

83's

Barking Barking News



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Taking Home The Gold: Perennial Math Winner



Samuel Buena of Class 7-409 has received a gold medal for the Perennial Math competition along with being honored with a Dog Tag. The Dog Tag is awarded to the students who scored in the top ten percent for their grade level. There was a total of 1,366 student participants on the seventh grade level. This year they were 14,000 students from the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, China, and Turkey who participated. That is an enormous amount of competition to beat. The twenty-seven students that participated this year at PS 83 all received a certificate. PS 83 is proud of all participants.



PS 83 Congratulates Scholarship Success by Francelys Tavarez &

Acceptances! Acceptances! Acceptances! It's that time of year again when high schools are all on the minds of eighth graders. On the day the acceptances finally came in, the Class of 2018 found out which schools had accepted them. Results varied for the students and from those results came scholarships for a number of the applicants.

Below is a partial list (those who informed the Barking News) of students who received scholarships to Catholic high schools:

Class 8-509 - Imaan Chaudhry - Preston High School, St. Catharine's Academy; Natalie Sanchez - St. Catharine's Academy; Britney Phan - St. Catharine's Academy; Adelina Makovic - Preston High School; Francelys Tavarez - Preston High School, St. Catharine's Academy; Melanie Vasquez - Cardinal Spellman High School, Preston High School, St. Catharine's Academy; Erand Rugova - Cardinal Spellman High School and Fordham Prep High School.

Class 8-512 - Francis Timpone and Anthony Illija won scholarships to Cardinal Spellman High School as a result of their participation in an Academic Challenge Contest which was sponsored by the school.

City-Wide Chopped Challenge: PS 83 Cooks First Place Win

by Isabella Lozano 7-408



On April 6, 2018, the PS. 83 Cooking Club participated in a city-wide middle school cooking competition and took home the trophy for first place. All the students received a chef hat and a medal. The proud students who participated in this competition were Jessica Bacilio, 6-310, Diego Berrios, 5-311, Michael Byrne, 5-214, Jandel Dominguez, 5-208, Julie Dominguez, 8-516, Orithri Ehsan, 6-308, Mya Gonzalez, 8-512, Jade Loiza, 5-211, Jaden Loiza, 5-311, Isabella Lozano, 7-408, Ashyra Montanez, 7-408, Cassandra Santiago, 7-417, Christopher Santiago, 6-309, and Amotoli Velikov, 6-308. This competition was a hands-on learning experience for them. The way this contest worked was very simple. There were four to five tables in the middle of the room that had spices, cups, dressings, blenders, knives, and other utensils. Contestants were allowed to use whatever they liked from those tables but they had to go to the tables with an adult. In the front of the room there is a timer. The timer was set



S.M.A.R.T.S. Spelling Bee Results In A PS 83 Grade 5 W.I.N.N.E.R.

How do you spell "winner?" The answer to that question came in the persons of fifth graders, Jade Loaiza of Class 5-311 who won first place and Sophia Regalado of Class 5-311 who won second place in the S.M.A.R.T. S. Spelling Bee. The contest which was supported by Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and Councilman Ruben Diaz took place on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Stevenson High School. Three students from the third, fourth, and fifth grades from over sixty Bronx schools who had won the competitions in their own schools attended.

The day which began at 10 am with the third grade matches concluded six hours later when the fifth grade competition finally ended with victory for Jade Loaiza. She won a \$500 prize and a \$500 scholarship to a New York State college of her choice. Competition was intense with the fifth grade rivalry lasting eight rounds before Jade successfully spelled the word "caricature".

Our Staff

Brandon Muccino, Principal

Linda Collins, Faculty Advisor

8-509 Students

Imaan Chaudhry, Jason Gjokaj, Andrew Huynh,
Bernard Juncaj, Nora Krasniqi, Samantha Lien,
Adelina Makovic, Trina Nguyen, Erand Rugova,
Gabriel Sanchez, Natalie Sanchez, Carinna
Sarmiento, Zunnara Shahid, Mahnoor Sultan,
Francelys Tavarez, Emily Tran

8-508 Students

Adriana Cabral, Sam Carello, Paulina Frangaj,
Brianna Gjongecaj, Brandon Tripoli

7-409 Students

Ergi Agaj, Lendita Alimehaj, Era Bucaj,
Angelica Diaz, Arnis Dreshaj, Bassam Hussein,
Danielle Mataquel, JK Ronobir Rajjo,
Agnesa Rraci

7-408 Students

Farida Ahmed, Kiara Alcina, Robert Curcio,
Jona Dedinca, Isabella Lozano, Tasnim
Nobah, Christopher Pepdjonovic, Amir

It's a Long Way For Some of Us



At PS 83, there is a wide diversity of races, cultures, and religions. Not all students at PS 83 come to school knowing English. In addition to getting a general education, certain students also need to learn English as a second language.

In order for the English language learner to learn the language and get the best education, teachers follow certain steps. The first thing teachers do is get to know the new student and gain his/her trust. Teachers introduce new students to the rest of the class to make them feel welcomed. By understanding where the students come from and some other information about their background, the teacher can find ways to communicate in ways pupils can understand.

After getting the new students comfortable, teachers will start educating the ENL students. In the beginning, teachers usually give easy work so the learner is not overwhelmed. They give the student videos and recordings to listen to, which will increase and develop some vocabulary and pronunciation. After warming up the student, the teacher starts to increase to harder vocabulary, more grammar, and better communication skills. This will help the student increase their ability to speak better and write better with more word options. To help ELL students, it is good to give them pictures that explain something and ask them to explain



Mr. Muccino's Corner

Principal Proud Of Student Protest

by Brianna Gjongecaj 8-508

In this column, the school's principal, Mr. Muccino, shared his reaction about the March 14 Walkout at PS 83.

I recently had a chance to sit down with our principal, Mr. Brandon Muccino. During this meeting, he told me his ideas about gun violence and the recent national school walkout/protest. The National School Walkout, planned by Women's March organizers, was on March 14 at 10 am in each time zone of the country. It called for students, faculty, parents, and others to walk out of school for seventeen minutes, one minute for each person who was killed in the Florida school shooting. This date was to mark the one month anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school in Parkland, Florida.

Mr. Muccino is very proud of those seventh and eighth students who took part in this protest, especially since those who went out behaved very respectfully. He applauds them for standing up for what they believe in. This was a rare chance to hear Mr. Muccino's point of view on a topic like this. He clearly stated that if a protest like this was organized when he was a student, he, too, would have participated.

This protest was to call for enforcement of gun laws that already exist in this country and for new laws in view of the fact that there have been so many mass shootings in America. In Japan, a person who wants to own a gun has to attend an all-day class, take a written exam and pass a shooting-range test with a mark of at least 95%. There are also mental health and drugs tests. A person's criminal record is checked and police look for links to extremist groups. Then they check the applicant's relatives too - and even the work colleagues. As well as having the power to deny gun licenses, police also have sweeping powers to search and seize weapons.

In America, the laws are much more lenient. In the nearly nineteen years since the shooting at Columbine High School rocked America to its core, the country has seen so many more mass shootings. That school shooting, the first of its kind, isn't even among the ten deadliest mass shootings in modern United States history. Sadly, three of the five deadliest shootings have occurred in just the last year and a half.

The morning of the protest, Mr. Muccino came in during eighth grade advisory to inform students that they can go outside to protest peacefully for seventeen minutes. When he spoke, he told the eighth graders that he didn't want anybody who plays games like Fortnite to go out and protest. The reason he said this was that he felt that games like that one perpetuate the notion that gun violence is acceptable. He didn't want hypocrites who pretend to hate violence, but still play violent video games to

Bark Back! If you want to express your opinions about anything you read in the Barking News, write an email to Ms. Collins (lcollin3@schools.nyc.gov.)

You must include your name and class and be respectful.

Autism Awareness Month Helps To Educate The Public

by Danielle Mataquel, 7-409



April is National Autism Awareness Month. National Autism Awareness Month has as its goal to educate and keep the public aware of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that cause people all around the world to face difficulties and challenges every day. According to the [Autism Society](#), it “represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness and acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.” The different puzzle piece colors shown in the ribbon for National Autism Awareness Month signify unity and diversity of the many people and families that face challenges from autism while the brightness of the ribbon signifies hope.

