

Lauren Mitchell  
Editor-in-Chief

# Inside the lines

## A new direction for the parking lot

After considering the number of accidents that occurred in and around the parking lot during the 2016-17 school year, school resource officer Gary Littlejohn implemented changes in order to increase safety and efficiency for students and parents.

Revisions include designating 30 parent parking spots for after-school pickup in order to clear 12th Street congestion, allowing both left and right turns at the 12th Street exit and consolidating exiting student traffic from two lanes down to one lane at the Boyd exit. In addition, Littlejohn initiated the removal of an unnecessary stop sign on the one-way lane that was causing confusion.

"The biggest thing is people parking on 12th Street instead of pulling into the parking lot. We had a lot of parents out there and we have had a lot of complaints through the city. I was asked to do something different because there were several accidents because people were parking and were not paying attention," Littlejohn said.

Littlejohn and principal Lisa Moore painted white arrows to correspond with traffic flow as a reminder to students and parents.

"The big arrows on the ground show that it is a one way in and one way out. As you know, on the West side, people when they leave after school, will take up both lanes leaving instead of leaving one lane open. This caused people that were trying to get in to not be able to," Littlejohn said.

The Newton Police Department will be present to enforce the new guidelines for the parking lot.

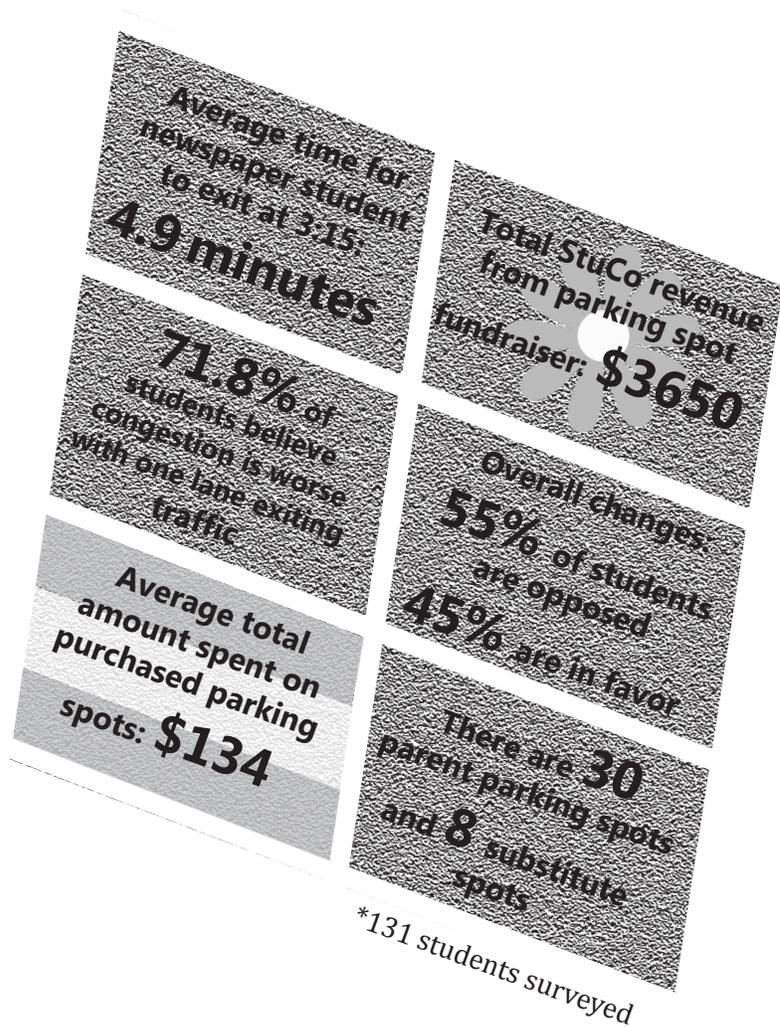
"There are big white signs that say 'no parking' so eventually if people keep doing it we are just going to write citations," Littlejohn said.

Another more colorful change was made to the parking lot when Moore initiated a fundraiser for StuCo in the summer of 2016. In addition to the 30 spots reserved for parent parking, 50 parking spots are designated to individual students this school year.

"People were posting their schools doing the parking lot spaces and so we thought that would be really cool and how could we do that," Moore said.

As for the overall student and parent response, both Littlejohn and Moore said they have yet to hear complaints from students or parents regarding increased congestion at exits.

"I think the idea of getting used to doing it is the biggest thing right now," Littlejohn said.



## Students voice opinions on traffic flow



Brett Knepper  
Senior Guest Writer

The parking lot, I have found, is a lot more congested this year, mostly due to the new changes of having an entire section just for parents. Especially when going out to lunch with a friend, it is difficult for them to find parking. As for leaving the school, due to having a parking space, I tend to get out of the lot before the kids who are located further out. These students are the ones who get caught up in the lengthy lines to get out. Another thing that helps is that I know a lot of people at the school, and they tend to let me in line when exiting the building.



Chelsie Penner  
Junior Guest Writer

At first, when I heard about how the parking lot would be set up this year, I was against it. I wanted to park in the area where the parent parking went. Since the school year has started, I have seen a huge difference in traffic flow when it comes to getting out of the parking lot in the front. With students not being allowed to park where the parent parking is, it decreases the amount of cars trying to get out of the parking lot onto 12th street. I also think that with allowing both left and right turns onto 12th street, takes away from the traffic flow on the west side. All in all, I think the parking lot changes have made getting to and leaving school a lot less stressful.