



Scott High School ~ 400 Scott High Drive Huntsville, TN 37756 ~ 423/663-2801

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February 2008

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
18 NOSCHOOL Presidents' Day	19	20 Last Week for Yearbook Payments	21	22 Club Meetings - 1st period	3	4	5	6 Boys' Soccer @ York (scrim- mage), 6:00 EST	7
25	26	27	28	29 Last Deposit due for Senior Trip! Boys' Soccer Tournament @ Clinton, Sat., 3/1	10	11	12	13	14 Boys' Soccer @ H vs. Clinton, 5:30

## Young Voices Can Change the Nation

By Jenny Shelton & Andi Marie Tillman  
SHS Journalism Staff

Turning 18 includes many responsibilities; perhaps one of the most important is the right to vote. Many young voters do not completely understand the importance of making their voices heard. Encouraging people to vote is essential to the political process. If people do not vote, the government can overstep its boundaries. Each year, many comments are made about the government and how it is interfering in lives too much, or that it isn't helping enough. Statistics show that those people complaining are the same people who do not use their votes to influence. When young voters go to the poles, they often fret because they don't agree with everything the candidate says or wants. But, this is normal. The only way they could possibly agree with everything that is being said or promised is if they run themselves. The purpose is to choose a candidate whose core values and goals are similar to those of the voter.

The Democratic candidates usually appeal more to the young voters. Younger individuals are often pushing more for change

## It's not Reality...It's Birth Control

By Ashton Owens & Brittany Strunk  
SHS Journalism Staff

In today's society, teen relationships are glamorized. It's all dates and flowers, kisses and hugs, fun and excitement. Because of this, teens often grow up and don't realize the real responsibilities and sacrifices marriage and parenthood bring. NBC has a new reality show premiering on Monday, February 18, called "The Baby Borrowers" that will put teens in their future lives if they make the decision of staying together and becoming parents. NBC says this just may be another form of birth control.

Throughout the show, the teen couples will go through numerous phases of marriage and parenthood. The first phase begins by setting up a home, taking on a job, and preparing to become caring parents. To get ready for their baby, the teen couples attend prenatal classes and each mother has to wear an empathy belly. The empathy belly is a pregnancy simulator that lets the girls

and cultural progression. Young minds are focused on experimentation and risk. They are not as often focused on traditional values like that of the older generation. This is most likely why they tend to lean toward the more liberal Democratic Party. Since young voters make up 25% of the national electorate this year, they will likely work hard to ensure a Democrat is the next President.

However while many teens vote democratically, there are also young voters whose views are more conservative. With all the publicity going toward celebrity DUI's and the moral decline of the nation, many young voters might be looking for a stronger moral leader. Republican candidate, Mike Huckabee, has run a more belief-based rather than issue-based race. His ads are promoting pro-life and never settling for less than what your beliefs are.

Oftentimes, Presidential candidates tend to focus more on the thoughts of older voters rather than the new generation of young voters. Social Security and taxes are the main topics of debates and planning.

know what it feels like to be pregnant. It is a multi-component, weighted garment that will enable the teenage girls to experience over 20 symptoms and effects of pregnancy. Some common symptoms that the empathy belly causes are weight gain of 30 pounds, fetal kicking and stroking movements, shallow breathing and shortness of breath, increased blood pressure, pulse, and body temperature, bladder pressure and urination frequency, low backaches, waddling, fatigue, and irritability.

Before the teens know it, a real baby arrives at their door. The babies' natural parents volunteered their children for this experiment. But don't be alarmed. The natural parents are able to watch their children on a 24-hour live video at all times. This way, the natural parents can step in at any moment.

If candidates don't pay attention to the group of young voters, they will not show up at the polls. Young voters are interested in things that catch their eyes and grab their attention. One example of a presidential candidate who used this characteristic of the younger generation to his advantage was President Bill Clinton. He was the first candidate to be truly successful in rounding up the young voters and getting them to the polls. He did many things to appeal to young people such as appearing on The Arsenio-Hall Show and playing his saxophone. He knew the importance of getting the youth vote and claimed victory because of it.

