

83's Barking News



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State Tests Change From 3 Days to 2 For ELA and Math



The New York State test is administered to all the elementary and middle schools in the state of New York, and is based on the math and ELA standards that were taught for grades three to eight in that year. Before the most recent change, the state test took three days and was timed. The change was made to the state test in the year 2016 when it was officially made untimed. Now, in the year 2018, there will be another adjustment to the state test. It will now only last for two days and there will be less questions.

Changes in the ELA state test specifically include only one extended response for grades three-eight, six short response for grades three-six, seven short answer for grades seven-eight, twenty-four multiple choice for grades three-four, and thirty-five multiple choice for the five-eight grades. For the math, each grade has one extended response, grades three-five have six short answer, six-eight has seven short answer, thirty-three multiple choice questions for third grade, thirty-eight multiple choice for fourth-sixth grade, and forty multiple choice questions for seventh-eighth grade.

But why the changes? It is believed that the amount of students opting out had an impact. In 2015, nearly a quarter of a million students in New York opted out of the state test, and New York wants to reduce that amount. Efforts such as after school tutoring have made little impact, with only three percent of that quarter million reduced. After the state test, the State Education Department will know how

NYCDOE Plans to Launch Anti-Bullying Plan in 2019

by Danielle Mataquel 7-409



Bullying is one thing that's a big problem in schools and the New York City Department of Education recently decided to do something about it. According to national data, one in five students are being bullied. One month after the school stabbing crisis at the Urban Assembly School For Wildlife Conservation, the DOE announced an eight million dollar anti-bullying plan. They plan for this strategy to be launched in 2019. (cont'd on Pg. 1 Col. 2)

Student Council Underway Begins Effort With Food Drive

by Areeba Gilani 7-408



Once again this year, the voices of the students in the middle school will be heard and answered thanks to the recent Student Council elections. The class representative will speak for his/her class and decide what are sensible and appropriate decisions to make. This year's Student Council advisors are Mr. Nick Farago and Mr. Andrew Bernstein. The class delegates and Student Council advisors are striving to make decisions that will have a positive impact on the school and the lives of the students.

To begin the 2017-18 activities, the Student Council is continuing the tradition of a Food Drive. This is undertaken to help less fortunate people in need of food especially during the winter months. According to Mr. Brandon Muccino, the school principal, last year, the school collected three tons of food. This year's goal is to surpass that amount.

DOE Anti-Bullying Plan (cont'd from Pg. 1 Col. 1)

One part of their plan is to create an online complaint portal where families can easily report if they see instances of bullying, harassment, or discrimination happening.

Three hundred schools with the highest bullying rates will also be receiving emotional training and support. If bullied students still aren't content, they'll be allowed to request a transfer to a new school. Carmen Fariña, the current New York City Schools Chancellor, says that parents should also be asking their children questions about bullying, making sure they aren't victims of it or bullying others themselves. The eight million dollar enterprise will also include anti-bias training for school staff and workshops on mental health training and community.

Bullying has been a problem discussed a great deal but is finally being seriously considered. People have just thought of it as being teased or tripped but it is much more serious than that. If it's not controlled properly, it can lead to a much bigger problem like what had happened at Urban Assembly School For Wildlife Conservation. Many reasons of this are them being different and this eight million dollar initiative could change that. If this anti-bullying strategy goes through, it may be able to decrease the number of students being bullied, harassed, discriminated, etc. This strategy may also finally show kids that it's okay to be different and unique.

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Preparing for the Real World

by **Adriana Cabral 8-508**



In the next few months or possibly in a few years students from PS 83 will be applying to or attending high school. This process can be one of the most significant in our lives. As applicants, we will have to take into consideration the education provided and the location of the high school. Choosing a high school can be difficult due to the fact that not all neighborhoods, communities, and schools are like PS 83. Here at PS 83, we are welcomed and everyone seems to want to help you. High schools due to the fact that everyone is not from the same neighborhood or because the school is so crowded usually aren't like that welcoming.

Due to the fact that we will be in different places around the city, we will probably want to hang out with our friends from middle school. We'll communicate through the internet where we will have access to others who we don't know. This gives the opportunity for others to hurt you by cyberbullying. On the other side of the screen, there can be an online predator. This is especially true as a young woman in 2017 where many young women have been lured through the internet to meet someone because of an "opportunity" of achieving a job but end in disaster. We need to be cautious on social media because you have no idea who could be on the other side.

When we go to high school, no one will be checking whether or not we have been pressured into hanging out with others or if we even have any friends. Adults always seem to caution people about making the right friends. However it's necessary to understand the concept. Students need to be aware of the fact that friends help shape us into the people we are. If your friends do things against the law or not suitable for their age and they try to force you to do the same, they are not your friends, they are simply making a joke out of you.



She the People! by Jaslyn Tran 7-408

From a new sports car to a music video, women are being presented as some type of magnet to get viewers to buy their item or to watch their content. For instance, the thumbnail for the new Kanye West music video shows a beautiful young lady in a bikini on a Lamborghini or Ferrari. This is done to attract the viewing public. For as long as many can remember, women are being taken advantage of to sell products or get more views on an item. Opinions on this fly all over the place!

To get the attention of a potential customer, the director/boss would most likely think about having women in their commercial or video. In many cases, revealing clothing being worn by ladies can be used to show off a product. This includes cars, watches, furniture or that new fragrance that was shown on television. But, does that really need to happen? Yes, it might give the boss an advantage because of how nice and pretty the lady is, but there could be other ways to convince viewers that what they are selling is worth the money? Women shouldn't be shown half-dressed just to sell a product. Women shouldn't be represented as an object. Women are powerful! They make amazing decisions and present themselves as an independent person!

Women have shown to others that they could do the same male roles as men. They can build. They can act and they can certainly change the society! All women are confident and we can make our own choices in life.

Mass Shootings In America Can Anything Be Done?

by **Adelina Makovic 8-509**



The United States is the country in the world with the most mass shootings. Mass shootings are defined as "having four or more victims and don't include gang shootings or slayings that involve the death of multiple family members." Most people associate mass shootings with mental illness. However, an article by the New York Times dated November 11, 2017 says "A 2015 study estimated that only 4 percent of American gun deaths could be attributed to mental health issues." As well, CNN says "Studies have shown that the estimated number of cases of mental illness hasn't gone up significantly while the number of mass shootings in the U.S. has skyrocketed." So if mental illness isn't the cause of mass shootings in the United States, than what is?

The answer is guns. A professor named Adam Lankford conducted a study that concluded "a country's rate of gun ownership correlated with the odds it would experience a mass shooting." Lankford said, "Access to firearms is a significant predictor of these incidents." Other countries don't have nearly as many mass shootings as the United States. This is because other countries have stricter gun laws, while America is more lenient. For example, in certain countries there are higher requirements for keeping a license, selling guns, and the types of guns that can be owned. These stern laws make citizens think about

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Bark Back!





Terrorist Attacks: New York As A Target!!! by Isabella Lozano 7-408

New York City has become a terrorist target once again. In the last few months, there have been two attacks in Manhattan at times when they could cause the most death and destruction. The two suspects said they were carrying out these missions in the name of ISIS.

The most recent assault took place in a tunnel near the Times Square Station filled with commuters and holiday shoppers. The twenty-seven year old suspect was the only one seriously injured in the blast since the pipe bomb he was wearing was made incorrectly. As of now, he is facing a sentence of life imprisonment. Four other people were not seriously hurt.

On October 31, 2017, Halloween, a day people are usually trick or treating and having a good time, a devastating tragedy occurred in lower Manhattan. This terrorist attack caused eight innocent people to lose their lives. Six people were declared dead at the scene and two were pronounced dead at the hospital. At least eleven others were transported to the hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries. Many were affected by this attack. All this occurred because a twenty-nine year old man drove a rented truck down busy bicycle path near the World Trade Center. This is near the same place that the 9/11 attack occurred. "This was an act of terror, and a particularly cowardly act of terror," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said, "aimed at innocent civilians, aimed at people going about their lives who had no idea what was about to hit them." The suspect has been a United States citizen since 2010.