When checking to see if a child may have autism, there are specific signs to look for. Usually, autism starts to develop during the early stages of an individual’s life so signs of ASD may show up at about two years old. Signs of autism could be found in ways of communication and how individuals act socially. At a young age, signs can be that the individual gives limited or no eye contact, according to an article from [Autism Speaks](#). The article states that other signs may also be limited to no speech at all and no joyful expressions being presented. In general, signals of autism may also include staying away from people and preferring to be alone. Other indications can be different repetitive behaviors, such as flapping or rocking, and unusual reactions to specific things that are heard, smelled, tasted, or touched

There is still no cure for autism today as no one knows its exact cause. There are a number of treatments that are recommended to help people with the disorder. One form of treatment many recommend is therapy. Different forms of therapy helps to treat speech issues, social concerns, and other challenges that may affect people diagnosed with autism. According to an article from [Autism Science Foundation](#), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are three treatment options that would help with the challenges that people with autism face every day. Speech therapy is an important option as it helps with social communication. Occupational therapy is also a good form of treatment as it helps people diagnosed with autism to complete tasks including fine-motor skills and movements such as dressing up or writing. Physical therapy, too, has a big impact on individuals with autism as it will help to increase an individual’s participation in everyday activities. Physical therapy may help with walking, balance, sitting, and other physical activities. Applied Behavioral Analysis is another form of treatment as it addresses behavioral issues that may come with ASD. It teaches and reinforces behaviors that are more socially and academical-

A Surge of Poetic Self-Expression at PS 83



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Poetry has the gentle yet everlasting power to set people free. It can be viewed as a beautiful, structurally-composed way for people to express their innermost beliefs and emotions to the whole wide world before them. Since it has been proven to be effective in allowing for self-expression and creativity, poetry has been celebrated in schools nationwide. For the past several years, PS 83 has been hosting three major events in the month of April that continue to honor poetry: Open Mic Celebration, Poem In Your Pocket Day, and the Poetry Anthology.

Open Mic Celebration was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. The driving force behind this school event is Ms. Valerie Auguste-Partin who was a former art teacher at PS 83. Many years ago, she decided to let the artsy, creative juices flow from her mind as she established this event. At the time, she had the intention to let people express the more eccentric, poetic side of themselves that sometimes, unfortunately, remains untouched. From 2:30 to 3:30 pm, students from the sixth to eighth grade, parents, and staff members read aloud poems that were included in the previous year’s Poetry Anthology. The goal of the Open Mic Celebration was actually very straightforward: everyone was just expected to enjoy the public read-alouds, find a tranquil comfort in the welcoming environment, and walk out delighted that they attended the Open Mic Celebration once it’s over.

To celebrate poetry further, Poem In Your Pocket Day took place on Thursday, April 26. All students, teachers, and faculty members picked or wrote a poem that has some sort of personal value to them and carried it in their pocket throughout the day wherever they went. If anyone asked them to read their chosen poem aloud, they did so. PS 83 has always made a great effort in motivating students, particularly, to participate in Poem In Your Pocket Day, since it is believed that they might find enjoyment in sharing poetry with their peers. Hopefully, those who chose to take part in this event were pleasantly surprised to find a deeper admiration for poetry blooming within themselves.

Lastly, PS 83 has been publishing its very own Poetry Anthology, otherwise known as [Insights](#), for the past fourteen years in order to garner more attention for poetry. Usually during April and May, teachers are asked to review famous poetic works with their classes. As this helps stir up more interest in historical poetry from the students, they are then prompted to write their own pieces of poetry. If any students from the fifth through eighth grade are willing to share their poems to the rest of the school, they are encouraged by the anthology publishers, Ms. Linda Collins and Mr. William Iannone, to submit their pieces to them. When all the chosen poems are later edited, revised, and rewritten, they are typed into that year’s anthology, which will finally be distributed to all the participating students and each classroom. As a result, they can indulge their published poems and also delve into the wonderful pieces their fellow schoolmates wrote. As Ms. Collins stated, “It’s almost therapeutic for the teachers and students who write poems. It’s a nice feeling to write a poem and take part in something as meaningful as this.”

Undoubtedly, writing and sharing poems can reveal the most interesting parts of people. It feeds the hushed, silent, quiet, growing, utterly compelling voices that reside within people’s hearts, that ache to be released into



Say No To Guns: Renaissance of Youth Movement

by JK Ronobir Rajjo 7-409

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Umpqua and Parkland, all major school shootings that have occurred starting from the turn of the twenty-first century. It is certain that guns have been an essential tool for defense and the Second Amendment in the Constitution of the United States gives the right to bear arms. Based on CNN, 42%, or approximately 136.79 million people own guns in the United States. Out of that population, many people use guns to hurt people. Injuries of the younger generation has been in the spotlight recently. Based on The New York Times, 31% of all mass shootings in the world take place in America. According to "Axios.com", 122 lives of students have been lost to guns and shootings in school since 1999. With many persistent gun owners in the United States, change was not likely to occur, but one shooting is what it took, for the bold Generation Z (millennials), to lead the country to the right direction.

According to Time Magazine, Nikolas Cruz, a nineteen year old, entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, at exactly 2:21 PM, arriving with a case containing his AR-15 rifle and ammunition. It was six minutes of horror, as Mr. Cruz, wearing a vest to blend in, stormed through classrooms and hallways, constantly shooting. On this day, seventeen lives were lost, and seventeen others were wounded, and a whole community was left traumatized. Students, like Jack Macleod, a junior at the school, recalled the moments while speaking to The New York Times, "We waited. It was around five minutes but it felt like hours." Carly Novell, a senior at the school, told The New York Times, when she returned to school, "How am I back to this place where I hid? Where my classmates were killed? It's just crazy to think about that."

Yet, there was no time to grieve. The shooting, has given the rise to teen activists, questioning the ownership of guns, and gun laws. One of the popular and bold activists is eighteen-year old Emma Ms. Gonzalez. According to People Magazine, she spoke out in an eleven-minute speech at an anti-gun rally in Fort Lauderdale on February 16, 2018. She said, "The people involved right now, those who were there, those postings, those tweetings, those doing interviews talking to people, are being listened to for the very first time on this topic that has come up over 1,000 times in the past four years alone." She stated, "We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks, not because we're going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America, but because we are going to be the last mass shooting." Since then, she has confronted many politicians with survivors from her high school and even the National Rifle Association (NRA). According to CNN, Ms. Gonzalez asked NRA spokesperson, Ms. Dana Loesch about her statement on whether or not it should be harder to obtain guns and bump stocks (pieces of plastic or metal molded to the lower end of a rifle to mimic the style of an assault rifle). Ms. Loesch's inability to give a definitive answer, and Ms. Gonzalez's rebuttal, began the controversy of the NRA.

Ms. Gonzalez is especially angry at the politicians



Officers Equal Safety?

by Mahnoor Sultan 8-509

Safety at schools has been a national concern for many years but the Florida shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's Day this year gained huge responses, from not only the government and parents but also many students, making the issue resurface once again. Many ideas about how to deal with the issue have been circulated such as arming teachers to protect their students. However, what about the solution we already have? New York Police Department School Agents who are already stationed at schools are meant to protect them.

In Fresh Meadows, Queens the NYPD has removed Sergeant Raul Espinet from Francis Lewis High School. Similar occurrences have happened at Bayside High School and Benjamin Cardozo High School. As of now officers aren't armed, however, in the past, it was a requirement to be armed. The practice was eliminated in the 1990s but some schools like Francis Lewis weren't accounted for. Instead of officers like the sergeant on duty, Mayor de Blasio's new policing units will visit schools while taking rounds. Some people aren't pleased with the replacement and their opinion is valid given that, in some cases, neighborhoods can contain hundreds of people and multiple schools. According to a sophomore attending the school, Ms. Josephine Li, "There are school shootings everywhere, and they took the one armed officer away from a school with 4,000 kids in it". Ms. Li then goes on to say "Who is there to protect us?" Many students have expressed similar ideas and their sincere concern including those at PS 83. Clearly people want action to be taken and have feelings that can't be ignored.

There is more reasoning behind the voices upset over the loss of a valued member in their school environment. According to an English teacher and previous dean, at Francis Lewis High School, Phyllis Leibowitz, "Kids told him things . . . They would give him a heads up, and he would handle it before it happened". When someone gains the trust of someone else, it is a big deal. Being able to have an actual trusting relationship between student and staff is key to making a better and safer school environment.

Even if every school doesn't have a NYPD officer ready with a gun to protect the school population, they already have a solution. Every school in New York has a School Safety Agent and they are trained to provide security. According to the NYPD's website, the agents must go through a physical agility test which has two events. In one, the participant must go through a simulated emergency response and, in the other, they must go through a simulated stair climb and victim rescue. The events of concern these days are school shootings and the training the agents have gone through seem to prepare them for such situations.

