

# The MLWGS Jabberwock

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## Scheduling Anxiety?

**Jasmine Turner**

Journalism Class Student

Most MLWGS students agree that scheduling is one of the busiest and most stressful times of the school year.

Freshman, sophomores and juniors participated in course registration for the 07-08 school year in the MLWGS gym on March 29 and 30

The freshman class anticipated scheduling with feelings of nervous tension, while seniors relaxed and laughed about times long-lost.

"I've heard that seniors pay money to watch the other grades scheduling, but I doubt that's true," said Catherine Goergen ('10).

This year, however, seniors disproved this rumor by instead volunteering to help faculty with the scheduling.

Course registration is often considered the most important day of the year because the one day determines what classes students will endure for all 180 days of the following year.

Goergen was less apprehensive than other freshmen largely because she planned not to take any AP's next year.

"I don't want all of that stress during sophomore year because I really don't feel ready yet," said Goergen. "This year I feel like I've been really stressed out, so I want to take the easiest things possible next year."

On the other hand, sophomore Bailey Rose was worried that she will not be able to take some of classes that she most wants to take.

"There are so many great subjects offered at this school, and it's hard to fit everything in," said Rose.

Many students confronted conflicts with scheduling elective and classes, including Jackie Simon ('08).

"The only thing that I can take 2<sup>nd</sup> period is AP Lit, and the only 2 options for 4<sup>th</sup> period are AP Language and Modern Political Theory," said Simon,



**Juniors Chris Rowekamp and Emily Schafer sign up for their classes. Photo courtesy of Mr. Michael White.**

noting one of the conundrums she encountered while scheduling.

The administration notes that students who face scheduling problems should go talk to guidance counselors. However, it is almost impossible to find a "perfect schedule."

"All in all, you may not be able to take everything you want," said Mrs. Taylor.

"We make kids take the decisions about scheduling. The other option is more stressful for administration and less personal for students," said Mrs. Taylor. "We could certainly explore the other option, but students are empowered to be a part of the experience they have here."

To lessen the stress of scheduling, there upperclassmen suggested several tried and true techniques.

"Get in the line for the class that you have to have first," said Kellis. "Also, don't sign up for study hall first because that's easy to get into. Popular

languages like Italian fill up quickly."

In addition, Simon offers a solution to alleviate the stress of junior year demands.

"Take AP US History sophomore year because it's harder to juggle all of your AP's junior year, and it's good to get that one out of the way," said Simon.

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# Promote Understanding

The school recently experienced the Black History assembly. Although the assembly was executed with utmost professionalism and organization, many students walked away from the assembly feeling somewhat offended.

During the program, students reenacted scenes from various important meetings during the civil rights period. One such skit was a reenactment of a Black Panthers meeting in which students shouted in favor of “Black Power” with raised fists.

The purpose of the assembly should be to educate the school about black history while simultaneously bring us together in a common bond of fighting injustices. This school, as well as the community, has not been the friendliest when it comes to racial issues. Instead of further separating various groups, our goal should be to bring us to a common understanding.

—SS

Have a great  
spring break!

-The Jabberwock  
Staff

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## *Statement of Editorial Policy:*

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. However, the statements expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jabberwock 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).

# Apathy: It's a Crime

I believe we must choose at some point to either ignore what is wrong or to make it right. Last week, the administration decided to have class meetings in order to discuss the recent behavior of certain students. While no class was excluded, the freshmen took the biggest hit. Several issues were brought up about freshmen behavior over the weekends, including drug use, alcohol consumption and sexual activity. Although the participants in these activities were only a few members of the freshman class, it does not excuse the apathy of the rest.

The administration has no right to dictate how students should behave outside of school. However, it *does* have the responsibility to protect the great reputation this school has attained over the years and to uphold the Code of Conduct. Not only does this reputation help us pay off our debt by

getting local businesses to donate money, it also helps our graduates get into colleges and receive scholarships. Perhaps most importantly, it gives us students our freedoms and privileges we receive here at MLWGS.

