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# The Court Street Press

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## WESTYLVANIA IN BLOOM

*By Kristen Rice*

Hidden within the halls of Central Bucks West lies beautiful agricultural courtyards that have the potential to greatly benefit the West community. Westylvania, or “West Woods” is on the path of renovation. Thanks to Mr. Cantrell and the efforts of dedicated workers, these renovations have the ability to transform the lives of students and Doylestown residents alike.

The purpose of Westylvania is to serve as an outdoor, interactive learning space for everyone at West. Currently, plants indigenous to Bucks County such as Indian grass, Dogwood trees and Coneflowers are being planted in the area. These plants were here before West was built and are being brought back as an effort to counteract deforestation.

From a biological and botanical standpoint, these courtyards will allow science classes to have a natural environment to study. Compost areas from school lunches and FCS will serve as an interactive ways to see the beauty of science in action.

However, science class isn't the only class to benefit. English and writing classes have the chance to take in the natural surroundings, sitting under trees and reading in fresh air. Students will be able to write and learn in a new, remarkable environment. Writing outside with friends, soaking up the sun and admiring the flowers, will give students a peaceful setting in which to learn and think.

The courtyards can also serve West's art community. It currently houses an outdoor stage for West's orchestra and band that will host concerts that the community can enjoy. Not only that, but its natural environment provides a complementary display for ceramic and canvas pieces from our art classes.

Westylvania can be signed out, so mini class trips like these can become the norm. The greater Doylestown community can also benefit from Westylvania. Apple trees and vegetable gardens offer produce for the Cooking for Homeless club, making nutritional soup and meals.

The Westylvania staff is currently finishing up installing ramps for handicapped students to take pleasure in the treasures hidden within West. Efforts for a healing garden, with natural seating and peaceful pond are proven to reduce stress and anxiety. With this, classes like PE health, Stress Relief, and rigorous AP courses can unwind and let go of their anxiety with fresh air and a mental break.

Big things are happening in the heart of West. If you or your family would like to contribute to fundraising efforts, West-made ceramic tiles can be purchased for \$50-\$100 and benches made from reclaimed wood can be purchased for \$1,000. Contact Mr. Cantrell or any Westylvania board member to leave your lasting mark on the CB West community.



*Photo Courtesy of Kristen Rice*

## REVENGE AGAINST BENSALEM

*By Trevor D'Arcy*

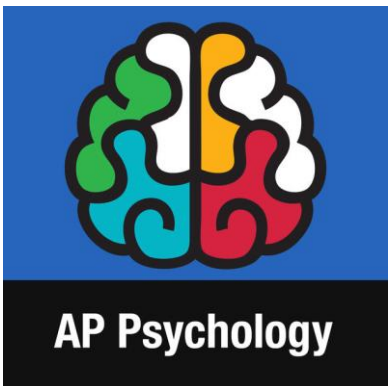
Flashback to one year ago: The CB West football team was 3-1 coming into a seemingly easy win against Bensalem. Bensalem had not won a game yet that season and their program had struggled the past few years. But things did not go West's way. They fell behind 21-0 in the first half and mounted a furious second half comeback, only to come up one play short in the end. The loss was a devastating blow to the Bucks.

But that was then and this is now. Saturday night in Bensalem, under the lights, the Bucks were looking to avenge their reputation. Bensalem was undefeated and playing very well coming into the game. West was looking to bounce back after a 28-14 loss against rival North Penn the previous week. West got off to a strong start on defense. A forced fumble gave the Bucks great field position resulting in a 25-yard field goal from Clarke Bittner to give West a 3-0 lead. A blocked punt by Jake Reichwein the following drive set West up in the redzone. Quarterback Josh Crecca completed a pass to Jack Fallon, who scrambled into the endzone for a touchdown. The next drive, Guillermo Isaac sacked Bensalem quarterback Drasaun Moore, forcing them to punt. Late in the second quarter, Josh Crecca completed a perfect pass down the sideline to Ricardo Washington, setting up a two-yard touchdown run by Jake Reichwein. The Bucks led 16-0 at halftime.

