

# THE MLWGS Jabberwock

Volume #, Issue 17

<http://sites.google.com/site/mlwgsjabberwock>

Friday, May 1, 2009

## MLWGS Honors Mr. Hunt

**Charles Condro**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

To thank Mr. Doug Hunt for his service as the MLWGS Director over the past seven years, a retirement party was held in his honor by the PTSA and the GovernorøSchool Foundation.

Parents, Faculty and Alumni as well as Mr. Huntø friends and family were in attendance at the Hermitage Country Club to honor Mr. Hunt.

The centerpieces of the evening were the speeches honoring Mr. Hunt. First to speak was Ms. Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan, a former PTSA president and one of the partyø organizers. She gave an introduction and brief history of Mr. Huntø career at MLWGS.

øIt is a bittersweet moment,ø said Ms. Sisson-Vaughan, sharing her thoughts on how Mr. Huntø leadership has benefited the school. øAs director, Mr. Hunt listened a lot [and] changed very little.ø

Ms. Sisson-Vaughan also said that while Mr. Hunt was only signed on as an interim director, he has had the longest tenure at MLWGS.

While the average reign of a MLWGS director had been about two-and-a-half years, Mr. Hunt has been the director for the past seven years.

Next up was current PTSA president Ms. Belle Bronner. One theme of her speech was to thank Mr. Hunt for all of the time and effort he has put into MLWGS.

øAny person can be a director,ø said Ms. Bronner, øbut Mr. Hunt has given the gift of himself to our school and we are infinitely better for it.ø

MLWGS alumna Ashley Sawyer (ø05), also gave a speech in honor of Mr. Hunt. After she finished, Mr. Hunt gave a speech sharing his feeling about working as the director of MLWGS, and what



Mr. Hunt and his wife Brenda cut the cake at Mr. Hunt's retirement party on Saturday, April 18, at the Hermitage Country Club. Photo by Charles Condro.

makes the school special to him.

øThatø what Maggie Walker is all about,ø said Mr. Hunt. øItø about people coming togetherí Itø like a school from the ø50s and ø60s, for those who were alive then.ø Mr. Hunt also expressed how much he has enjoyed working at MLWGS.

øFred Morton is a very lucky man,ø said Mr. Hunt. øPeople ask me if I am going to work anywhere else. I say if I were going to work Iød work here. Itø been a remarkable ride.ø

One fact that Mr. Hunt pointed out was how his career had come full circle. He said that as a math teacher at Hermitage High School, he taught almost a dozen students who then sent kids to MLWGS while he was director.

After thanking the PTSA and the MLWGS community, Mr. Hunt concluded by giving special thanks to those who were at the party.

øThank you all for being here tonight, and thank you for being in my life,ø said Mr. Hunt.

After the speeches were finished, the cake was wheeled out and Mr. Hunt was presented with several gifts courtesy of the Foundation and the PTSA.

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# SOL Schedule Means More Make-Up

**D**uring the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, classes will be arranged in a block schedule. Students will attend two classes a day for three hours each on a 1&5, 2&6, 3&7, and 4&8 schedule.

This schedule was proposed as a way to simplify SOL administration, but it makes it harder for the students taking AP exams. Taking an AP in general means missing a class period, but under this new schedule, students will be missing the equivalent of two class periods.

At Maggie Walker, missing even one class is difficult. The amount of make-up work that is involved is huge. Missing two class periods is ridiculous! It also means that the class that is missed is during AP week, which means students will not only be studying for an AP, but frantically trying to make up work that they missed. It's almost a punishment to students taking a demanding schedule.

I understand the intent behind the scheduling change & it makes it easy for teachers to give SOLS without students missing class. However, it seems that it would be better to make SOL week after AP exams, rather than during it. It would be as easy for the administrators to do this, and it would mean less make-up work for those students taking APs.

It's even possible for SOL week to be placed before APs. That would provide teachers a three hour block period for a final ðcram session.ð

If the administration has no control over when we take our SOLs, then perhaps we should return to the old schedule. It makes more work for the teachers, but it will help ease the students' burden.