If you ask almost anybody, he will say that the true reputation of this school lies not in our great curriculum, but in our outstanding students. Attending this school is a privilege that comes with responsibilities. The student handbook on Page 29 states that students “will be expected to be involved in the governance of the school and the establishment of ethical behavior with *strong emphasis on each student's honor and integrity*” (emphasis added). The Code of Conduct lists multiple penalties for the use of alcohol and drugs. Although it does not specifically state it, it is each student's duty to report any violations they may

*Opinion*

**By Garrett Howe**  
(‘08)

witness.

The administration does not wish to scorn the whole freshman class for the actions of a few. They wish to impress upon all freshmen that every student here, no matter what county or country he or she comes from, is a MLWGS student, and the actions of one affect all. Freshmen are responsible for these activities; therefore I think it is their responsibility to inform the administration about their peers. Your class reputation, no matter how unimportant you think it is, stays with you. Try to make the best of it.

# Not All Freshmen Are Bad

The freshmen class is the talk of the school – and not in a good way. I, for one, resent that. It is never fair to label a group based upon the behavior of a few. Because what the students, the administration, and the school in general does not realize is that it is not the freshmen class acting up. It is a few people in the freshman class who are acting up.

For the purpose of this article, let us call them “the group.” There have been rumors of “the group” misbehav-

ing, and maybe even drinking and doing drugs. “The group” has been accused of stealing and other questionable activities. The administration asks the freshman class to talk to “the group” and ask them to stop tarnishing our class reputation. There is the problem. Most of the freshmen who want to change the reputation do not talk to “the group.” They are not friends with “the group.” In all honesty, “the group” probably does not care what others have to say.

Part of “the group” got in trouble, and got punished, and now “the group” is smarter. They know not to do stuff at school. But nothing has changed. During the weekend, they still go to parties. They still drink. They still do drugs. And then the group comes back to school on Mon-

day and tells everyone about what they did. So what is the rest of the freshmen class supposed to do about it?

We cannot do anything to them. Even the administration cannot punish them for off-campus activities. And that is why we have a bad reputation. Because “the group” tells people about their crazy weekends, all the upperclassmen think that our class is wild. Truth be told, we *want* to change our reputation. We try as hard as we can to change how we are viewed. Unfortunately, we cannot. We cannot control what comes out of other people's mouths.

So our reputation will continue to go down the drain. We will continue to be called the “wild, druggie, drinking freshmen.” And we will continue to hate it.

*Opinion*

**By Elaine Hillgrove**  
(‘10)

# "Our Town" Comes to Maggie Walker

Drama students are eager to perform Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*

**Amber Kunkel**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, written in the 1930s but set in the early 1900s, is the first contemporary play MLWGS drama has performed since *Proof* in 2005. This Thursday through Saturday, March 29, 30 and 31, the MLWGS drama department will be performing *Our Town*.

Though clearly more modern than the fall Shakespeare productions, the play's main strength is not its novelty.

"*Our Town* [takes place in] a time when the milkman and his horse make their rounds every morning and the kids drink strawberry phosphates at the local drugstore," said Nora Byrd ('08), who plays the omniscient Stage Manager. "There is definitely a very quaint feel to the play for people living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Nevertheless, *Our Town* remains to be the most produced play in the United States thus far.

"The legend goes that there is a production of *Our Town* every night somewhere in the world," said drama director Mr. Grant Mudge.

This popularity comes primarily from *Our Town*'s enduring themes.

"The content of the play transcends time," said Alex Wiles ('08). "Daily Life, Love and Marriage, Death— those are the titles of the three acts."

According to Mr. Mudge, *Our Town*'s purpose is to show just how wonderful normal life can be. That message is particularly relevant to MLWGS students today.

"So many students have their life all planned out," said Mr. Mudge. "They think, 'I'm going to go to this school, get these grades, get this job, make this much money... oh, wait. Then I'm



**Alex Wiles ('08) playing Emily Webb and Thomas Howard ('09) playing George Gibbs are married in the play. Photo courtesy of Mr. Grant Mudge.**

dead."