This time around, presidential candidates and political strategists are starting to focus early on young voters. Perhaps the reason for this targeting is the steep incline in the number of young voters over the last 4 years by over 2 million. Because Democratic candidate Barack Obama is running as the "change agent", he is likely to entice many young voters. Obama is counting on a "youth quake" to bring him victory at the polls. In TIME's national survey, he has a 3 to 2 advantage over Hillary Clinton among young voters.

The true results were shown on Super Tuesday, February 5. Obama carried nearly 60% of voters ages 18-24 in the 22 voting states. While this helped him to win many states it wasn't enough in some. Tennessee, for example, announced that it was Hillary Clinton who took the majority of votes in the Democratic Primary with 54% and Mike Huckabee in the Republican Primary with 34%.

CONTINUED ON PG 3

**BASKETBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT**  
**Feb.14 -Feb.19**  
**Hosted by Anderson County**  
\*See inside for game schedules

# Who Do you Love?

By April Yust  
SHS Journalism Staff

This Valentine's Day couples all over the nation will be holding hands, sending flowers, going out to dinner, and just enjoying the beauty of love. But what is love, really? How do you know if the one you're with is really "the one" and not just a crush? If you think you've got the real thing then make sure the relationship has these three characteristics.

The three main qualities that contribute to being in love: attraction, closeness, and commitment. Relationships can be about any or all of these.

## Attraction

Attraction is the "chemistry" part of love. It's all about the physical interest people have in each other. Relationships that are based on attraction alone are usually more about the fun and infatuation rather than love. Conventional wisdom states that guys in their early teens have relationships based on physical attraction and guys in their later teens say that its based on the inner qualities. However, a survey showed that "conventional wisdom" doesn't mean all guys fall into that particular mold. As with the girls, a guy's looks can also attract the girls' attention, but in most cases girls typically emphasize on the importance of character. Juniors Ashley and Morgan say, "We have definitely had our fair share of crushes. We have also pursued the crushes, and have sometimes dated them. All of them have not turned out so happily. Some of them were even dated because of only the physical attraction. These types of relationships are not long term and are mostly just about the fun." Although the infatuation stage of a new relationship is extremely fun and thrilling, many people feel more connected to the person they're with after a while.

## Closeness

Closeness is the bond that a couple develops when they feel comfortable enough to share their thoughts and feelings which they probably would choose not to share with others. The connection between them deepens and strengthens, including important qualities such as trust, respect, and honesty. Having just a crush is completely different than love. A crush is a strong feeling of the physical attraction. Love is to trust, care, worry and have knowledge about each other more than anyone else. A crush is infatuation while love is someone who sticks by your side. Most of the time people grow close because of the same values and beliefs, or having

who mirror who they are, as a way of reaffirming the values, beliefs, actions, and opinions one has. However, closeness is not always about just things you have in common. The deeper bonds that are part of feeling really close to one another go beyond simply liking the same music, television shows, sports, or other superficial things. The absolute true closeness includes sharing similar beliefs and values. The closeness in a romance is like the one in a best friend relationship, the only difference being an added spark of extreme physical attraction. Andi Marie Tillman says, "I would best describe mine and Jacob's relationship as closeness. We share our deepest secrets with one another, and try to help each other in every way possible with situations in every day life. I love that he listens and understands me. Closeness is so important because it encourages a deeper commitment, and it brings forth a stronger attraction." Couples who connect often choose to deepen the relationship with commitment.

