

The Trumpet Top Ten:

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A SENIOR WHEN

by Brian Tom



photo by Brian Tom

2. The only thing you can summarize in English class is last night's episode of *Jersey Shore*.

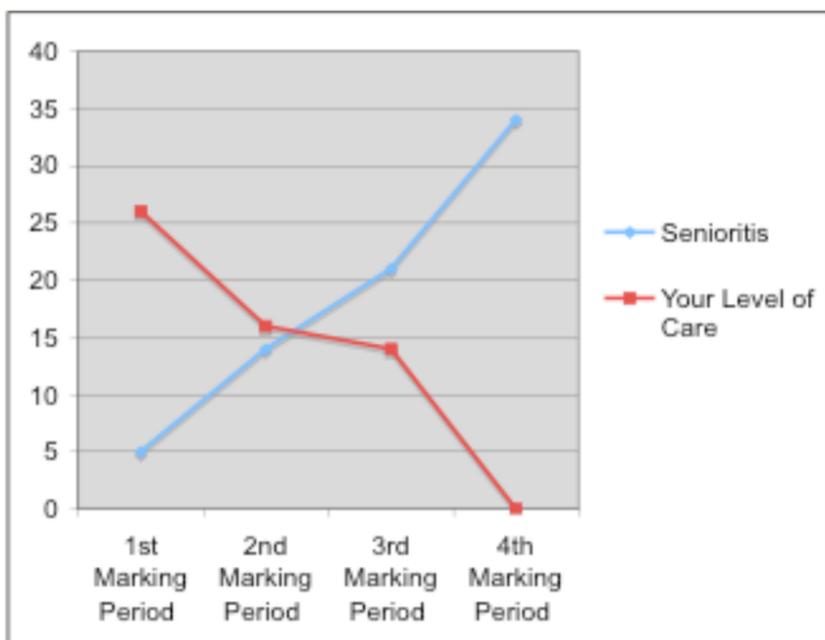
Underclassmen know about the seniors' awkward obsession with *Jersey Shore*, and we know that this obsession with this show has slowly progressed to the point of great concern. As a senior, you probably find that you have an excessive amount of time on your hands so your Thursday nights can be spent watching hours of the dramatic show *Jersey Shore* which is now becoming a franchise. That is mad shady, but do not sound the grenade whistle.

3. You have red marks on your face from falling asleep in class....again.

"I sleep everyday in class," said senior Matthew Wendling. Unfortunately, this has happened to everyone at some point, senior or not. Well, this is probably more common in the Class of 2011. Here is some advice for those students who constantly fall asleep. If falling asleep in class is inevitable, then bring a pillow, a blanket, or even a teddy bear. It is not like seniors even bring their books to class anyways. If a pillow is not readily available, then let us find a good use for that thing called a book. Maybe convince the teacher to play a movie so the lights will be turned off making it easier to fall asleep, which is the perfect time to use that pillow you made in creative crafts.

4. You think Senioritis is a real disease.

By definition, Senioritis: (noun) the disease in which the early phases that has been recorded to take effect as early as March to mid-June, the disease can become serious, causing estrangement of teachers and administration, massive tanning, and lack of enthusiasm in school. (Below is a chart of how Senioritis works.)



graph created by Brian Tom

1. Your number of lates/ tardies matches or surpasses the days left in the school year.

This one is pretty self-explanatory.

"I come to school late every day," said senior Mary-Noel Weber. "I would say that this one relates to me the most. I actually have class in the morning, but I come in so late that I miss the first few periods of the day," said Weber.

5. The only math problem you can do is to calculate the number of days left in the year.

Let's be honest, the only reason why students were taught basic math in grade school, was to do just that. All those math classes like calculus, college algebra and statistics, were to figure out how many days of school are left. Remember thinking, "What's 180 minus 179? One." Now every time there is a math problem with 180 in it, you will be pro at it.