*Our Town* reminds those students to enjoy life here and now.

Wiles, who has a key role in helping this meaning shine through, also embraces it herself.

"My favorite part of the show?" she said. "Rehearsals." Despite the memorization and lack of sleep, she admits, "It's completely worth it."

Before the One Acts this February, Wiles, a self-proclaimed "ticket wench," had not been on stage with lines since kindergarten. Now she is, according to Mr. Mudge, a "natural" at her role of Emily in the play.

"I don't think most high school performers have a good idea of how touching this play is," said Mr. Mudge. "Alex does."

Of course, as Wiles is quick to point out, this show is really about all the talented actors, technicians, and everyone else who is participating.

"We have an incredible cast, costumes will continue to be incredible, and

the play itself is just beautiful," said Wiles.

*Our Town*'s minimalist style means the drama department can spend less time arranging the set and more on other technical aspects of the show.

"Lighting plays a big role in this production. I've tried to make sure that something interesting happens with the set rather than let it be a bare theatre," said Joshua Bennett ('07). "The things that do not exist are important in this production because many of the props are mimed, as is most of the scenery."

The play's bare set and mimed props allow the audience to focus on the characters and themes, not the time period.

"I think *Our Town* was probably chosen because it is a play about people, and those people could be anyone — they could be us. They *are* us, in a way," said Byrd. "There won't be any huge dances or giant bears or anything like that, but I think it's a play that will have a very personal meaning for everyone who sees it."

# "Ghost Rider" Burns Out

**By Ben Catanese**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

What's the first thing you think of in a movie when you see two young people sitting in the middle of a meadow saying how much they love each other? If you are like me, it's probably something like, "Oh man, not another one of these cheesy movies." That was my first impression of the movie, "*Ghost Rider*." Basically, this was a fast-paced film filled with lots of corny scenes.

"*Ghost Rider*" is based on the Marvel comic book of the same name. Nicholas Cage starred as Johnny Blaze, who becomes the Ghost Rider. Eve Mendes plays Roxanne, Johnny's love interest.

Johnny Blaze is a stunt motorcycle rider who works in a carnival. One day he learns that his dad is dying of lung cancer and will not live much longer. Upon hearing this, Johnny makes a deal with the devil, Mephistopheles, giving up his soul in order to save his father.

Some years later Blackheart, the son of Mephistopheles, along with other angels condemned from heaven come to earth to create a second hell and take the

**The graphics looked like a cheap Saturday morning cartoon.**



**Johnny Blaze (Nicholas Cage), a stunt motorcycle rider who works in a carnival, looks around suspiciously for bad guys. Photo courtesy of [www.IMDB.com](http://www.IMDB.com).**

control of human souls from his father.

Mephistopheles then turns Blaze into the Ghost Rider to combat the threat of Blackheart. Blaze picks off Blackheart's minions while being mentored by the former Ghost Rider. Eventually he has a battle with Blackheart to save the Earth.

This comic book had the potential to become an exciting film. However, the mixture of bad dialogue, bad acting, cheesy effects and a very predictable plot turned the movie into a disaster. In one particularly painful exchange, Blaze explains his behavior with the phrase, "I speak to the fire element within me."

While most comic book movies have trouble adapting from story to screen, "*Ghost Rider*" was worse than normal.

The animation of the film looked like technology that was about ten years old, and on top of that, it was poorly executed. This was especially obvious with the graphics for the main character as Ghost Rider. The graphics looked like a cheap Saturday morning cartoon.

Had there been a cool fight scene, this movie could have been saved from disaster. Here, as with the other parts of the movie, we are let down. Every time the Ghost Rider fought one of Blackheart's underlings, the battle

ended quickly, and it looked as if the Ghost Rider didn't even have to try.

Even in the final battle, Ghost Rider only had to look into Blackheart's eyes and use the power that he used on the common criminals to defeat him. There was never any suspense about the outcome.

Not surprisingly, at the end of the movie we experienced yet another long, predictable sermon from Blaze. I was a little worried he was going to tell kids to say "no to drugs."