## Commitment

Commitment is loyalty. A couple who have decided to make a commitment, have chosen to stick with each other through anything. Honesty, faithfulness, and trust are all characteristics that are found in a commitment. Many want a partner who will be faithful without doing such things as looking around or cheating. Tracie Carson stated her views on commitment, comparing it to her and Chasery Sexton's relationship. She says, "We have a commitment to each other because we don't want to be without each other. There's a connection, and indescribable feeling, that keeps us together. We feel like we complete each other in every way possible. Without the other, it wouldn't be right. With this strong attraction and love, its important to be committed, so you're relationship can grow. You can build a trust between each other because trust is an important part of a commitment. When you're committed, you now that nothing can come between you and the one you love. You know that you can endure every trying time that comes your way. No relationship could ever last without being committed. It's the key part to any everlasting relationship."

Whatever one is currently looking for, relationships are a great way to learn about love and friendship. Current and past relationships result in wisdom. No matter the length, whether its days, weeks, months, or years, it all provides memories and maturity.

# Celebrity Crashers

By Kayla Watson  
SHS Journalism Staff

The pressure of stardom has a tremendous effect on today's athletes, politicians, and Hollywood stars. Their lives are viewed daily through all types of media such as television, newspapers, and magazines. It seems that every time they move, a camera is near by to capture all of the negative aspects of their daily routines. They are doomed for failure of some sort. For instance, let's review the most recent occurrences.

Actor Heath Ledger's death on January 22, 2008 was proof of the media's and public's short attention span. As soon as word broke on this tragedy, celebrity news shows and gossip columnist were speculating as to the cause of his death and digging for any "dirt" they could find. Celebrity-hounding is a big-bucks industry that is constantly in search of new grist for the mill.

However, recently what was business for the rest of the world was personal for many in East Tennessee. Exactly one week before Ledger's death, Knoxville native and fellow actor Brad Renfro from Blaine, Tennessee passed away at the age of 25 in his Los Angeles home. For friends and family, his death was a shock and tragedy, not just a news story.

In each case, speculation about drugs

as a factor in the deaths has run rampant, though perhaps with Renfro the discussion has been more intense because of his series of alcohol- and drug-related arrests. In general, the media seemed to have been kinder to Ledger focusing on his work and promise. With Renfro, the emphasis has been on his misdeeds.

Pop superstardom began for Britney Spears in 1998 when she sported Lolita-like pigtails and schoolgirl garb for "...Baby One More Time." Since then, she has become her own industry, generating record-shattering sales and iconic music videos and **p e r f o r m a n c e s .**

Several years later, she married backup dancer Kevin Federline, which produced two sons and a nasty 2006 divorce. Spears hit the party scene to an extreme and exhibited some bizarre behavior that led to a rollercoaster stint in rehab. While enduring a well-publicized custody battle with Federline, Spears broke under pressure, lost custody of her sons, and ended up in the hospital under mental lockdown.

Only in the last week has the "Britney Saga" taken another startling turn. On February 5<sup>th</sup> while most people in California were headed to the election poles, Britney Spears parents were headed into court to protect their daughter. Earlier in the week, Britney was hospitalized at UCLA Medical

## Use Teen Money Management to Enhance Math Skills

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A recent study showed that 62% of teenagers believe they're prepared to deal with the adult financial world after high school. It's great that today's teens are so confident about their money managing skills. But does your teen really know enough to survive in the real world?

The surveyed teens were less confident when it came to specific money management areas. Here are the facts-and ways you can teach your teens about these important areas (and improve their math skills along the way!):  
57% of teens knew how to compare prices for the best deal. Teach your teen how to figure out the best deal in the supermarket. Which is a better deal-the 16-ounce can of

soup or the 36-ounce can? Or use a calculator at home to find the best deals in catalogs or advertisements.

41% of teens said they knew how to budget money. Work with your teen to develop their weekly budget. Include categories for spending, such as lunch money or clothes, and also set aside some money in a savings account. Show him how you make your own budget.

Only 26% of teens understood how credit card interest and fees worked. Use a real-life example to explain this. "If you buy \$50 jacket on your credit card now, can't pay the bill this month, and have a 20% interest rate, how much will the jacket really cost you?"

Center a mental evaluation. Her father was given temporary legal control over her assets and the right to participate in her medical treatment.

