

RAMPAGE



Your NTHS ASB

From left to right:

- Treasurer Bella Weight
- Treasurer Melissa Blevins
- President Andrea Luper
- Co-Secretary Kimberly Ramirez
- Treasurer Kathy Tran
- Co-Secretary Rachel Pierson
- Athletics Ambassador Tyler Parchem
- Historian Rebecca Hummer
- Treasurer Jameson McFarland
- Vice President Benjamin Rood

Associated Student Body says ASB also stands for All Students Belong!

ABOUT OUR THEME:

“Construct Your Future: Zone In”

is the theme for 2015-16. We knew that with the school being re-modeled, we wanted to incorporate “construction” into our theme. While working hard over the summer, we truly grasped the idea that ASB not only means “Associated Student Body”, but “All Students Belong”. Also, while discussing our own past experiences during our growing high school careers, we developed the goals that we wanted to achieve in order for all students to feel like they belong. By “zoning in”, we believe that we can achieve our goals and fulfill our own definition of ASB.

Contact us at twitter @nthsasb or on the NTHS website.

ASB SCHOOL GOALS:

Goal 1: Recognition

Create programs for recognition that encompasses all of the Ram community

Goal 2: Spirit and Energy

Improve Ram Pride, energy, enthusiasm and encourage student involvement

Goal 3: Communication

To improve our current communication while also venturing into more creative options to reach all members of the Ram Family

Goal 4: Support

Expand the knowledge of our various support programs and focus on the accessibility of all resources

Goal 5: Environment

Create a welcoming and safe learning atmosphere that promotes community and belonging while adapting to special circumstances such as construction in a positive way.

HOW TO REACH EACH GOAL:

Goal One: Recognition

- ROSE Recognition of Superior Efforts
- Ram Grams sent home
- Rams in the news

Goal Two: Spirit and Energy

- Spirit board in commons
- High Five Friday
- Celebrate Pep Rally Schedule

Goal Three: Communication

- Whiteboards in commons
- Reader boards and T.V.
- Announcements

Goal Four: Support

- Food pantry
- Career Center
- Spirit gear for students

Goal Five: Environment

- Overall positivity
- Maslow’s Hierarchy
- Safety with construction



Photo by Keith Moffatt

Clubs and Sports

Robotics Club Plays With Science

by Edwin J. Lightfoot II

What is robotics club? Is it where students go to study robots? Does it involve creating robots, just for the fun of it? Actually, the goal of these hard-working students is to not only spread the word about robotics, but also to help demonstrate how amazing and interesting the field of science can be, through the creation of robots.

This club usually hosts 3 teams of 10, with one of these teams consisting solely of female participants. This is crucial in giving women more recognition that they deserve in the field and is considered an outstanding accomplishment in the team.

Funded by its own club fundraising, it's simply remarkable how such a dedicated team is more than able to keep its organization afloat without the help of school funding. It is clear that the students behind the Robotics Club are very intelligent, self-reliant, and always focused on using their work to create a brighter future. See Mrs. Kassil to join!



The Robotics Club finds fun, friendship, and state competition in this group.



FLY BY! By: Lydia McMath

Look out North Thurston; here comes the first Track Club. If you're interested in doing track this spring, then this is the PERFECT opportunity for you to join and get more information. Head Coach Warner and Assistant Coach McAllister want new people to be on the track team, so make sure to bring your friends, and tell your friends to bring their friends.

The Track Club meets every early release Wednesday during activity period. If you aren't doing a winter or fall sport, start conditioning now to get ready for the track season. Run or prepare yourself with other exercises before the spring season starts.

Do you have a Twitter? If so then follow @NTHS Track. It will have all the information that you need to know: meeting times, practice times, and times for everything that will come up throughout the year. Come on out and join; you won't want to miss it.