After the suspect crashed the truck into a school bus, he left the vehicle and went around holding a fake gun that looked real. Then a police officer came and shot him in his abdomen. Officials are saying this is the deadliest terrorist attack in New York City since September 11, 2001. Detectives and officials have been doing investigations of the scene and it is said that a note was found inside the truck. The note said to run down people on the bike path in lower Manhattan on Halloween.

Now most terrorists go around as lone wolves instead of traveling in groups. On 9/11, terrorists attacked by plane. Now planes have more protective systems and more security. Since planes have so many safety systems, terrorists are now using trucks. These terrorists are making more and more ways to attack others. Because of this recent attack, some people are becoming even more alarmed and frightened. Some were scared to go to the Thanksgiving parade because they were afraid of another terrorist attack since so many people go to see the parade. But, the parade was a success. Many enjoyed themselves and were glad that they weren't attacked. Our new worry is the New Year's Eve celebration. On New Year's, everyone wants to go to Times Square and see the ball fall. Since so many people go there, there is a concern that someone is going to attack them again.

The authorities are stressing the message, "If you see something, say something." Let's hope that in



Galloping Their Way Into People's Hearts by Sam Carello 8-508

According to the GallopNYC website, "The ancient Greeks regarded horseback riding not just as a means of transportation but as a way of improving health and well-being for the disabled. Hippocrates was the first to describe the benefits of horses." They coined the phrase "hippotherapy" which means "universal exercise and which also means treatment with the help of a horse".

This healing was put into effect much later by GallopNYC which uses therapeutic horseback riding to cure or help people that are disabled. It is a nonprofit organization which exists to benefit riders. Riders include but are not limited to adult veterans at risk and children with disabilities and special needs.

According to a research report, therapeutic riding intervention increases empathy and reduces maladaptive (not providing adequate or appropriate adjustment to the environment or situation) behaviors. This riding can also enhance core strengthening, positive sensory stimulation, motor coordination and balance. It also develops or improves social skills. Current research states this therapeutic riding can also be suitable for people with spectrum disorders.

Children mostly groom and lead the horses. They also muck (remove manure and other dirt from a horse's stable or other animals' dwellings) the horses. Participants get plenty of breaks to allow them to relax and get very involved. Attendants also get lessons that are carried out by an instructor. These kids must be engaged and must want to learn about these horses to get the full benefit of these riding and cleaning activities.

Each week in the beginning of this program, there is one three-hour session. Sessions are tailored to each individual based upon goals determined by the assessment instructors who are mostly volunteers. These people have to meet a certain standards which are called "the stable" standards for proficiency of horsemanship skills. The stable standards include grooming the horses, tacking the horse which includes putting on their bridle, the blanket, their pants, their saddle, and adjusting the stirrups.

According to Volunteer Christina D'Angelo, "Most of the time, the volunteers need to adjust their strategies to the effort and the ability of the rider." The Lead Walker needs to know when to stop, walk the horse fast, slow, gallop, and trot. The Side Walkers need to support the rider and give him/her verbal directions from the riding instructor. The riding instructor is the person who decides what strategies to use with each rider. All of these people need to work together with one another in order to benefit the riders to the max.

There are many of these GallopNYC Stables. Some are in Forest Hills, Queens, Howard Beach, Queens, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and Pelham Bay in the Bronx.

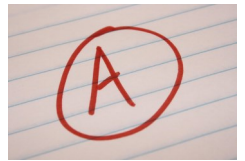
People say the dog is a man's best friend. However, horses can be a close second because of how much they take care of people who love them. They can be very respectful and peaceful to their owner and with the help of GallopNYC, horses can help those who need them live happier and healthier lives.

4 Welcoming Ms. Guglielmo With Open Arms

by Agnesa Rraci 7-409



Attendance More Important Than One Might Think



Being new to a school is extremely difficult. It's a position that can cause anxiety. I would know because I was new to PS 83 just last year. It was a different environment that was somewhat strange. However, being a student is easier than being a teacher. All of the work that teachers do in a day is difficult for anyone to imagine.

So, being a new teacher most likely makes days even more challenging than they already are considering new students, new work and even a new building. The Barking News decided to interview the new sixth grade math teacher, Ms. Melissa Guglielmo. The newspaper wanted to find out about one of PS 83's new addition to the faculty and see how she was dealing with the unfamiliar school.

The interview began with the question "What brought you to PS 83?" to which Ms. Guglielmo answered, "When I was given the chance to work at PS 83, I could not pass on the opportunity. PS 83 has provided me with a new and exciting learning experience." Then, she was asked about her past teaching career. She responded with, "I have taught before at Our Lady of Victory School in Mount Vernon. I worked there for three years." Ms. Guglielmo then gave information about what she has taught in the past by stating, "I have always taught Science and Math. For two years I worked with the fifth and sixth grade. Last year, I taught seventh and eighth grade."

Ms. Guglielmo told about her first day at her new school. She said, "My first day at PS 83 was great. I was a little nervous at first, and definitely had a couple of butterflies in my stomach. However, as the day continued, they started to go away! I was excited to meet my homeroom and switch class. Throughout the day I did my best to get to know my students' interests in order to provide a sense of community in the classroom."

The Barking News asked Ms. Guglielmo about how she found the students at PS 83 so far. She replied by saying, "The students at PS 83 are very kind and hardworking. From the beginning of school, I have noticed that the students are very welcoming towards each other. Over the last five weeks, two new students have joined both of my classes and all of the students provided a warm welcome to our newcomers. The students made sure to lend a helping hand whenever their new peer needed it. I also feel that, as a whole class, the students truly care for one another." Ms. Guglielmo made it very clear that she likes the behavior of the students she has encountered.

The interview went to the topic of what she was teaching to her students. We asked Ms. Guglielmo, knowing math is challenging for some students, about the methods she uses to assist her students when they struggle. She responded by saying, "With my students, I try to spark as many connections to their interests as I can. I believe that when I incorporate interests such as my students' hobbies, favorite books, movies, or real-world situations, they will have a stronger understanding of the concept that I am teaching. In math, the topics are continuously building upon each other as the students move from one grade to the next. Therefore, I do my best to have my students

Attendance is important more important than many people think. Education is important since it can decide your whole future. So, it is smart to take it seriously. One way to get a good education is by having a good attendance record since it has a direct effect on learning.

Missing school will always leave a student behind the rest of the class which puts him/her at a disadvantage. When a pupil stays home, he/she could miss important notes that could be on a test. According to <http://www.attendanceworks.org>, by the sixth grade if a child is chronically absent he/she has a higher chance of dropping out of high school. It states when students have a higher attendance rate, they improve their academics and have a better chance of graduation. Chronic absences can lead to a student being very frustrated. From kindergarten through high school, if a child is absent ten days per year that is missing a total of 140 days. Being absent for twenty-five days a year results in 350 days or almost two school years of learning that are not experienced.

The top attendance rates for October 2017 at PS 83 belong to classes 7-409, 8-508, and 7-408. These are some of the top performing classes at PS 83. This shows that attendance can relate to academics. Our school's attendance as of 11/27/17 is 95.4 %. Hopefully, the weather and illness will not hurt attendance statistics too much in the coming months.

Some people do take attendance very seriously. Noah Salz was a Stuyvesant student who was injured in the NYC Manhattan terrorist truck rampage on Halloween. Later that day, he was released from the hospital. The bus driver did not pick him up the next day assuming he would stay home. So, he took a taxi from his Brooklyn home to Manhattan just to keep his record of perfect attendance. He stated he was not injured so he needed to go back to school and learn.

I believe attendance is very important and more people should pay attention to it. It is one of the most underrated parts of a good education. It can change a

Monthly Point System Hopes To Improve Behavior



This year, PS 83 introduced the Monthly Point System to the seventh grade. The monthly point system is all about behavior improvement. Perfecting behavior can be a challenge to some people. When participating in the monthly point system, students are challenging themselves to fix their behavior. This system was introduced by the dean of the seventh grade, Ms. Danielle Donohue.