Guns might be scary in schools. However, trained professionals do make schools feel safer. Even though School Safety Agents are at schools, not everyone is close to them or knows what they are capable of. The agents may have training but knowing they have more power with a gun, students would

Our Childhood Stores Shutting Down



Like many, my childhood consisted much of the time playing with toys. My favorite thing was to play with a new toy. And to help with this aim Toys”R”Us was the place to get all of the newest and hottest toys. However, now after a couple of years, Toys”R”Us’s reputation has changed. The company has spent \$250 million annually to pay back debt.

Modern shopping habits have changed the way stores operate. Stores such as Amazon and Walmart have taken over since they have almost everything and these stores offer shipping. People don’t have to leave the comfort of their own homes to shop. The products will come right to their doorstep. Between 2015 and 2017, Amazon’s sales went by 24% and during this time Toys”R”Us revenues declined. In 1998, Walmart took over Toys”R”Us as the nation's largest toy retailer.

Toys”R”Us also entered in a debt since they switched to a private-equity firm where they experienced terrible mismanagement. The business was taken private by KKR and the company took in a great deal of debt. The company’s revenue started to decline in the year of 2012.

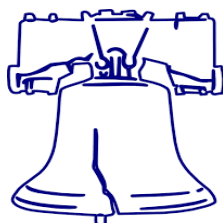
Furthermore, times have changed. Many of today's millennials spend time on electronics and social media and less time watching television. Since television is a major platform used to advertise these toys and children, the main consumers, aren’t

Chopped Challenge (cont’d. from pg. 1, col. 2)

All three rounds required a part of a meal. Round One was centered on an appetizer. For Round Two, a dessert had to be made. In the last cycle, Round Three, a hot dish had to be prepared. In every round, the team received a new box with food to use in the dish. Here came the twist. In every round, participants were allowed to use some of the previous foods from the box but in every dish they had to include the mystery items and three of the five food groups. The mystery items were pieces of food that were placed in a bowl and had to be used in the dish. The trick was to perfectly blend the flavors so they tasted good. Some examples of mystery items that PS 83 had were dragon fruit, cabbage, and bell mushrooms.

Round Three only included five out of the eleven middle schools. When the competition was over, PS 83 had won first place. For Round One, the team created a fun fruit salad with chips and home-made guacamole. A raspberry, granola, and vanilla yogurt dessert was their entry for Round Two. And for the last rotation, a mushroom, guacamole, cheese burger with a tomato and cucumber salad was their creation.

The judges loved all three of PS 83’s dishes. Two of the judges who decided the winners in the final round were professional chefs. PS 83 scored



PS 83 7th Graders Head To Good Old Philly

by Era Bucaj 7-409

It is almost time for PS 83’s annual trip to Philadelphia. It is the twenty-second year that this trip was provided to the seventh graders to enjoy on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. This trip is provided to give students new curriculum and experiences, as well as it being close to home and affordable. The trip includes many activities, including a tour to The Franklin Institute Science Museum. Hopefully, the trip will give students a fun and educational experience.

The trip begins early in the morning. Buses leave around seven o’clock in the morning. Don’t forget to set your alarm clocks for before seven, due to the fact that is essential that the buses leave on time. In each bus, there will be fifty kids each. The trip is first come, first serve. Ninety-five students and ten adults will attend. During the bus ride, an individual may eat, talk, and use his/her phone. Lunch will need to be brought in by the individuals going. The location of the site is the Franklin Institute on 222 North 20th St. This will be stored while the students go through the museum. The tour begins at around ten and the morning will be interactive. At the museum, participants can also enjoy games and rides. It is important to note that the rides cost additional money. There are demonstrations available at certain times. The museum includes three floors of games. These games are meant to stimulate the imagination.

In the afternoon, students will go visit Philadelphia’s historic sites. However, student should be aware that metal detectors are used for security reasons, for historic sites like the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. This part of the trip will include a great deal of

Perennial Math Winner (cont’d. from pg. 1, col. 1)

Recently, I interviewed Samuel regarding math and the competition.

Q: Why do you like math?

A: I really enjoy math. It gives you a challenge and can make you think deeply. Doing a complex thought process to find the answer to a math problem is something I like to do.

Q: What were your thoughts on being awarded with a gold medal and Dog Tag?

A: I am very proud of myself for doing so well in this competition. To rank so high on the leaderboards is a great feat for me to accomplish. But I would also like to congratulate everyone else for participating.

Q: What were your feelings going through this competition?

A: First I was a bit anxious. I thought I may do poorly because I heard that the questions in the Perennial Math were very challenging and complex. But I was more confident after I did superbly during the first tests. Also, I think the Noetic competitions in the previous years definitely prepared me well.

Samuel Buena is certainly someone to count on to add more pride flow through the school. We appreci-



Strikes Demand Pay Raises For Teachers!

by Adriana Cabral 8-508

Teachers have traditionally been underpaid for what they do to teach and enlighten the younger generation. It is a well-known fact that they don't get paid much compared to other professions. Lately, there has been a new effort to lower the salaries of teachers and cut funding for educational supplies because of the most recent tax cuts. Teachers across the country are now taking a stand to get raises and fight the poor conditions under which they work. This outrage began in West Virginia where thousands of teachers went on strike demanding relief from low pay and high health care costs. Although it is illegal for teachers to go on strike and protest in West Virginia, they went anyway. According to the New York Times, this movement has "spread like wildfire." Now, teachers from traditionally conservative states like Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma have joined the movement. Closer to home, in Jersey City, teachers have been inspired by the teachers of West Virginia to take a stand. They went on strike outside the schools they taught at saying that they don't do well enough financially with the paycheck that they already receive and are often forced to take second jobs.

The teachers' unions have said that the teachers' salaries aren't enough for the everyday expenses of life and that is the main reason why teachers believe that they are in need of raises. But, there is also proposed cuts to pensions and rising health care costs that have pushed the teachers to protest.

Some believe that teachers going on strike is hurting kids because if no teachers show up to teach then that means there is no one in the classrooms to teach the students. When these strikes happen, sometimes schools close and students miss those days of school which they have to make up in the summer or students attend school but don't get taught anything. This is true but it is also true that teachers must be paid fairly and schools must have the resources needed to run efficiently.

Even when the teachers go back to class, it is clear that they still won't give up on their cause.

The Time Has Come To Stop Plagiarism



Plagiarism is copying the words of other people without giving them credit. College students, high school students, and middle school students can be guilty of plagiarizing. According to the article, "Generation Plagiarism" in the New York Times by Mr. Trip Gabriel, "... 40% of college students admit to plagiarizing... 61% of high schoolers students admit to cheating on assignments... 47% of high schoolers admit to copying and pasting from the web..." Most high school and college students say that they plagiarize because they are put under stress and don't have the time to do writing assignments properly.. However, that doesn't mean plagiarism is a good thing. This excuse doesn't justify stealing someone



New York's Tax To Prevent Plastic Pollution

by Angelica Diaz 7-409

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is a common slogan used to inform the public about trying to protect the environment. The impact of plastic on wildlife has been a big problem for years. It has reached every inch of the ocean into the stomachs of almost every creature it encounters and changed the way those creatures have evolved forever. New York State had decided to tackle these pollution problems because plastic had clogged sewers and waterways. But, when that plastic was gathered up, there was a lot less plastic found than expected. The sad truth is the rest of the missing plastic remains in the bodies of sea creatures.

New Yorkers use approximately twenty-three million plastic bags each year alone. In response, a plastic bag fee was planned. This meant that in specific areas in New York State, store customers must pay a five-cent fee for plastic bags. Although a vote was not scheduled, the plan was supposed to impact several New York communities. It was then opposed by a number of lawmakers, including Governor Andrew Cuomo. He claimed that the five-cent fee will affect many low income customers who are not always able to pay. This decline disappointed many environmentalists. So in place of the plastic bag fee, Governor Cuomo promised that he will assign a statewide task force to create a plan for this never-ending dilemma.

New York still needs a permanent way to prevent plastic pollution. Bronx Democrat Luis R. Sepúlveda plans on making a cheaper fee for plastic bags. Instead of the planned five-cent fee, he proposed establishing a three-cent fee for plastic bags. He, too, believes that a five-cent fee is a big impact for low-income customers and so he tried to make the fee sensible and affordable for everyone to pay.