Sports Scores

Football

Sep 4, Timberline, 38-32
Sep 11, River Ridge, 13-19
Sep 18, Wilson, 14-13
Sep 24, Central Kitsap, 22-23
Oct 2, Foss, 28-7

Volleyball

Sep 10, Foss, 3-0
Sep 14, Shelton, 3-0
Sep 16, Capital, 3-0
Sep 22, Lincoln, 3-0
Sep 24, Central Kitsap, 3-0
Sep 28, Mt. Tahoma, 3-0
Oct 1, Wilson, 3-0
Oct 5, Foss, 3-0

Girls Swim

Sep 15, Wilson, 96-84
Sep 17, Central Kitsap, 106-64
Sep 22, Tumwater, 130-46
Sep 24, Capital, 103-63
Oct 1, Shelton, 131-38

Girls' Soccer

Sep 8, Black Hills, 1-4
Sep 10, Timberline, 4-1
Sep 15, Lincoln, 8-0
Sep 17, Foss, 8-0
Sep 22, Shelton, 8-2
Sep 24, Central Kitsap, 1-6
Sep 29, Capital, 1-3
Oct 1, Wilson, 1-0
Oct 6, Mt. Tahoma, Unknown

Boy's Tennis

Sep 8, Bellarmine, 0-5
Sep 10, Timberline, 4-1
Sep 15, Olympia, 1-4
Sep 22, Central Kitsap, 4-1
Sep 23, Wilson, 5-0
Sep 24, Foss, 5-0
Sep 28, Tumwater, 3-2
Sep 29, Lincoln, 5-0
Oct 1, Shelton, 4-1
Oct 6, Capital, 2-3



Come to Room 104 or Email nthsrampage@gmail.com with your club and sports info!

Volleyball Sisters

by Guest Writer Calissa Robinson

The North Thurston volleyball program has always played like a team and acted like a family. This volleyball season, we actually have family in the program consisting of 4 sets of sisters. We have Alex Porter and Jocelyn Porter, Olivia Fairchild and Elana Fairchild, Calissa Robinson and Dasani Robinson, and finally our twins Kayla Ryan and Layla Ryan. All of these girls get to truly experience what it feels like to play with family.

The Porter and Fairchild sisters both play on varsity. Just knowing your little sister is on the same team as you can make you push yourself, just so your own younger sister doesn't rise above you, and it also motivates them to be as good as the biggest sister!

Kayla Ryan and Layla Ryan both play on C-Team. Not only do they play at the same competitive level, they also look just alike. They're identical twins!

Dasani Robinson comments on how she feels playing with her older sister and says, "I get to see her [Calissa] play every day, and it excites me that one day, I'll be able to play just like that. I'm proud to be on the same program as my sister and couldn't ask for anyone else to look up to."

Family is family whether it's through blood or just simply being a team. These girls love to play the sport with their siblings and teammates right by their sides. The laughter, love, hard work, and dedication show what it feels like to play as a team, but come together as a family. Go Rams!



These Varsity Volleyball Rams have what it takes to win the championship this year and for years to come with sisters coming up through the ranks.



Our NT Football Team definitely does not lack in spirit and comradarie. Go Rams!

Photo by Keith Moffatt

NTHS Staff Spotlights

North Thurston alumni find home in their alma mater



Meet Bryan Brandenburg

by Josh Erickson

We have a new teacher this year named Bryan Brandenburg. He became a teacher because he wants to give back the influences he received from his own teachers here at North Thurston, and pass that along to other people.

He grew up with sports coaching baseball for 14 years and is happy to be involved in sports here. So far he's enjoyed the staff and students at our school because they are great to work with, and his favorite class to teach is Sports Medicine which is a new class at the school and in the district.

Some of his pastimes/hobbies include spending time with his kids, playing golf, and watching the Mariners and Seahawks! Some of his talents include coaching and painting houses in the summer. A few interesting things about him are that he's lived in 5 different states and he's married with two kids: a boy and a girl.



Brooke Stewart

by Brianna Beltran

Brooke Stewart is our hard-working counseling center secretary. She is a North Thurston graduate! Her position suits her very well, because she enjoys working with NT's "amazing kids". She loves the positive vibe and energy that the students give off.