In the monthly point system, Ms. Donohue doesn't only offer free periods. Rewards might include a free period, a pizza party, an ice cream party, or a breakfast party. During the monthly point system, Class 7-517 won a pizza party for the month of September. In October, Class 7-409 chose a free period as their prize. The November winner, class 7-408 has yet to pick a prize. Changing the students' behavior a little can have some benefits. The class of students with



A Long Run... Comes to an End

On November 13, 2017, Gianluigi Buffon played his last game before retiring from the Italian Men's National Team. Gianluigi Buffon, also known as Gigi Buffon, played as a goalkeeper for the club Juventus and the Italian Men's National Team. In his long professional career of twenty-two years, he won one UEFA Best Player in Europe award, eight Italian Champion awards, three Italian Cup awards, six Italian Super Cup awards, one UEFA Cup award, one Italienischer Zweitligameister award, one European Under-21 Champion award (1996), one Footballer of the Year award (2017), and even the World Cup (2006). Obviously, from this many prizes, he has made a very big name for himself. Also, from this list of his achievements, it's evident that Mr. Buffon has had an amazing career. So much so that some people believe him to be one of, if not the best, goalkeeper ever to play the game of soccer.

Whether it be in basketball, football, or futbol (soccer), many careers have been cut short due to injuries. However, this was no injury, unless this counts as an injury of the heart. Mr. Buffon is thirty-nine years of age. He made his Italian debut in October of 1997 and now he has decided to retire from the national team after losing to Sweden in the World Cup playoffs.

A long run has come to an end. While trying to hold back his tears, in an interview, Mr. Buffon said, "It's a shame my last official game coincided with the failure to qualify for the World Cup." Pouring your heart and soul into something only for it to be denied to you is absolutely devastating." However,

Flags Thrown, Plays Taught Referees Vs Coaches



Referees in major professional sports have a hard job but so do coaches. Referees have to stay in shape to run after the speedy players in the NFL. They also have to memorize all the penalties, rules, and code of conduct. Referees make a great deal of money, \$173,000 a year to be exact. They also have to fight with coaches, players, and talk to the other referees to see if they agree on a penalty they called.

Referees aren't the only ones who have it hard, coaches do as well. They have to create plays that will help the team have a winning season. They also have to discipline their players to get the plays through their head as to how the plays work. Lastly, coaches have to spend a lot of time arguing with referees. Coaches make about \$6 million per season.

Referees and coaches both have difficult jobs but the real hard part of their jobs is cooperating with one and another. It is tricky to deal with each other which makes both their jobs harder. Referees, in my opinion, have the hardest job because they have to do physical training and make much less money. They also have to deal with unruly players and cope with the coaches. Referees make less money and work harder physically and mentally. I believe it is unfair to work the same sport, to work much harder, and to deal with more controversy,



NY Yankees Manager Fired- Replacement No Experience!

by Amir Rayman 7-408

Everyone knows how great the New York Yankees were this year- only one game away from the World Series. They were a dominant team with great sluggers such as Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez, and Starlin Castro. They also had great pitchers such as C.C Sabathia, Sonny Gray, and Aroldis Chapman. The team was led by the manager Joe Girardi. He was a former baseball player who played for the New York Yankees and manager of the New York Yankees for ten years. He won only one championship with the New York Yankees (during the 2009 season) but made smart decisions about who would play for a given game to help build a strong team. Now the team fired Joe Girardi and has a new manager. Was this a smart decision by the Yankees?

On December 1, 2017, it was announced that Aaron Boone is the new New York Yankees manager and had signed a three year deal. Aaron Boone is a former baseball player who played in the Major Leagues for twelve seasons and for six different teams including the Yankees. He is best known to Yankee fans as the man who hit the game-winning homerun against the Boston Red Sox in the 2003 playoffs. He was forced to leave the Yankees after an injury he suffered playing basketball in the off-season. He was replaced by Alex Rodriguez.

Mr. Boone was an analyst for ESPN after he retired. He has never had experience being a coach or manager. He recently beat out the retired Carlos Beltran to earn this top job. This decision by the Yankees was surprising especially because of Boone's lack of coaching experience. General Manager Brian Cashman says he hired Boone because of his ability to share strategies and ideas that will move the franchise to another level. He also says that he knows the Yankees staff very well and will be able to connect with the players and share and evolve strategies. Mr. Boone is looking forward to start a great season with the New York Yankees.



NFL's New Football Gear More Protection For Players

The National Football League (NFL) has started to make new football gear because many players have been getting injured and many concussions have occurred. This happens when a player gets hit mostly in the bottom of the chin or even in the back of the head. This is a type of traumatic brain injury. Players can have memory loss and cognitive issues such as dementia, Alzheimer's and depression and from such serious brain injuries.

This year, the NFL announced that the number of concussions rose by nearly 32% this season. In 2012, over 261 concussions occurred since the old helmets were not as good as the new helmets (which are called the Vicis Zero 1). This helmet is the future to safety because it has four different layers of very soft padding to protect the whole face. It can cost up to \$1,500 per helmet! Not just helmets have been made safer but new shoulder pads have been made, too. Shoulder pads help to prevent damage to players' shoulders and to protect their chests. A good thing about the new helmets and shoulder pads is that they are lightweight. The lighter weight helps the players run faster and quicker.

(cont'd. on Pg. 8 Col. 2)

6 “Get-ten” Into College What You Should Know

by Samantha Lien 8-509



Ram-For-A-Day: My Fordham Prep Visit

by Erand Rugova 8-509



We always hear stories about college applicants and whether they're successful or not. They can all agree that there's no magic spell into getting into your dream college. And to prepare for the future, here are ten tips that can help according to the article, “10 Things to Know About Getting Into Your Dream College” by Eric Hoover in the New York Times, Nov. 1, 2017:

1. First of all, a rejection shouldn't be taken personally. In fact, admissions aren't always about you. When colleges are making their decision, they're handling people with multiple skills, goals, interests, and even diversity. For example, admission officers don't accept those who only fit one description. Instead colleges, and even high schools, look for variety.

2. Despite the fact that colleges want to know the real you better and what you do outside of grades, your grades still matter the most. However, it's important to note that application officers often ask questions to observe if your interests and if they're complementary to the school and what you can provide that is different than other applicants.

3. Although it's true that grades are weighted the most when it comes to acceptances, students need evidence of overcoming obstacles, perseverance, and fire for learning which are demonstrated primarily through essays and extra curricular activities. Basically, it is important to join community services or find new hobbies.

4. With colleges overwhelmed by slick, boastful essays, many schools are longing for what they call “authentic” glimpses of applicants such as their experiences, passions and goals. Some deans believe they'll get better insight through different formats like videos, pictures, audio files or documents. A handful of prestigious schools, including Yale, the University of Chicago, Pomona College, Reed College, and the University of Rochester, recently initiated this option. As with essays, too much sophistication is not good, so some might think twice about hiring a professional videographer. At Yale, about 400 applicants out of 33,000 for this year's freshman class sent in something in an alternative format. In at least one case, a submission video showing leadership and impact on others made a difference according to the staff at Yale.

5. Diversity is important in applications. Many colleges are trying to increase access to the applicant, so it can help to emphasize their background and how their personal story relates to their achievements in essays and interviews. Admissions officers are thinking harder about socioeconomic context, such as the quality of an applicant's high school, to better understand the opportunities they've had and the challenges they've faced.

6. At many colleges, financial circumstances comes into play. Being able to pay all or some is still a bonus. And some qualified students of limited means might get rejected for no reason other than lack of money.

7. Selective colleges often want students from around the world, ideally from the United States. This is mainly due to the fact that schools look for talents and traditions that are differentiated in order for schools to have a wide range of backgrounds. This enables schools to have a better learning environment.

On Monday, November 13, 2017, my school day went a bit differently than usual. Instead of going to PS 83, I had the opportunity to visit Fordham Prep High School for the Ram-For-A-Day activity for eighth grade students. I arrived at 8:15am and when I got there, I met my student guide. I went through a number of subjects, including science, global, math, and ELA. I found the classes to be familiar yet challenging.