While all celebrity mishaps aren't as tragic as Heath or Britney, they all seem to have serious consequences. Mischa Barton spoke out for the first time since her DUI arrest in November on the morning of December 27th. "Obviously I'm 100 percent responsible for my actions in this case," Barton, 21, told Ryan Seacrest's L.A. radio show Thursday morning, about her DUI arrest. "I'm really disappointed in myself. I don't know what to say about it, except that I'm not perfect, and I just don't ever intend to do something this stupid again."

Barton, who was also cited for not having a valid license when she was pulled over, added: "I didn't have a license. I grew up in New York, the land of people who don't have to drive. It's always been the toughest thing about living in L.A. for me. I usually try not to get behind the wheel."

So why should celebrities be under a spotlight and draw all of our attention to being the perfect role models for the teens of today? Shouldn't the responsibility rely on everyone? While everyone must be accountable for his/her actions, not everyone will have his/her worst day flashed across the screen for millions to see.

## **District Tournament Schedule**

**Thursday, February 14 :**

Play-in games  
6:00 PM; 7:30 PM

**Friday, February 15 & Saturday,  
February 16**

4:30 PM; 6:00 PM; 7:30 PM; 9:00  
PM

**Monday, February 18:**

Consolation games  
6:00 PM; 7:30 PM

**Tuesday, February 19:**

Championship games  
6:00 PM; 7:30 PM

## **Inside Fun on Winter Days**

By Joe Brooks  
SHS Journalism Staff

Although the outdoor conditions delay many exciting activities, the fun does not have to end. There are many fun things teens can occupy themselves inside their houses. Teens can watch newly released movies like Disney's *Ratatouille*, where a mouse helps a young, inexperienced cook become a head chef in Paris. Other movies that the family would enjoy are *The Comebacks*. *The Comebacks* is a comedic spoof that tells the story of an out-of-luck coach, Lambeau Fields, who takes a group of has-been college players and drives them towards the football championships. In the process, this life-long loser discovers that he is a winner after all by redeeming himself, saving his relationship with his family and friends, and finding that there is indeed no "I" in "team". Another good snow day movie is *Game Plan* where an NFL quarterback living the bachelor lifestyle discovers that he has an 8-year-old daughter from a previous relationship while trying to prepare for a football championship.

If watching movies isn't enough to stay entertained, try a video game. Teens can play the popular *Rock Band* or *Guitar Hero* video games where they can start their own band complete with a drummer, multiple guitarists, and a vocalist. This is a great way to entertain a group of friends. Teens can also go solo or play online.

And even as old fashioned as it may sound, teens and their families can even use the extra time to play infamous board games like Monopoly and Life. It may seem silly at first, but it is sure to bring back fun memories of childhood.

If all else fails, teens can kill some time by eating, sleeping, reading a book, or even cooking dinner one night. There's a lot of emphasis on staying fit these days, so exercise or workout during the winter days.

Grab a movie or a new video game and make the best out of a bad day. Get the family involved and have competitions with the new games. Teens shouldn't let the bad weather get them down. There are many different ways to have fun.

## **Teach Teens With Service**

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Too often, teens get a bad reputation. Adults criticize their dress, their music, and their attitudes. In fact, today's teens may be the most idealistic generation ever. Nearly 60 percent of teens do some sort of regular volunteer service. And many schools today require students to volunteer. While teens are volunteering, they're also learning important lessons. Here are three big lessons that teens learn from their service:

1. They can make a difference. A teen who serves meals in a soup kitchen sees that her efforts matter to people who may otherwise go without food. A teen who volunteers in a children's hospital ward see the faces of patients light up when she walks in. But teens can also learn this same lesson

close to home. If an elderly neighbor needs help, have your teen volunteer to run errands and then spend time just listening.