There are many choices available to our administration. I urge them to look at the schedule and consider an alternate SOL schedule next year .

-EH

## Do You See A Difference?

As you've probably noticed, this issue of the Jabberwock looks a little different than previous issues. This is a result of our adoption of a new layout, courtesy of our new staff. Sean Youngstone (ø12), the designer of the Jabberwock's new look, will be the new layout editor. Taking over the position of web editor is Porter McRoberts (ø11). Annie Weidhass (ø12), as our new photography editor, will be covering events around Maggie Walker. Scott Yeudall will be taking over the position of News in Briefs editor, as well as assisting with layout.

# THE MLWGS Jabberwock

## Jabberwock Staff:

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## Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work and ideas of both the Editor-in-Chief and his 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).

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR

[newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us)



# The Spirit of Activism Exists

It is hard to believe that the nation is already 100 days into a new presidential administration. It seems like just yesterday that every headline boasted news of intense primaries and rousing speeches.

However, now that the nation has returned to the less glamorous slog of day-to-day governing, many have voiced fears that American citizens will return to an attitude of apathy.

While I will admit that it is difficult to maintain that same level of energetic political activism seen during the campaign, I also believe that apathetic is far from appropriate in describing the political actions of American citizens under the new administration.

On the contrary, issues addressed by the White House have motivated political action from both supporters and detractors of new policy. Much of the activism has carried over, as seen in March when the president used former campaign volunteers to go door to door

advocating the adoption of his budget in a program called "Organizing for America."

The actions of the new administration have encouraged an energy backlash among citizens who appear anything but apathetic, as the comical but widespread tea bag protests have shown. Such protests, apart from appearing as mere publicity stunts, illustrate the willingness of people opposed to administration policy, to organize and take action.

Such political action is not limited to the national stage: the public has also increasingly mobilized for the numerous state and local elections scheduled for this fall. Last weekend, my neighborhood was visited by the first high school students campaigning for a local candidate for delegate.

Expanded political participation may not always be the most visible, a testament to the new methods of cam-

*Opinion*  
By Logan Ferrell ('11)

aigning adopted by local candidates. On April 29, the Washington Post stated that the "Major Front in Va. Race Is Online"; an indication that tools like Creigh Deeds' Twitter and Terry McAuliffe's YouTube Channel are encouraging a new sort of political activism among young and technologically inclined voters.

Whether it be national or local, on line or on the street; these are all indications of an American public still willing to get involved in their own government. I refute the idea of an apathetic America. I encourage everyone to get involved and stay involved in our government.

*Opinion*

By Elsa Schultze ('10)

# An Appalling Apathy

This fall there will be a gubernatorial election. There will also be a primary to determine the Democratic candidate on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The three Democrats running are Terry McAuliffe, Brian Moran, and Creigh Deeds. Bob McDonnell is the only Republican in the race. If you didn't know anything about that, then you are in plentiful company. 38 days before the primary, 60% of voters are undecided or unaware there is an election.

The most sanguine predictions for the turnout for this year's Democratic gubernatorial primary don't go above 300,000 people, less than a third of the turnout for last year's Democratic presidential primary. Virginia, a state of population 7.7 million, has open primaries, meaning that voters do not even have to register with one party in advance of the election to participate. A

state that prided itself last year on its increased participation in politics has lost that distinction, which was dubious to begin with. Recent protests don't take the place of true participation because they don't affect who actually governs, but rather they are ineffectual temper tantrums. The Obama campaign, hailed by pundits and Obama boosters as the beginning of a new era of voter engagement, did not change American political culture meaningfully enough for the excitement to carry over into the next election.

Participation in Obama's campaign also did not educate the voters about the practical realities of governing and fiscal federalism, namely, the reasons they still need to participate. The president set aside stimulus money for the purpose of aiding people who lost their jobs, which the electorate generally supported. However, the fulfillment of that campaign promise is fruitless without ensuring that the leaders of lower levels of

government cooperate. States can choose whether to receive the money. The General Assembly rejected \$125 million annually for seven years. Dissatisfied people hardly have license to complain; turnout for General Assembly elections is too low even to speak about. The image propagated by the Obama campaign, that he could solve the nation's problems, left out the importance of choosing cooperative state officials who would assist him in carrying out his promises.