During my visit, I learned a great deal about Fordham Prep. The day helped me understand how Fordham Prep works and how my school life might be at the school. My observations of the school showed me its inner workings. Fordham Prep looks like a good school to me and one that offers many different courses which I was interested in. The teachers I met were professional and allowed for cognitive thinking in the classroom through discussion. The thing that most intrigued me about Fordham Prep is that all the students use laptops for schoolwork and homework. This was intriguing because using a computer all day during the school day is not something I am used to. I look forward to using them if I go to Fordham Prep next year.

The Ram-For-A-Day activity benefitted me. My experience will factor in on which high school I choose for next year. Visiting a school is a good idea to find out if you will like it or not. You

“Get-ten” Into College (cont'd. from Pg.6 Col.2)

9. It's important to do good and help in your community. Currently, some colleges, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are taking a closer look at what applicants have done to help others such as one's neighbors or family members. For example, showing up to tutor someone at the library each week might be impressive and also rewarding.

10. Colleges want to be your first choice. About one in five colleges admire and accept when an applicant shows an early interest. This can help convey a student's willingness to attend the college he or she is applying to. Basically, open those emails, connect with admissions officers, and let them know when you visit campus. And only those who are sure about their first choice and don't need to compare financial aid packages should choose the strongest expression of demonstrated interest: applying early decision.

These are the just a few things to keep in mind about applying to your dream college and it's important to watch out for some of these factors

10 Things to Do in NYC: Holiday Edition!

by Carinna Sarmiento 8-509

If one goes to Manhattan for any reason at this time of year, it is obvious that people come from all over the world to see what we have right in our own backyard. If you have some time over this holiday break or if you have out of town guests, here is a list of things to do that should not be missed.

1. The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree! The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is a predictable but classic place to visit during the holidays. Visiting the iconic tree will definitely be a great thing to cross off your bucket list this season. Towering and bright, it's a magical sight to see.

2. Ice skating at Rockefeller Center

There's nothing better than ice skating during the holidays... especially in Rockefeller Center! You can ice skate, hang out with friends, and have an amazing view of the tree. Take spectacular pictures of the view and have fun!

3. The Winter Village at Bryant Park

If you want to feel the holiday spirit, be sure to visit the Winter Village at Bryant Park. Experience the candy apples, hot chocolate, and holiday pop-up markets! With the view of the Bryant Park ice rink, the shops, and the colorful lights, you'll be sure to be fascinated this holiday.

4. Annual holiday light show at Saks Fifth Ave.

The holidays aren't the holidays without bright and colorful lights! Visit the light show at Saks Fifth Avenue! The glowing movement of lights is sure to get you in a festive mood.

5. Hotel lobbies- Preferably the Plaza Hotel

Christmas trees, ice skating and... hotels? Yes! New York City has many five-star hotels, all unique and extravagant in their own way. Step inside (it's free, I promise) and explore the hotel lobbies. The Plaza Hotel, featured in the iconic Home Alone 2 movie, has a beautiful, towering Christmas tree in their lobby. Just hop from one hotel to another to feel the excitement of the city!

6. The Christmas Spectacular Show

Want a time to bond with your friends and family? Watch the Radio City Hall Christmas Spectacular Show with the Rockettes! The beautiful and extravagant spectacular show will definitely wow you.

7. The Times Square Ball Drop

A bit on the bold side here, since it's only one day that you can do this, but it's worth it. You can watch the ball drop on television, but it's even more magical watching it in real life. The thrill for the New Year is present if you visit the ball drop, for sure.

8. The Annual Holiday Fair at Grand Central

The Grand Central Terminal Holiday Fair is a perfect way to do all kinds of shopping. It consists of nearly forty different shops, all unique in their own ways. From soaps to children's toys, there's a wide variety of things to look at and shop for.

9. The Nutcracker Ballet

The classic ballet show is available to experience in



Train of Wonders Brings Holiday Cheer

7

by Jason Gjokaj 8-509

The holiday season is a time of joy and excitement for various people. It's magical, as it seems like everyone is in a jovial mood. However, the New York Botanical Garden's beloved Holiday Train Show is back, which is giving people a new reason to love the holidays.

This train show features scaled down model trains that drive through over one hundred and fifty iconic New York landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building, General Electric Building, and St. Bartholomew's Church. This gives people the idea that choosing to spend their lives in New York was a beneficial decision. The exhibit reflects the best side of New York. Furthermore, it covers over half a mile of track. Since the train show is so long, it makes it seem like an actual train, which only adds to the excitement that people experience while watching it. Also, all of the buildings are made out of natural resources like plants, bark, leaves, cinnamon sticks, and more. This makes this display stand out more, as the landmarks are very detailed and look realistic with the natural materials.

This train show was created by Paul Busse, who started making these presentations in 1992. Since then, he's improved as a builder, and has found ways to make the train shows different every year. For example, this year he decided to focus on the displays for midtown Manhattan. Also, the train shows would lack excitement without Busse's inventive mindset. What some may as twigs and woods, he sees as astonishing landmarks that embody New York. He's able to create intricate designs for the monuments he constructs which makes the train show feel like an actual miniature city.

This train show has received immense praise from news outlets. According to Spectrum News, they consider the show to be a "holiday tradition" and that "about a quarter million people are expected" to view it. Since the train show has become so special, it's given people a lasting impact. Now, when they view the holidays, they flush with excitement because they can see the trains fly past their very eyes. In addition, News 12 the Bronx says, "You can see it all at the New York Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show". Since the train show is so massive and has so much value, it attracts audiences even more.

Overall, the Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show is something that I would recommend everyone to see at least once. As Henry Cabrera, Associate Vice President at the Botanical Gardens said, "Whether you're a two year old, or you're retired, sixty-five year old, everyone sort of gets their own piece of it." The train show is physically stunning, but the idea that it doesn't discriminate against

10 Things to Do in NYC: Holiday Edition! cont'd. from Pg. 7 Col. 1

10. Experience the Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden

For all the information about this amazing experience, read the article on this page, "Train of Wonders Bring Holiday Cheer" by Jason Gjokaj 8-509.

8 Breakfast at Tiffany's Now a Reality

by Emily Tran 8-509



The phrase “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” that originates from the iconic 1961 film has finally become a real thing. Audrey Hepburn, one of Hollywood’s fashion and film icons during its golden age would most likely be ecstatic at the news. The Blue Box Café recently opened on the fourth floor of Tiffany & Co.’s flagship store, located at 5th Avenue and 57th Street. The café offers New York City and its visitors a menu that follows the seasons in a bright and nostalgic area both in and out of the robin-egg blue walls. The fourth floor is also home to a new section at Tiffany & Company. The renovated area houses an accessories and home sector section close to the dining area.

The café is open from 10 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday and from 12 pm to 6 pm on Sunday. Reservations are available although chances of booking one are low because of influx of customers that have been lured to the café. Within the first week of the café on November 10th, customers that got on line an hour before the opening hour for breakfast were unable to enter because of the reservations that had already been made and ended up being served lunch instead.

The menu changes with the season and as of today, the menu serves a “Breakfast at Tiffany” breakfast that costs \$29, a lunch set of \$39, a variety of teas by Bellocq that are all priced at \$49, sweets starting at \$12, all refreshers being \$9, hot beverages costing \$7, and coffee from \$5 to \$7. The café serves Hepburn’s signature croissant that appeared as she got out of a yellow taxi, seasonal fruit, buttermilk waffles, smoked salmon, avocado toast, mushroom soup, salad, flatbread, a range of finger sandwiches, cake, and pie. Drinks consist of espressos, lattes, cappuccinos, fruity drinks, and classic teas with a “refined take... reinvented to be uniquely Tiffany,” according to Tiffany & Co.