8. Your schedule includes eight study halls and one lunch period.

"I did not take as many classes as usual. You definitely take more electives your senior year," said senior Daniel Doormann. As an underclassman, there is no chance of getting into classes like Piano 1, Piano 2, basic foods, American foods, or creative crafts, because most of the seniors will fill those.



photo by Brian Tom

6. You coin the phrase, "Whatever! I am a senior" more than 20 times a day.

The seniors have already begun the downward spiral and are now in the advance stages of not caring, going through the stages of:

1. "I need to get a good grade" phase
 2. "I have to be honest with myself, for sure a B" phase
 3. "I like to draw smiley faces with the C's I get" phase
 4. "A D now stands for do not care" phase
- And finally, the
5. "Whatever! I am a senior" phase.

7. You only come to school for four out of nine periods a day, one of them being lunch.

Dear seniors,

Your classmates know you skip. The excuses of "I have mono. I have a headache. I was on a college visit. I thought it was senior skip day. I thought it was summer break already," are really not necessary.

9. D is the new B and you cannot remember what GPA is.

Most of the seniors probably walk into homeroom on report card day and take one look at their report card and ask, "When did I sign up for economics?" Some seniors see a little number at the bottom of the report card and think that their GPA is a 100, even though they are looking at how many days they were absent. The rest of the seniors think that GPA stands for Going (to) Pass (out) Abruptly.

10. A visit from Mr. Bilder is like a visit from the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, and Blade (yes Blade) all in one period.

Most of the students have heard of the stories, but until your senior year, the rare gift of being visited by substitute Mr. Bilder is worth waiting for. With a multitude of stories about his friend Blade in his arsenal, there is never a dull moment in the life of a senior when Mr. Bilder is your substitute. To describe a visit from Mr. Bilder is really not applicable, but it is better than the Easter Bunny giving you a hug on top of a marshmallow mountain while riding on a unicorn with Santa Claus down a hill made of cotton candy clouds; except not really, but you get the picture.



Parkland's Green Team promotes environmental acts

by Brian Tom

No doubt that in modern society recycling has become an important part of most people's daily lives. The Parkland School District's Green Team, a group of staff, administration and students who promote and encourage environmentally sound acts, has done its part to make recycling at the high school easier and more convenient for students and faculty alike. By installing recycling bins throughout the school, students have been encouraged to recycle, not only at lunch, but also throughout the day.

"I am not exactly sure who first thought of the idea of the recycling bins," said senior Curt McConnell, one of the student representatives for the Green Team, "but the idea was first brought up a few years ago by GEO Club, but it was rejected. It was rejected because it is against school policy to have drinks in the hallways and having the recycling bins in the hallways would be viewed as an "OK" have drinks in the halls."

"GEO again asked about putting the recycling bins in the hallways beginning of the school year and the administration would review this appeal. It looked like the bins were not going to happen until the timely formation of the Green Team," said McConnell.

Green Team student representative, senior Hannah Synder-Samuelsan said, "There is such a broad spectrum of ways that we can work on being more energy efficient and Earth-friendly, it is important for a committee like ours to center our efforts on a few small things."

"Since the Green Team is new to our school this year, we've been trying to get started by focusing on strengthening initiatives that are already in place," said Samuelson. She said recycling has been provided by the school, but was overlooked by many staff and students.

Science teacher Mrs. Baranek,

McConnell and Samuelson brought the idea of the recycling bins up at a meeting in 2010 and head librarian, Mrs. Will, math teacher Mr. Hoff and head custodian

Mr. Fehnel agreed with the idea. "The administration really thought it through," said McConnell.

"Placing recycle bins in convenient places is an important first step in making the school green. My only hope is that students and staff use them correctly and refrain from using them as garbage bins. That would be a big step backwards," said Baranek.

With the ongoing help of Mr. Lessel, McConnell and Samuelson decided on the placement of the recycling bins and Fehnel acquired,

labeled and installed them throughout the hallways.