In the end, the legacy of last year's participation is sensational but not substantive. This year's governor's race shows that Obama's campaign did little to educate the voter about the realities of governance or create a lasting political enthusiasm. The people are demonstrating their apathy for coming elections, and their apathy will demonstrate the importance of continued participation, including and especially at the state level, in the next four years.

# MLWGS: What a Piece of Work

*Opinion*

By Dale Wolf ('11)

Like many of my classmates, I am a fiscally minded person. That's why I'll be paying special attention to what's going to happen at the May meeting of the Regional School Board, when the folks behind the diversity study will be making a report. We paid them \$69,456 to do that.

I humbly offer you my diversity report free of charge.

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**It is past time for  
"We, the Students" to  
step up and help fix the  
inequalities here.**

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In my nearly two years here, I've heard a lot of people, students and teachers alike, tout the diversity of MLWGS. The administration touts it as well; witness the diversity mural to the left on the ramp leading into the cafeteria. Witness the art mural as you pass the microwaves and head to the high numbered rooms of the first floor. Both were put there to celebrate cultural diversity.

There's just one problem: MLWGS is not very diverse. At least we don't try to hide this fact on our website. According to it, the school currently hosts a student body of 704, including 520 white students, 3 Native American students, 92 Asian students, 49 African-American students, 13 Hispanic students, and 27 unspecified.

In order to make the school more diverse, there is one area in particular that we need to improve on: recruitment, both student and faculty.

Let's start with faculty: Imagine you're a minority parent investigating this school to see if you'd feel comfort-

able sending your kids here. You look around, and not only is the student body overwhelmingly white, but things are even worse among the faculty. You inquire and discover that, of all of the academic departments, the International Languages department has the highest number of minority teachers: a grand total of four.

MLWGS has control over whom it hires and fires. As a proud alumnus of the City of Richmond's Henderson Middle School and Holton Elementary, I can tell you that there is certainly not a shortage of excellent minority teachers. Therefore I can only assume, given that we take the most qualified teachers, we have simply not been attracting many minority applicants. When openings appear, we need to work hard to spread the news by letting teachers who have made a difference in our lives know.

Then, there's student recruitment. MLWGS makes its so-called "diversity effort" out to be much more than it really is. There are easy ways to begin to make this ideal more real. Talk to elementary school students. By the time a kid's in seventh or eighth grade, it's almost too late. Only those who are lucky enough to already be good students make it in here. We need to find a polite way to demand that each school system dramatically increase support for those middle school students who want to come here.

What if there's a smart kid who doesn't care about school because he or she is not challenged, or doesn't have people in their life challenging them, believing in them, caring about them? What if this student doesn't know there could be a place for them at this school? Persuasion is a powerful thing.

To be fair, the school systems that contribute to MLWGS also tell us when and where we can talk to their students. As I see it, there are two options here.

Option one is to press the school systems harder to let us speak to younger kids and their parents. Imagine what attendance might be like at an elementary school PTA meeting if MLWGS

students were to be part of a presentation about our school?

Option two is to reach out to religious institutions (churches, synagogues, etc.) regardless of whether any headway is made on option one. Beyond schools, churches are important in urban communities. In a simple gesture of neighborliness, we could begin by openly inviting all the congregations within walking distance of Maggie Walker to attend special programs and plays that happen here.

Some of you may ask how it could be that people haven't heard of good old MLWGS. It's not so much that people haven't heard of us as it is that they don't understand. Some parents may think that only the next generation of Einsteins can get in. They may opt to send their kids to Open High or Community High or the I.B. program at Thomas Jefferson instead when there was no reason their kids couldn't get in here.

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There's a fair amount of resentment towards MLWGS due to it being perceived as an "Einstein school." This could influence parents' decisions. This is why MLWGS needs to send people out to spread the truth.

