challenge themselves in regards to the subject matter. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Rubin is like a friend to her students, always willing to crack a joke or share a funny story. Her cheery and welcoming personality allows students to feel comfortable with approaching her with questions. Overall, the intelligence and friendly personality of Mrs. Rubin makes for the perfect formula of an effective teacher.

SHS Sports

Written by Angela McKenzie and Gabrielle Tammaro

Edited by Juliana Choi

Football: Over the past month, the Spartans have had two disappointing losses but also many convincing victories. Their current record is 5-2 in the regular season. With the league title out of reach this season, Coach Bob Almeida and his team are looking to make a strong showing in the upcoming tournament match ups.



Volleyball: Tri Captains Maggie McAllister, Megan Cleary, and Leah Sacco have led their team through a season filled with many successes and some losses. Despite valiant efforts from every member of the team, the Spartans did not achieve a tournament spot. With only a few matches left, the team hopes to secure some late season wins before the season ends.



Soccer: With both the boys' and girls' teams playing immaculately well this season, the SHS soccer program continues to prove to be one of the strongest in the school. With the girls' recent win against top ranked team Wilmington, the team is now poised to tie for the Middlesex League Title. The "Spartan Spirit" wishes the team good luck in their final key match against Wakefield to secure the win.

Field Hockey: With their season drawing to a close, Stoneham High School Field Hockey continues to battle every team they match up against. Even in the late weeks of the season, the team continues to persevere, despite not reaching the tournament this year.

SHS Sports (cont.)

Cross Country: Girls' Cross Country had a Banner Season! With their recent 29-28 win against rivals Wakefield, the Spartans have secured sole possession of the Middlesex League Title for the first time since 1993! The team dominated the Middlesex League with a 6-1 record. On the boys' side, the Spartans continue to prove their strength in Middlesex League match ups. Both teams are looking ahead to the upcoming divisional state meet in early November.

Swimming: Led by 2016 State Champion Mackenzie Day and co-captain, Julia Rizzo, Stoneham Swim has emerged as a powerhouse in the Middlesex League: Freedom division. The Spartans currently stand at 4-2-3 overall, and with a number of swimmers qualifying for the upcoming sectional meet, Coach Alex Pennachio has high hopes for the post season.

Good luck to all of the teams and individuals who have qualified for the post season. We hope to see numerous successes in all Stoneham sports this November!

Good luck to any athletes being nominated for individual accolades (League All-Star, MVP, All-Scholastic etc.) in the coming weeks.

On behalf of all members of the "Spartan Spirit," we thank the senior members of all fall sports for their dedication to SHS athletics and hope that they continue their passion for competition beyond the walls of our school. Once a Spartan, always a Spartan!



Op/Ed

Should Columbus Day be All About Christopher Columbus?

In Favor

Written by Grace Mullane
Edited by Juliana Choi

Many cities in the United States are beginning to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. However, the holiday should remain dedicated to Christopher Columbus, the man who sailed the ocean blue in 1492. While the history of the European conquistadores' treatment of Native Americans is ugly and violent, it is still important to remember the history of discovering America. Without Columbus, it may have been years or even centuries before America was discovered. This could mean that the famous history of the Pilgrims, Jamestown, the thirteen original colonies, and the American Revolution could have been totally altered. It is also important to celebrate the bravery and spirit that Columbus and his fellow explorers had to voyage across the ocean and discover a new world. Americans should continue celebrating Columbus Day because without the discoveries of Christopher Columbus, we would not have the United States we know today.

Opposed

Written by Lindsey Rodrigues
Edited by Juliana Choi

The debate over whether Columbus Day should be recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day sparks much controversy. Many people believe that Columbus played a vital part in the discovery of the Americas and that he attributed to the formation of America. Although he is a pivotal person in history, he is given more credit than he should receive. Contrary to popular belief, Columbus was not the first person from the Old World to discover the Americas. He is the one who is well known for this accomplishment because he returned to Spain with news of his discoveries, which encouraged a great exodus of sailors to explore. With this movement of people brought diseases from the Old World that the Native Americans were never exposed to and caused destruction and death. Ninety percent of the Native American population was eradicated due to these diseases. Columbus' "discovery," led to the onslaught of thousands of people in a short span of time. Although Columbus influenced the colonization of America, we should commemorate those who were already here before and how they shaped American life.