



THE LANCE

Holy Cross High School
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Knights Come Together for Sandy Relief

Anthony Benanti '15

As Thanksgiving approaches people around the tri-state area are given the opportunity to reflect on the devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy and give a hand to people who need it the most. Whether it be donating supplies or cleaning up the damage, all of us can reflect on how lucky we are.

Here at Holy Cross, many students were affected by Hurricane Sandy and are still trying to process these last few weeks. When school resumed two weeks ago, Father Jenkins, Mr. D'Angelo, and other members of the staff made it their first priority to help the students in any way they could. The school has also gone out and visited the victims of the storm with various supplies and is offering both spiritual and mental assistance in these tough times.

When students returned to school various charging stations were set up around school. As is always the case with Knights, the desire to help each other is so ingrained it is impossible to resist and the efforts grew.

Students, faculty and staff have been donating their time and resources through various channels. Countless students are working within their own neighborhoods helping people clear out their homes even when their own home has been destroyed or they would be returning to a cold dark house when the work was over.

This year's Turkey Bowl, the much anticipated football game between the faculty and the students is now acting as a fundraiser. Students can buy raffle tickets for the chance to build their own team for the battle against the faculty. The proceeds of the game will help offset the cost of Sandy recovery. Besides the money, the game will certainly be a morale booster. With the potential of a senior dream team taking on the faculty, the game will be even more entertaining than in past years. The game will be held on November 28, 2012.

The community at large has also been very active in the relief efforts. Holy Cross schools across the

country, even as far as San Antonio, have sent money and supplies to help our community rebuild. Donations of clothes, gift cards and cleaning supplies have poured in from Holy Cross schools and people from the surrounding neighborhood. The students have helped organize the resources so the right supplies can get to the right people. This outpouring of generosity reminds us that there is much to be thankful for.

As we sit around our tables this year, let us try to think about what Sandy has given us and not what she has taken away. Many students feel a new appreciation for family members who could have been lost in the storm. The time spent with them without the usual distractions of the internet or television is a blessing. Then there are the people that have become like family over the past two weeks as neighbors reached out to one another to see how each other fared in the storm. Sandy has offered the unique opportunity to see that most people are good and will come through for others in extraordinary ways.

Hurricane Sandy Engulfs the East Coast

Dylan Chow '15

In late October, Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern seaboard of the United States. Millions of people were affected by this super storm, whether it be by loss of electricity, property, or lives. Several environmental factors would lead to Hurricane Sandy becoming the largest Atlantic hurricane on record.



Picture courtesy of Bloombergtopics.org

At its full form, the storm spanned over 1,100 miles, hit seven countries, killed over 193 people, and caused over \$20 billion in damages. In the United States, the storm affected people from Florida to Maine and as far west as Michigan and Wisconsin. The storm was particularly severe in New York and New Jersey where record storm surges flooded streets, subway lines, and tunnels.

It also caused widespread power outages in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. A storm of this size can be created when several meteorological conditions come together.

Several meteorological conditions brewed together to make Hurricane Sandy more damaging than it

should've been. Beginning as a low-pressure system in the Caribbean, Hurricane Sandy was able to gain strength quickly because of the low wind shear and warm waters in the tropics. Eventually the storm became a category one hurricane with sustained winds of about 80 mph. These conditions deteriorated after the storm became disorganized while exiting the Caribbean, making Sandy a tropical storm. Soon after, Sandy regrouped and intensified, forming a category one hurricane that was ready to strike the northeast United States.

What made the storm make a 90-degree turn onto land was that Sandy collided with an Arctic cold front coming from the west. This cold front

pulled the hurricane towards the coast, creating an enormous, cold, and treacherous storm. The duration of the storm also made it more devastating. Due to the cold front, the storm took a long time to turn around and return to the ocean. Finally, Sandy made landfall when there was a full moon, which increased tide heights. Sandy's winds and ocean waters from the full moon combined and created the perfect conditions for record storm surges in coastal areas. Many meteorologists believed this could have all been avoided if the cold front didn't coincide with Sandy, allowing the hurricane to turn out into the sea and avoid making landfall.

The devastating outcome of Hurricane Sandy can be felt by people across the country. Approximately 20 percent of the United States population was directly affected by this super storm and are still trying to build their lives. Now that the storm is over, the country looks to recover from such a catastrophic event and return to normal.