It is way past time for "We, the Students" to step up and help fix the inequalities here. If we don't, then we might as well whitewash the diversity mural and all the pretty words painted on the walls around here.

## A Conversation with MLWGS' Own Mr. Irvin Charles

Maggie Walker Alumnus and MLWGS Head of Security shares his thoughts

**I saw on the calendar that the Organization of Competitive Bodies (that bodybuilding contest) is returning to MLWGS on Saturday May 16...**

Yes. I think that group has been coming here for the last three or so years. Evidently they like our building for there competition. I guess we're centrally located since they have people who come from all different states. The good thing about it is that they are paying to rent the building and of course security will be on staff.

**It sounds like you have been seeing some issues with parents driving in the bus loop...**

That's right. We have a sign posted right there, but I guess the parents just don't see it or get to thinking they can



ignore it.

From 8:15 through 8:45, no cars are permitted in that parking lot. For one thing it is for kids safety. Another thing is it is against the law. You can't pass a bus that has its red lights and stop sign out.

**Advice for AP students?**

Just get plenty of rest and study!

**Anything else?**

Just one reminder for students who go off campus in the afternoon or morning before or after school. Our building is located in the city and we do have to deal with city problems. Students need to stick together and be mindful of their surroundings.

*Q&A with Danny Yates on April 29, 2009.*

# Letter to the Editor: We the People News in Brief

Dear Editor,

I recently had the privilege of watching Maggie Walker's We the People Team XII compete in the program's National Finals in Washington, D.C. The team did an exemplary job in all respects; they were enthusiastic competitors well-versed in the pertinent constitutional principles and respectful of the judges and program staff. In short, they were outstanding representatives of both the Maggie Walker community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As an alumnus of the We the People program, I know the intense emotions and pressures that come with the National Finals, and I am so very proud of Team XII for facing these challenges with excellence and poise.

Not only did they offer a brilliant performance to the judges, parents, supporters and spectators at the competition, but they also garnered an enhanced understanding and appreciation for our Constitution that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

I hope that everyone at MLWGS has the opportunity to personally offer these students well-deserved congratulations.

All the best,

Matt A. Kiehl '06  
We the People Team IX, Unit V



## We The People Team Take Top 10 Spot in National Finals

The MLWGS We The People team made the top ten teams at the national finals at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott and competed in Washington, D.C. The competition, which tests student's knowledge of the constitution, was being held April 25-27.

The all senior team came in first place at the state competition on February 7. The students made it through the weekend rounds, and they advanced to the round of ten at the U.S. House office buildings on Monday, April 27. MLWGS did not make the top three, with teams from Colorado, Alabama, and California taking the top spots.

This is the first year that Mr. McGuire has taught the We The People class, as it has been previously been taught by Mr. Phil Sorrentino. The class is in its 12th year at MLWGS.

# The Renewed and Improved Baseball Team

The first Maggie L. Walker Baseball Team to rack up a winning record in the coming year might be none other than the current team. It has been a record year for the Walker Baseball Team, though that must be said with a degree of qualification.

The Dragons have in the past consistently won only one or two games during the span of a season, but this year with the new line up of juniors and seniors, it has become a formidable team and has racked up a record of 3 wins and 7 defeats with many more games left in the season.

What's different this year? Well, everything. The hiring of Meade Langhorne as the new coach has led to the inception of a new team.

“What's different this year? Well, everything.”

Included in Coach Langhorne's well rounded resume are experiences playing for the Kansas City Royals, distinctions gained from being a part of ECAC All-Conference Team, and other experiences coaching in the Richmond Area.

The team has a new line up with Greg Dowd as catcher, Joey Surma at 1<sup>st</sup>/ right field, Will Teller at Left Field,



New MLWGS Baseball Coach Meade Langhorne. Photo from [www.richmondbaseballinstructors.com/](http://www.richmondbaseballinstructors.com/)

Ryan Polk as 3<sup>rd</sup>/ catcher, Collin Blackburn as shortstop/pitcher, Lloyd Blake as center field/ pitcher, Jake Davis as shortstop/ 2<sup>nd</sup>/ pitcher, Walter Goethel at Center field/2<sup>nd</sup>, Drew Fallen at first base, Will Robbins as right fielder. According to players, another game altering change that has been made this year is the call for "actual practices".

