

# A Spirit Week with Relevance

By Will Greer and Sharvani Mehta

The class of 2014 proved its unity and spirit en route to a hard-won spirit stick victory on Wednesday.

The senior class won the day by 325 points over the juniors, 1,900 to 1,575. The sophomore class came in third with 1,425 points, while the freshman class finished last with a mere 375 points.

In addition to the usual dress-up days, decorations and field events, this year's Spirit Week featured two new competitions: the Red Cross Club's canned goods drive and Relevance Rising's change drive.

"We held the change drive to raise money for our trip to Guatemala," said Catesby Wolski ('14). "Our whole class is going over spring break, and we're going to be spending almost all of our time there working in a village called



**Finally victorious, the Class of 2014 cheers and celebrates the winning of the coveted MLWGS Spirit Stick. Photo courtesy of Daniel Yoo.**

Tzununá, which is in the highlands near Lake Atitlan. We'll be working at a school, helping with the new library that is being built."

Although they don't argue the value of raising money for this cause, some students disagree on whether or not such competitions should be used in determining which class receives the spirit stick.

"I think it's good that it's going to a good cause, and I understand why they're doing it, because otherwise it's hard to get people to donate money. However it is kind of buying spirit points, so it's a hard call," said Galen Green ('15).

"I understand both points of view. In the end, it's a competition in high school, and whether that should take precedence over building a library in Guatemala and donating to the poor, I think that's what the real question is."

Some students feel that the competitions lacked full genuineness.

"Perhaps next year, the SCA offic-

ers should not tell the entire student body which class is in first [place]. This should be unknown throughout the entire Spirit Week to maintain a genuine competition," said Grace Dwyer ('14). "It's obvious that people, towards the end of the week, donated just towards the Spirit Week competition and not to help the real cause."

At the end of the day, both competitions raised money and cans for good causes.



**Juniors build a tower of red balloons as part of their themed commons decorations: Dante's Inferno, the 15th Circle of Hell. Photo courtesy of Debbie Mayo.**

## In Today's Issue

Editorial—Page 2

Language Opinion—Page 3

Spirit Score Sheet—Page 4

Sports—Page 5

Faces in the Crowd—Page 6

# United Front

**W**atching the transformation of attitudes within the Class of 2014 this past spirit week has been amazing. We came together as a class, ended strong, and won the spirit stick. However, last week, we were in a completely different state of mind. When I first drafted this editorial, I didn't expect the seniors to surpass the juniors in any dress up days, I didn't expect us to win the spirit stick, and I certainly didn't expect any semblance of class unity.

After the fiasco of Wacky-Tacky Wednesday, many members of my class began targeting individuals that did not participate. Instead of taking a productive approach to the loss and encouraging everyone to dress up for the next day, we began placing blame and stimulating guilt. It became assumed that if someone did not dress up then they didn't love our class, which is completely absurd. Some people didn't have time to put together a costume, some people

didn't feel comfortable dressed up, and some people just plain forgot.

To me, being a member of the Class of 2014 means so much more than dressing up for spirit days, and the response to the lack of class-wide participation seem to suggest otherwise. The competition became internal, and with the fierce competition from the juniors, our class spirit shifted from fun to forced. This spirit week took on a desperate and non-genuine tone...until we started winning.

On Wednesday, we pulled together with everyone excitedly participating, and I, for one, am really proud of that. However, the tipping point in our attitudes seemed to occur as soon as we started winning. I can't help but worry that the unity we projected yesterday was just a façade.

—MJL

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR

[newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us)



## THE MLWGS *Jabberwock*

### *Editorial Policy:*

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work of both the Editor-in-Chief and her staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to [newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us).

### *Jabberwock Staff*

#### **Editor-in-Chief:**

Madeleine Jordan-Lord

**Managing Editor:** Harvey Creasey

**News:** Gowri Buddiga  
& Sharvani Mehta

**Features:** Sam Martin & Annika Basch

**Sports:** Will Greer

**Opinion:** Radhika Srivastava

**News-In-Brief:** Daniel Yoo

**Layout:** Alina Nguyen

**Photography/Website:**

Srishti Sanya

**Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Hal Waller

# Blanket Ban Stifles

## Opinion

By Sam Martin ('15)

“The use of any technological device (translators or programs; apps) or native speakers in the completion of graded assignments, quizzes or tests is a *violation of the Honor Code*.” An idea commonly expressed in this year’s language department syllabi, the above is a direct quote from this year’s Pre-AP French IV syllabus, and is also reflected in, among others, an Arabic II syllabus, which reads, “Students are not allowed to use online translators in their assignments, and it is considered an honor code violation.”