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The Lance
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This publication seeks to follow the Holy Cross philosophy, objectives, and mission statement. We reserve the right to edit all articles for grammar, taste, clarity, content, and availability of space. Letters are accepted. Please direct them to the editors or the moderator.

Knights Honor Fallen Heroes During First Responders' Liturgy

Nick Zito '13

On Friday morning September 28th, Holy Cross High School held a mass honoring members of the community who died on September 11th, 2001 due to the attacks on the World Trade Towers. Members of the FDNY and NYPD were in attendance, as well as emergency medical responders, and family and friends of

the victims. Seventeen members of the Holy Cross High School family died on that day, including 8 firefighters. This mass preceded a dedication of a permanent memorial outside of the school.

The President of Holy Cross, Father Walter E. Jenkins C.S.C, was the celebrant of the mass. The message of the Homily was to forgive and love those that have done wrong. During the Homily, Father Jenkins said, "I had to come here to ask these people



Photo courtesy of Holy Cross Website

who lost so much to do what the Gospel asks us to do, and that's pretty bold. But, if we can love those who wronged us, then in the end, those we've lost are not honored by revenge."

Among those in attendance was the chief of the FDNY, Edward Kilduff, who addressed those in attendance. He not only directed his speech towards the family and friends of the victims, but also to the numerous students in attendance, encouraging them

to "Go out and be the kind of people that they were – good, thriving, community-minded Christian people." He encouraged the students to remember the sacrifices of the brave men made on 9/11 when they walk past the memorial everyday.

After the mass, the 9/11 Memorial, located on the corner of 170th street and 29th avenue, was dedicated. The memorial is black granite, with the names of the victims engraved in gold. The project was led by the men and women who sponsor the Golf Outing of Holy Cross High School each year. It was specifically made possible by Anthony Nitti '88, Thomas Donovan '84 and all of the other donors to the 9/11 Alumni Memorial. As Holy Cross men, it is important to remember the events of September 11th and encourage each other to pay tribute to the heroes and members of the Holy Cross family we lost that day.

Getting to Know The New Teachers at Holy Cross

Mr. Calabrese

Justin Sam '13



Photo by Justin Sam

Mr. Calabrese is the newest guidance counselor here at Holy Cross High School. Mr. Calabrese chose Holy Cross because he is a former student and strongly believes in the school's mission.

Mr. Calabrese is a well-known example of the "Holy Cross Man" because he uses his talents to help the community of Holy Cross. Mr. Calabrese is the type of guidance counselor who makes it his job to figure out different things students can do to best support the concept of the Holy Cross Man. The students, faculty and staff are thrilled to have him come back here as a guidance counselor. We know Mr. Calabrese will do an excellent job as a guidance counselor at Holy Cross.

Mrs. Barravechio

Chris Cadigan '15



Staff photographer

Mrs. Barravecchio teaches Earth Science and Biology but has also taught Chemistry and AP Biology in previous schools. Of all the subjects she has taught Chemistry is her favorite. If Mrs. Barravechio wasn't a teacher she would probably be a doctor because of her passion for medicine. However, teaching appeals to her because she enjoys taking difficult information and breaking it down so it is easier for students to understand.

Mrs. Barravechio enjoys running, a hobby that may one day give her an extra edge if she fulfills her hope of one day competing on her favorite TV show Survivor. She comes from a large family of ten children and has four children of her own. Her son Angelo is nine, her daughter Rianne is seven, her daughter Maya is six and youngest son Frankie is two. Mrs. Barravecchio is very happy to be teaching at Holy Cross and hopes to be here for years to come.

Mrs. Daus

Dylan Chow '15



Staff photographer

Mrs. Daus is not a stranger to Holy Cross. Four and a half years ago she taught at Holy Cross and now she has returned. Currently, she teaches freshman and junior English classes. If she wasn't a teacher she would probably become a guidance counselor because of her love of helping students.

Her interest in helping students is not a new one. Ever since she was 5 years old, Mrs. Daus knew she wanted to become a teacher. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing a student begin to share the same love for reading as she has. She enjoys spending quality time with her family on the weekends and watching her favorite movie "Dead Poets Society." Mrs. Daus has a four and a half-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son. Mrs. Daus absolutely loves teaching at Holy Cross and is happy to be back.

