

The Spartan Spirit

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Welcome Back

Written by Grace Mullane

Edited by Juliana Choi

Welcome back to Stoneham High for the 2017-2018 school year! After an exciting year in 2016-2017, SHS students look forward to making this year even better. Spartans report a very eventful summer, including vacationing, spending time with friends, volunteering, working, and of course, completing summer assignments. Seniors have begun to work on the college application process, including composing college essays and starting the Common Application. Many juniors have taken on the exciting quest of learning to drive, with several already getting their licenses. Sophomores are beginning the process of NHD while also thinking ahead to MCAS. Freshmen have begun acclimating to life at SHS and seem to be having a smooth transition. While many students dread going back to class after summer vacation, there is much to look forward to in the coming months. The Spartan Spirit team wishes all SHS students and faculty a happy and healthy school year!

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

Advisor: Rebekah Brooks

SHS Community
SHS Welcomes Ms. Robins!
Written by Lindsey Rodrigues
Edited by Juliana Choi

This year, Stoneham High School welcomes a new vice principal to the faculty, Ms. Robbins, who comes to Stoneham High School from the Belmonte Middle School in Saugus. Let's learn more about Ms. Robbins!

Lindsey Rodrigues (Interviewer): Ms. Robbins, what was your position at your previous school, Belmonte Middle School?

Ms. Robbins: At Belmonte Middle School, I was the principal. So it was middle school grades six through eight.

Rodrigues : What inspired you to become a part of a school community?

Ms. Robbins: I've always enjoyed working with kids, so that's actually the reason why I decided to start looking for assistant principal jobs again because I really missed the day-to-day interactions with kids. Being a principal, you do a lot of reports and budgets, and I really missed working with students. Since I graduated from college, I knew I wanted to do something with kids.

Rodrigues : What do you like about Stoneham High School so far?

Ms. Robbins: So far, I love everything about it. The students are super personable and very polite with a great sense of maturity and pride in the community of the Town and the school. I can't believe how great it has been and I've been really impressed with everybody. The teachers have been really friendly and supportive and have come in to introduce themselves or say hello. It seems as if the culture is really positive here.

Rodrigues : How do you plan to improve the atmosphere of Stoneham High School?

Ms. Robbins: It seems like things are already really positive, but I think starting your days off with saying good morning to everybody and ending the day with good afternoon and touching base with the students, teachers, and faculty members, always makes people feel more connected with others in the building.

Rodrigues : What do you believe is in store for Stoneham High School in the future?

Ms. Robbins: Stoneham High School seems like it has a very progressive school system, so I think that Mrs. Cargill's passion and dedication to the school and the community absolutely shows everyday, and I'm sure that we are going to keep working towards exceeding our expectations.



SHS Teacher Feature

ATP (A Talented Professor): Mrs. Barde

Written by Heer Patel and Czenil Santander

Edited by Juliana Choi

Mrs. Barde is the teacher that every student will remember. She is known for her passion for Biology and her efficient, but strict teaching style. Mrs. Barde dedicates all of her classes to either Biology or Anatomy and Physiology. She never fails to impress her students with her outstanding knowledge of the subject matter and love for science. Mrs. Barde has taught high schoolers for thirteen years now and has loved biology for even longer. She would not want to give up teaching for any other profession because she enjoys watching her students grow and believes that her students teach her new things along the way. Years ago, when Mrs. Barde was in school, her teachers inspired in her an interest in Biology, and she developed a passion specifically for Anatomy. Mrs. Barde says that teaching never gets boring because her students keep her engaged and on her toes at all times. The rigorous pace of her classes may seem daunting at first, but her students soon realize that a class does not need to be easy in order to be enjoyable.

Mrs. Barde proves to be a teacher both in and out of the classroom. In class, she pushes her students to become the best versions of themselves and helps them work their hardest no matter what grade they earn in Biology or Anatomy and Physiology. Though at first intimidating, this attitude seems to prove well throughout the years, as her positive and welcoming environment in the classroom leads her students to remember her after they have moved onto college. Not only does Mrs. Barde completely dedicate herself to her students during her classes, she also loves talking to them outside of the class or if they ever need advice. Even today, students of all grades come to visit her time and time again. As we sat down with her for an interview, we asked “Do you have any advice for your students?” and she ultimately replied that students should never be afraid to take risks. She advises that they should always be true to themselves and their passions, conveying Mrs. Barde’s aspirations to help all students reach their full potential, both in school and the world around them.