**Students are not allowed to use online translators in their assignments**

The designation of the use of online translators as a clear and egregious violation of the MLWGS honor code, a

distinction newly emerged in the 2013-2014 school year, is not only arbitrary and unfounded, but is detrimental to the learning experience to even the most honorable and responsible of students.

Not only are online programs such as Google Translate, which has been vilified in particular in a number of this year’s language classes, more readily accessible and more easily usable for simple definitions and phrases than a language dictionary, they possess a remarkable degree of usefulness in helping a student who is already adept in the grammar and vocabulary of an international language to understand a particularly confusing grammatical construction or unusual idiomatic expression, a usefulness that is certainly lacking in a dictionary, and perhaps even in a well meaning teacher.

Furthermore, it can hardly be argued that a student who takes the initiative to thoroughly investigate an unfamiliar phrase or concept on his or her own, backed up by in-class instruction, is likely to advance more rapidly and more effectively in the learning and comprehension of a foreign language. Without the use of online resources such as translators, or even the help of native speakers, a student who encounters confusion on a particular expression or topic, or who is interested in learning more about a concept has lost not only a few points on a homework assignment, but a valuable opportunity for independent learning.

**In placing blanket ban on technological resources, it deprives the enterprising student of valuable learning opportunities.**

This is not to say that a reliance on online translators or native speakers is a benefit to a language student. Indeed, online translators in particular often yield inaccurate results such as erroneous syntax or needlessly complicated, often irrelevant translation. However, overuse of such resources does not warrant disciplinary action. Any student who resorts to them too frequently will develop a poor comprehension of grammar, and will more than likely produce errors regardless of technology use as a result.

The Language Department’s new requirement thus falls woefully short of its intended purpose. In placing a blanket ban on technological resources, it deprives the enterprising student of valuable learning opportunities, and does little or nothing to encourage and facilitate linguistic growth.



The commons of Class of 2014 transformed into “Atlantis,” winning the competition for best decorations.  
Photo courtesy of Matthew King ('14)

# Official Score Sheet-Pep Rally 2013

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>FRESHMEN</u>	<u>SOPHOMORES</u>	<u>JUNIORS</u>	<u>SENIORS</u>
<b>FIVE DRESS-UP DAYS</b> 100, 75, 50, 25	50	325	525	450
<b>CANNED FOOD DRIVE</b> 100, 75, 50, 25	50	25	75	100
<b>SR. SEMINAR DONATIONS</b> 100, 75	0	0	75	100
<b>COMMONS DECORATIONS</b> 200, 100, 50, 25	50	25	100	150
<b>CLEAN-UP</b> 50	0	0	0	50
<b>ROLL CALL</b> 100, 75, 50, 25	25	50	75	100
<b>CLASS CHEER</b> 100, 75, 50, 25	25	75	50	100
<b>PEP RALLY RELAY RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	0	75	100	50
<b>LEAPFROG RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	0	0	125	100
<b>3-LEGGED RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	0	0	125	100
<b>WHELLBARROW RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	0	0	100	125
<b>PING-PONG BALL ON SPOON RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	100	50	0	75
<b>WATER-BALLOON TOSS</b> 100, 75, 50	75	150	0	0
<b>ULTIMATE FRISBEE</b> 100, 50	0	0	50	100
<b>HULA HOOPS</b> 100, 75, 50	0	175	50	0
<b>LIMBO</b> 100, 75, 50	0	75	0	150
<b>HUMAN SURFBOARD RACE</b> 100, 75, 50	0	75	50	100
<b>TUG OF WAR</b> 150, 75	0	0	75	150
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>375</u></b>	<b><u>1425</u></b>	<b><u>1575</u></b>	<b><u>1900</u></b>

## Field Hockey



Walker 2 2 — 4

Marissa Raper ('15) scored twice, Laura Fuhr ('15) and Anna Phares ('14) found the back of the cage once each and the Lady Dragons improved their record to 10-0 over a tough James River squad.