“I wouldn't say I'm a difference maker. I pitched horribly especially in the last two weeks. Since errors make difference, the team is full of difference makers.”

The revamped baseball team has been able to make solid routine defensive plays this year. Lacking, though, are other aspects of the team. "We tend to do badly on the mound or at the plate," says Jake Davis, one of the pitchers for the team.

"I wouldn't say I'm a difference maker. I pitched horribly especially in the last two weeks. Since errors make difference, the team is full of difference makers," said Jake on the topic of himself and other game changing stars of the team.

Though often too humble to entertain the thought of being the x-factor on the team, Jake has pitched spectacularly during the opening games of the year, offering only one or two bats during the course of some games. Will Teller and Collin Blackburn have also helped the game tremendously through a series of amazing dives and catches. In one play Will Teller ran on the warning track at Deep Run and caught what would have been a double.

Though inconsistent, the reorganized and reenergized baseball team is showing a renewed rigor previously unseen from the Baseball Team. "We are in position to win some big games this year that's why everyone needs to stay fully committed," says Walter Goethel.

Story by Tony Sun

# News in Brief

## MLWGS Music Performs in Williamsburg

A group of MLWGS Music Department students performed in the "Festivals of Music-Williamsburg" Festival on April 25 and 26, winning four group awards and an individual award. The overnight trip also included a day at Busch Gardens and a 2 hour dinner cruise.

The awards included first place for jazz band and orchestra, a choral excellence award, and the Esprit De Corps Award. Laura Tait (09) won the Outstanding Vocalist award.

"The [best] part of the trip itinerary was that I got to stay over with some [of] my best friends," said John Maggi (12), a jazz band student who attended the festival. "While the musical experience was fun, I enjoyed a weekend with my classmates."

The MLWGS Music Department presented "Music in the Movies" as their spring concert, with the jazz ensembles on April 29 and the orchestra and chorus on April 30. For the first time, professional audio recordings were made available for purchase.

## Dodgeball Finals Today

It's progress as usual at the Maggie Walker Dodgeball Tournament. We've seen our fair share of commotion and excitement from the annual tournament from the game changing "substitutions" that took place during the game between TAI and Showtime to the ostentatious Asia themed and Crispy Cream hats.

The Jabberwock is three for four in its predictions as USCT, Ballaholics, T.A.I., and Masta Killa Death Squad are advancing to the Semi-Finals. We predict that Ballaholics and T.A.I. will advance to the finals with T.A.I. winning the tournament.

# On My Honor, I Have Neither...

In 1993, a group of Governor's School students unveiled a revolutionary new proposal to school administrators. Inspired by systems at U.Va. and Washington & Lee University, they concocted an honor code for the infant GSGIS program, one that is still in use today.

The most current form of the Honor Code is manifested in a nine-page long document that explicitly describes the honor pledge and the workings of the Honor Council.

"Few people realize it, but we have a very elaborate constitution and an elaborate system of bylaws," said Mr. John Wilkes, Honor Council Faculty Sponsor. "It's an ever-evolving process."

Ms. Joy Davis, the counselor for sophomores and juniors, said that the honor system at MLWGS was probably more effective than at other schools she had worked at, adding that she had a very positive impression of the Honor Council.

**Usually, in other schools, guilt is assumed. It's an open and shut case.**

"Students are held accountable to their peers and teachers," she said.

MLWGS students had mixed views on the honor system.

"I like the honor system. I'm a big fan of it," said Nitya Rao (09). Like other students, however, her knowledge of the council is minimal. "I understand why, but we don't really know what goes on," she said.

"[The council] can be very biased," said Marcos Garcia (00). "It's students trying students." Garcia expressed concerns that issues of popularity and other irrelevant matters might play a role in council decisions.

