



2017 Homecoming Edition

The Bear Facts

AND THE WINNER IS...

Emily Brenek

One of the numerous traditions practiced at Delran High School is that of the nomination of Homecoming Court and the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen. To the students of DHS, the Homecoming court isn't a popularity contest, but an opportunity to acknowledge those who go above and beyond to help support the community. The nominees for Homecoming King 2017 were Vincent Nocito, Shannon Glover, Roy Kerstetter, Braydon Hunter, and Brendan Strauss while the nominees for Homecoming Queen were Kelly Mesisca, Hannah Klein, Elizabeth Fayer, Christina Cauley, and Grace Pelagatti. All of these students are exceptional people who stand out amongst their peers for very specific reasons.



The introduction to the Homecoming Court during pep rally was exciting as always. Nominees were called out in pairs and made outrageous, energy filled, comedic entrances to rev up the crowd. Up first, president of the class of 2018, Braydon Hunter, danced alongside a toga clad Christina Cauley. Braydon is the President of the Transition Project, and participates in both Cross Country and Track and Field. His future plans involve attending an in-state university and obtaining a Bachelor's degree in business or accounting. Christina Cauley is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), a cross country runner, and a varsity lacrosse player. Her future plans are to attend a four year university, majoring in Biology or Engineering, and then attending a graduate school.

Next up, Vice President of the Class of 2018, Vincent 'Vinnie' Nocito, received thunderous applause from the crowd when he caught Elizabeth 'Lizzy' Fayer and held her in the air in the *Dirty* Dancing inspired leap and lift. Vinnie is a member of NHS, and is a varsity soccer and lacrosse athlete. Vinnie plans on attending a four year college, and majoring in software engineering, as well as playing soccer at the collegiate level. Lizzy is also a member of NHS, and manages boys varsity lacrosse in the spring. She currently works at the Delran Saladworks as an Employee-Supervisor. Her future plans are to attend a four year university, go to medical school, and become a pediatrician.

They followed the Corresponding Secretary for the class of 2018, Roy Kerstetter, carrying cross country runner, Hannah Klein, on his shoulders to a roaring gymnasium. Roy was nominated by his team to be a captain of the Varsity Football team. Roy works at The Meadows in Delran, and he volunteers for the Delran Athletic Association as a referee for flag football and hockey. He plans on attending a four year university and majoring in accounting. Klein is a member of Student Council, Animal Lover's Club, and she is also an employee at Little Kickers. After high school, Hannah plans on attending a four year university, and majoring in Early Childhood and Special Education.

Then, Recording Secretary of the Student Council Executive Board, Shannon Glover, sped on by next to Grace Pelagatti, Vice President of NHS, in a pink, mini Barbie Jeep to the blaring sound of Ridin Dirty, causing some in the audience to get their groove on. Shannon belongs to both the German and Film Club, and works at Delran Five Below. His fu-

ture plans include attending Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC), and majoring in Business. Grace is a peer leader in the Transition Project, a Varsity swimmer, and a life-guard at Riverdel Swim Club. She intends on attending a four year university, and majoring in biomedical engineering.

Anticipation began to build before the Homecoming court took the floor to perform in their annual dance routine. To conclude the introduction of the Homecoming court, National Honor Society President, Brendan Strauss, strutted alongside the Secretary of NHS, Kelly Mesisca. Brendan is the Cross Country Team Captain, and participates in Varsity Basketball and Baseball. His future plans include attending a four year university, majoring in business, and then pursuing a degree in law. Kelly is a three sport Varsity athlete in Cross Country, Swimming, and Track and field. She is also a member of the Teen Advisory Council for Ronald McDonald House of South Jersey. Kelly's future plans are to major in nursing and become a nurse anesthetist.