J. River 0 0 — 0



Walker 0 5 — 5

Laura Fuhr ('15) led the Dragons with two goals, as Walker scored five times in the second half to defeat Deep Run and improve to 11-0.



D. Run 0 0 — 0

## Boys Volleyball



Walker 22 16 25 13

Josh Barlow ('15) had three kills and 16 assists, and Matt Reichert ('14) had four kills and four blocks, but Walker suffered a tough loss to Patrick Henry, three sets to one.



P. Henry 25 25 19 25



Walker 25 25 25

Matt Reichert ('14) led the Dragons with 11 kills, seven aces and two blocks, and Josh Barlow ('15) added 15 assists and five aces, as the Dragons improved to 5-9 with a sweep of Thomas Jefferson.



TJ 12 15 10

## Girls Volleyball



Walker 25 25 25

Caitlin Swecker ('14) had 11 kills and three digs, and Sydney Barksdale ('14) had six kills and five digs, as the Lady Dragons swept King William to improve to 11-3.



King W. 15 20 19



Walker 25 25 25

Sarah Dishman ('14) led the Dragons with 15 aces and 13 assists, and Lauren Seeley ('15) contributed seven aces and three kills, as Walker defeated Arcadia in straight sets.



Arcadia 5 14 12

## Boys Cross Country



At Wednesday's meet at Hermitage, senior Alex Fleckenstein led the Dragon boys with a five second victory over two-time Regional champion Nathaniel Hall of Atlee. The Dragons defeated Freeman, Atlee and Hermitage at the meet to secure its eleventh win of the season and a perfect record.

## Girls Cross Country



The Maggie Walker girls also dominated the Hermitage meet, led by Daisy Banta ('14) and Khloe Pointer ('17), who finished first and second for the Dragons. The victory gave Walker its tenth win of the year to just one loss.

## Next Week in Walker Athletics

- After a battle with Mills Godwin on Thursday night, Walker field hockey looks to improve its record on Monday when it hosts Patrick Henry.
- Girls volleyball aims to keep momentum rolling with a crucial home date against Douglas Freeman.
- Boys volleyball faces off against last year's state runner-up Douglas Freeman in what would be one of the Dragons' biggest upsets in recent memory.

## Athlete of the Issue



**Senior field hockey captain Heather Thompson ('14) brings consistency, intensity and toughness to a Maggie Walker field hockey team that has outscored opponents 41-1 en route to an 11-0 record this season.**  
*Photo courtesy of Ed Fuhr.*

**Q: What is your favorite Disney Movie?**  
A: "Tarzan."

**Q: What is your favorite class this year?**

A: "We the People with Mr. Ulmschneider."

**Q: Favorite childhood cartoon?**

A: "Scooby-Doo."

**Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years?**

A: "Having a better idea of what I'm going to do with my life."

**Q: Favorite ice cream?**

A: "French Vanilla Cream."

**Q: Most memorable field hockey moment?**

A: "Beating Thomas Dale this season."

**Q: If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be?**

A: "Rosie the Riveter."

**Q: Goals for the rest of this season?**

A: "To continue to bring our best to the field against every opponent. Stay intense."

# Faces of Maggie Walker:

*How do you think your class is doing (did) in Spirit Week?*



**Will Lord ('17 Godwin HS)**

I don't even go here...



**Robin Schwartzkopf ('17)**

I think we could probably beat the sophomores.



**Aman Kapadia ('15)**

I thought we did really well. We could have won.



**Grace Dwyer ('14)**

I think we rocked it, and we really came together. I love my class.



**Isaac Steincamp ('15)**

We're red hot.



**Fiza Shaikh ('16)**

We didn't organize as well as the other classes, but I still think we did really well.



**Kevin Yuan ('14)**

We've been trying to show a lot of class unity... We really want to defeat the juniors.



**Sunita Ganesh ('16)**

On a scale of 1-10, one being a funeral and ten being a Beyoncé concert, fifteen.



**Dana Slayton ('17)**

About half were really into it and about half were uncaring or thought they were too cool.