Plastic pollution has become a big problem worldwide.

Stopping Plagiarism (cont'd. from pg. 6, col. 1)

Plagiarism is not worth all of the consequences. According to Mr. Gabriel, "Plagiarism can lead to many things: suspension, expulsion, and a permanent blemish on their academic record."

Students sometimes copy the words of others on purpose, or because they just don't care about whether it is right or wrong. It is even possible that some students don't know that what they are doing is wrong. No matter the reason, students have to get used to not doing it, since it is considered illegal.

The teachers of kids, teenagers, and adults, are taking a stand. They are tired of all the plagiarism and are beginning to make sure there is more of it. As Mr. Gabriel, states, "A majority of U.S colleges now subscribe to anti-plagiarism services such as Turnitin.com, which can instantly search a database..." By using anti-plagiarism sites, teachers are able to find who is plagiarizing and try to stop them.

According to Mr. Andrew Siewert, "The service is useful but won't solve the problem by itself." People believe that the sites won't always work, but it could help in some cases.

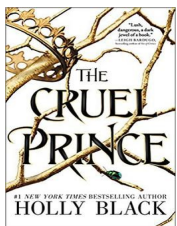
There is no shortcut to hard work when it comes to



Top Books Of 2018

by Adelina Makovic 8-509

The following titles are new releases for 2018:



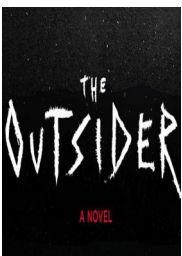
The Cruel Prince by Holly Black: This is the first novel in the series, *The Folk of the Air*. Jude lost her parents when she was just seven years old and her sisters were sent to live in the High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants to belong there, despite the fact that the fey (mythical creatures who work for Prince Cardan) despise humans. No one despises humans more than Prince Cardan, the youngest son of the High King. To be accepted in the court, Jude must defy him and it won't be easy. However, when the High Court of Faerie is threatened, Jude must risk her life to save her sisters and Faerie.

Release Date: January 2, 2018

People Like Us by Dana Mele: Kay Donovan has a dark past, but she is a new person now. She goes to a private school where she is a star soccer player. Things change when a girl's dead body is found in the lake. The dead girl has left behind a computer-coded scavenger hunt for Kay. The hunt begins to implicate suspect after suspect and maybe even Kay herself. She will do whatever it takes to survive at Bates Academy.

Release Date: February 27, 2018

War Storm by Victoria Aveyard: This is the fourth and final book of the *Red Queen series*. Mare Barrow wants to overthrow the kingdom of Norta, beginning with Maven and his crown. Mare partners up with Cal's Silver allies and the Scarlet Guard. However, Maven will stop at nothing to make Mare his own again. War is coming and Mare must fight.



Release Date: May 15, 2018

The Outsider by Stephen King: From widely acclaimed author, Stephen King, comes another eerie tale. An eleven-year-old-boy is found murdered and the evidence points to baseball coach, Terry Maitland, who has an amazing reputation in the town. Detective Ralph Anderson, orders a public arrest. Maitland has an alibi and footage to prove that he



Ps 83 Institutes Year Round Book Swap

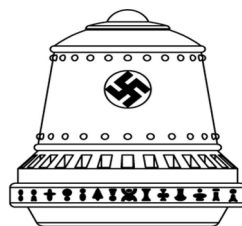
by Sarah Reda 7-408

Just to hold a book and read it is something, but it is something else altogether to recognize the importance of books in the world. It has been said that, "when you open a book, you open a new world." Books are packed with knowledge, insights into life, life lessons, love, adventure, and helpful advice.

This is why PS 83 is going to begin a school-wide permanent "book swap" for students where they can drop off a book they no longer want and/or pick up a gently-used book to experience. These books will be available in the assistant principals' offices soon.

This will help make Free Read Friday even more meaningful because the books that become available have been "student-tested" meaning that fellow students have owned them and read them and probably found them to be enjoyable.

So, look through your books at home and bring those



NAZI BELL

The Hitler Bell History or Horror?

by Jona Dedinca 7-408

"Everything for the Fatherland- Adolf Hitler."

This quote is inscribed on a notorious bell located in a church in Germany. The "Hitler Bell" has hung in the Protestant church since 1934 but was unnoticed until recently. A man had discovered it while passing by the church and wanted it gone. The question of whether it should go or stay has caused extreme debate for over a year now.

Georg Welker, the mayor of the town, has encouraged the idea of keeping the bell. The bell represents a very tragic time in world history but, according to www.nbcnews.com, "the bell is an official monument, meaning it can't be altered" says *Die Rheinpfalz*. Mr. Welker presented a specialist's opinion about the bell. The expert was unnamed but the finding was that the bell had heritage value and it should stay or be placed in a museum. Not only that, but the same expert stated that if it was disposed or removed, it would represent "an evasion of a reasonable and enlightened culture of remembrance."

The councilors in Herxheim agree with the mayor. They say that it signifies a memorial against violence. The community attempted to stop this nonsense by going to the councilors' chambers. But the councilors had decided to ignore anyone from the community who wanted to discuss the fate of the bell. Ms. Sigrid Peters said that she was very disappointed because the bell was dedicated to a murderer. I agree with Mrs. Sigrid and the many oth-

8 NY Red Bulls Looking To Make History

by Christopher



The New York Red Bulls are a professional American soccer team. This year, they are looking to make history because their goal is to aim sky high and make the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champion League Semifinals for the first time in club (soccer) history. The CONCACAF stands for the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football. The head coach, Mr. Jesse Marsch, said, "...all the big games the club has played in over the last few years will look to pay off against Xolos." Xolos is a nickname for a soccer team they are going against side-by-side in the tournament.

The Red Bulls were able to hold Tijuana, and the Red Bulls had a lead within one point. Then, they know Tijuana was maybe going to do some "tricks" on them to score a goal to win. But, the Red Bulls soccer coach said that they've been ready for this moment. They have been prepared for a long time for this moment and it is their time to shine in the Quarterfinals playing as they do all the time. Coach Marsch said, "Tuesday night will be a big test, but the group will be up for it." "We've prepared for if they play the way they did last game"... So, this shows how Coach Marsch is telling them to push and succeed harder than they ever before if they



One Giant Leap For Mankind In The Rush to Mars

With NASA not making any big plays to get to Mars, it was time for private companies to step up and plan their mission. The biggest one was SpaceX, the company owned by billionaire Mr. Elon Musk. He owns one of the biggest privately owned aerospace engineering companies. Mr. Musk would like to launch a cargo mission by 2022 and a manned mission by 2024.

SpaceX plans to use the ship named the Big Falcon Rocket (BFR). The BFR is planned to be a revolutionary spacecraft. The spacecraft is fully reusable, cheap and one of the biggest space crafts if it is made to specifications. A five-hour and thirty-minute commercial flight would take twenty-five minutes on the BFR, or 4,000 km or 2,500 miles. The BFR also has the largest payload capacity of many similarly sized space crafts. Space X is looking to make the BFR in California.

Mr. Musk would like to find a good source of water as well as build a propellant plant or a fuel plant. Then, SpaceX will work to establish a metropolis after that. They plan to slowly terraform Mars or make the planet's atmosphere viable for human life all before NASA's first estimated mission to The Red Planet.

With this planet's life winding down, there is no better time to find a new place to live. Space X is leading with their revolutionary technology and hopefully leading people into a new future with

Basketball Legend Kobe Bryant Wins an Oscar For Short Film

by Amir Rayman 7-408



Kobe Bryant won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film at the Oscars on March 4, 2018. His short film Dear Basketball is based on a poem Kobe Bryant wrote that was published in The Players Tribune in 2015, when he announced his retirement from the NBA. Glen Keane, who has animation credits for Aladdin and Beauty of the Beast, helped direct the film.

Kobe Bryant is on one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He played for the Los Angeles Lakers for his entire twenty-season career. He is a five-time champion and an eighteen-time all star. He is an inspiration to me and many young basketball players in the world. Kobe's short film was about his desire, love, and sacrifice for the game of basketball. He showed how basketball changed his life. He also demonstrated perseverance through the film when he went down with an injury or was blown out by a team. Kobe Bryant showed how basketball changed his life and how you should never give up and follow your dreams.