On Saturday, October 14th, moments before the class of 2021 took the field, the Homecoming court nominees were announced. The previous Homecoming Queen title holder, Shannon Croly, returned home to Delran from Boston College to crown the 2017 Homecoming King and Queen. The Homecoming Queen nominees were escorted down the track by the Homecoming King nominees. Ms. Carey gained the attention of the entire stadium and stated: And now to crown the Homecoming King and Queen. Vinnie Nocito and Grace Pelagatti. The stadium erupted into applause. Pelagatti commented on her win saying, "I am honored to have received this title and I appreciate everyone who took part in me getting there. It truly is something I'll cherish forever." The Homecoming Court nominees are excellent representations of the average Delran Student, and Grace and Vinnie truly exemplify what it means to be stand-out, exceptional students and people. *The Bears Facts* staff would like to congratulate the nominees as well as the winners of Homecoming 2017!



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DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Bear Facts

CLASS OF 2021

Cameron Fitzpatrick

Delran Homecoming is one of the most special times of the year. No school does Homecoming like Delran. When the class of 2021 came into this year's Homecoming, they were thrilled but also anxious, not knowing what to expect- a typical feeling for freshmen. When the theme of toy brands was announced, they chose to represent Legos as their class' brand. While they were newbies to the concept of Homecoming, they were aware of the endless opportunities that could come of this brand. In order to make a run to get the stick, class advisors Mr. Marter and Mrs. Lucidi as well as class officers, President Serafina Carrola, Vice President Scott Porreca, and Recording Secretary Mary Lane had to boldly lead the way for this batch of newcomers. The freshmen knew they had to "trust the process" if they wanted to win it all.

Spirit Week did not quite get off to the start the freshmen were looking forward to. The flashes of their class color, green, on Color Day were not enough as they ranked fourth. Philly Sports Day did not go as anticipated either as they ranked as the lone class left out of a three-way tie for first. After their rough start, they bounced back in a big way on Wednesday by ranking first in College Logo Day with 100% participation and second place for their banner. Their rough run during Spirit Week continued on Theme Day when they once again finished last.

The freshmen approached the most exciting day of Spirit Week, Freaky Friday and Pep Rally, lagging behind on the scoreboard. Wearing their class t-shirts that made reference to the 76ers by quoting "trusting the process," they came in ready to make some noise. Their chant, a knockoff of the top charted song "Bodak Yellow" by Cardi B, parodied the more memorable lyrics making refer-



ences to "making money moves" and "bloody shoes" in order to get the spirit stick. The frosh definitely got into the spirit but could not seem

to keep up with the upperclassmen, placing last for Pep Rally.

The class of 2021 came into Saturday eager to impress. After putting hours of time into their float and skit, they obviously wanted

to make a strong impression on the judges. Their float, which they received third place honors for, featured big Legos blocks, Lego figures they had constructed, and a helicopter. It also featured a thoughtful tribute to the late, beloved Delran lacrosse and swim coach, Mr. Bob Cristella, with the letters "BC"



spelled out in brown and gold on the float. Their skit followed the story of Lego city and demonstrated how the groups of construction workers, police officers, ninjas, and other Lego groups came together to get the spirit stick from the opposing toy brands. As solid as their skit was, the judges ranked them fourth once again.

After some tough deliberation, the judges finally had their scores. Before announcing the overall standings of the classes, they notably ranked the freshmen first in attendance at the Homecoming football game and second for the parade banner. Then, the big announcement came. After a great collaborative effort by the class of 2021, the judges gave them third place with 1762 total points, only a slim fifty-nine points ahead of the fourth-place sophomores.

When all was said and done, it was not a bad week for the class of 2021. For being newbies to the whole concept of Homecoming, they did impressively well. They have a lot of time to make the most out of the next three years they have at Delran. Their future looks bright, and they could easily be a threat for the stick over the next few years. In the end, they just have to remember to work together and to always "trust the process."



Sophomore Slump?