"You can never really put full confidence into a person," he said.

Peter Askin (09) said that the council did not have much influence over how honor violations were dealt with.

"If you lie and cheat on a test, you'll

still get punished. I think if I got in trouble and the Honor Council wanted to let me off, the administration wouldn't let them."

Many other schools in the Richmond area have different methods of dealing with honor.

Kaitlin Moore, a student at Appomattox Regional Governor's School, described a much more relaxed environment at the Petersburg school.

"We're just sort of expected to [remain honorable]," she said. "There's no official pledge, but honest intent is assumed and teachers are expected to deal with issues individually."

"A lot of people, they don't even think about cheating," said Moore.

The IB program at Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond takes a slightly more serious tack. An official pledge is required on most written assignments.

"I think [honor] is pretty well maintained within the IB program," said Madison Clark, an IB TJ student. "We have small instances every so often, but it's not a constant thing."

Mills Godwin High School in Henrico allows faculty members to deal individually with honor problems.

"Each teacher really has their own method of disciplinary action," said Godwin student Carey Gibbens. He went on to say that there was "not very much" disregard for honor at the school.

"I mean, there might be the occa-

sional 'What did you get for this answer?' but I haven't seen any hardcore cheating," said Gibbens.

Of all the schools in the Greater Richmond area, perhaps the one with an honor system most similar to that at MLWGS is Collegiate. According to Collegiate student Alden Gregory, the school's policy includes a detailed honor code, a pledge required for all written work, and a student-run honor council.

"There's not a lot of times that

**I would say we do get people before us who seem genuinely changed by the**

[violations] go to the Honor Council, but they try to keep it quiet so there's not any drama," said Gregory.

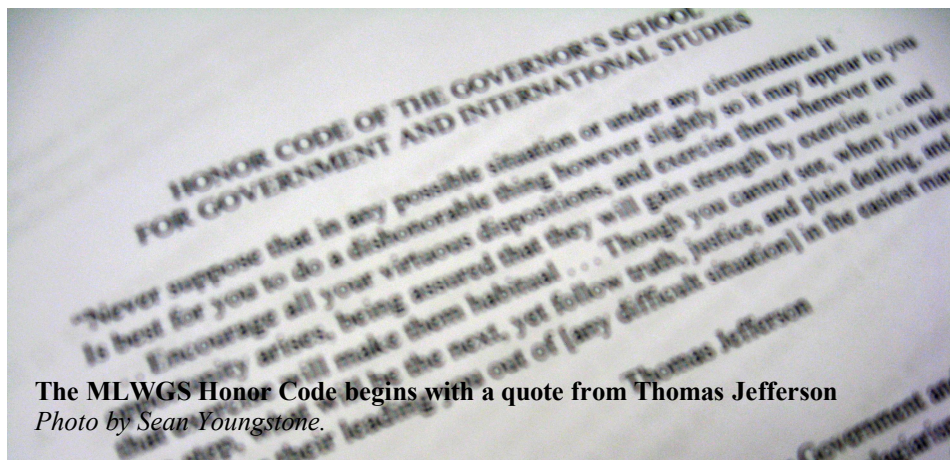
Leaf Elhai (09), Honor Council member, said that the best part of the MLWGS honor system was "the fact that students are given a say."

"Usually, in other schools, guilt is assumed. It's an open and shut case," she said. At MLWGS, however, students are "not assumed guilty automatically."

Elhai says that she has witnessed the benefits of the system first hand.

"I would say we do get people before us who seem genuinely changed by the process," she said.

*Story by Sean Youngstone*



The MLWGS Honor Code begins with a quote from Thomas Jefferson  
Photo by Sean Youngstone.

# Back to the... Present

Many people would agree a good movie will make you laugh or cry. But what if a movie made you laugh so hard you cried? Such a reaction is inescapable during *17 Again*.

Mike O'Donnell (Zac Efron/Matthew Perry) was a high school basketball superstar. Twenty years later, Mike has a terrible job and is going through a divorce with his high school sweetheart Scarlet (Allison Miller/Leslie Mann). One morning, he wakes up to be seventeen again, but is still living in the present.