At the Oscars when Kobe won the award, he was speechless. During his speech, he said, "I mean, as basketball players, we are really supposed to shut up and dribble. But I am glad we can do a little bit more than that." He thanked his wife and kids for their love and support. His former basketball teammates tweeted out a huge congratulations to him for winning an Oscar. LeBron James said his film was "phenomenal" when he was asked if he saw Kobe's film. Kobe Bryant thought he would never win an Oscar and told reporters in an interview room after he won the award, "I feel better than winning a championship, to be honest with you. I swear I do." His former teammate, Luke Walton, was surprised that Kobe said that with a straight face and said "I didn't see it but I would imagine that there was some sarcasm in there." Luke Walton also said, he was happy for Kobe Bryant, not surprised. Kobe also says that he is working on a series of novels, adding, "I wake up in the morning, I can't wait to write."

Kobe Bryant is one of the greatest basketball players



Ready, Set, Football

by Sam Carello 8-508

Football season is coming to PS 83 and many people couldn't be more excited. Thanks to the Sports and Arts program, more sports are coming than ever before. Softball, soccer and football tryouts were the week of March 11, 2018. However, football tryouts got postponed to the week of March 18, 2018. In the first round of the tryouts, several people were cut. The second round cut the team out to around twenty people. Many people who were trying out were from the basketball team because their season ended with a devastating loss in the first round of the playoffs.

Football is a very popular sport at the school. But the real question is who will bring PS 83 home the championship? There's not one person who will bring home the title because football is a team sport. There cannot be one person who carries the team. There are captains but not dictators. The games are in the process of being scheduled. Dates will come out soon. Be sure

Say No To Guns (cont'd. from pg. 4, col. 1)

John McCain, the senator in Arizona, receives \$7.7 million in funds from the NRA, Richard Burr, senator of North Carolina, obtains almost \$7 million in funds and Roy Blunt, senator of Missouri, accepts \$4.5 million in funds. Based on CNN, Parkland survivor, Cameron Kasky, urged Senator Marco Rubio of Florida to refuse NRA donations.

The student protests do not stop. On March 14, 2018, an estimated one million students (according to The New York Times), participated in a nationwide walk out lasting seventeen minutes, commemorating the seventeen lives lost, one month before in the shooting. PS 83, was one of the proud schools, who participated in this walkout. Eighth grade students participated in the walk out after speaking to a teacher, who spoke to the principal, Brandon Muccino. At 10am sharp, seventh and eighth graders walked out to the yard and circled the track. They walked around the track for seventeen minutes, one minute for each death. Then, students gathered on the concrete platform and read a statement which expressed their hope for the future. In total, approximately one hundred eighth graders and a few seventh graders participated in the walk out.

The March for Our Lives, that took place in Washington D.C on March 24, 201, was also another event of student protest. Many of the survivors spoke out and delivered inspiring speeches. According to The New York Times, similar marches took place in New York City, Salt Lake City, Boston and Los Angeles. In total, hundreds of thousands of people marched that day to protest gun laws. Ms. Gonzalez, had an inspiring speech again. Based on Time Magazine, Ms. Gonzalez ended her six-minute speech with, "Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job."

These protests of Generation X have worked. Based on "Refinery29.com", major stores like Dick's Sporting Goods will end sales of assault-style rifles and is no longer selling high-capacity gun magazines. It will also no longer sell any guns to anyone under age twenty-one, regardless of local laws. Walmart announced that it has raised the age limit for purchasing guns and ammunition to twenty-one years of age. Kroger, and outdoor supply store, will no longer sell firearms to anyone under the age of twenty-one at its Fred Meyers locations. L.L. Bean will no longer sell guns or ammunition to anyone under twenty-one years old. REI announced they would halt its orders from Vista Outdoor, who owns firearm-manufacturing companies. Based on CNN, politically, state legislatures in Congress will outlaw bump stocks, enforce stronger background checks, support all markets to raise the age to buy guns, restrict gun magazine sizes to save lives and ban AR-15 style weapons.

Finally, the adults have responded to this renaissance of young movement. Based on Eudaimonia, Mr. Umair Haque, an adult journalist stated, "The Parkland kids are leading us somewhere that matters." According to "Business Insider", thirty-four year-old Mr. Alex Monroe stated, "[I am] hoping to elevate their voices to make change happen on this problem in our country."

The renaissance of young movement on gun laws is destined to make a change in the country's politics. This generation has boldly taken the responsibility to change the laws, so that some day guns won't be



See A Friend In Need Help Them To Succeed! by Kiara Alcina & Andra Shehu

The word, "depression" can be misleading. Most people have felt depression at times when they have encountered with challenging situations as a setback or even the ending of an important relationship. For most people, the extreme unhappiness/extreme pain is only lasting for a short time. In fact, depression is the most common mental health disorder after anxiety disorders. It affects seven percent of adults in the United States in any given year, with a lifetime popularity of twenty one percent of all Americans. According to the World Health Organization, it is the leading cause of worldwide disability.

Men and women may experience depression differently. Women are affected at twice the rate of men, while men with depression are more likely to die by suicide. There are also gender differences in the way symptoms are experienced. Also, clinical depression (major depressive disorder) is more than just a temporary feeling. It is relatively long-lasting, meaning it can get worse over time, and significantly interferes with a person's daily activities. Clinical depression can come in different forms, such as Major Depressive Disorders, Persistent Depressive Disorder (Dysthymia), Seasonal Affective

Can Billionaires Be The New Face Of American Healthcare?

by Zunnara Shahid 8-509



One thing America has not mastered is the concept of universal healthcare. America has not been able to give its citizens of a proper healthcare plan in which all people are insured regardless of background and income. So the world's wealthiest have taken the matter into their own hands Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway's and JP Morgan Chase have decided that they would form an independent healthcare company for their employees.

It is unclear as to what this company would be able to do, whether they would assist their employees into finding a licensed physician, or using their combined power to get lower prices for medicine and drugs. Whatever action they take will surely leave an impact as they are some of the world's largest companies. Amazon itself captures nearly one in every two dollars Americans spend online according to Forbes and has a revenue of 177.9 billion, Berkshire Hathaway has a revenue of 242.1 billion and JP Morgan Chase has a revenue of 99.62 billion. The healthcare that they create will only apply to the employees of their business. If they manage to be successful and provide decent healthcare to their employees they might be able to change the face of American healthcare.

All three of the corporate giants are dedicated to improving the healthcare of their employees. Amazon's founder and chief executive has previously said in a statement "hard as it might be, reducing health care's burden on the economy while improving outcomes for employees and their families would be worth the effort." They are clearly determined to find some sort of solution that



The tragic event, the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, that occurred on February 14, 2018 is something that can never be forgotten. Seventeen people were killed. Supporting the families that lost loved ones is what people wanted to do so they decided to do their part and donate to help families on a popular donating website, GoFundMe.com. However, this way of helping the victims has been leading to trouble.

According to “Broward School Shooting: Sheriff Warns of Fake GoFundMe Accounts” by Jennifer Sorentue, the website has detected multiple false campaigns. People have mistakenly been donating their money to these fake operations. People with good intentions share links for false campaigns, unknowingly, through social media. The donors lose the money meant to help the families. Many individuals are trying to spread awareness about these fake campaigns. For example, both GoFundMe.com and the Sheriff of Broward, Florida addressed, on Twitter, the fake foundations and attached the correct fund. GoFundMe.com is doing everything they can in order to spot and cancel these fake causes. But this isn’t the only untrustworthy thing on the internet.

In addition, there have been many more scams taking place. Many people would have assumed it’s older people who are not so careful on the computer. However, it’s the exact opposite of that. Millennials are the ones getting scammed more than anyone with computer access. Seniors have been more responsible with their important information while spending time online. For example, in an article, “More Millennials Reported Losing Money To Scam in 2017 Than Senior Citizens” by Jacob Passy. In the article, it states, “Among consumers ages 20 to 29, 40% of those who made fraud complaints to the Federal Trade Commission lost money, compared with just 18% of those who were ages 70 and older...” It is demonstrated in the article that young people are the ones who are being victimized by scammers more than seniors today. This has become a very significant problem due to the fact that young people are growing up in a time when technology has been advancing intensely. It isn’t so safe on the internet because of these online con artists, however, some fail to realize this.