Matt Lubicky

The sophomore slump is a well-known Homecoming term to only those who go to Delran. Sophomores, time and time again, seem to regress from gains made the previous year. Why does this occur? One of the most popular assumptions is that this slump could be due to the novelty of celebrating their first Homecoming freshman year and the excitement it brings burning out. The class of 2020 had a goal to avoid the slump and *bounce back from last year and their fourth place finish.*

The theme had been announced and the class learned that it would have to pick a toy company for their individual theme, so the sophomore student council got to work. After much discussion; the class of 2020 decided on the Hasbro toy company. With this, they were done playing games and were ready to turn things around and make a comeback.

The sophomores started the week off with a bang finishing with 100% participation for both color day and Philadelphia sports day, claiming first place points for both days. The sophomores seemed like a legitimate threat. "Our class seemed more motivated towards the beginning of Spirit Week," said Vice President of 2020, Connor Shanahan.



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Continued from page 2, *Soph*

After a strong start, a series of unfortunate events unfolded as their rankings rapidly spiraled downwards. Their participation in Spirit Week collapsed, and they finished in the bottom half in key competitions, such as banner and pep rally. The sophomores truly contributed to the zoo-like atmosphere during the pep rally. 2020 wore their white and red BOOST! themed shirts. In addition, their chant consisted of their own version of the song, "Bounce Back" by Big Sean, stating in the chant that "last year [they] took an L, but now we bounce back." The sophomore's "tag team" with the seniors was clearly in full effect on Friday during the pep rally. Teaming up with chants and the passing of the spirit stick were good examples of how the two grade levels hoped to outmaneuver the freshmen and juniors out of the spotlight. Unfortunately, the "tag team" proved to be successful for only one half of the team. 2020 landed in third behind the winning seniors and second place juniors.

The sophomores, whose strong start that seemed to dwindle during the week, refused to lose hope and came into Saturday with something to prove. The float rolled up early in the morning, and it looked tremendous. Their float consisted of Spider-Man shooting his web onto a ginormous Connect 4 board. On the back of their float was an operation of a bear taking place. Despite their great efforts, their float would end up only in 4th place. That left them with one final hope: the skit.

The Sophs were ready to perform what they had been practicing throughout the week. It began with another example of the "tag team" as Mattel (seniors) and Hasbro (sophomores) characters attempted to take down Nintendo (juniors) and Lego (freshman) characters in an intense tournament of Connect 4. An enlarged version of the game rolled up, and the teams began to put their pieces in. During the "tournament" the toys realized that they were missing pieces to the game; however, this realization led to their learning the true message of Spirit Week: it's not about winning, it's about "connecting" with the people around you. During the search for missing pieces, the toys paid homage to veterans with representations of G.I. Joe. The seniors also received a shout out in the form of a huge banner from Barbie and Ken. Chris Pappas, the president of 2020, played Ken and was one of the students who presented the seniors with the banner. In the end, the sophomore's skit ended up taking third place, and they finished overall in 4th.

In the midst of some unfortunate distractions, such as the controversial missing senior sign and the exposing of information over social media, the sophomores stuck through it and displayed tremendous camaraderie, respect, and leadership. The class of 2020 was able to grasp onto what Homecoming is truly about, coming together as a class. They are excited to continue to learn from past experiences in order improve in the coming years and put an end to the slump.



Get 'Em Next Time, Boys

Tim Sharpley, Editor In-Chief

The Delran Bears varsity football team suffered a tough loss in their homecoming game to Burlington City on October 13th. Ending with a final score of 46-22, the boys continued their struggle throughout the game as Burlington City maintained a consistent lead. The dagger to the Bears was running back, Jimmy Browne, as he ran for 230 yards and twenty-four carries and crossed the end zone three times. Burlington City's other running back, Jamir Spencer Smith, had a pair of touchdowns while wide receiver, D.J. Woodbury, had four catches for fifty-two yards, and a touchdown. Delran's defense struggled against the run, as the stats show, and the Burlington City offense capitalized on the team's weakness.

