

# The Hatchet



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Washington High School

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## ASB encourages freshmen to 'give back'



Photo by Jimmy Young  
Sophomore Michael Liou performs the national anthem on Saxophone. He also performed on drums during one of the last acts of the assembly.

Nicole Doan and Brian Jeon  
*Editor and Staff Reporter*

ASB organized an assembly for ninth graders to bring the class together and to encourage students "give back to the school" by doing well in finals and STAR testing. The assembly also promoted the upcoming Sadie Hawkins dance, Feb. 6, which the freshman ASB officers organized.

"We want you to succeed academically. We want you to succeed socially," Small Learning Communities (SLC) coordinator Brynn Osicka said. "We want you to be number one."

To strengthen the assembly's message, ASB members and freshmen engaged the audience with two performances.

Freshman Fabian Gutierrez rapped about the Sadie Hawkins dance, while freshman Steve Gonzalez accompanied him by beat boxing. Freshman Ian Tambagahan break danced during their performance. Freshman Nathan Trutner, seniors Kimberly Chatterjee, Sean Chadha and Seth Neumann performed a skit to inform freshmen about STAR testing.

Once again, the school has set a goal to reach at least 801 for the API score. If achieved, students will receive an Up Yours lunch, an extended lunch period in which ASB will provide food and various activities. In this case, "up yours" refers to increasing test scores. If students do not reach the goal, the school will be in danger of losing elective classes. In turn, adminis-

tration may take away events such as dances.

"I really want to have a party. It sounds fun," freshman Akshita

**We want you to succeed academically. We want you to succeed socially.**

*-Small Learning Communities (SLC) coordinator  
Brynn Osicka*

Taneja said. "[The assembly] definitely motivated me."

ASB increased involvement in encouraging the freshman to do well on their STAR testing. In reaction to the school's unchanging API score in 2009, ASB decided to start

the campaign much earlier in the school year than before. Due to schedule constraints, the freshman class officers are not enrolled in leadership class, but organizing the assembly helped them become a larger part in leadership activities. Ninth graders were seated with their assigned "families." The three families are K-9, Mad Dawgs and Alpha Pack.

The SLC program creates families so groups of freshmen can share the same schedules of English, science, and health or computer classes. These classes contain a smaller number of students to allow teachers to focus on more individual students.

See **ASB**, News 6

## Mom finds treatment for junior's uncommon disease

Paige Castren and Christine Harms

*Editor and Staff Reporter*

Veronica Bonfiglio, junior Brent Bonfiglio's mother, has possibly found a treatment for her son's disease, neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA). There supposedly is no known cure for this disease, and most drugs cannot improve the condition because they cannot cross the blood brain barrier and remove the excess iron from the brain. Any other drugs would deprive the body of necessary iron and cause patients to become anemic. The drug Veronica found, Deferiprone, can cross the blood brain barrier.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NBIA is a "rare, inherited, neurological movement disorder characterized by progressive degeneration of the nervous system." Some of the symptoms include involuntary muscle contractions and an inability to coordinate movements. These symptoms are caused by an unusually high level of iron in the brain.

Veronica is part of an online support group for people with NBIA. A man in Iceland posted a press release about a drug in France that, although used to treat a different disorder, can cross over the barrier into the brain and help reduce iron levels. After doing research, the Bonfiglios decided to pursue this option.

See **DISEASE**, Features 12

## Bandapalooza returns with four bands

Alejandro Montalvo  
*Staff Reporter*

The smell of teen spirit drenched our cafeteria on Friday night. Bandapalooza, featuring four local bands with WHS students, is a concert showcasing talent. The entire cafeteria was transformed into a concert hall, with multi-colored spotlights illuminating each performing band.

#&\$\$ (Stagflation), Spaceman Spiff, Quick Question, and She

Waves the Flag were the bands that performed. Unfortunately, There were originally five bands performing. One of them, Sincerely, Your Superior, dropped out for reasons unknown.

At the start, there were not many audience members, and the opening act. The lights in the back of the cafeteria were still lit during Stagflation's performance; a distraction which dampened the mood. Other minor complications ensued, such as sound problems

during their performance. Nevertheless, They performed their entire set and were praised by the audience.

A larger crowd gathered for the second act, Spaceman Spiff. They performed some a few covers and were wildly cheered by the audience. After Spaceman Spiff, there was a short break until Quick Question geared up.

See **BAND**, A&E 10



Photo by Jimmy Young

**Kennedy High School sophomore Gus Villar-roel performs a solo of "No One Knows" at Bandapalooza.**

**NUMMI closure hurts local families**  
SEE PAGE 7

**Niles residents petition closure of post office** SEE PAGE 8

**Mystery culprit cuts computer wires**  
SEE PAGE 10