SHS Sports

Written by Gabrielle Tammaro and Angela McKenzie

Edited by Juliana Choi

Spartan sports are now fully underway and the hard work in the off season is beginning to pay off. Here's how each sport is shaping up so far:

Field Hockey: Spartan Field Hockey has been working hard, hoping to make the tournament as they did last fall. Although they have had some early losses, the Spartans are sure to persevere in later matches led by a mostly upperclassman team.

Volleyball: With strong leadership and a cohesive environment, the Spartans have already begun to spike their competition. The team is looking forward to a string of wins in the coming months to reaffirm their place in the Middlesex League.

Golf: The golf team has had much success so far this year, winning several individual matches. They are hoping to repeat the successes that they have had in the past as a team.

Soccer: Boys' and girls' soccer held their annual fundraising Kicks for Cancer games against Wilmington, where both teams tied. With only seven points left, girls' soccer is anticipating a tournament berth. The boys are also looking stronger than ever after disappointments from previous seasons.

Football: Spartan Football is currently undefeated, winning four straight games, with much of the student body cheering them on in the fan section. With two months until the annual Thanksgiving Day game, the Spartans are hoping to defeat their rivals, Reading, two years in a row and also make a strong turnout in their championship games.

Cheerleading: Leading the crowd at football games are the cheerleaders, who have looked sharp and cohesive on the sidelines. The competition team will begin competing in the near future, so look out for updates in the coming weeks.

Swim: Spartan Swim has looked especially formidable as the underdogs of the League. They have proven through convincing wins that their team, although small in number, has a lot of depth.

Cross Country: Both boys' and girls' cross country are poised to make impactful seasons on the Middlesex League, with both teams looking for the Middlesex League Title. The girls are 2-1 in their early meets with the boys 1-2 record looking solid as well.

The Spartan Spirit hopes all athletes keep working hard and stay safe!



SHS Student Life

Rosh Hashanah

Written by Czenil Santander

Edited by Juliana Choi



Beginning on the evening of September 20 and ending on the evening of September 22 this year, Rosh Hashanah is an important Jewish High Holiday that occurred recently. According to Jewish tradition, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the universe and is celebrated as the start of the Jewish year as Tishrei 1 and 2. To celebrate this Jewish New Year, there are candle lightings in the evening, morning prayer services that begin with the sound of a ram's horn, and lots of festive meals and indulgences. Jewish families will often choose specific foods to incorporate into their meals such as pomegranates, dates, beets, pumpkins, or fish head, with each food symbolizing a wish for prosperity or health for the new year. "Shana tovah*!"

*Happy Rosh Hashanah!

*Pictured above is a spicy carrot kugel, a common food at Rosh Hashanah celebrations (<http://www.haaretz.com>)

SHS Arts

Written by Isabella Childs

Edited by Juliana Choi

Stoneham High School's annual Winter Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 13, at 7 p. m. in the auditorium. It will be composed of the Spartan Chorale, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. The Spartan Chorale will be performing "O Vos Omnes," by Ruth Morris Gray, "Cantar," by Jay Althouse, "White Winter Hymnal," words and music by Robin Pecknold and recorded by Fleet Foxes, and many more beautiful songs to celebrate the season. The Director of the Spartan Chorale is Miss Stephanie Sousa. She graduated from Rhode Island College in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Music Education and is currently working on her master's degree at Gordon College in her continuation of Music Education. She also sings Alto I in the Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline and is the co-director of chamber music for the South Shore Conservatory's Flute Symphony. Information about the Concert Band and Jazz Band will be featured in our October issue.

Stoneham High School's Drama Club will be performing Joseph Kesselring's "Arsenic and Old Lace" for their fall play, taking place on Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18, in the auditorium at 7 p.m. The following is a short description of the show: writer and theatre critic Mortimer Brewster (Eli Yoder) falls for girl-next-door Elaine Harper (Hailey Costa), and they agree to be married. When they return to visit their families to deliver the exciting news, Mortimer finds a corpse hidden in the window seat of his family home. With his eccentric aunts (Isabella Childs and Grace Gill), disturbed brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt (Stephen Landers), and his long lost homicidal brother Jonathon (Adam Cappello), he starts to realize that his family is even crazier than he thought. Be sure to check out the Drama Club's amazing performance!