2. There are things more important than *things*. We live in a material world. Teens spend a lot of time worrying about whether they have the right shoes or blue jeans or jackets. Volunteering helps put all that in perspective. When she sees a mom who took her kids out of an abusive home with only the clothes on their backs, she may worry less about having the "right" brand name on her own jeans.

3. They are generous. Volunteering helps shape the way teens view themselves forever. Teens who learn to give now will keep giving throughout their lives.

## **Dangers of Texting & Driving**

By Sasha Byrd and Tiffany Hurd  
SHS Journalism Staff

As crazy as it sounds, many motorist, especially teens, use text messaging while they drive. Some drivers steer with their pinkies while their thumbs do the typing. Others use their knees to guide them on the road, freeing their hands to tap out a quick e-mail.

As matter of fact at Scott High alone, 46% of surveyed teens admitted to this dangerous habit. Also while the percentage was small, even some teachers admitted to texting as they drive.

So far six states have banned texting while driving. Tennessee has only banned the act for school bus drivers, not regular motor vehicle operators. The efforts to ban text messaging while driving in five states, including Tennessee, died with critics either pointing to a lack of crash data linked to the practice or calling the legislation unnecessary because of reckless driving standards already on the books.

According to SADD {Students Against Drunk Driving} and Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, instant and text messaging

while driving leads the list as the biggest distraction while driving. The study released that 58% of motorist ages 17 to 29 would read a text message while driving.

Nevertheless, drivers who take their eyes off the road to text, keying messages into cell phones, are indulging a dangerous habit. In New York, 91% of Americans believe sending text messages while driving is as dangerous as driving after having a couple of drinks, but still 57% percent of those surveyed admit to doing it. Also according to a 2,049-person poll throughout the U.S., 89% of adults think that text messaging while driving is "distracting, dangerous and should be outlawed."

Recently according to ABC News, a bus driver was reportedly texting on his cell phone and lost control of the bus. The accident injured 30 children. Also, text messages were sent back and forth on a 17-year-old girl's cell phone moments before her sport utility vehicle slammed head-on into a truck, killing her and four others just days after their high school graduation.

## **The Baby Borrowers continued from Pg 1**

The journey began with a baby around the age of 6-11 months. After three days of crying, spitting up, and dirty diapers, the teens assume the process has to get easier. Then, the toddlers come along. The "terrible twos" bring on some intense tantrums, potty training, and other messes. Three days later, the teen parents say goodbye to the toddlers and say hello to sassy pre-teens. Each pre-teen has their own pets to add to the responsibilities. Next, full-blown

enter the house and declare war on their new parents. At the end, the teen parents "fast forward" their lives to care for senior citizens with various health issues.

In the end, this experiment was a huge success. It taught the teens responsibility and made them more mature. After this experiment, the teens have a great idea of how strong their relationships are and what is in store for them in the future.

## Other Notable Events

**\*\* CREDIT RECOVERY** sessions will start soon! The sessions last from 3:15pm until 4:45pm in Room 106 and 102. See the posters in the Commons Area or call the school for the dates. Students, please be sure to fill out the necessary paperwork!

**ABSENCES MUST BE MADE UP WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

**\*\* TUTORING** in **ANY SUBJECT** is also available in Credit Recovery. You do not have to be making up time to receive help.

**\*\* SCIENCE TUTORING** is available every Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 7:30am in the Commons Area with Mr. William Smith.

**\*\* MATH TUTORING** is available on *Monday and Thursday* beginning at 7:30am. Monday sessions are in Room 404 with Mrs. Beth Davis Smith, and Thursday sessions are in the Commons Area with Mr. Tony Duncan.

## Community Commitment

Scott High School would like to thank the local businesses and individuals who contribute to our success and recognize our achievements. By building a community support network, we, *together*, can ensure that our children are growing, learning, and succeeding.

On Homecoming night, the Highlanders honored Scott and Allison Gilbert of South Fork Physical Therapy for volunteering their services to Scott High athletic teams. Scott and Allison attend all home basketball and football games to help with injured players. Moreover, they take phone calls at home and make referral calls for families. Their dedication to the Highlander family is greatly appreciated.