Delran quarterback, Dustin Desher, stayed shifty throughout the game as he kept the ball seven times, running for thirty-three yards, and scoring a touchdown in the first quarter. On the passing side, Desher completed four passes out of nine attempts and threw for a total of seventy-four yards with two picks. Delran coughed the ball up twice to Burlington City, which means that the offense had four total turnovers. Running back, Dominic Betters, ran in for a twelve yard touchdown in the second quarter. Betters ended up with twenty-one total yards on seven carries, proving that Burlington City's linebackers were able to contain Delran's run game. Burlington City had thirty total first downs as opposed to Delran who had nine total first downs. Place kicker, Eren Ibas, converted all attempted extra points, which played as a huge confidence booster for the Bears.

While it was a disappointing finish to such a well attended game, the Delran community must not forget that going into the game, Burlington City's record was 4-0 and Delran's was 2-2. The Bears were the clear underdogs, and when the opposing team performs well on both sides of the ball like Burlington City did, a tip of the cap is all a player can do. Throughout the game, the Bears were plagued with injuries, which hurt the team considerably. Because of this, though, the moral of the Bears cannot be questioned. Despite the many setbacks, the Delran boys never threw in the towel, which is all a spectator (wearing black) could ask for. Keep grinding, boys, there is still time left in the season.





DELTRAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Bear Facts

2019 Does It Again

Rachel Sofroney

In 2015, the Class of 2019 took home a win at their first Homecoming, and have been dedicated to winning ever since. The passion and hard work that the junior class embodies was evident not only when you walked into their site, but also on the field when they performed in front of the Delran community. The class of 2019, led by advisors Mrs. Spera and Mr. Blenderman, chose Nintendo for their “toy company” theme this year and judging by the results, this was an excellent decision. .

Spirit Week began on a very positive note for the juniors with a win, tying for first on Color Day alongside the sophomores with 100% participation. Philly Sports Day followed, also granting 2019 with a 100% participation, earning them a three way tie for first place with the sophomores and seniors. On College Logo Day, the juniors placed second to the freshmen, but prevailed after winning banner for the first time in their Homecoming history. Another first place win was granted on Theme Day the following day.

Freaky Friday was an absolute hit for the juniors as they became transformed into clowns, modeling their style based on the infamous Stephen King classic "IT." Some students embodied the full Pennywise the Clown look, entering school with gruesome clown makeup, fake bloody handprints on their bodies, and carrying red balloons. Their pep rally shirts were black and the front had red lettering stating, "Juniors Are IT." The back of the shirt showcased a picture of a red balloon with a spirit stick tied to the string with the phrase “Fear Us” emblazoned in the bal-



loon. 2019 brought high levels of energy and excitement to pep rally, cheering and chanting loudly. They performed their chant this year to Future’s *Mask Off*. The junior class came in second for pep rally, just one point shy of first place. Later that night, the junior class came to support the Bears in their blackout-themed Homecoming game, earning second place for participation. The juniors placed first in Spirit Week overall, which was their first time winning Spirit Week.

After a long week of preparation, the big day had finally come. It was Saturday, October 14th - the final day of Homecoming, where floats would be shown off, skits would be performed, and most importantly, the winners of Homecoming 2017 would be announced. The Homecoming parade began featuring every grade and the floats that they had created over the past week. The junior class walked third in the parade alongside their float, the front of which was modeled to look like a Nintendo DS console. The rest of the float featured a huge Donkey Kong riding in a Mario Kart complete with a fog machine to model car exhaust, a Mario popping out of a green tube, and the back reading “Wii Nintendo Winning.” The class was full of smiles and loud cheers during their walk to the high school to perform. The juniors took the field, forming the number 19 as tradition, and exploded with excitement as Ms. Carey announced, “2019, are you ready?” Their skit featured many different aspects of Nintendo, such as the *Super Mario Brothers*, *Pokemon*, *Legend of*



Zelda, *Mario Kart*, and *Just Dance*. It was a hit as characters from other grades’ toy companies, such as Barbie, Mr. Potato Head, and the Lego Man, “bully” Luigi, while Mario shows him respect and camaraderie by fighting off the bullies. Mario then travelled through the different Nintendo games, after the villain Bowser stole the spirit stick and Princess Peach from him. Ending the skit, the entire class performed a group dance modeling the *Just Dance* game to *Never Gonna Give You Up* by Rick Astley.