Reichwein rumbled in for another touchdown in the third quarter to make it 22-0 CB West. Bensalem returned a fumble for a touchdown the next possession, but West quickly answered. Ryan Hieber rushed for a touchdown with 1:14 left in the third quarter to make the score 29-7. In the fourth quarter, Reichwein added a fumble recovery and another touchdown to help the Bucks preserve their hefty lead. Reichwein was the player of the game for CB West with three touchdowns, a fumble recovery, and a blocked punt. Ricardo Washington stepped up as wide receiver for the Bucks with a few nice catches and a touchdown. The Bucks look to use this 41-21 victory and 4-1 start to the season as momentum going into the important league games. The win against Bensalem erases all bitter memories from last season and proves that this football team is not afraid of any team.

## TEACHER FEATURE: MRS. BESACK

By Eunice Woo



When I went to Penn, I was placed in a public school classroom for a whole year for my student-teaching. My first ever teaching experience was teaching AP Psychology or IB Psychology, which is International Baccalaureate. IB is a different program that many urban schools have. It is also big in the south and on the west coast and a lot of private schools around here have it too.

So that was 13 years ago. I taught that Psychology course, as well as Modern World History. Then, Philadelphia had a hiring freeze that year and were no longer hiring any teachers. I wanted to stay in the city and teach but basically had no choice but to apply to suburban districts if I wanted to continue teaching. Central Bucks School District had a pretty good reputation back then and I loved Doylestown. They offered me a position at any of the Central Bucks secondary schools. I picked CB West because I liked the location in town, and that is how I ended up here!

There was only one section of the Psychology elective my first year at West, but pretty soon it grew into 10 total sections, with 400 kids enrolled. Sarah Yoder, the Psychology teacher at CB East tried to get AP Psychology in Central Bucks. We tried for two years but gradually let go of the idea after the recession.

Then, there was a need for an AP class to run opposite music schedules on A or B days, so the district decided on AP Psych. They thought, "Well if the music kids can have Psychology, why can't all the students have it?" And that is how we ended up here.

This year is going to be a learning curve because the Psychology elective is very different from an AP course. In addition, we have a very short time-frame to teach this course. That being said, I am adjusting to this course just as the students are. My goal is to not totally overwhelm the kids with work, but to prepare them, and get a really good score on the AP exam. This course is doable for most kids—if they do the work.

I am, by nature, a storyteller. In the elective course, I can go on interesting tangents and start class discussions. I really miss that, so when teaching an AP course, I really have to try to make time for that. The only downside is the lack of time to cover all the topics that will be on the exam. I'm working hard on it to give all of my students an informative yet meaningful education.

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## THE FALL BUCKET LIST

By Gabi Lamb

### **#1. Go to the Movie Theater with your Friends and See *It***

Fall is the season for lovers of horror, from haunted hayrides to classic movies. With Halloween around the corner, everything is starting to feel a little spookier. If you seek a seasonal scare, *It* will definitely keep you up at night, even scaring the most seasoned fans of the horror genre. If you're one who has exhausted the Netflix store of scary flicks and think you cannot get scared anymore, think again. After all, *It* knows your fears.

### **#2 Go Apple-Picking at Solebury Orchards**

If your favorite part of fall is being outside in the crisp, cool air the season brings, then you will love apple-picking. It is a great activity to do with family or friends. Solebury Orchards is open 9 AM to 6 PM from Thursday to Sunday. Get out there this autumn if you want a time you'll never forget!

### **#3 Take a Hike at Lake Nockamixon**

For those who value nature and a great view, Nockamixon State Park offers a variety of hiking and mountain biking trails. The lovely lake and the surrounding woodlands are both fantastic sights in fall. It is open daily, from sunrise to sunset. Nockamixon is a perfect place to spend a sunny, fall day and a great way to unplug from the humdrum of everyday life.