People hiding behind the computer screens are tak-

See A Friend In Need (cont’d. from pg. 9, col. 2)

After researching we still had many questions, so we decided to consult a professional. We went to Ms. Stephanie Loretta's office, asked multiple questions and got helpful answers. The first question we asked was “Why do you think kids get depressed? She replied that she thinks it is because they have a lot of pressure at a young age.” She added that mood disorders are very common for children between the ages of around twelve to fifteen.” Our most significant question “What do you think our society can do for students who are suicidal?” Her response was “to be aware, also for there to be more counselors.” Ms. Loretta added that one way to prevent suicide from happening is by calling the suicide prevention lifeline. The number is (800) 273-8255. They’re a national network of local crisis centers that is available twenty-four hours and that provides free emotional support.



by Trina Nguyen 8-509

Something strange, scary and sublime is happening to cameras, and it’s going to complicate everything you knew about pictures. Cameras are getting brains. Until the past few years, just about all cameras — whether smartphones or point-and-shoots or CCTV surveillance — were like eyes disconnected from any intelligence.

They captured anything you put in front of them, but they didn’t understand a whit about what they were seeing. Even basic facts about the world eluded them. It’s crazy, for instance, that in 2018, your smartphone doesn’t automatically detect when you’ve taken pictures of yourself and offered to house them under an extra-special layer of security. But all this is changing. There’s a new generation of cameras that understand what they see. They’re eyes connected to brains, machines that no longer just see what you put in front of them, but can act on it — creating intriguing and sometimes eerie possibilities. At first, these cameras will promise to let us take better pictures, to capture moments that might not have been possible with every dumb camera that came before. That’s the pitch Google is making with Clips, a new camera that went on sale on Tuesday. It uses so-called machine learning to automatically take snapshots of people, pets and other things it finds interesting.

It doesn’t take long to imagine the useful and very creepy possibilities of cameras that can decipher the world. Digital cameras brought about a revolution in photography, but until now, it was only a revolution of scale: Thanks to microchips, cameras got smaller and cheaper, and we began carrying them everywhere. Now, A.I. will create a revolution in how cameras work, too. Smart cameras will let you analyze pictures with prosecutorial precision, raising the specter of a new kind of surveillance — not just by the government but by everyone around you, even your loved ones at home.

The companies making these devices are aware of

See A Friend In Need (cont’d. from pg. 10, col. 1)

Another way is talking to an adult or a specialist about depression. People can also get out more and exercise the mind which is a great way to try to keep the mind off of all the worries and problems. Additionally, people can buy a dog, to cheer them up. In fact, when a person is feeling lost with nothing to get out of bed for or even to live for, knowing he/she has to get up to take care of the dog can be a welcome distraction. Animals can also help you smile and laugh even on your worst days.

In conclusion, from researching this information we’ve realized that suicide is a very serious topic. Overall, suicide is a big problem in the United States. Students and adults suffer from suicide due to mental health illnesses. When times get tough, just remember to reach out, there are people that care about you and they want to help.

Dogs Helping Kids With Special Needs



Dogs don't only run around the outdoors chasing squirrels. They can go around schools to help individual students with special needs. "Having canines in classrooms is a real mood changer" Sarah Mckibben, the editor of Education Update, states, "Dogs are a very popular pet. They are affectionate, loyal animals which makes them uniquely suited to help kids adjust to everyday life from any other animals.

They are so helpful that they are used to offer therapy to special needs children. Children with autism or Asperger's syndrome have special needs that dogs could help out with. Dogs are the pet of choice when it comes to these special children. There are different levels of help that dogs can offer depending on the needs of the child and the training that the dog receives.

Also there are companion dogs, therapy dogs and service dogs. Companion dogs are basically like a family pet that offers companionship and can help ease anxiety. Children with autism often have difficulties making friends and are also many times made fun of by other children especially in school settings. Therapy dogs are the same as companion dogs in many ways but in addition they can be trained specifically to meet certain child's needs. Now, service dogs are different because they are used in a way to help people with actual disabilities and can legally be brought into public spaces.

In other good news, PS 83 is thinking of bringing in dogs to help some of our students



Wag Away The Stress

by Jaslyn Tran 7-408

Over the years, the percentage of pets in households have risen high each year. Currently, almost sixty-eight percent of Americans has a pet under a family's roof. Although pets like dogs and cats are fun to be around, they can be much more. Many people use this animals to help themselves throughout stressful times. People who know will say that a dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself.

Pets have always been there for their owners. Throughout the day, the stress levels for an average adult increase due to the amount of work that is put onto their shoulders. Fortunately, these rates of tension decrease when a pet is around. Research has concluded that pets can be used as a method of coping. For instance, if a person has a medical issue like depression or anxiety, owning a

How to Look More Attractive: Own a Pet!

by Emily Tran 8-509



11

We have all heard the phrase, "a dog is a man's best friend." But dogs may have another perk for their owners. They're the newest 'essential' to appearing more attractive, for both men and women. Pets in general have been proven to send a message to strangers about their owners' character and inner self.

Attraction to others stems from instinct as well as visual and personal characteristics. For example, one might be captivated by another with chocolate-brown hair and dark blue eyes. That is an example of visual attraction. One might also be interested in a compassionate and dedicated person. That is an example of character-based attraction. Pets allow strangers to identify their owners as both visually and personally attractive. Especially for dogs, people can infer that their owners have the ability to be committed in a long-term situation, have patience and responsibility for another being, are experienced in empathizing, and are socially active. And who doesn't look good with a dog anyway?

Having a pet includes the idea of a long-term relationship because owners are held responsible for them for the months or years they are alive and together. In a romantic relationship, people seek out those who are ready to settle down for years to come and not just a few months for fun. The idea of patience and willing to accept differences or imperfections is something almost everyone finds necessary in a relationship, romantic or not. Being a dog-owner forces you to be socially active and attracts more attention. A stranger on the street would most likely approach someone who is walking their French bulldog over someone without one. It creates an opportunity for a conversation or interaction.

Celebrities and their pets have made headlines in magazines and online news outlets, all receiving compliments on how adorable and compatible they look. These include, for example, Australian actor Liam Hemsworth and his dog Dora, pop-singer Taylor Swift and her cat Olivia Benson, male model Sean O'Pry and his dog Tallulah, American actor Channing Tatum and his horse Storm, and many, many more.

On a less grand scale, people who have pets are generally perceived as being more compassionate and

Wagging Away Stress (cont'd. from pg. 10, col. 1)

person can go from upset to happy within a few seconds once a pet is present. Because of this, pets are often a part of treatment a depressed person can receive.

Also, studies have shown that the blood pressure levels of pet owners can drop as well when pets are present. This is very important because high blood pressure can lead to life-threatening situations such as heart attacks and strokes.

With all of the challenges of twenty-first century life, pets can be an easy way to counteract the negativity. The saying, "A dog is a man's best friend" is



Life As A Muslim With The Five Pillars

As Spring approaches, most of the major religions celebrate their holiest time of the year. In the case of Islam, the holiday of Ramadan changes every year. This is due to the fact that the moon cycle changes every year which may cause other countries to start Ramadan at different times. Ramadan is a holiday that is celebrated by all Muslims. The purpose of this holiday is to understand how others with no money may feel without having food and water.

Islam was originally created around 1081 and 1097. It is the second biggest religion that has over 1.8 billion people that are Muslim. People would assume that Islam started from the prophet, Muhammad but really it is a message given by all the prophets of Allah (God) from Adam to Muhammad who was also a prophet. The message of Islam is to have faith in Allah and always do good. All prophets and their followers are simply called Muslims in the Quran, which is a religious book. Every human being is born with the innate will to submit to Allah. Islam is not only a religion, but also a comprehensive way of life. This religion defines the rights and responsibilities of every individual in regards to their relationship with Allah and his creations. It balances the spiritual and material needs of its followers and help them gain happiness in life and salvation in the next.

Islam consists of five pillars that is needed to be an accomplished Muslim. The first pillar is called "Shahada," which means faith. Every Muslim must believe that Allah is one and he has no partner and no children. The second pillar is called "Salah," which in other words means prayer. They must pray five times everyday. Each prayer has its own name and time. There is one that starts before sunrise, another that starts in the noon, then in the afternoon, evening, and lastly in the night. The third pillar is called "Zakaat," meaning charity. People who are considered wealthy or somewhat wealthy must give some money to the poor people. Zakaat is not only a governmental tax, but its main purpose is to help the poor people and keep those who are wealthy clean monetarily from sins. The fourth pillar is called "Saum," which is fasting. Every men and women of age twelve and higher are required to fast. Fasting in Islam means to stay away from eating and drinking, starting from early dawn and ending when the sun sets. After the sun sets, they are allowed to begin eating. This whole process lasts for one whole month. Finally, the fifth and last pillar is called "Hajj," meaning pilgrimage to Mecca. Mecca is a place in Saudi Arabia and it is considered the holiest place in Islam. Muslims

It's A Long Way (cont'd. from pg. 2, col. 1)

To help ELL students develop vocabulary, an instructor moves on to higher and more challenging tasks by giving students more things to explore and give them more critical thinking tasks. According to the article "Understanding the Unique Instructional Needs of English Learners" by Elizabeth Brooke "Instructional activities often incorporate the development of skills such as imaging and sequencing in both oral and written language and moves to higher order thinking skills such as determining the main idea, drawing inferences, predicting outcomes and summarizing." This will help ELL students do better in tests with stories or articles, and bring them closer to the same level as other students in their class. This will help the student have a better understanding of stories which will help in the next step.