Mr. Grey

John Flynn '15 and Nick Zito '13



Staff photographer

As many of you know, we have a new addition to the Holy Cross High School Science Department. Mr. Grey, from Westchester, attended both SUNY Albany and Mercy College, attaining his Masters degree. He previously taught at Bishop Ford High School for one year, before making his way to Holy Cross.

Mr. Grey teaches both Chemistry and Physics. When asked about his new environment, he responded positively and described the warm and respectful nature of the students, faculty, and staff. Holy Cross has become a "second-home" of-sorts to Mr. Grey. As a community, we would like to congratulate Mr. Grey, and formally welcome him to Holy Cross High School. We hope that he will become an integral part of our community.

Obama Takes Presidency with 62% of Electoral Votes

Brandon Chow '15



Edwin Quinones '13

On November 6th, 2012, Barack Obama was declared the winner of the Presidential Election, defeating Republican candidate Mitt Romney, and received a second term as commander-in-chief.

Obama won both the popular and electoral vote, but by very different margins. For the popular vote, Obama received 51% of the votes, while Romney received

48% of the votes. The margin of victory in the popular vote is quite different from that of the Electoral vote. In the Electoral College, Obama garnered 332 votes (62%) and Romney 206 votes (38%). These numbers can be explained by looking at the specific states that Obama won.

Going into the 2012 Election, there were nine states considered to be “battleground” or “swing” states that either candidate could win. Out of the nine, Obama was able to win eight of the battleground states, with Romney only able to take North Carolina. The huge swing states like Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania netted the President a whopping 67 electoral votes.

The elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives also took place during the Presidential Election. These elections are just as important as the Presidential Election because bills cannot be passed in Congress unless the House and Senate agree. If the House is dominated by Republicans and the Senate by Democrats, it is unlikely that much will change in the country since the people in Congress strictly vote along party lines. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened in this year’s election, as well as in many elections before it.

In this election, the Republicans won the House, with 233 Republicans being elected, while the Democrats got 195 representatives. In the Senate, 53 Democratic candidates were elected, edging out the Republicans who got 45 seats in the Senate. The representatives in Congress are going to have to put aside their differences for the betterment of the country in order to improve it.

Is Single Gender Education the Best Education?

Nick Zito '13

Holy Cross High School was the first Catholic all boys-school in Queens, founded in 1955. It is one of the only two left in Queens, along with Cathedral Prep. The longevity of Holy Cross is a testament to the effectiveness of an all boys-education, which not only produces scholars, but men as well. Over the course of four years at Holy Cross, many undergo a transformation, and having witnessed and experienced this during my time at Holy Cross High School, I can attribute it to an atmosphere that allows me to be myself, which is, in part, a result of the all-boys nature of Holy Cross.

Holy Cross High School fosters brotherhood. Everyday when I arrive at Holy Cross, I do not have to put on a façade or change my actions because of the environment. Students can act, participate, and express themselves due to lack of judgment by their peers. Each class joins together and forms a unique identity. By the end of our four-year journey, each class becomes unified and connected in a way that is rare. A sense of individuality thrives in a uniform environment. Quite simply, every student will find a niche.

At Holy Cross, teachers as well as students, can be open and tailor their curriculum and strategies to adolescent boys because all of the students are adolescent boys. Having a number of teachers that are alumni is an advantage, being that they comprehend why the environment is special and they attend to the specific ways teenage boys should be taught. They provide students with role models that the students respect, learn from, and have commonalities with. The teachers treat us students how we want to be treated, like men. Teachers address students with respect, as if they were speaking to one of their peers, and expect the same sign of respect in return. Boys tend to learn differently than girls and require a different environment to truly reach their full potential. After spending four years at Holy Cross High School, I can honestly say that the school provides this. An all-boys learning environment not only aids in the development of the students, but also allows teachers to develop male-specific strategies.

Some believe interactions with only those of the same gender for the entire day prevents develop-

ment and does not create a well rounded individual, which is false. Besides, there are numerous opportunities for interaction with girls that Holy Cross High School provides. The school ensures students treat others with respect and dignity, and therefore students have fewer issues in the future.

The benefits of an all-boys education are endless. Holy Cross High School demonstrates why a learning environment such as this is effective and turns young boys into young men. An all-boys education allows every student to be himself, produces a better learning environment, and creates men. This is only possible in an all-boys school. An all-boys learning environment paired with the Catholic influence of the Congregation of Holy Cross results in an impactful and unique education. Having spent almost four years at Holy Cross, I can attest to this, and add that the purpose and goal of Holy Cross High School is educating the mind while creating spiritual men. The purpose of the school is both apparent and carried out through the actions of the Holy Cross man every day.