### **#4 Carve a Pumpkin**

Hailing back to the thrill of fall fright, pumpkin carving is an easy way to celebrate the season. You can buy pumpkins nearly everywhere this time of year or pick one yourself at a fall festival. Afterwards, simply pick and trace a design, empty the pumpkin, and start cutting. In no time you will have a lovely Halloween decoration to display at your home.

### **#5 Attend a West Football Game**

Even if terms like "first down" and "interception" mean nothing to you, a West football game is still a great opportunity to develop strong friendships, as well as show off your school spirit. Not to mention the churros are delicious! Each Friday, get ready to cheer on the Bucks as they march to victory. Be sure to bring those closest to you for an exciting night in the newly refurbished War Memorial Field. Go Bucks!




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## STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR INVIGORATES INVOLVEMENT

By Alex King

On Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, every second block class was invited to the gymnasium to browse and sign up for over sixty clubs and organizations that were represented at this year's CB West Student Activities Fair. Clubs such as Key Club, Mock Trial, and World Affairs Club attracted interest by the masses, and other organizations such as the school band and the Harlequin Club looked to add talented, motivated students to strengthen their respective programs. Junior Kristen Rice described the event as "a great way for sophomores and even upperclassmen to engage in the West community as a way to join clubs and also to have a good time." Student leaders from each club took time out of their busy days to answer questions and provide information regarding their respective clubs, all the while displaying passion and spirit for their organizations. Junior Emily Grill excitedly exclaimed, "I enjoyed seeing the large variety of clubs offered. There were clubs in attendance for all types of students, and I thought it was great to put them all on display." Overall, this event showed that there is something for everyone to get involved in at West, whether you are into playing chess, debating current events, or helping the community!

# THE REVIEW

## MOVIE REVIEW: IT

By Conor Lutts

Warning: May Contain Spoilers

*It*, also known as *Sewer Clown: The Movie*, is one of those films that either scares you or bores you to death. While this latest adaptation of Stephen King's titular novel has several clever scares and can create some really suspenseful moments, its unwillingness to go forward with some of those scares is how this movie really fails to capture true horror.

We never really get the sense that *It*, or the physical character, a crazed, sadistic clown called Pennywise, is actually a threat. It may have killed a lot of people in the past, and he starts out strong with his conversation with the boy in the raincoat. However, after that one scene, all he does for the rest of the movie is screw around with the kids. Pennywise, you're a clown that lives in the sewers, haven't you already scared Finn Wolfhard enough?

However, *It* has some genuinely creepy moments, and some really good, sophisticated character development. Most of the kids are given a surprising amount of depth even though there are seven of them. Though it wasn't terrifying, it was head and shoulders above any recent horror movie I have seen.

CSP REVIEW SCALE: 6/10



## BOOK REVIEW: THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU

By Amanda Dunn



*This Is Where I Leave You*, by Jonathan Tropper, is both a heartbreaking and heartwarming novel, recently adapted into a spectacular film in 2014. It encapsulates the iconic trio of love, life, and loss. One day, Judd Foxman walks in on his wife having an affair with his boss, and only minutes later, receives a call that his father has died. His inability to adequately express how he feels propels the transformation of his disposition. Judd has to grasp the fact that he is now left in a world without his father, a world that he can no longer share with his wife. His sister Wendy tells him that their father's dying wish was for the family he left behind to sit Shiva, a seven-day Jewish tradition in which the family members of the deceased mourn together. This meant that Judd, his two brothers, his sister, and his mother, would live together under one roof, for the first time since their childhood, for one whole week. At first, Judd is reluctant to fulfill his father's final wish. He has had a complicated relationship with each family member. However, given the fact that Judd has now found himself without a wife and a job, renting a room in a stranger's basement, he decides to honor his dad's last request.