**Rating:**



# To Sneak or Not To Sneak

By Isshin Teshima

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

I used to hate covert games ... really hate them. Sneaking around and strangling random guards just wasn't my thing. I was one of those guys who screamed and went into the fetal position every time the alarm went off during "Rainbow Six" or "Perfect Dark." After being caught, I probably ended up either dying, losing the game or running around aimlessly shooting the wall instead of the targets.

Since then, I've labeled covert games under the category of, "Oh my gosh, I'm never going to play them ever again!"

But I played a game that changed my mind about covert games forever. "Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops" for the PSP is amazing. The graphics are spectacular, the controls are manageable and the plotline is intricate and fascinating.

The "Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops" story is this: you are an American secret agent in 1970 named Snake who regains consciousness on the unmapped San Hieronymo Peninsula in Colombia. You eventually find that a stolen American weapon named "Metal Gear" is also on the peninsula and threatening negotiations to end the Cold War. Snake is tasked with the mission of destroying "Metal Gear" and thereby save the world.

Maybe part of the reason



In "Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops," you can knock out enemies and recruit them into your pseudo-army. *Photo courtesy of [www.Games.net](http://www.Games.net).*

this game is so appealing was its uniqueness. Not only do you have the option of going on missions with Snake, but you can also be a commander. Throughout certain missions, you may knock out enemies and recruit them into your pseudo-army. Random animal names are assigned to each character you recruit, but I have to admit, there's something quite hilarious about seeing the name Beluga Whale for a female nurse.

The name "Portable Ops" is really appropriate as well. The goal that Metal Gear Solid founder Hideki Kojima

had in mind when he developed the game was to have missions that could be played on the go. Thus, all of the missions span no longer than 15 minutes at the most. The boss battles can take anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on how good you are at strategy.

And of course, as with all armies, you have spies, technicians and medical backup teams at your disposal. Certain soldiers you recruit have special careers such as "nutritionist" or "elite engineer." If you place specific soldiers in the technical unit, they will create special

weapons for you after every mission.

"Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops" has given me a new outlook on life. Heck, I don't even wet my pants anymore when I'm playing covert games. So just keep in mind, if you ever need to learn how to sneak out of class, strangle a few guards or use camouflage to hid yourself around school, get some help first, and then play this game.

Rating:



# Dodgeball Madness

**“By the end of the first three weeks, twenty-eight teams have been eliminated and one team from each grade still remains.”**

**Tony Sun**

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The expression “anything can happen” proved true on the dodge ball court last year when Mr. Phil Tharp’s team, *Exterminators*, defeated *Back-Door Slammers*. Last year’s win by Mr. Tharp’s team gave hope to the underdog, all-freshman team, *Anonymous* as they played the senior-class team *Cap City* in one of the opening games of the year.

Unfortunately, the odds on favorite *Cap City* decimated the underdog freshmen.

“*Anonymous* isn’t just our team name, it’s our style of play” Luisito Andrade (’10) jokingly said as a teammate smiled in agreement.

The Dodge Ball Tournament started two years ago as a charity event that usually runs through March of every year. A popular event, about a quarter of the school population participates, and that is not even taking the numerous spectators into account.

The annual event is sponsored by the Dodge Ball Club and Ms. Connie Shuler is the sponsor.

Proceeds from the event go to charitable causes including St. Jude’s Hospital and aid for the people of Darfur.

“The current Dodge Ball Tournament first started as Asian style dodge ball,” said Ms. Schuler “It’s where the teams can have many players, as long as they are even and it is played with two balls.”

The format for the current Dodge Ball Tournament is quite simple and very similar to the World Cup. Thirty-two teams consisting of five players

compete. Eight groups of four teams each compete in a round robin with the other teams in their bracket. The top two teams from each group move on to make for the final sixteen teams. Single elimination follows until a winner emerges.

This year’s tournament had a slightly bumpy start, in part because of a requirement for permission slips, issues with team-names, and the confusion among the freshmen on where to register.