Holy Cross Shows its Spirit at This Year’s Pep Rally

Steven O’Neill '15

On Friday, October 26th, Holy Cross had its annual pep rally. The pep rally is held to recognize all of Holy Cross’ Fall sports teams.

All the students gathered in the gym at 1:30 with each class sitting in their own section. Senior varsity football player Juwan Wilson kicked off the event with a prayer, which was followed by Theology teacher, Mr. McMillan, showing off his dance moves to hype up the students. Then out came the cheerleaders from The Mary Louis Academy, who were kind enough to join us on our very special day. The cheerleaders showed off their skills and helped celebrate the players.

First all the members of the varsity Bowling Team were called to the center of the gym. They ran through a tunnel of painted fans and of course our mascot, the Knight. Next came the varsity track team, each team mate sprinted their way through the tunnel straight to the middle of the gym where they got their picture taken. They were followed by the varsity Soccer team.

For the main event, the Varsity football team was announced by Captain Juwan Wilson. Each player, wearing their green home jersey, met in the middle and as their name was called each player would do their own funny dance. Their entrance was followed by a short speech by Head Coach Tom Pugh.

To cap off the event a couple “Go home Freshman!” chants were started and music was played, which led to the well known “Dougie”: by Senior Norman Yao. Principal, Mr. Giannuzzi then took over the microphone to announce the end of the 2012 Holy Cross pep rally. He was proud to say how successful it was and how well the students behaved. The pep rally ended at 2:15 and as the students left I saw the smiles on their faces and heard the conversations about the highlights, whether it was Mr. Mac’s dance or the crazy painted fans. The whole event was a highlight of the school year and many students are looking forward to next year’s pep rally and what Holy Cross has up its sleeves.

THE LANCE ENTERTAINMENT

Not So Grimm

Thomas Gillen '13

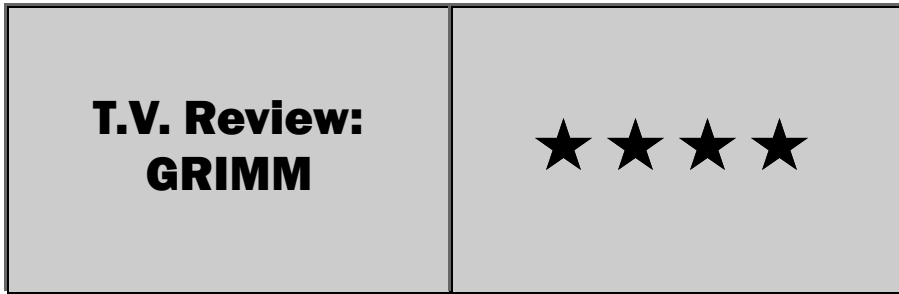


Photo courtesy of thevoiceoftv.com

The show Grimm premiered on October 28, 2011 on the NBC Network. The show draws from the classic Grimm Fairy Tales and has characters related to the ones in the tales. Since its premiere in 2011, Grimm has succeeded in having steady ratings every week. On August 31, 2012, the show entered its second season and received better ratings than its first. Grimm is currently competing against another show on ABC, Once Upon A Time, for the title of best fairy tale drama on television.

The show's main character is homicide detective Nick Burkhardt of the Portland Police Department who finds out that he is part of a long line of "guardians" called "Grimms." The "Grimms" are tasked with keeping a balance between humans and the creatures called "Wesen." Wesen are creatures who are only visible to Grimms and other Wesen. Early in the first season Nick learns that he is a Grimm and must protect humans from the Wesen. The show does an excellent job of combining fantasy, action, and humor. Each week, Nick encounters different creatures who are involved in homicide cases. It is his job to solve the case, usually killing the creature during the investigation all while hiding his Grimm identity from the people of Portland. Along with his Wesen friend Monroe and his partner Hank, the three have to keep the balance between these two entities.

I would recommend this show to anyone who is an avid fan of the supernatural. Nick's heroic attributes and his moral obligations as a police officer create a character who is very likable, honest, and endearing to TV audiences. The show is well written, and the interaction between the characters creates a nice blend of humor, suspense and the supernatural.