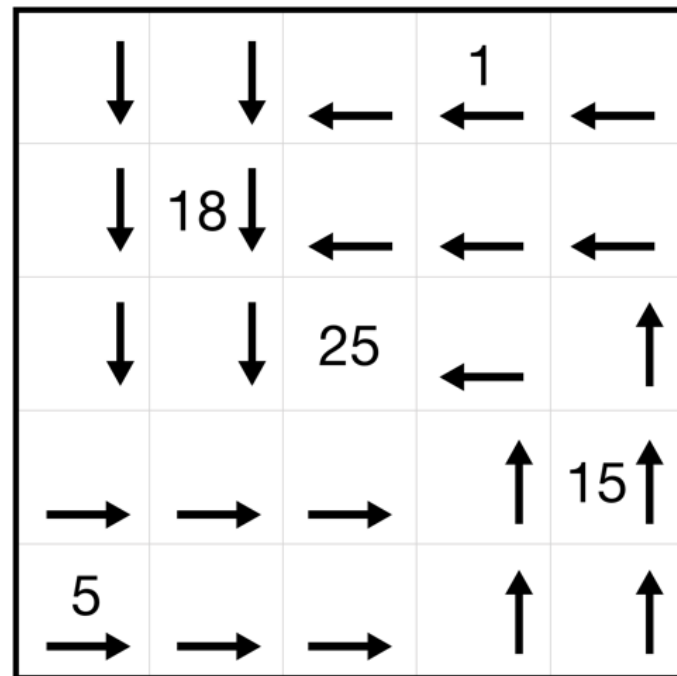
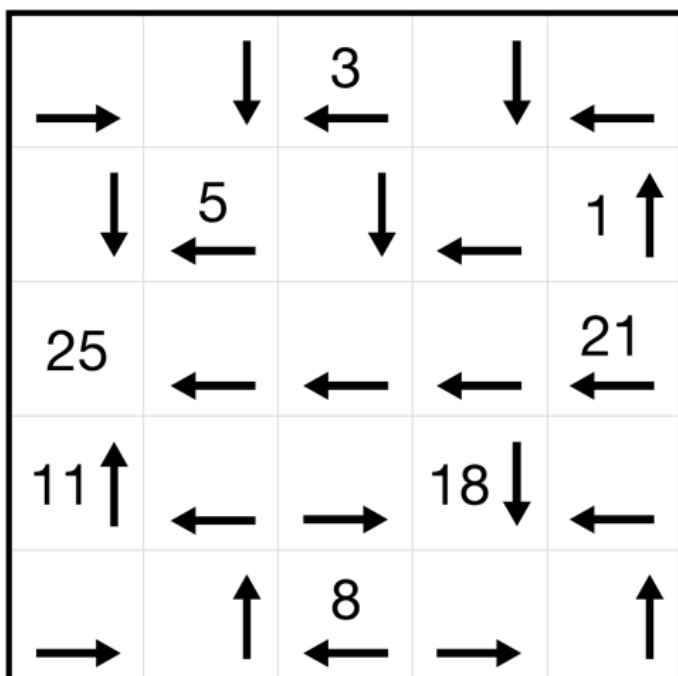
This story is about strained relationships and one's willingness to either work through them or allow them to dissipate. Despite the complicated chaos of Judd's relationship with his family, he wants to reconnect with his loved ones. They are his family, and he loves them no matter what. As for his wife, even though she destroyed everything they were, he still has a tendency to want to reach out to her. The author presents these concepts in a clear manner and adds humor to bring light to it all. This book will make your laugh, cry, and think about everything in your life. It is an incredible book.

## WALKER'S PUZZLES

By Walker Anderson

### Arrow Maze

Place the numbers from 1 to 25 in the grid. Every cell except for the 25 cell contains an arrow; this arrow points in the direction of the next number in sequence. For example, 1 points at 2, and 2 points at 3.