She spends her free time with her lovely dogs and goes hiking. She has an outgoing Labrador retriever and incredibly stubborn and extremely adorable, Puggle. She also likes to bake, but she mostly gets joy out of doing various outdoor activities.

Ms. Stewart has numerous skills and talents, so she uses them all in her job because she has to manage several student appointments a day, changing schedules, and much more. Brooke Stewart is an outstanding counseling secretary and we hope that she's here to stay.



The Wonderful Ms. Wilson

by Rachel Booth

Ms. Wilson, math teacher extraordinaire, is in her second year of teaching at North Thurston. Since second grade, she has known she was going to be a teacher, but it wasn't until she was attending Western Washington University in Bellingham that she chose math.

In addition to math, Ms. Wilson values

time with her family and her cat, Minnie (which is short for Minerva, a character from Harry Potter). She's also an amazing cook and has totally memorized *The Princess Bride*.

Just a few years ago, Ms. Wilson was a student of Mr. Broeker in the classroom that is now hers!



Join Ms. Lavery's Ram Squad

by Cheyenne Shatner

Since elementary school, Ms. Lavery has known she wanted to be a teacher. As a North Thurston graduate, she was inspired by some lovely teachers here, and the few not-so-good teachers that she knew she could do better than. She says, being on the other side, and hanging with the teachers who once may have given her detention, is really cool.

It's very exciting to be able to be such an active member of the school, and to be part of so many clubs as a teacher. She truly loves her job, and you can really tell. Special Education isn't a one subject kind of class. She really does teach her students Life Skills.

She teaches her students how to handle money, health and safety, and be able to take charge of their own lives in the real world. They often go on field trips to the grocery store, or Starbucks so they can get some real life experience outside of school.

Speaking of life outside of school, Ms. Lavery spends time making her brand new home into a Pinterest wonderland, and planning and fueling her crime show obsession. She also loves outdoor activities like hiking and tennis.

She's a very passionate teacher, and truly believes that Ellen is going to come to her classroom and hang out with her amazing students! She encourages everyone to come get to know her kids, and be part of the unified sports group. Dancing throughout the entire interview, she says, "Life Skills rocks!", and "We're all really fun!"

We're all excited about having Ms. Lavery as part of our RamFam, and we encourage you to go visit some time and learn more about what the Life Skills has to offer you.



Career Center . . . Less?

Or Moore?

By: Ryley Parker

Looking for a little help with deciding what to do with life after your impending graduation? Well look no further than our Career Center hero, John Moore. Mr. Moore has both a degree in Digital Journalism and Education giving him a good spread of experience fit for the career center.

While the initial reason he went to college was to study Digital Journalism, he found that he preferred to teach, feeling like he was of more use to the world as an educator.

He has enjoyed the enthusiasm of the NT students and the eagerness of its seniors to graduate and go to college. In addition to helping students in the career center, he also advises the Honor Society, arranges for college visits and speakers, and he teaches Audio/Video skills to the Independent study film students, and helps them to improve their TV/Film skills.

He loves to write and though he doesn't have much time for it, he loves to read student work and help them to better it in any way he can. I believe that he is a good fit for our community as he strives to better it with his ideas such as trying to get career speakers to come to our school.

"I would love to have a speech and debate team, that was a big part of what I did in highschool". Mr. Moore's ultimate goal at NTHS is to help students figure out where they want their lives to go and give them the resources to get there. One last thing that he was adamant about was for NT students to check their Emails for the Newsletters he sends out. They contain scholarship lists and SAT dates so that students, primarily Juniors and Seniors, can prepare for life after high school. Everyone should stop by the Career Center and introduce themselves sometime, we could all use a little more Moore in our lives.

Kassil's Uniqueness

by Briana Grimm

Walter Kassil, known for his unique top hats and crazy ties, became a math teacher because he loves helping others with math. He enjoyed learning geometry and algebra when he was in school. Mr. Kassil loves everyone he works with, and how awesome the kids are. "Hard work reaps its own success," he says.