Grimm can be seen on Friday nights at 9:00 on NBC

Sequels: Knowing When Enough is Enough

Anthony Alvarez '14

Throughout recent years, Hollywood has fallen into the bad habit of creating multitudes of unnecessary sequels. It is because of these sequels, that a number of great franchises have been completely ruined or made worse. Many of these movies were great and did not need any additional story lines. However, many directors and producers have decided to make sequels of successful movie franchises to make more money. However, not all movie sequels were complete failures, there are a few that successfully added to the story line of the original movies, even if no addition was needed.



Some well known movie franchises that have been plagued by horrible sequels are *Saw*, *The Grudge*, *Friday the 13th*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Hellraiser*, *Child's Play*, *Children of the Corn*, and *Godzilla*. The movie *Saw* directed by James Wan, was a great movie which tested its viewers with torture scenes and a thrilling story line. But after the second movie, the plot began to get stale and more predictable. *The Grudge* and *Child's Play* also suffered the same fate with great original movies that were followed by horrible sequels that added unnecessary tweaks to the storylines.

Hellraiser, directed by Clive Barker, expressed great characteristics of traditional horror stories. But after the first movie, Clive Barker sold the rights to his film and the company continued to add to the series. Out of 9 movies, only 2 sequels were successful and the rest adding unneeded "fluff" to the character of Pinhead and the rest of the Cenobites. *Friday the 13th* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street* went through the same process of adding unnecessary sequels to successful franchises.

There is no greater example of unnecessary sequels than the *Godzilla* franchise. The original, which was hailed as a classic, was followed up with completely needless sequels, which did not add to the storyline. Instead, this franchise was sucked dry due to the multitude of sequels that followed the classic *Godzilla*.

Not all of these remakes were total failures, some movies like *Halloween*, *Alien*, and *American Pie* had sequels that added on to the original storylines and kept the film franchise alive. *Halloween*, directed by John Carpenter, began in 1978 as a low budget Slasher Horror Film and instantly became a classic. Even though there were one or two movies in the series that were not necessary, the franchise as a whole was a great success. The same could be said for *Alien*, a Science Fiction movie that had a great storyline and became so popular it even collaborated with the *Predator* series. The *American Pie* Franchise was also a very successful series. With eight total movies, the series has made a point of sticking to its timeless Comedic Satire roots that made fun of present day adolescence. After *American Wedding*, the franchise moved out of the main media's attention and was mostly ignored up until the latest resurgence of the series in which all of the original cast to bring the audience *American Pie Reunion*, which became an instant success.

A good way to tell how successful a sequel will be is to ask "Will this movie really add positively to the plot of the movie?" As long as the sequels stay true to the movie there is no limit to the amount of sequels a movie can have.

Halo 4: The Saga Continues

Anthony Benanti' 15

After 5 years and 2 separate games, the saga continues as Halo 4 hits the markets this month. The first person shooter game is one of the most anticipated games of the year, and with good reason. The game has some of the best graphics of any video game to date and new game modes never leave the player bored. With weapons that range from new technology to old favorites, the game is much more in-depth than its predecessors. With new multiplayer modes that act as a second campaign, and new missions releasing weekly, gamers are more connected and have more options than the normal multiplayer game types. Multiplayer still contains old and new modes, including a new ranking system to level up your character. Overall, this game has new things to keep people interested, as well as the classic elements that characterize Halo games. In a year with many blockbuster games releasing, such as *Black Ops II* and *Borderlands 2*, Halo 4 has proved its greatness and has definitely earned itself a Game of the Year nomination and is undoubtedly a favorite to win.



Picture courtesy of 343.industries.org



THE LANCE

SPORTS



Football Fall 2012

Kevin Walsh '13

An up and down regular season that came with many lessons has prepared Holy Cross for the playoffs. The season began on a high note with Holy Cross winning their first two games in comeback fashion. The first was upstate against Kingston where Holy Cross was able to comeback from a 14-7 deficit by pushing in two rushing touchdowns scored by Jordan Francklin resulting in a final score of 21-14. In the second game, the Knights went head-to-head with Mount St. Michael and ended the game when Mike Loprete threw a closing second touchdown to Lekeith Celestain leaving the game 20-14. Holy Cross' next game brought them back to reality, losing to St. Anthony's by a score of 28-0. The Knights next game showed their strength on the defensive side of the ball. The Knights were able to win 16-14



Photo courtesy of Juwan Wilson

with a big help from Malachi Hoskins who tallied a defensive touchdown, punt block and clutch sack.