The score between the juniors and seniors was close this year, with only fifty-four points separating them from earning first and second place. Waiting to hear the outcome, students clutched each other’s hands on the football field in anticipation, yearning that Ms. Carey would announce their class’s name. Silence filled the air until the entire field erupted into cheers and screams when it was revealed that the 2017 Homecoming Champions were the junior class! After a long week of hard work, this was an incredibly rewarding feeling to the students, parents, family members, and advisors of 2019.

Junior, Taylor Hamilton, said it best: “We put a lot of hard work into Homecoming this year, and being able to win a second time was such an incredible feeling.” Of course, Homecoming would not be possible without the help of parents, volunteers, and student council. Everyone puts so much time and effort into perfecting every aspect of Homecoming for their class. “2019 is one big family,” said class president Makayla Heisler. “Whenever something has to be done, there are so many people willing to volunteer and work hard while they’re doing it.”



Homecoming is all about coming together with your grade level classmates, having fun, and creating something absolutely amazing within a short period of time. Each class gave their ultimate effort and performed incredibly, working to the best of their abilities the entire week. In the end, regardless of who wins, all that really matters is that everyone enjoys themselves! It is often stated by Delran students, staff, and alumni that wherever you go, you will never find another town who does Homecoming like Delran. It is truly an honor to be a

Delran Bear, as well as to be able to take part in such a fun and different school tradition that will be alive for years to come. Congratulations to every class this year!



DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL

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SIGNING OFF, THE CLASS OF 2018

Alexis Hopkins

For the senior class, no matter what year, their last Homecoming is always bittersweet. As the students go into it, they are well aware that it's their last Homecoming together and that can bring sadness, but there are also a lot of perks that come with it. Seniors earn the right to participate in things like toga day, senior tailgate, putting up special signs, and many other things. For the class of 2018, this added another layer to the fun that comes with participating in Homecoming at Delran.

Homecoming 2017 kicked off with the announcement from Mr. Finkle informing the school of this year's theme, toy companies, seniors selected Mattel. They started the celebration with "Freaky Friday" on the Friday before Spirit Week. Everyone in the class of 2018 dressed up in crazy costumes. Some of the more-notable costumes included a tribute to the late Hugh Hefner and the character named Eleven from *Stranger Things*. Dozens of people sported outrageous socks that came in many different colors and prints. The senior class really embraced the idea of "Freaky Friday" and helped to set a positive tone for the fun week to come.



Throughout Spirit Week, the seniors experienced some tension but found a way to work together to overcome obstacles as everyone agreed to focus more on having fun than actually winning. For senior class president, Braydon Hunter, there was one exception to this agreement. Hunter's big goal going into Homecoming this year was "to beat Gupta." For those unaware, Erin Gupta, the sister of a student within the junior class, helps to organize their skit, and has been influential in the class of 2019's successful presentations. The class of 2018 poured their hearts into their presentation and when their time came Saturday morning, Hunter and the rest of the senior class achieved their goal. Their emotional skit that told a story of growing up, using Mattel toys as characters, ending with them saying goodbye because it was time to "move on." The seniors not only achieved their goal to win "Best Skit," but also agreed that this was truly their best work yet out of the past four years.