Inside the café that was specifically designed by chief artistic officer Reed Krakoff to mimic being inside a Tiffany box, it is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather. Located at 5th Avenue, the Blue Box Café attracts tourists, bloggers, food critics, watchers, lovers of Breakfast at Tiffany’s, and everyday New Yorkers. The Blue Box Café is the perfect place to visit especially for afternoon tea while overlooking Central Park. It is a chance to bring together young and old folks who have appreciated the movie, whether or not it was a part of their childhood or later years.

Breakfast at Tiffany’s has finally been made a reality for all of its enthusiasts after more than five decades. Despite the fact that Holly Golightly was outside of the store and window shopping with her breakfast in hand, it

New Behavior System (cont’d. from Pg. 4 Col. 2)

The entire purpose of the monthly point system is positive motivation. According to Ms. Donohue, the reason for the new system was to see a change of behavior for the better. She stated, “Knowing students will receive a prize at the end of the month, they can change their behavior so they can win prizes.” Even more importantly, positive changes can take place in a student’s school life.

Your Winter Break Should Be In D.C.



Winter break is right around the corner and to enjoy it you should take a vacation somewhere. But not just any place. Washington D.C. is the heart of America. There are many historical monuments to behold in D.C and many great museums to visit. Among the monuments there is the Washington Monument, the tallest structure in the city. It stands 555 feet tall. Also, if you lean on it, it looks like it’s falling over which is a pretty neat optical illusion. It also has earned the title of the tallest stone structure in the world. Another famous structure close to Washington Monument is the Lincoln Memorial. The name suggests what it is and it is a memorial built for Abraham Lincoln, a former president of the United States. It also was where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic “I Have A Dream” speech. One more place to visit is the number one structure in D.C. and that is the United States Capitol itself. This is where many decisions and meetings have been held were in that place itself. The best part is that it is now open to the public for tours! In it you will see much art, design, architecture, and above all, history. One of the most awesome pieces of art and history reside in the dome of the Capitol with paintings and murals surrounding it.

These are the historic monuments of the heart of America. There are fun and interesting museums to visit in D.C. There is the International Spy Museum, which is exhilarating. At the beginning, you are able to choose secret identities. Along the way, you are supposed to tour the museum and do missions using your identity. There are films to watch that show the history of spies. One attraction is that you get to crawl through a vent and a sound recorder will record if you are loud or not, so traversing silently is the task. Another museum is the Smithsonian. It is currently the largest museum in the world. It has over 137 million artifacts and specimens of history which is truly remarkable. It has films to watch that are very interesting and many galleries full of interesting facts and knowledge. The entrance greets you with many spacecraft models and plane models. Not to forget, the marvelous souvenirs can be bought on the way out.

D.C. has many cool attractions to visit that shows America’s past. In fact, if I were to write

NFL New Safety Gear (cont’d. from Pg. 5 Col. 1)

Football can be a very dangerous sport and especially was back when the game started. In the 1860’s, there was no gear to keep players safe. Today, there are new dangers because the speed of players is tremendously fast. More serious injuries are caused by the impact from one player to another. This results in calls for regulation. Now that safety has gotten better, players are happier since it is easier to avoid serious career-ending and even life-ending injuries. Over time, they have changed gear not just because the players were asking for it, but the fans were concerned as well. The introduction of the new helmets can improve the game of football and help keep the NFL in business.

The eighth grade class representative for Class 8-509 is Andrew Hunyh. For Class 8-508, it's Jerry Flores. In Class 8-512, it's Elena Hysaj. Class 8-513 will be represented by Floria Gashi. For class 8-516, the class representative is Kelly Dao. Class 8-515's representative is Alajah Briggs. In Class 8-510, it's Desiree Arzon. Class 8-520's representative is Omari Carter. For Class 8-518, it's Emily Reynoso. The seventh grade class representative for Class 7-409 is Ashally Delacruz. For Class 7-408, it's Farida Ahmed. In Class 7-417 it's Naté Calhoun. The class representative for 7-416 is Lucy Corleto. For Class 7-416, it's Joan Difo. In Class 7-415, the representative is Jaylin Rivera. Enis Ukaj represents Class 7-420 in the Student Council. In Class 7-517, it is Maritza Hernandez. The sixth grade class Representative for class 6-413 is Lucas Manfredy. For Class 6-410, it's Ariella Ramos. In Class 6-310, it's Madison Ravenall. The class representative for 6-314 is Christian Cotrich. Class 6-308 is represented by Julian Sambula. For Class 6-309, it's Chris Santiago. It's Hedaya Jbarah in Class 6-312. In class 414b, the representative is Adama Diouf. The fifth grade class representative for Class 5-207 is Erion Cekaj. For Class 5-208, it's Chelsea Camacho. It's Siobhan Rice in Class 5-311. Class 5-211 representative is Jade Loaiza. For Class 5-213, it's Miguel Pagan. In Class 5-214, it's

Mental Health And Homework What Is Being Done To Help

by Zunnara Shahid 8-509



Homework has always had divided opinions between both teachers and students. The mainstream opinion is that it benefits students and parents. But recently there has been more schools and more states decreasing the amount of homework given to students. For example, schools in New Jersey have recently decreased the amount of homework given to students. The reason why they are doing this may be due to mental health issues.

In an article in the New York Times, Superintendent David Aderhold revealed why they decreased the amount of homework. According to the article, "Students were overburdened and stressed out, juggling too much and work and too many demands." This makes it very difficult for students to create a social life and have hobbies and passions. Students being burdened by a ridiculous amount of work can lead to stress.

This can have a negative impact on the mental health of students. In a recent report from the American Psychological Association, the report notes sharp increase in severe psychological problems being reported amongst students. This stress and work has taken a toll on students' mental health. Schools end up demanding so much that it damages students. The line has to be drawn somewhere before a person's health is affected.

The fact that homework is a stressor cannot be denied anymore. In a recent study, less than one percent of students said that homework was not a stressor. If ninety-nine per cent of the pupils surveyed feel that homework stresses them out, it should be obvious that something has to be done.

Teens Running for Governor Maybe It's Not a Joke?



9

The political world can give rise to many jokes. But not everything that seems strange or unusual in politics is necessarily a joke. This is true in Kansas where kids are taking advantage of an absence of an age requirement for most state offices to run as candidates. Among the teenage candidates are Jake Bergeson, 16, Tyler Ruzich, 16, Ethan Randles, 17, Joseph Tuter Jr., 16, and Dominic Scauuzzo, 17. All of these young men are running for the position of governor, and many say they are running as a joke, but maybe it's not a joke.

The idea of the situation being a joke comes from many statements from the teens, and things said by professionals. According to The Topeka Capital Journal, "Friends University political science professor Russell Fox said the teens won't have the money or name recognition to run effective campaigns. 'These kids are doing it for a stunt and they admit they're doing it for a stunt,' Fox said, while acknowledging some people probably will vote for a teen, 'but most won't.'" While the teens may not have enough money to run an effective campaign, they surely are getting recognition, and the more likely they are to be remembered, the likelier they are to win office in the future. However, the main focus is on the fact that even the candidates agree to the stunts. While being interviewed by Jimmy Kimmel, one of the teens, Jack Bergeson said, "Ever since Governor Brownback and Trump, I've started to notice politics is kind of degenerating in our country. We need to get the younger generation involved in order to fix that."

This so-called stunt may just be a statement for a better future. If voters, especially younger ones hear this message then these teens may really have a chance at winning the 2018 elections. Another teen, a potential candidate and only possible female candidate, Lucy Steyer, 17, is running for the office of Kansas secretary of state which is another office with no age requirement. She says, "I'm most definitely excited to be a part of the movement to engage young voters and to encourage political involvement among all ages," Now that most

Cool Upcoming Games This Holiday Season:



As usual, it is a hectic time of the year with major holidays and presents to buy. It's a special time of the year for gamers as big gaming companies storm the market with some of the year's best and worst games. With pre-releases and events that let people try the games coming out, these are my five most liked and disliked games of the holiday season.