The next two games were tough but were great learning experiences for the team. The first game,

Holy Cross lost to Iona Prep 48-7. Next game, the Knights suffered a one-point defeat to Holy Trinity

22-21. However, the Knights were driving to score with 49 seconds left but a questionable holding call killed the drive. The Knights rebounded taking out their frustration on a Bishop Kellenberg winning by a score of 28-14. Holy Cross's final game was a hard fought battle against Chaminade that ended 24-14 in favor of Chaminade. The regular season is now at a close, the records are thrown out the window and the Knights are ready to make their run.

Flynn's NBA PREDICTIONS

John Flynn '15

MVP: Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City Thunder
Kevin Durant is arguably the most prolific scorer in the league right now. He is the best small forward in the league because of his combination of versatility and speed. Durant is always a threat to score and he can make the entire team better just by his presence on the court. Durant is also in the MVP consideration because he is the most clutch player in the league. In the final three minutes of games, he is hitting 43% of his shots, which is the highest in the league among players that have scored more than 20 points per game. For all of these reasons, Kevin Durant will be crowned MVP next season.

Rookie of the Year: Anthony Davis, New Orleans Hornets

This one is a no-brainer. He is the first person to play in the Olympic Games before entering the NBA which is a tremendous accomplishment for any rookie. He single handedly took the Kentucky Wildcats to an NCAA championship last spring and won the Naismith top player of the year award. Anthony Davis was also the most complete player in college last year. The most impressive thing about these accolades is that he accomplished all of this as a freshman at college.

Playoff teams

Eastern Conference:

- 1: Miami Heat
- 2: Chicago Bulls
- 3: Boston Celtics
- 4: NY Knicks
- 5: Brooklyn Nets
- 6: Indiana Pacers
- 7: Philadelphia 76ers
- 8: Atlanta Hawks

Western Conference

- 1: LA Lakers
- 2: San Antonio Spurs
- 3: Oklahoma City Thunder
- 4: LA Clippers
- 5: Dallas Mavericks
- 6: Denver Nuggets
- 7: Memphis Grizzlies
- 8: Houston Rockets

In the Western Conference Finals, the Oklahoma City Thunder will defeat the Los Angeles Lakers in 6 games. In the Eastern Conference Finals, the Miami Heat will defeat the Chicago Bulls in 7 games.

In the NBA Finals, the Oklahoma City Thunder will defeat the Miami Heat in 7 games and will win the championship.

Here We Go Again: NHL Lockout

Thomas Gillen '13

Once again, the NHL has succeeded in disappointing its fan base and all those associated with the great sport of hockey by locking out the players because a new labor deal could not be reached. The first lockout resulted in the cancellation of half of the 1994-1995 season. After the first lockout, the league introduced four new teams to expand the league and generate more money.

The collective bargaining agreement that was agreed upon following the first lockout lasted until 2004-2005. When the existing contract expired on September 15, 2004, commissioner Gary Bettman announced a lockout of the players union for the second time. Unlike the first lockout, a new CBA would not be completed until July of 2005.

After the previous labor agreement expired on September 16th, Gary Bettman was once again forced to lock out the players. For the second time in seven years, the National Hockey League has a lockout that may or may not result in a canceled season. After the last lockout during the 2004-2005 season, the CBA provided the Players Union with a 57 percent share in revenue. The owners feel that 57 percent is too much for the players, so they presented a proposal that gives the Players Union 47 percent of shared revenue. This proposal was not received well by the Players Union and was shot down immediately.

Despite multiple attempts to agree on a new labor act, the league was forced to take other actions and cancelled all pre-season games on September 27. The regular season was scheduled to start on October 11 when the two sides resumed negotiations on September 28. Once again, a new deal could not be reached and the first two weeks of the regular season was cancelled on October 4. Recently, league commissioner Gary Bettman said that the only way to save the 82 game season is to have the season start on November 2. After cancelling the third week of the regular season, the NHL released a proposal that splits league revenue 50-50 across the board. As of now, the Winter Classic has also been cancelled, which is one of the biggest games of the season. On October 26, the NHL once again cancelled games up to November 30th and will cancel more games and the All-Star Game if a deal is not reached.