Some teams, such as *Border Patrol*, even found themselves disqualified.

“We couldn’t find the guy who signed up all the teams,” said a *Border Patrol* member, James Billard (’10).

Administrators’ objections caused the *Backdoor Slammers* to change to *Recess Mafia*, *Cap City Crunk Squad* to shorten its name to *Cap City*, *Kaukasian Invasion* to become *Vanilla Ice*, and *Sex Panthers* to morph into the *Ex Panthers*.

Despite the slow start, the Maggie Walker Dodge-ball tournament is still



**Keith Moran (’07) soars through the air. Photo courtesy of Mr. Michael White**

continuing at a frenetic pace. By the end of the first three weeks, twenty-eight teams have been eliminated and one team from each grade still contends for the title of Dodgeball Champion.



***Please Don't Hurt Us* celebrates their loss in the first round of the Dodgeball Tournament. Photo by Mr. Michael White**

# Spring Sports Previewed

## From baseball to track to tennis: all spring sports analyzed

**David Wagner**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

### Baseball:

**Captains:** Nick Smith ('08), Andy Rudd ('07)

**Key Players:** Will Roberts ('08)

**Expectations:** With seven starters returning from last year's team, the 2007 Maggie Walker baseball team hopes to improve immensely and challenge for the district title.

**Key game:** 4/27/07- Freeman High School (Home)

### Softball:

**Captains:** Elena Martinez de Andino ('07), Lauren Elliott ('07)

**Key Players:** The whole team is key

**Expectations:** "We are very strong defensively. We make about three to four runs per game, so we hope to use that to our advantage."

-Elena Martinez de Andino ('07)

**Key Game:** 4/27/07- Freeman (Home)

### Girl's Soccer:

**Captains:** Teri Diaz ('07), Ashley Keller ('07)

**Key Player(s):** Teri Diaz, Amarachi Eseonu ('08), April Price ('08)

**Expectations:** "We're definitely expecting to win over half of our games, anything less than that would be a disappointment."

-Arin Burke ('10)

**Key game:** 4/27/07- Collegiate (Home)

### Boy's Soccer:

**Captains:** Stephen Laws ('07), Nathan

Lautzenheiser ('07)

**Key Players:** Stephen Laws, Nathan Lautzenheiser, Cyriac Joseph ('08)

**Expectations:** "I think we can hope to challenge for a district title. It will be difficult, but with the right team chemistry, this team has a lot of potential."

-Kyle Herman ('10)

**Key game:** 4/17/07- Deep Run High School (Home)

### Boy's Tennis:

**Captains:** Jeremy New ('07), David Giancaspro ('07)

**Key Players:** David Giancaspro, Kevin Chen ('07), Jeremy New

**Expectations:** "We're expecting to do extremely well in most of our games, but three of the games, Deep Run Freeman, and Godwin are going to be really tough. We have the potential to win all three, but on the other hand, we could easily lose all three."

-Blake Powers ('10)

**Key match:** 4/18/07- Deep Run High School (Home)

### Girl's Tennis:

**Captains:** Katie Seidel ('07), Devon Ericksen ('08), Rae Kennedy ('08)

**Key Players:** All Top 6 Members, especially Katie Seidel, Devon Ericksen, Rae Kennedy and Andi Davis

**Expectations:** "Last year, we had a tie season, this year, we lost only one person on the top 6, so we should be able to have a winning season."

-Katie Seidel ('07)

**Key Match:** 4/17/07- Freeman (Home)

### Outdoor Track:

**Captains:** Henry Scott ('07), Aaron Mullins ('08), Natalie Davis ('08), Abbey Thibeault ('08)

**Key Runners:** Henry Scott, Natalie Davis, Peter Askin ('09), Clarissa Schick ('10), Susannah Piersol ('09)

**Expectations:** "Our long distance will be able to compete with anyone in the region, but our sprints are not as great. I think that our long distance runners will be able to carry this team pretty far, though."

-Jerry Fiala ('10)



Outdoor track runners fight their way to the finish line. Photo by Mr. Michael White