As he pretends to be the son of his best friend, Ned Gold (Thomas Lennon), he goes to school with his kids, Maggie (Michelle Trachtenberg) and Alex (Sterling Knight). While he begins to try to get to know them better, he is also still trying to get his wife back, which is harder than it seems, especially as a seventeen year old.

Ok. I can't tell you this movie was great. In terms of the acting and the plot, it was nothing amazing. Yet it was one of the funniest movies I have seen in ages and absolutely worth seeing.

It wasn't one of those -so-stupid-it's-funny movies either. It was a legitimately funny film and had viewers laughing so hard they were even crying. Every person came out of the theater quoting the movie and will continue to do for weeks. It was just that type of film.

The actors in the film were perfectly cast. It was great to see Efron put aside his mic and dancing shoes and join the real world of movies. He certainly seems to have found a new niche in the cinema with teen comedies. Also, some of the side characters, such as Ned, were absolutely hysterical and probably the best part of the whole film. From his sci-fi obsessions to his hilarious, wannabe cool lines, it would have been worth seeing the movie for Ned alone.

Efron was also funny as many of his lines came from his experience as a father and therefore drew many awkward stares from all those around him. Heroically, he took on Stan (Hunter Parrish), the school's bully and Maggie's boy-

friend, and became his son's best friend, while on his quest to get to know them better. Yet being twenty years out of practice, it took some time to adjust to the norm in high school and try to fit in again.

Surprisingly, it strayed far from the realm of the Disney movies that Efron and Trachtenberg have been associated with for so long. It truly is a teen movie and will certainly be enjoyed by viewers everywhere. However, younger fans of High School Musical who expect to see Efron dancing around with a musical ensemble may want to reconsider seeing this film, as it does live up to its PG-13 rating.

It's not easy to pinpoint good aspects of the movie, and the majority of the elements (plot, special effect, etc.) were mediocre at best. However, if you do not expect to go out and see a great movie, it is easy to just enjoy the movie as it is and soak in all of the unexpected humor.

When it all comes down to it, *17 Again* was just an all around feel good, witty movie. It is simply impossible not to enjoy, and although it is not destined for an Oscar, it is definitely worth seeing. Without a doubt everyone will get at least one, if not many, good laughs.

Review by Brie Cifu



Mike, who is 17 again, tries to re-connect with Scarlet. Photo from [static.stuff.co.nz/1239861905/406/234](http://static.stuff.co.nz/1239861905/406/234)

**Rating: (Out of 4)**



## News

*Continued from page 1*

The PTSA gave Mr. Hunt a Visa gift certificate, as well as wine glasses emblazoned with the dragon logo. The Foundation awarded Mr. Hunt with a plaque. Some of the gifts, however, were given as jokes.

Mr. Hunt also received a toy plastic shield and sword, to, as Ms. Bronner said, "Defend his lair in case it was attacked." He was also given a stuffed green dragon, to keep him company, in addition to a book of word-searches and needles and yarn, so that he had something to do in retirement.

The ceremony concluded when Mr. Hunt, accompanied by his wife Brenda Hunt, cut the cake, which was specially made to have a caricature of Mr. Hunt on the icing.

To provide entertainment after the ceremony, the Lounge Lizards, MLWGS's renowned faculty band, performed a series of songs including "Knock on Wood" by Eddie Floyd, and "Walking the Dog" by Rufus Thomas.

Along with parents and faculty, several alumni attended the event. Along with Ms. Ashley Sawyer, Christopher Lin (05) also attended the party.

"Mr. Hunt helped me a lot when I was at GSGIS," said Mr. Lin. "I am here] for what he did for me."

While many parents are happy for Mr. Hunt that he is retiring, they say that they are going to miss having him as director.

In lieu of gifts from individuals, guests made donations to the Foundation in Mr. Hunt's name. The event raised over seven thousand dollars for the Field House.

"Everyone deserves to retire. It takes a special person to come out of retirement to work for seven more years when he was officially hired as an interim director," said Ms. Deborah Sawyer, MLWGS parent and former PTSA president.