My top upcoming game would have to be Final Fantasy 15: Episode Ignis which came out for PS4 and Xbox One on December 12. The whole game series all together can be described as one of the greatest game series of all time since over the years the game has constantly changed and adapted to its environment. In Final Fantasy 15: Episode Ignis, Ignis will protect Prince Noctis. (cont'd. on Pg. 13 Col. 2)



Behind The Scenes Of Producing The 2018 Winter Olympics

by Era Bucaj 7-409

The Olympics is a world wide sports competition that is held every four years. Rebecca Chatman, Vice President and Coordinating Producer of Olympic Production at NBC, allows us to enjoy watching this sport event. Despite her very busy schedule with the Pyeongchang (South Korea) Olympics less than two months away, Ms. Chatman answered questions the Barking News sent to her.

Ms. Chatman always dreamed of being on television and enjoyed sports. She was not the most athletic of young people, yet still she aspired to be involved in something with sports. Ms. Chatman was very interested in television production and knew this was something she wanted to do. With hard work and motivation, she made her dream come true. In order to achieve this, she worked hard in school and got a college degree. Ms. Chatman wrote, "I believe it's important to go to college and study something you are interested in even if it's not related to your eventual career. I majored in Romance Languages and Latin American Studies - not sports television!"

Ms. Chatman obviously worked her way up to her present position, She began as an unpaid intern and developed her skills. Eventually, four years later, she began producing the sportscast. Afterwards, Ms. Chatman moved to New York City and she began working for NBC's Olympic Unit. "On the way to my current job I've done almost everything you can do in production- from building the graphics you see on screen to making shows get on and off the air on time."

There are many challenges and a great deal of work to do for the Olympics. "I'm part of a big team that handles everything from hotel rooms to food to the actual on air product. Our planning process starts several years before the Olympics and we make regular trips to the host cities so we can meet with the local Olympic committees. I work specifically on the production side and I hire all of the talent you see on the air covering the Olympics. I am also involved in a lot of the decision making about how we cover the various sports and how best to present things." She needs to plan ahead in order to get everything perfect. Trying to find thousands of people to be on the Olympics is a challenge. However, Ms. Chatman enjoys meeting so many new people and exploring different cultures.

Therefore, it is not just the athletes that work so hard for so long to be part of the Olympics. Being behind the camera producing the event is also a gigantic task.

Working hard can lead to you becoming something that will benefit yourself and many people. As Ms. Chatman stated, "Hard work and dedication pay off – never lose sight of that and

Who Let the Gorillas Loose? Cruelty Of Animal Trafficking

by Imaan Chaudhry 8-509



Most people enjoy animals. Pets provide comfort, love and companionship to their owners. Their owners often protect these animals as if they were members of the family. Sadly, this unconditional love and protection of animals might only be applied to the traditional house pets such as cats, dogs and fishes. But so many other exotic animals in the world are not so well protected. Instead, they are seen as products to be bought and sold. Interestingly enough, one of the most common crimes in the world is selling exotic animals illegally. Exotic animals are sold at dozens of auctions held across the United States every year. Sellers realize instant profits and quick sales. Tigers, lions, bears, non-human primates, birds, reptiles, and other exotic animals are sold to the highest bidders. One of the most common example of this is primate selling which is the illegal sale of primates such as apes and monkeys.

A man named Jeffrey Gettleman, a reporter for The New York Times, was interested in knowing more about the animal trafficking business. He went undercover as a person interested in buying "2 babies, 7.5k each. Special introductory price." With the help of Daniel Stiles, a specialist interested in animal equality, both men were able to uncover and expose the seller. It has been estimated by Mr. Stiles and his researchers that "that the smugglers have claimed more than 22,000 apes either killed or trafficked. These animals are sold off for high prices. A gorilla baby can sell for as much as \$250,000." This is occurring all over the world. As concluded by wildlife researchers, a secret ape pipeline runs from the forests of central Africa and Southeast Asia, through loosely policed ports in the developing world terminating in wealthy homes and zoos thousands of miles away.

Animals, no matter the rarity or beauty are precious. The greed of man and the thirst for a rare beauty shouldn't ever violate the rights of the animals, the right to be protected, to

November 28 - Independence Day For Albanians Worldwide



On November 28, 1912, Albania received news that after fighting with the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish people since 1386, it had finally won its independence. To this day, Albanians cherish this date because it was the day they became a national group free from the threat of communism and those greedy for power.

The history behind this struggle is a long one going back over nearly one thousand years. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when other countries in Europe were gaining power, the Ottoman Empire came across Albania who had no way to defend itself. The Albanian people suffered religious persecution and other forms of torture. When the Ottoman Empire collapsed in October, 1912, Albanians were able to get back all the land they had lost and win their independence.

A good many of the students in a diverse school such as PS 83 are Albanian. The Albanian people had suffered for 300+ years until they finally won their independence. This is extremely important to them because without it, many of their people could have died through wars that continued into the late 1990s. However, the Albanian people escaped this fate and today there are no threats to their country. Un-



The Start of a New Life In America

Bassam Hussein 7-409

From countries around the world, millions of people come to America to start a new life. Ever since a long time ago people came to America to find work. Some came to live with their families and sometimes to escape from bad conditions like war, religious persecution, environmental problems, or government persecution. Some parents brought their children for better education. Throughout an immigrant's journey, they and their families were impacted and effects resulted.

From the 1600s, people were traveling around the world to see for new places to live and new lands to conquer. Over the centuries, millions of people have come to America and faced many hardships. Families or singles had to adjust to the city they were living in, getting used to things like weather, laws, even the people. Most of the people came not knowing how to speak English so they had to learn. Some families came to America from a war in their country so they could live in peace. There are parents that came with their kids also so they could get a better education and future. Some may have come for religion freedom or a government rules because they may have been ruled unfairly by a king. Most single people or families came to America to make money. People were coming from poorer countries to America for better jobs in order to afford food, clothes, and shelter. For the reason that mostly all of the immigrants came for jobs, native people sometimes had a problem with the immigrants. Since millions of people came for jobs, some Americans claimed that they would take over all the jobs making it hard to find one. But the Statue of Liberty still stands in New York Harbor and people still come to this country looking for the freedom to live their lives. When I was in my country, Yemen, my father used to go to America for his job and come back to stay for few months with us and then leave again. He came with gifts like clothes, toys and many other things. He told us that hopefully one day we will go to America. When I was eight years old, my family and I got our visas, and made it to America. My dad told me that he brought us here to live a better life. Also that he said he brought me to the United States for better education and I should work hard for a better future. I started in PS 83 in the third grade, and started to learn to speak and write faster than I thought I would. I made new friends and even saw friends from Yemen that had come to America. I experienced cold weather and snow for the first time when I came to America. In fifth grade, my aunt told me about the top class and that it's for honors. So I started to get interested into making it to 701 Eventually I made the class I am in now. In America, there is safety and peace. Also the electricity in America is much better because in my country it turns off for hours sometimes. I still miss my old friends. Also I still want to go back to my country but there's war that is blocking my return. Hopefully, there will be peace one day and I will return.

America's Mass Shootings (cont'd from Pg.2 Col. 2)

According to an article by the New York Times, "The main reason American regulation of gun ownership is so weak may be the fact that the trade-offs are simply given a different weight in the United States than they are anywhere else. After Britain had a mass shooting in 1987, that country instituted strict gun control laws. So did Australia after a 1996 shooting. But the United States has repeatedly faced the same calculus and determined that relatively unregulated gun ownership is worth the cost to society." This really has to be thought about. If after those two mass shootings putting more severe gun laws could help the United States, then these gun laws should have been implemented. If Britain and Australia made stricter gun laws for the safety of their citizens, than maybe the U.S. should have as well. America has a population of 319 million and there are about 270-310 million firearms owned. This means there is almost one firearm for each person. Also, America makes up 5% of the world's population. However, it had 31% of all mass shootings. All this raises a new question. Shouldn't the United States implement stricter gun laws?

The United States should implement firmer gun laws. It could help keep our citizens safer. If other countries are doing it, it is something that America should consider. In some places, tougher gun laws decreased the rate of mass shootings. With tougher gun laws, we could decrease the number of deaths in the United States. If something is beneficial to all of the people of America, why shouldn't it be done? Isn't America a country that is for the people? With stricter gun laws could we have prevented horrible mass shootings such as the one at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012, where young children and teachers lost their lives?