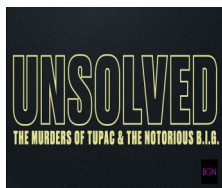
Students must be challenged by giving them harder material to read. They can only get better by being exposed to more complicated reading, as was also mentioned in the article. This is the hardest step for all ELL students because of unfamiliar vocabulary and sentence structure. Because of this, teachers should encourage students to highlight and look up words they do not understand.

Class participation is crucial. Encouraging new students to participate in the class allows having confidence in themselves and in what they have to say. Teachers need to start calling on the ELL students to answer questions, express their point of view and explain their opinion.

At this point, ELL students should be able to understand things on their own. They should be able to pick books that interest them and not have problems understanding them. In class, they should be able to handle the same level of class work and tests as their classmates. More importantly, ELL students that excel must help new ELL students by mentoring them. When newer students see what others have accomplished and learned from their experience, it will give them more courage and desire to do the same.

Hopefully, the steps that I have mentioned and my experience as an ELL student will help others in understanding how to deal with non-English





Unsolved: The Mysteries Behind The Murders Of Tupac & Notorious B.I.G.



O.J Simpson's Lost Confession 13

by Samantha Lien 8-509

Christopher Wallace, known by many as The Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur were two of the most iconic and influential hip hop artists of the 1990s and are still remembered well by many today for their famously popular music and for a more somber reason: their deaths. The Notorious B.I.G., also known as Biggie Smalls, and Tupac were both killed in drive-by shootings along the West Coast; California and Nevada, respectively, to be more specific.

Unsolved, a crime drama series that first aired on February 27, 2018, is a show that reenacts the investigations that took place covering both murders that happened only months apart and tries to solve one of the greatest mysteries in hip-hop history.

At the time of the murders, the east-west rivalry was a very real and very prevalent topic in both hip-hop culture and it shows through the show's execution of the both the investigations and the plot as a whole. During the late 1980's and early 1990's, hip-hop music exploded into pop culture. Artists such as The Notorious B.I.G., Nas, Tupac, and Mobb Deep, exploded into the mainstream media with their new and aggressive "underground" hip-hop and rap music. Views of many topics such as crime, drugs, and violence changed drastically amongst the millions of people who listened passionately to the words that these men would say. Through major radio stations and both minor and major events such as concerts, rap battles, and ciphers - which are informal gatherings of rappers and beatboxers - helped to shape hip-hop culture in the 90s.

Many people and events helped to shape hip-hop in the 90s. However, two men were more influential than almost every other rapper at the time and did more to shape hip-hop than anyone else. Christopher Wallace, also known as the Notorious B.I.G. was famous for both his lyrical style and the fact that he was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Tupac Shakur was also a rapper who quickly gained popularity for his lyricism and the songs he sang. He was also born in New York. However, he moved to Oakland, California in his late teens. From there, both men made music in similar styles at around the same time. This fueled what would later be known as the "East-West Hip-Hop Rivalry". Sadly, however, both rapper's lives were short-lived as both men died within a year of each other in separate drive by shootings.

Unsolved does a great deal to visualize everything that happened during both the shootings and the investigations that took place afterwards. Unsolved is heavily researched and includes actual findings that were made during the investigations that took place and attempts to connect the two

On Sunday, March 11, 2018, a never before seen interview with Mr. O.J. Simpson aired on Fox TV. The Lost Confession was a two-hour special, which Fox had advertising as "shocking".

The footage, originally filmed in 2006, showed Mr. Simpson and Ms. Judith Regan, an American editor, producer, book publisher, and television and radio talk show host, taking part in an intense interview. The interview was initially meant to promote Ms. Regan's book titled If I Did It. The book discusses a hypothetical situation on how the National Football League player might have killed his ex-wife, Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ron Goldman. Despite the fact that this incident occurred all these years ago, The Lost Confession did offer a rare chance to hear Mr. Simpson's own stance on the murders, which he never testified about in the original criminal trial, giving viewers insight on what might have actually happened.

Additionally, Fox tried to make the past interview relevant to today's news by putting it in the context of powerful, famous men abusing women, which had been a major reason for being aired in the first place. The Fox productions, Ms. Regan, host Ms. Soledad O'Brien and Mr. Christopher Darden, the lawyer who helped prosecute the original case, had all urged for this content to be aired as it shines a light on the era of #MeToo and #TimesUp. Thus, the documentary was meant for society to look inside the mind of a domestic abuser, and perhaps a warning to anyone who might be in a toxic relationship with someone who talks the way Mr. Simpson does in the interview.



Disney's Frozen on Broadway: Two Sisters Facing the World

by Isabella Lozano 7-408

ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!!! On March 22, 2018, the one and only show to make you freeze up has come out on Broadway. It's.... Frozen!!!!!! I know many of you are thinking, just let it go, but that's impossible. Frozen is now the highest-grossing animated film in history. 82% of Frozen's viewers gave the movie a big thumbs up. You know, those things that youtubers and famous instagrammers are always asking for. Let's go sledding into an amazing show.

Starring in the role of Elsa is Ms. Caissie Levy and starring in the role of Anna is Ms. Patti Murin. According to the critics, Frozen is what a Broadway musical should be, "singular, heartwarming, elegant, witty" as the Jesse Green of The New York Times put it... "AWESOME." When tickets first went on sale, they sold out in days. It quickly became clear that if there was going to be one must-see show, Frozen was it. There is so much to see and so much going on. The backgrounds and lights and actors are out of this world. The outfits are so colorful and eye catching. The vocals in these amazing actors voices are outstanding. The props and backgrounds and scenes make the performance look so realistic.

The set crew and actors are ready for you. The snow is cold, the chairs are cleaned, and the props are in position.



Why Everyone Should Love Simon

by Jason Gjokaj 8-509

People's teenage years can be some of their most terrifying, as they are still trying to discover who they are. The idea of being in love is also hazy to them. Various movies like Grease, Love Actually, and A Walk to Remember have depicted these coming-of-age teen romance stories. However, the new movie Love, Simon is bringing a fresh twist to this genre. Written by This Is Us screenwriters Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker, and based on the novel Simon vs. the Homosapiens Agenda by Becki Albertalli, Love, Simon tells the love story of a gay boy.

The movie follows seventeen-year old Simon Spier, portrayed by Nick Robinson, who attends high school in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. He lives what can be perceived as a normal life. He has a loving family, loyal friends, and a stable academic career. But, he's homosexual and feels insecure about telling others that he's gay. He's later informed that one of his anonymous classmates, known only by their online persona "Blue", is also gay. Simon proceeds to get in contact with them under his own pseudonym, "Jacques". The two immediately hit it off, and Simon begins to feel a real connection with Blue. However, another student named Martin, portrayed by Logan Miller, discovers the emails that Simon and Blue have been sending each other, and learns that Simon is gay. Martin blackmails Simon into helping him win over one of Simon's friends, Abby, played by Alexandra Shipp. When Abby rejects Martin in front of the entire school, he takes his anger out on Simon. He leaks the emails that Simon and Blue sent each other, and reveals to everyone that Simon is gay. Heart-broken, Simon loses hope in love. However, with the help of his friends, Simon gets back on his feet and becomes determined to figure out the identity of Blue.

This movie can really be an inspiration for people struggling with their sexuality. During the movie, Simon says, "It doesn't seem fair that only gay people have to come out. Why is straight the default?" Many people who are gay are insecure because they feel unusual. Simon symbolizes how being gay shouldn't influence how others think of a person which is very comforting.

Furthermore, Love, Simon can motivate people to reveal their homosexuality aka "coming out". For example, according to The Huffington Post, a bisexual teenager went to see the movie with his father, and in the car ride home he felt so encouraged that he came out to him. The teen later tweeted about it, and the tweet blew up with thousands of likes and retweets. The tweet prompted others to go see the movie, which has made even more people come out. Also, on an episode of The Ellen Show with Nick Robinson, he admitted that his brother came out during the time the movie was filmed. Clearly, the respect this movie is giving for the LGBTQ+ community is immense.