"We decided on getting the recycling bins because we were all sick of seeing the plastic bottles constantly being wasted in the trash cans," said McConnell, "but there was not much we could do to prevent kids from having bottles in the hallways so we decided recycling bins would be the smartest idea. Administration kindly looked past that it conflicted with school policy."

McConnell said that the reaction to the recycling bins was mostly positive, except for the few obligatory naysayers.

"Of course there are some people who abuse the recycling bins by throwing trash in them, but the number of students doing so is not substantial," said McConnell.

"I think it was a success. The bins do not have the special lids with labeled holes in them since that would have been expensive. I am just thankful we, the Green Team, received the approval to have recycling bins installed," said McConnell.

"The Earth," said Samuelson, "to our current knowledge, is the only planet on which humans can survive. If we don't make some big changes today, the problems will only escalate at an exponential rate. Every single person will be affected."



photo by Brian Tom

Students use recycling bins to dispose of bottles in an environmentally friendly way.

The presidential race begins with unlikely Republican candidates

by Emily Harrington

In recent history, the beginning of the race for president has become somewhat of a circus. Every four years, the wild cards come out of the wood-work, and, until the primaries weed out the least likely candidates, the country watches as the improbable contenders fight for the spotlight.

The last term was filled with issues ranging from health care to the war in the Middle East. Highlights of Obama's term include the recent killing of Osama Bin Laden and the complete pull out of troops in Iraq. Obama has worked hard, and most signs indicate that that he will be running for a second term.

Some of the controversy surrounding the new candidates for the 2012 election is deserved, some not so much. Donald Trump demanded that Obama show his birth certificate to verify his being an American citizen. Why he did this is unclear. Trump even went as far as to accuse Obama of being a socialist.

Sarah Palin recently had a reality show. This show was meant to calm the controversy of Bristol Palin's child, despite her not being married.

Johnson is an extremely unconventional Republican who pushes the definition of being a Republican.

Though many of these outlandish candidates are not officially running, we predict they will make it an election to remember.



photo courtesy of wikipedia.com

DONALD TRUMP (not actually running)
Quote: "Part of the beauty of me is that I am very rich."

Credentials: Real-estate mogul, entertainer, filed for bankruptcy twice

Donald Trump first gained notoriety in the 70s and 80s as a wildly successful real-estate mogul based out of New York City. He has since expanded his empire to include casinos, steaks and his television series, "The Apprentice." However, despite Trump's status and experience as a businessman, he has never held a public office. Many doubt his ability to govern, as well as the legitimacy of his bid for president. Also, Trump's credibility as a businessman is debatable—Trump filed for bankruptcy several times, most recently in 2009.

Chance of Election: Not much. Trump's credibility as a businessman is debatable—Trump filed for bankruptcy several times, most recently in 2009.



photo courtesy of wikipedia.com

GARY JOHNSON (declared bid)
Quote: "We're on the verge of financial collapse."

Gary Johnson, the former governor of New Mexico, is not the average Republican. Johnson does not attend church, is pro-choice, pro-immigration and supportive of legalizing marijuana. However, Johnson keeps in step with the usual Republican ideals of small government and low taxes. During his two terms as governor, he cut New Mexico's annual budget growth by 10%, and set state records for his use of the veto.

Chance of Election: Johnson's libertarian tendencies, especially concerning social issues, will not garner him any support from the current Republican party, despite his adherence to classic fiscal conservatism.



photo courtesy of wikipedia.com

SARAH PALIN (not officially running yet)

Quote: What's the difference between a pitbull and a hockey mom? Lipstick.

Sarah Palin became known to most Americans in 2008 as Senator John McCain's left-field pick for vice-president. However, prior to the last presidential election, Palin was a multi-term mayor of Wasilla, a small Alaskan town of barely 8,000 people. Palin also served two and a half years as the governor of Alaska. Currently, she provides political commentary for Fox News.

Chance of Election: Despite Palin's executive experience, her public image and brief stint as a reality television star in "Sarah Palin's Alaska" may have damaged her chances of election.