## Out of the Box

Teaching is more than a textbook, a blackboard, and a red pen. Learning is more than a pencil, a worksheet, and a test. Our teachers challenge students everyday to use hands-on skills, develop critical thinking methods, and experience the classroom in reality.

### Career Exploration

Corrin Byington from ITT Technical Institute in Knoxville visited with Mr. Dan Scott's English 12 students on Wednesday, January 30. She spoke to students about the wide variety of course and degree offerings available. Recently, ITT Tech has broadened its base to offer several Bachelor's degrees as well as many Associate's degrees. Ms. Byington also showed students examples of the types of technologies being used in today's industries.



## Raising the Bar in Education

By Victoria Byrd & Sarah Erwin  
SHS Journalism Staff

The Tennessee State Board of Education has spoken: It's time to restore the meaning of receiving a high school diploma in Tennessee. It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the world is moving at a fast pace. Students need to be prepared to take on the technology-based workforce. Some business leaders do not believe that students are quite ready for this task. Today jobs require a higher level of math, technology, and communication skills. In order to get these, students must have some sort of advanced training to keep up with the changing technology.

In January 2007, Tennessee became part of the American Diploma Project Network. It is a group of 29 states that have dedicated themselves to coordinating the changing standards, curriculum, assessments and accountability policies with the demands of college and work. The network requires states to perform four major tasks. The first is to align high school standards with the demands of college and work. Second, it requires students to complete a college and work ready curriculum so that earning a diploma ensures that a student is ready for postsecondary opportunities. Third, it builds college and work ready measures into statewide high school assessment systems, and finally, it holds high schools and postsecondary institutions accountable for student preparation and success.

On January 25, 2008 Tennessee officially adopted a more rigorous high school standard that will be imposed on the graduating class of 2013. This will ensure that students get the adequate amount of training they need for life after high school. The new requirements include receiving an additional credit in math and an additional half credit in wellness and personal finance. Students will also have to take either chemistry or physics. In addition, six credits specific to the students' planned course of study will be required. This means the two track system will be eliminated, and there will be career clusters that students can choose from that will allow them to take courses that they will benefit from in that particular course.

Scott High School's principal, Mr. Bill Hall, says, "The new standards will be challenging, but good. We will hold our students to a higher level of academic excellence. This new standard will put more emphasis on elementary schools to get

students ready for the new high school curriculum. It will be challenging at first, but the students and staff will adjust."

Education Commissioner Lana Seivers said, "Students perform according to the expectations set for them. Raising the bar shows students we know they are capable of exceptional achievements. While change is often unsettling for adults, our students will certainly rise to the challenge."

Some of the top listed jobs in 2008 have high expectations when it comes to technology training. Before now, people were not expected to be trained in the career they were going into. New employees were expected to be hired with general academic knowledge and receive specific training on-the-job. Today, however, millions of dollars are being put into education and training by businesses. This has developed the new trend that we see affecting today's graduates. Business owners want students to graduate high school and/or college and become employed already knowing how to do the specified job.

Careers are growing more advanced and more fast-paced every year. Raising the standards in high school will help colleges better prepare students for the new technologically-based world. U.S. News and World Report ranked some of 2008's top careers as those with high amount of education and training. For example, number one on the list was audiologists, a healthcare professional specializing in treating hearing or balance problems. They have very rigorous educational requirements and are expected to have a large amount of training in different types of technology, science, and math to get their degree. In the past they were only required to have a Master's degree and a proper medical license, but now they must have also Doctorial degree. Other jobs listed at the top of the rankings that have rigorous educational requirements include educators, dental hygienist, engineers, landscape architects, construction, occupational therapist, psychologist, nurses, and ophthalmologists. This is just a few of the many jobs that students need specialized training for in the science, technology, and math world.

It's time to show everyone that our students are capable of raising the bar. They will approach this challenge with the will power and the goal to succeed.



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