Besides the emotional presentation, the seniors also managed another goal: unification. Although they finished second overall, the seniors came out of Homecoming as a tightly knit class who came together when they needed to. They had an amazing final Homecoming full of fun, laughter, and tears as the realization hit that their Homecoming days at Delran High School as participants were over. Some said that this was the best year yet, while others said that it was the highlight of their high school career, and many said that they made memories that will last a lifetime. As they move on in their last year of high school, the seniors' main goal was to have fun at their last Homecoming. If you were to ask any single one of them, they'll surely tell you that they did just that.

When students enter high school, they're always told that time flies by and that they should always cherish the moments they have during those four years. Freshman tend to ignore it because four years seems like such a long time, but for the class of 2018, they were hit with the realization that their time in high school is almost up. Time really does fly by too fast, but the seniors will leave in June 2018 knowing that they made the most of it and enjoyed every moment.



Together as One

The Bear Facts Editorial Board

In some schools, spirit week is relatively big, and other schools may not even publicize the fact that it's spirit week in school. Spirit week and homecoming at Delran, though, is a time that is significant to the high school and the whole town in general. A lot of students, as a result, become intensely involved because all the festivities are a once in a lifetime experience and many want to make it as special as possible. Most of this involvement is positive and wholesome, but there are a few students each year that become too competitive and cross the line between school spirit and healthy competition to just poor sportsmanship.

One of the many traditions within the school is the senior class creating a sign, typically out of bedsheets and paint, that goes along the lines of the homecoming theme tied in with the senior class. This sign covers the Delran High School sign - located by Conrow Road - for the week. Typically, the sign is made with paint by students, but this year the sign was donated by Garrison Architects. The traditional paint or spray paint was replaced with ink and the sign itself was made of a much thicker fabric than the traditional senior sign. The sign had "Senior's Toyland" printed across in pink Barbie font. The sign was exquisite, and the class of 2018 was proud of the new senior sign.

The sign was up for display before the official start of the spirit week festivities, which kicked off October 9th. The seniors, as well as many passersby, were impressed by how accurate the Barbie font was and appreciated the generosity of Garrison Architects. The next morning, many people had the expectation of being greeted by the senior sign, but to everyone's surprise, "Delran High School" was what read on the stone sign. The senior sign was nowhere to be found. Rumors and gossip flooded the halls, and many of the seniors who took pride in that sign were very disappointed.

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DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL

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2017 Homecoming Scoring Summary

Homecoming Scoring Sheet Summary ALL classes

FLOAT (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	76	78	75	74
Depicts Theme	74	78	74	76
Use of Color	74	78	68	73
Neatness	74	78	71	70
Float Description	76	74	73	72
Total	374	386	361	365

WINNER FLOATS

JUNIORS

Parade Banners (total possible points per category: 40)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Year/Class Name	34	37	28	32
Theme Well Displayed	34	36	29	33
Creativity	31	38	28	33
Neatness	33	35	26	31
Coordination with Float	34	39	32	39
Total	166	185	143	168

WINNER PARADE BANNER

JUNIORS

SKIRT (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	71	79	67	70
Use of Color	72	77	72	70
Overall appeal	73	79	70	72
Total	216	235	209	212

WINNER SKIRTS

JUNIORS

PRESENTATION (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	76	78	71	71
Originality	75	75	71	70
Music Fits Theme	75	77	71	68
Use of Props	77	74	72	63
Synchronized	76	74	68	64
Skit Description	77	75	70	72
Appropriate Costumes	75	78	74	76
Field Clean Up	73	79	78	78
Incorporation of Delran/Bears in theme	79	64	60	68
Total	683	674	635	630

WINNER PRESENTATION

SENIORS

Attendance at Football game

Place:	3rd	2nd	4th	1st
Total points awarded	20	30	10	40

Spirit Week Results

Total points awarded	433	436	345	347
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TOTAL 2017 HOMECOMING POINTS	1892	1946	1703	1762
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WINNER

JUNIORS CLASS OF 2019





DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL

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BANNERS

1st



2nd



3rd



4th

