



Facebook fanning becomes epidemic

by Riddhi Doshi

Facebook has become immensely popular in the last few years. Almost everyone in any high school has a Facebook and lately even parents have found it to be the perfect way to reconnect with their old high school friends. This website allows people to put up pictures, write messages on their friends' walls and chat on an AIM-like application. People have been able to reconnect with their third grade best buddies who have moved to France, find long lost cousins and even chat with celebrities. Although Facebook has so many incredible things about it, there is always some aspect about it that tends to make everyone slightly annoyed. A few months ago, it was that the layout was constantly changing. Now, however, it is the extreme popularity of fanning groups.

Groups on Facebook are pages which people can "fan" in order to show their support for it. There are always informative and charitable groups to support good causes, but the groups of people who have always wondered what a Krabby Patty tastes like or why Mr. Krabs' daughter is a whale while he

is a crab are a little out there. The worst part of this is signing in to Facebook and having more than half of the newsfeed

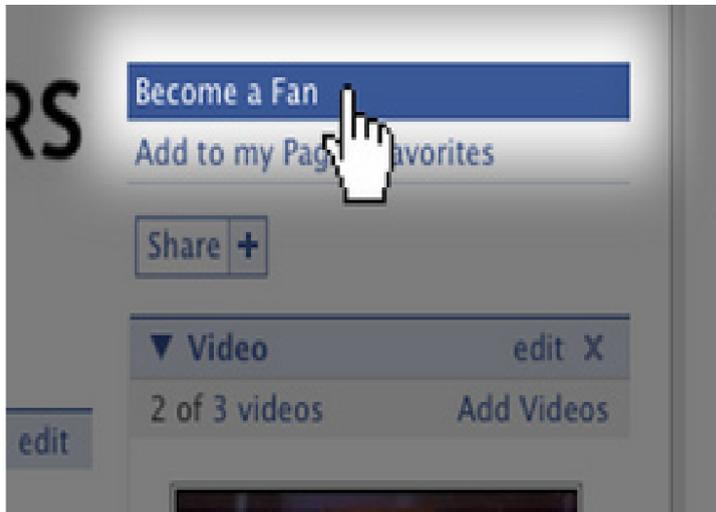


photo courtesy of Facebook

Readers must click "Become a Fan" before viewing this picture.

about friends joining groups. It used to be a friend joining a group here and there, but lately it has become normal for one to see their friend join almost 13 groups at a time. There is even a group for people who are addicted to joining groups. At least they can admit it. Users all understand that some people truly feel a strong connection with the Spongebob groups

or the Mean Girls groups, but please, it is necessary to control one's passion.

It is not hard to see that those groups offering iPods to almost every person who fans the page are phonies. In addition, there are about a thousand groups who all want to be the "BIGGEST GROUP ON FACEBOOK." There are other ways of telling people about being sleep deprived or being victimized by Regina George from Mean Girls. Also, those groups made by people "who lost their phones and need new contacts" are the best place for a stalker to go and be able to choose victims for prank calls. That, at the least, should be done the old fashioned way. Go up to friends and tell them that to add themselves into one's contact list.

In the end, it is all simply about the number of groups one fans, not about the subject of the groups. People could care less about how obscure the groups are. What people do care about is how much space these groups are taking up on their newsfeed, keeping them from seeing what their friends are really doing. So next time a group is spotted, think twice.

Students should be able to "chill" at school

by Riddhi Doshi

For years parents and other adults have been trying to find the best and safest places for youth to hang out, grow and make new friends after school. People have created numerous clubs and parks, but kids tend to grow out of them by the time they reach their teens. Nowadays, even parks have become a shady place to spend time with friends. Fortunately, there is a place where kids can stay after school which is completely safe and has adult supervision. There is a catch; they are not allowed to be there.

Adults have been looking for a place which is as safe as a school, but since they did not think that kids would want to stay at school, they never took the idea seriously. They never in fact considered a good hangout to be school. Unfortunately, students are not allowed to stay at school unless they are there for a club meeting, team practice or are in the library. Yet that does not stop kids from hanging out there anyway. Think about it. School is the ideal hangout; parents do not have to drive their children there and back, and there is supervision everywhere. The best part is that students actually want to be there for as long as they can. They have to be kicked out of school. Imagine that.

Students only want to be able to spend time with their friends. If they are in

the school, chances are that no one will be doing any kind of drugs or drinking. They know that they will be caught rather easily and that the punishment will be severe. The cafeteria could be the perfect place to hang out for many. While they are there, students may even consider taking advantage of Parkland's various facilities, like the weight room or the gym. They may also find an interest in some of the clubs that have meetings and events after school. They may even bump into a teacher in whose class they are struggling. This would give the more shy student a chance to ask any questions which they held back during class. Letting kids hang out in school after school hours could have numerous benefits.

This privilege would also come with a handful of rules. The administrators can regulate what times students can be at the school and where they can be. For example, they can require that students only stay until 5:30 pm, the time that the last late bus leaves. Also, they can require that students only be in the D and E wings. That way, they could be sure that there are more teachers in that area to look after the students.



photo by Riddhi Doshi

The high school offers a safe hangout for students after school.

It is great that kids have finally found a safe place where they want to hang out, now the only problem is that the same people who seek to give kids a better future are not letting them stay there. It is extremely important for kids to have a safe place to be with friends and have fun. It should make teachers and administrators happier that kids want to stay in school longer. Students should clearly be allowed to remain on school property after school hours.

Falco's Fury:

Parkland really needs to stop calling

By Chelsey Falco

It is five-thirty in the morning and everyone is fast asleep. Then all of a sudden the phone rings. A student races to the phone, expecting an emergency or wrong number. On the other end a voice comes through, "Hello, this is Louise Donohue..."

That is right, the dawn phone call was just the superintendent of Parkland School District calling to say that school is either cancelled or delayed. The student will try and go back to sleep, but that phone call telling them they can go back to bed has already pulled them from their REM sleep.

Since some Parkland families may appreciate the early-morning call, it would be a much better idea if Parkland made it optional. That way, whoever wants the phone call can receive it, and those who dislike the phone call can just sleep in. Some students claim the school already has this option, but others are unaware of such a choice. Whether or not an option exists, it only matters if students and parents are aware of it. Parkland needs to make sure everyone knows if they have an option, and if they do not have an option, they should create one.

For several students, watching for Parkland's name to come up on the local television station or listening intently to the radio reminds them of how exciting snow days were as a child. Back in elementary school part of the joy of snow days came from watching the school's name scroll across the screen. It made the day off seem real. Receiving a phone call takes away that initial excitement.

Parkland calls about more than just school closings and delays. It seems as if the district is calling about anything and everything. They called to tell that yearbooks would be on sale at Mr. Parkland. They called to tell that sports physicals were rescheduled. They even called to say that South Whitehall Township had contaminated water. Parkland thought they were making life convenient for families, but these messages are nothing more than a nuisance. Many families do not live in South Whitehall, so the message about water was unnecessary. Many students do not play sports, so they probably did not even know sports physicals existed. These calls are excessive and need to stop.

The best option for the school district is to send out a clearly-marked form at the beginning of the year. The parents and students can then fill out that form and decide on their own if they want a phone call informing them of delays, cancellations and other notifications. And while they are doing that they can offer a notification by way of the students' favorite way of communication: text messaging.