## STUDENT FEATURE: THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

By Gabi Lamb

The Court Street Press interviewed two of our foreign exchange students to learn about their native countries and their adjustment to an American high school.

**Idil Kale: Turkey**

CSP: What is your favorite traditional Turkish dish?

IK: *Manti and Kebap. You take dough, put meat on it, then you make little circles. Then you put yogurt on it. Kebap is meat, like your barbecue.*

CSP: What is the best part about West?

IK: *People are so nice, and when I say I'm an exchange student they are interested, and try to talk with me.*

CSP: What do you miss most from Turkey?

IK: *I am missing my family and my friends of course, and my school.*

CSP: What is your favorite movie?

IK: *I like the Harry Potter series.*

CSP: What is your fondest memory?

IK: *I guess it was when I came here. All of my friends and family came to the airport and it was so good.*



CSP: What are your hobbies?

IK: *I can play piano and I like to swim.*

CSP: What are you most grateful for in your life?

IK: *Coming here. It's a really good experience because I'm alone and doing everything by myself.*

CSP: Would you like to be famous? In what way?

IK: *Yes, I want to be a famous pianist.*

**Karen Kaukovalta: Finland**

CSP: What is the #1 place to visit in Finland?

KK: *I would say Lapland. It's mostly nature.*

CSP: What is your favorite thing about Finland?

KK: *It's kind of a small community, so you feel at home.*

CSP: What is the best part about being an exchange student?

KK: *You learn to know many new people and a totally new culture. I learned the language and visited many places.*

CSP: If you could have dinner with any famous figure, who would it be?

KK: *There are many, but I would say Serena Williams.*

CSP: What do you value most in a friend?

KK: *Being nice and humorous.*

CSP: What is your greatest accomplishment?

KK: *Coming here, studying abroad, deciding to come as an exchange [student]. Since elementary school, I wanted to be an exchange student. I had heard from many people who'd been exchange student[s] so it just sounded nice. I like trying new things, and challenges.*

CSP: If you could have any superpower what would it be?

KK: *It would be to read people's thoughts.*

CSP: What is your motto?

KK: *"Live a life you will remember."*



## Fall Recipe: Pumpkin Muffins

By Kristen Rice/Mrs. McDonald

### INGREDIENTS:

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour	2 eggs
¼ cup whole wheat flour	1 cup of pumpkin
1 cup sugar	1/4 cup (unsweet) applesauce
1 teaspoon baking powder	2 tablespoons oil
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	
1/2 teaspoon salt	
1/4 teaspoon baking soda	
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg	
¼ teaspoon all spice	

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the dry ingredients.
2. In a large bowl, combine wet ingredients (egg, pumpkin, applesauce and oil).
3. Stir dry ingredients into wet ingredients just until moistened.
4. Line muffin pans with cupcake liners; fill two-thirds full with batter.
5. Bake at 400 degrees F for 18-22 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
6. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans

YIELD: 8-10 muffins

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## HEARD IN THE HALLS

Those five minutes are precious time for getting to classes and essential conversing with friends. Our beloved hallways hold over 1,500 students, and everyone can hear the little snippets of conversations going on around them as they make that mad dash to the other side of the school.

If we heard you and quoted your conversation we do not mean to insult you or your conversations in anyway (we are assuming that in context it made sense...). We are simply having a laugh and making you aware of the fact that *we can hear you, Matt.*

- "One time a seagull landed on my mom's head and I was so scared. I wasn't even the one with the seagull on my head!"
- "Dogs are the next advancement in medical treatment."
- "You can recycle anything if you try hard enough."
- "My backpack makes me feel like an old man."

## LIKE TO READ, WRITE OR TAKE PHOTOS?

### IN NEED OF AN EXTRA CURRICULAR?

The Court Street Press is always looking for staff!

Interview students and teachers, write articles and make friends! For more information about joining, stop by Mrs. D'Alonzo's office or email us at [cbwestnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:cbwestnewspaper@gmail.com).