"For my own selfish reasons, I wish that he could stay around for another two more years! Although he is retiring, I know he will always have a special place in his heart for this school."

# Monsters v. Aliens

## Unexpected Hilarity

Have you ever seen a cockroach? Have you ever played DDR? Have you ever attempted to crack a code? Probably yes. However, have you ever seen a cockroach trying to crack a code by playing DDR? Probably not.

Surprisingly hilarious are the two words I would use to describe the movie *Monsters vs. Aliens*. For a movie that seems so child-oriented, it has a second personality hardly expressed in any of the trailers.

From the almost comic book-type action to the role of Stephen Colbert as the president, *Monsters* appears as if it were made for children and young adults.

When I walked into the theater, I was expecting a boring, run-of-the-mill children's fable. However, after only a few minutes, I fell in love with the movie.

If you're debating about whether or not to see it in 3D, my advice is to go for the regular 2D version. Aside from one scene at the beginning, 3D vs. 2D makes very little difference. It's not worth the extra few bucks for the 3D glasses.

The movie begins with a

**For a movie that seems so child-oriented, it has a second personality hardly expressed in any of the trailers.**

woman named Susan (voiced by Reese

Witherspoon) about to marry her fiancé, Derek (voiced by Paul Rudd). It's apparent after only a few minutes with him that he's the arrogant, annoying, obnoxious, selfish jerk who no one really likes, and who you know is going to get dumped in the end.

In my opinion, this was the only really annoying part. This relationship seemed to do very little for the overall plot of the story. Its only real purpose was to show the character development of Susan, using what she thinks of Derek at the beginning, middle, and end to show her personality changes. This subplot didn't really require the amount of screentime and importance it received.

Anyway, after getting hit by a large, glowing meteorite on her wedding day (yeah, that seriously happened), Susan stumbles into her wedding and quickly grows to 20 times her normal size. And, surprisingly, her wedding dress still fits. She's then taken to a secret facility in California, where the real fun starts to happen.

Susan receives the name *Ginormica*, given to her by the all-too-cliché General W. R. Monger (voiced by Kiefer Sutherland), and meets a few very colorful monsters.

Among them are Dr. Cockroach (voiced by Hugh Laurie), a human-sized-mad-scientist cockroach, the Missing Link (voiced by Will Arnett), half man, half amphibian, and B.O.B. (voiced by Seth Rogen), a big blue glob of goo with one eye and no brain.



*The Missing link, Dr. Cockroach, and B.O.B. meet Susan's parents. Photo courtesy of www.starpulse.com.*

Because all kid movies need a bad guy, Gallaxhar (voiced by Rainn Wilson) is an oversized purple squid-alien with the personality of a bratty teenager. He wants the energy inside Susan's body to make his vast empire of squid-alien clones.

The plot was expected,

**You know what's going to happen, but you can't wait to see how it happens.**

but it was the little things that made it exciting. It's the kind of movie where you know what's going to happen, but you can't wait to see how it happens. It sounds a little strange to be talking about an animated movie with such excitement, but it honestly deserves the praise.

*Monsters* takes many elements from other movies and parodies them. Insectosaurus, a giant bug even larger than Susan, is a spinoff from all those giant-monster-

terrorizing-Tokyo horror movies. Also, B.O.B. was apparently taken from the old horror film, *The Blob*.

In addition to these elements, there are some others from multiple notable movies: a mad scientist, an unexpected president, the Missing Link, and an alien looking to destroy the Earth.

One very notable example of the humor is the president, who has the personality and voice of Stephen Colbert. Plus, Gallaxhar's ship was so intimidating that all Dr. Cockroach had to say was "O.M.G.ö

Because of its clever humor, "Monsters" appears to have been made for MLWGS students.

So, don't be scared off by the seemingly-childish nature, or all the scary monsters. The movie is actually the best animated film I've seen in a long time.

Story by Alex Bergman

**Rating:**  
(Out of Four)



# Dodgeball