His most exciting class is AVID because it's a challenge. He also gives a shout out to his geometry classes. It is also a little known fact that he has inherited the Nesian Islanders Club from Mr. Wenk and volunteers his time for Mrs. Kassil's Robotics Club.

Outside of school, Mr. Kassil plays video games, is interested in Magic the Gathering (a card game), and reads fantasy/sci-fi. He was the master of ceremonies for the robotics competition hosted by Chinook Middle School.



Boatright Loves History

by Briana Grimm

Lindsey Boatright is our US history teacher who thinks it's important for students to know the history of their country. She enjoys NTHS. "The students are energetic and respectful, and the staff members are kind." Mrs. Boatright's favorite class can't be decided--she loves them all for their mood and how different each class is. She also oversees the AVID Club.

Hobbies outside of school are "writing, knitting, and parenting." Due to her interest in whitewater rafting, she loves to be by or on the water. Mrs. Boatright actually used to be an English teacher before she knew her passion was for history instead.



Mr. Garrow Candid

by Gemma Cross

Mr. Garrow, teacher of Wa St. History & World Studies, became a teacher because he enjoys working with teenage kids, and the relationship between teacher and student. He's been enjoying his time at NTHS so far; saying "The kids and staff have been welcoming. I teach freshmen, so together we learn about how the school works."

There's no favorite class to teach for Mr. Garrow; he likes them all! Outside of the classroom, but still in the school, Mr. Garrow is a football coach. He also enjoys taking his 2 ½ year old son to the Children's museum, and he is a sports fan.

Organization comes as no problem to Mr. Garrow, and neither does technology. "I am super organized," he says, "and good at operating the media." This helps him "stay young" and relate to the teenage crowd, so he can get his message across. His mantra? "I want to have a positive impact, and be a positive influence."

Summer Stories

Living Many Lives

by Ryley Parker

Though I didn't do very many interesting or noteworthy things over my summer break, there was still one thing that I could write about for ages and always have a new story to tell. This one thing is the tabletop RPG game, Dungeons and Dragons.

While the game was generally made fun of in the past for being a game for "nerds" I believe that if more people played it then they would have fun. The game has a very well defined set of rules but still allows more freedom than any other video game I have ever played. You have many freedoms that you would not even dream of having in real life, and you can do things that you wouldn't normally do in real life.

One example is when my brother's friend convinced the rest of the group that the orphan children in the church were possessed by demons, and that the entire town was part of a cult. He then proceeded to convince everyone to kill the ENTIRE village. You can also choose between a variety of races to play, ranging from your normal human, to your crazy explosion obsessed Gnome, to your bloodthirsty Half-Orc who likes to scalp his enemies...my brother did that...it was terrifying.

The adventure is always what you decide to make it, leaving no two adventures the same as you live multiple lives and conquer many challenges. This is what I did last summer, this is what I will do many times throughout this year, this is what I plan to do next summer. Anyone care to join me?

GSA Club

Those interested in Pizza Klatch or LGBTQ support can find information in the counseling center or check with Ms. Rowell in room 209 to join our own GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Club. All students are welcome!

Dog Show Ribbons

by Katelyn Young

Waking up at six in the morning, bathing my dog, and making sure I have all of my supplies. Then to get ready myself, these are all of the tasks that I have to complete before I head off to compete at a dog show for the day. I have been training and showing dogs for 10 years and counting; I wouldn't have it any other way.

The Thurston County Fair this year was from Jul 31-Aug 4. It was a long, grueling, hot and humid week. As we finished our obedience pattern in the ring at the Thurston County Fair, I knew we did really well, but I wasn't expecting what was to come next. As our whole class was ushered back into the ring, then were lined up in no particular order. We all waited in anticipation, while the judge talked about how spectacular all of us had performed.