When we think of school we should think of a safe environment, not a place where children fear for their

"Smart" City Who Wants To Live There? by Paulina Frangaj 8-508



People all use technology in their everyday life, at work, at school, and at home on our phones. Now, Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, is investing \$80 million to build a Smart City in Arizona.

This city will be a futuristic community. It's a high-tech planned development of 25,000 acres outside of Phoenix in an area of West Valley. The city will include high-speed digital networks, data centers, new manufacturing technologies and autonomous logistics hubs. Transportation will be designed around shared electric vehicles, walking and biking, flexible zoning will blend commercial, industrial and residential areas. There will be shortened commutes, safer streets, better weather and a reduced population.

"Envisioning future infrastructure from scratch is far easier and more cost efficient than retrofitting an existing urban fabric", said Grady Gammage, a spokesperson for the venture. This city that they want to build will be easier since they can create their vision from the ground up and not have to destroy something that was already there.

I personally think that this city will be a hit or miss for some people. If a person loves technology and the idea of a technology-based world then it would be perfect for that person to live there. However, this city won't suit everyone. Not everyone understands or is interested in technology. I wouldn't want to live here. Sooner or later I think technology will take over the world. It's bound to happen with all the new releases such as phones that have facial recognition. At this time in my life, I already use technology daily. I fear that people are acting like robots and less like human beings. I want to hold onto be a human being for a little longer.

12 Cars Without Drivers Danger In The Big Apple

by Farida Ahmed 7-408



Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction. What Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced can certainly fall into this category. Believe it or not, General Motors has applied to test new self-driving cars in Manhattan in early 2018. The idea is that these vehicles can be used as a source of transportation to make a cleaner, safer, and more efficient way to move around the area. This is the biggest change in automobiles since cars came off assembly lines.

Experts have said that these means of transportation will have a hard time driving in busy cities. Rather than reducing accidents, it is possible that companies and politicians rushing to make autonomous vehicles a reality are not taking factors such as heavy congestion of other vehicles and pedestrians, bridges, speed limits into consideration.

The only thing that is known at the moment

New Dodge Challenger Demon: The Dangers of 800 HP



The New Dodge Challenger SRT Demon 840 HP sells for only \$84,000. This car is one of the cheapest cars with over 800 horsepower. The Dodge Challenger line of cars has been famous for its origins in racing and amounts of horsepower found only in supercars and race cars for the price of a sports car.

However, are cars marketed this way safe? When cars create such high amounts of horsepower, one very important part of the car is the trailing arm, the part of the car that connects the wheels to the main part of the car. In most muscle cars, these are very poorly made, and when trailing arms are not made well, it can cause the car to go immediately at full force from stops, which can harm the user from such forces after a large amount of accelerations from a stop. Another major concern when it comes to cars with high horsepower is the tires. Most cars, such as the Toyotas and Nissans normally seen on the road, are around 150-200 HP and thus do not really “need” their tires changed more than once or twice a year. However, in cars with high horsepower, the tires need to be changed at least once a season as certain tires specialize in differing road conditions. Failing to change tires to better handle the road each season can put a driver at risk, especially if the same tire is used for multiple seasons and/or years. While there are some serious risks to having over 800 horsepower, most owners of such cars are usually aware and do everything in their power to make sure their car is safe for use.

However, this does not mean that these cars are just dangerous. One major benefit to having such a car is being able to go to racetracks on the weekends and drive the car to its maximum potential. Another benefit is being able to enjoy such a powerful car by simply driving it.

In conclusion, cars with high horsepower

Distracted Walking Laws: A Step To A Safer World

by JK Ronobir Rajjo 7-409



Distracted walking on the streets has skyrocketed in the new millennium. In recent years, the method of distracted walking that has come into the spotlight is texting while walking. Based on aaos.org, in 2010, distracted walking was a contributing factor to 4,200 pedestrian deaths and 70,000 injuries in traffic crashes. The amount of people texting while walking has gotten out of control. Hence, cities, states and provinces around the nation and the world have introduced new laws to limit distracted walking.

One city in the United States has gained worldwide recognition after making it illegal to text while crossing the street and passing laws for distracted walking. This city is Honolulu, Hawaii. According to ABC News, pedestrians who cross a street or highway while using a mobile device will be given a fine of up to \$35 for the first offense, up to \$75 for the second offense and each violation after would cost a \$99 fine. Not only cell phone use, but video games, laptops and digital camera use can cause a person to get fined as well. The law bill was introduced by Councilman Brandon Effante in July, 2017. The bill was then passed in October, 2017. It is presently in effect.

The law has inspired new laws of distracted walking in cities, states, and provinces around the United States and the world. As a New Yorker, it is unfortunate to note that, according to [The New York Post](http://TheNewYorkPost), bills passed in effort to reduce distracted walking have failed in the Empire State, as well as Nevada and Illinois. Chicago, a city in Illinois, is attempting to pass a law that would fine pedestrians up to \$500 if they are caught staring at their phones at crosswalks. According to [The Chicago Tribune](http://TheChicagoTribune), politicians were influenced by Honolulu’s efforts for distracted walking laws and wanted to break the habits of people being stuck on their screens instead of watching for passing cars. The first offense will cost a person a \$90 fine and repeated offense for distracted walking will cost up to \$500.

In the Tri-State area, some cities have also passed new distracted walking laws. Stamford, Connecticut is also trying to combat distracted walking in 2017. Stamford Mayor David Martin says that not paying attention to the streets is dangerous, hence, the proposed laws. According to [Time Magazine](http://TimeMagazine), John Zelinsky, a member of the Stamford Board of Representatives is confident that there will be a law combatting texting while walking. If a person is texting while walking, they will get a \$30 fine per violation. In New Jersey, texting while walking will possibly cost a fine of \$50 as well as fifteen days in jail.

Just why is it so important for New York City to issue distracted walking laws? New York City, especially Manhattan is a hotspot for distracted walking. According to ncbi.nih.gov, over half of traffic fatalities were of pedestrians nationwide in 2010. 25% of the fatalities of distracted walkers were in New York City. Also according to ncbi.nih.gov, in 2010, 28.8% of pedestrians in New York City were distractedly walking during the walk sign and 26.3% were observed to be distractedly walking during the “do not walk” sign. This poses as a very dangerous issue and provides a crucial clue that the number of distracted pedestrians is higher in busy urban areas like New York City. Therefore, those kinds of cities need laws for distracted walking.

Passing laws for distracted walking is necessary and can lead to a safer world in the future! As busy as everyone is and as tempting as it is to text and walk, it should be obvi-

The Flash Speeding Past All The Other Superheroes!

by Brianna Gjonecay 8-508



The Flash is a television show that is growing quickly in popularity among superhero fans. It is aired every Tuesday from 8-9 pm on the CW channel. Many are obsessed with this show. It is becoming integrated in many students' routines. This show is based on the comics released in November 1939 and January 1940 series with the same name.

The Flash is a superhero that possesses "super speed." This includes the ability to move, run, heal, and think extremely fast. He is faster than lightning. Hence the name, "The Flash." He has superhuman reflexes that violate many of the laws of physics. There have been different versions of the character who have played The Flash, Jay Garrick, Barry Allen, Wally West, and Bart Allen. Jay Garrick is the older version of The Flash. Barry Allen is The Flash. Wally West is Kid Flash. Bart Allen is Barry Allen's grandson who has inherited the role of being The Flash.

This amazing speed came to The Flash because a horrible thing happened to him. He was struck by lightning and was in a coma for months. He was taken to a lab and doused with chemicals. He is The Flash to many and Barry Allen to some. Barry partners with S.T.A.R. Labs and dedicates his life to protecting the innocent. For now, only a few close friends and associates know that Barry is the fastest man alive, but it won't be long before the world learns that Barry Allen has become "The Flash." Little does he know that The Flash will become his other job.