She started to call out scores and armband numbers, of the kids that were in our class. All red ribbons, which is second place. Then she came down to the last ribbons and score sheet. I was the only person who hadn't been called. The feeling that came over me when she called out our score of 195 out of 200 with a first place ribbon and the Champion ribbon, was unbelievable. A huge wave of relief and happiness overwhelmed me. Not only were we awarded the only blue and champion in our class, we also qualified for state that day.

All those late Friday night practices with our club, and few practices during the month, had paid off. We made it to state, two years in a row! The feeling I get from all that hard work and stress over the past year to get to this step, and accomplish our goals, is the most amazing feeling I could ever have.

Moving to a New Life

by Brianna Beltran

So my first week of summer, I stayed up late watching Netflix and waking up at three in the afternoon. Then my mom said that we were going to go to Yuma, Arizona, to visit our cousins, aunts, uncles, and my favorite relative: my grandma. I didn't want to sound rude, but it's a small little town and even my family admits that it's really boring!

Soon, my plan took a change, and we ended up staying in Yuma for an entire month. What I thought was going to be a boring summer, turned out to be the best one yet. We would stay up late talking, watching movies together, and just laughing at the stupidest things, like Instagram posts, text messages, and old childhood memories.

There were lots of parties. The adults were outside conversing with one another, laughing and enjoying themselves, while the little kids were running wild playing games. Visiting with my grandma was the best part of my summer. Most kids would loathe spending time with their grandparents, but I loved it. We went to the grocery store, mall, and my cousin's house together. We would laugh at almost anything!

Sadly, all good journeys must come to an end. My good summer ended when I went back to Las Vegas, packed up my home, and moved to Washington. Of course, I was terrified, but at least my summer got to end with a new beginning, joining the North Thurston

Rainbows and Unicorns

by Diamond Ford

Nearly 15,000 people from around Olympia and neighboring cities come to see the Gay Pride Parade each year. It's a big event that sponsors the LGBTQ and allied communities. My best friend and I were in the parade this past summer with Pizza Klatch (an LGBTQ support group in Thurston County schools).

I remember waking up that morning and being super excited. We ended up getting there before Pizza Klatch. I got to dress in a pizza costume with pizza slices the colors of the rainbow on it.

I met a lot of interesting people who were also in the parade with us, ranging from

cute little kids to sweet old ladies to crazy expressive teenagers like myself. I felt so accepted by all the opened-minded people--so much love passed between them. To hear the shouting and see my family on the sidelines as the parade moved through downtown Olympia was an astounding feeling of pride.

I ended up taking many pictures with drag queens, and wish there was a boot camp where they teach the basics of make-up and dress--there's a goal right there! I also hope to volunteer for the event each year, but next time I will dress cooler for a hot costume and wear sunscreen the rest of the time so my fair skin doesn't make me become a lobster!

Rams Humbly Honoring the POW/MIA

If you've ever been to a military ball, stepped inside a chow hall, or attended an event at a military veterans association in your local community, you've likely noticed the small, round table that is always set but never occupied—the prisoners of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) table.

The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War.

The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

The white tablecloth: the purity of their response to our country's call to arms

The empty chair: an unknown face, all who are not here with us

The table: to show that our concern for them is never ending

The Bible: faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country

The black napkin: the emptiness these warriors have left

The single red rose: reminds us of their families and loved ones

The yellow candle: the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet accounted for

The slices of lemon: remind us of their bitter fate

The salt: the tears of their families

The wine glass, turned upside down: reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast

Through Mr. Pallitto and Rams in Action, our school honored our military with a table in our commons. We are humbled to have so many military families in our school and wish to show our respect. All students (military or not) are welcome to join the military support group. Check in with the counseling center for times and days.



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RamPage Mission Statement

The ambition of the RamPage is to provide the staff and students of North Thurston High School with an unbiased publication with an open outlook and to promote the free-flow of information. We strive to ensure that all students are well represented in our newspaper regardless of race, gender, religion, or class. In our efforts to do so, we agree to accept articles submitted by students and teachers. However, we reserve the right to edit and revise articles as we see fit. We will make a conscious effort to generate interesting and tasteful articles for our readers.

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