Furthermore, Barry learns that he is but one of many affected by lightning strikes, most of whom are using their powers for evil. Determined to make a difference, Barry, as The Flash, dedicates his life to fighting such threats. While he gains allies he never expected, there are also secret forces determined to aid and manipulate him for their

Stranger Things - Horror Hit

by Tasnim Nobah and



Ever heard of the show called Stranger Things? It is a science fiction horror series on an app called Netflix. It was written and directed by the Duffer Brothers. It is set in Indiana in the early 1980's. It's all about drama and romance. That is why so many people love it. Stranger Things had many intense scenes that left people in shock. The show has grown to be one of the best known in America. Over fifteen million people have watched Season Two in just three days. Also, people across the country binge-watched Season One in just one day. The show has won many awards such as the Emmys and other prestigious awards.

Stranger Things has grown so much over the year in popularity. It's so popular that the creators of Sesame Street decided to make a parody of Stranger Things called "Sharing Things." This

"T.H.U.G." Movie Speaking Out to the Youth



Earlier this year in February, Angie Thomas's novel "The Hate U Give" became a #1 New York Times Best-selling Novel. The thing is, she was just a young woman in her early twenties releasing her debut novel to the public. So what made this book become so wildly popular in a matter of a few short weeks?

The novel focuses on sixteen-year-old Starr Carter who attends a party with her childhood best friend Khalil. After hearing a series of gunshots, the two teens speed away in their car only to be abruptly pulled over by a police car. The policeman demands that Khalil step out. He claims he did nothing wrong, but is cut off when the policeman suddenly shoots him multiple times. Khalil's death quickly sparks a national uproar, since the police officer was white and Khalil was an innocent, unarmed black man.

This novel does an astounding job bringing up major conflicts that are currently happening in the United States. Gun violence and racial discrimination are huge issues many Americans deal with nowadays. They are a major focus of the book. The novel also brings attention to the fact that many people witness things that shouldn't happen but still don't do or say anything about it.

The book has gotten so many positive reviews and ratings that director George Tillman, Jr. and Fox 2000 recently decided to create a film adaptation of it. The movie is currently being filming. The expected release date is soon after the start of 2018.

People are encouraged to watch the film because it will illustrate many important issues going on not only in our country, but also the world. It will also encourage the youth of America to speak out against violence and dis-

Holiday Games (cont'd. from Pg. 9 Col. 2)

Next is Horizon: Zero Dawn: Complete Edition which came out for PS4 on December 5. With this game being new to players not as a game but as the whole when it was released earlier this year but the game manages to astonish players all around with being such a new scope on what gaming is usually. What "a game is usually" are shooters, action, role-play, and sports but Horizon is a different kind with a mix of a few of them that is really interesting to players with a fresh idea that is amazing all around. Horizon: Zero Dawn: Complete Edition will be the basic game with a DLC (downloadable content) expansion pack that will give the players more to discover. Finally, Resident Evil 7: Gold Edition coming out for PC, PS4, and Xbox One on December 12. Resident Evil 7 was an amazing horror game that gave gamers a scare but overall with graphics, story, and gameplay it was great. Resident Evil 7: Gold Edition will be the basic game with a DLC that will really get everyone back into it with the scare and hype it brought out first. Dead Rising 4: Frank's Big Package coming out for PS4 on December 5.

There are some disappointments as well. The Dead Rising series is fairly repetitive with the game and storyline and not much can be expected about graphics when the game itself is not great. Dead Rising 4: Frank's Big Package is mediocre, receiving ratings from 50% to 60%. There is also finally Doom VFR coming out for PSVR and Vive on December 1. Though the game is a very graphic game, the average VR (virtual reality) doesn't come out very good and controls can be hard to handle. With moving being like teleporting, I feel like it might just make the game harder or won't give the same

“Emunication” Is Getting The Better Of Us
by Francelys Tavaréz 8-509



Emunication? Emunication is a term that, to me, seems to fit what this trend is. Emunication is emoji communication. This utterance is a new trend that is emerging to profoundly change the way we speak to one another. Many people are getting into arguments with each other because of miscommunication with emojis. For instance, according to the Daily Mail, “most people think the girl flicking her hair is used to represent sassiness... this ‘information desk person’ emoji was initially created to represent a person at an information desk providing people with answers to their questions.” Therefore, once one person sends that emoji, many people think of it as a sassy person, which many people may find quite offensive and cause drama when the sender did not mean it to communicate that.

Also, since the start of emojis in 1999, emojis have progressed into a more confusing manner. Due to a recent update on iPhones, many new emojis have been added that are more confusing to people since there is no clear explanation of them. For example, the new emoji with one finger over their mouth seems to confuse some people since it could either mean that you are shushing another person or just telling them to keep your secret safe.

Therefore, emojis should be carefully used when texting so that no confusion is made and no miscom-

Grasshopper in Van ‘Gew’ “EW” Preserved For Immortality

by Sarah Reda 7-408



Information about Vincent Van Gogh's “Olive Tree” painting is going viral because a little grasshopper from 128 years ago has been found embedded in the canvas. The painting in question is hanging at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri. This grasshopper has been lodged in Van Gogh's swirling brush strokes since it was painted in 1899.

The museum staff hoped the grasshopper would shed some light on exactly what time of the year the work was painted. It was identified when a paintings conservator was looking at the “Olive Tree” under magnification. Van Gogh was known to paint outdoors which is probably how this grasshopper got embedded in one of Van Gogh’s paintings.

At the time it wasn't like Van Gogh didn't know that this was a possibility. In 1885, he sent a letter to his brother saying “I must have picked up a good hundred flies and more off the four canvases that you’ll be getting.” This shows that he was aware of insects getting stuck in his work.

After further study, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology determined that the grasshopper was dead when it landed on the work. This conclusion was reached when it was discovered that parts of the insect were missing. Therefore, information about the time of the year that the painting was done was not able to be determined.

The only question that remains is how exactly did

iPhone X - New Phone Bad Reputation
by Kiara Alcina and



iPhone X is the latest, coolest technology. It has amazing features like face recognition and fantastic camera quality. The face recognition element has many advantages. For example, if someone forgot the passcode, he/she can use the facial scan to unlock the phone. Furthermore, even if it’s dark, the device can still scan the face. The iPhone X has another outstanding feature called “animoji”. Animoji is when a facial expression is made, the feature copies it when a message is sent. Also, as stated, this quality is as good as a professional camera. In conclusion, there are many amazing factors of the iPhone X.

However, the iPhone X facial recognition has some negative aspects to it. The animoji is controlled by the person’s face ID. Thus, if one frowns, the animoji frowns. Also, it can track over fifty muscle movements in the face, which sounds pretty intense for something that's just supposed to unlock your phone. Additionally, it’s weird because the television show, Black Mirror predicted this. And, according to this science fiction series, such “progress” usually ends with tons of people dying and technology taking over. This is basically artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. Also, artificial intelligence is going to collect more data about people than ever before. Some worry about its power.

In other words, phones are going to know a user’s mood, food intake, and clothes worn. Many people are scared because the iPhone X will allow the government to have a person’s fingerprints and facial features, making it easy for them to hold personal information about everyone. Another issue associated with the iPhone X is lack of privacy. The phone’s camera will always be on, meaning that facial recognition would need to be always on, an issue that concerns Electronic Frontier Foundation.

In addition, phones are the most valuable things ever because they hold important information about their owner such as phone numbers, photos, bank account and email address. Obviously, losing this device would be a disaster. The facial recognition feature destroys the idea of privacy. For example, anyone can get into a phone when a person is asleep. All a thief would have to do is take the phone, hold it up to the face of the owner and it will be unlocked.

The iPhone X may seem like the next big thing. However, before putting it on your holiday wish list, it

Real World Preparation (cont’d. from Pg. 2 Col. 1)

Overall, the world isn't like PS 83. Therefore we should be grateful for the time we have spent in PS 83 where we learned how to socialize, be grateful, and of course the learning. I know we will do great outside PS 83 because we learned what's acceptable in society which will lead us to be safe and help the world for