Love, Simon has received an outpouring of positive reception. Common Sense Media calls it, "Tender, sweet, and affecting. This is the mainstream romcom that gay teens might not have even known they needed. But when they watch it, they'll find themselves deeply reflected."

Love, Simon has received an outpouring of posi-



Avengers: Throwing the Gauntlet At the Box Office

by Andrew Huynh &

Since the Marvel Cinematic Universe launched in 2008 with the release of Iron Man, the world has seen many superheroes on the big screen such as Spider-Man, Black Panther, Captain America and many other inspiring and unique heroes. Since then, eighteen films have been produced and has set precedents for how amazing movies can be with the likes of the Avengers (2012) and Black Panther (2018). Avengers: Infinity War is set to release on April 27, 2018, and fans have been teased with trailers revealing key details about the film.

In Avengers: Infinity War, it is really important among fans that the movies will provide viewers with nostalgic memories taking new and old fans to the comics and not be something drastically different. Similar in its own because no fan would want to just watch a movie version of what they already read and saw through the comics but slightly different so that it is something more interesting to watch. As far as the continuity with the comics most readers suppose that there will be much reference to it. As seen from the trailers, it is already clear that as far as the plot of the film, it will stick to its comic book lore. The film is set to include many previous actors as Chris Evans (Captain America), Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Tom Holland (Spider-Man), Chadwick Boseman (Black Panther), etc. The plan for the film is set to include the villain Thanos, with four other villains known as the Black Order. It will take all the heroes that have been included in the previous eighteen movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) to come together to face the new threat. Thanos plans on collecting powerful stones that will alter many aspects of the universe. As fans were teased with the movie's online trailer, the main villain states, "In time, you will know what it's like to lose; to feel so desperately that you're right, yet to fail all the same". Among these mysterious plans, there is also a huge question regarding who will end up dying due to some actors' contracts running out shortly.

Love Simon (cont'd. from pg. 14, col. 1)

There are so many people out there that can relate to Simon, and watching the movie can make them feel like they're not alone. Furthermore, Rotten Tomatoes says, "Love, Simon hits its coming-of-age beats more deftly than many entries in this well-traveled genre -- and represents an overdue, if not entirely successful, milestone of inclusion." The strong messages that this movie conveys of a teenager's struggle with his sexuality and quest to fit in is something everyone can learn from.

Overall, Love, Simon is a movie I would recommend to anyone who has ever felt alienated. Throughout the movie, it is evident that Simon is afraid of coming out to his family and friends. He's worried that they'll look at him differently if they know he is gay. However, once his secret is out, everyone treats him the same. He continues his life but he feels happier and freer with his secret out. The teaches audiences to embrace who they are, because in the long-run, the only thing that matters is that they are comfortable with their sexual orientation

Wakanda Future We Looking At Here?



The major blockbuster film Black Panther has grossed over 1 billion USD worldwide due to great word of mouth and having a nearly all black cast in a major American movie. This was a major hurdle to surpass, but it shows that a film can be a crowd pleaser and a money raker without having a standard hollywood plot or cast. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe, T'Challa has many more hurdles to pass. In the upcoming MCU films, like Avengers: Infinity War, Avengers 4, and many more successors, the character Black Panther has an uncertain future ahead.

The actor of The Black Panther, Chadwick Boseman, has a five-film contract for Marvel, meaning at least three more films will feature the king of Wakanda. Marvel Studios can certainly move this character in any direction it wishes. In Avengers: Infinity War, even the threat of Thanos cannot undermine the box office power of the Black Panther character. The role of Wakanda could be very big during the newest upcoming MCU movie. In many shots of the trailer, Wakanda is depicted, with many of Marvel's most prevalent characters, doing battle against Thanos's Outriders. Wakanda might not fare very well in the future. In the official trailer, Steve Rogers, Natasha Romanoff, Sam Wilson, and a few more of Roger's Secret Avengers find a safe haven in Wakanda, greeted by the king. More scenes find them defending Wakanda against the forces of Thanos, the villain. Wakanda would have a devastating aftermath following whatever events may occur in the unreleased film. But Black Panther himself will surely be alive after these events, albeit his status as king might change if he doesn't even have a country to rule.

In any of the most likely sequels that will spawn out of the success of the first Black Panther movie, T'Challa might not be in very great shape though. With three more movies to go, and the actor already acting his role in the next two Avengers movies, this means that his last movie would be a definite Black Panther sequel. This leaves Marvel Studios with two options for any further movies: renewing a contract with Chadwick Boseman in order to make a trilogy, or killing off T'Challa or something else of that extent which would leave him incapable of being on screen in future movies. Black Panther sequels can still happen however, without T'Challa himself, as the Black Panther is just the role of the greatest warrior of Wakanda. Many people speculate to see sister Shuri as the new black panther, as this has happened before in the comics. T'Challa's future is very uncertain, especially with all the risks Marvel has been willing to take in these recent years and the secrecy

Grand Theft Art: The Truth Behind Stolen Artwork

by Imaan Chaudhry 8-509



The art of theft is something that is as brutal as it is demeaning. There are many levels of theft, something as simple as stealing a snack at the local deli or as devious as stealing a purse. Yet, the one of the most devious types of theft is undeniably, art theft. Art theft is usually for the purpose of resale or ransom (sometimes called artnapping). Stolen art is sometimes used by criminals as collateral to secure loans. Only a small percentage of stolen art is recovered, Estimates range from 5 to 10%. This means that little is known about the scope and characteristics of art theft.

There have been many famous cases of art theft, some heists where the most famous art pieces in the world have been stolen. One example of this is the 1911 theft of the most famous art piece in the world, the Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci. The police were as baffled as everyone else. It was thought that modernist enemies of traditional art must be involved and the avant-garde poet and playwright Guillaume Apollinaire was arrested in September and questioned for a week before being released. Pablo Picasso was the next prominent suspect, but there was no evidence against him either. Two years went by before the true culprit was discovered, an Italian petty criminal called Vincenzo Peruggia who had moved to Paris in 1908 and worked at the Louvre for a time. He went to the gallery in the white smock that all the employees there wore and hid until it closed for the night when he removed the Mona Lisa from its frame. When the gallery reopened he casually walked out with the painting under his smock, attracting no attention, and took it to his lodgings in Paris.

Perugia apparently believed that the Mona Lisa had been stolen from Florence by Napoleon and that he deserved a reward for doing his patriotic duty and returning it to its true home in Italy. Soon after, the Mona Lisa was safely returned to the original home in the Louvre and has resided there ever since. This is a perfect example of a more "famous" heist where there was global attention. Yet some heists go unnoticed. Billions of dollars' worth of art goes missing every year, according to the F.B.I., but thefts of high-profile paintings are both infrequent and widely reported. These paintings never get returned and end up becoming forever lost.

All in all, the theft of all this incredible artwork that artists have put their soul into something that must never be forgotten, overlooked or improperly addressed. Art is something precious, all forms of it, and the business of art theft goes against every principle that the artist based their work on. To be

16 The Great Cursive Debate Cursive Writing vs. Printing

by Brandon Tripoli 8-508



The debate about cursive writing vs. printing is raging in education! Is cursive writing worth learning or is it a waste of time?

What's so significant about writing cursive? Experts say it's good for your brain. According to the "The great cursive debate" it states "cursive writing engages both the right and left hemispheres of the brain. It can actually aid in reading comprehension, idea generation, spelling, brain development and memory." Another pro of learning script is that it helps with dyslexia. Dyslexia is a general term for disorders that involve difficulty in learning to read or interpreting words, letters, and other symbols, but that do not affect general intelligence. Basically, learning cursive helps students who suffer from any forms of dyslexia. It is also important for people to learn cursive in order to sign any documents or papers. Furthermore, it allows students to express their creativity through arts. It's not that hard to learn cursive anywhere. It can be taught in about an hour. After that, it is all practice.

Even though there are benefits to learning cursive, I believe, it is ultimately a waste of time. In 2012, at a handwriting conference hosted by Zaner-Bloser, a publisher of cursive textbooks, surveyed teachers. Only thirty-seven percent wrote in cursive. Thus, educators are abandoning the practice from time to time. In addition, it's a waste of valuable learning time that teachers don't have. It is still possible to get the benefits from handwriting without learning cursive. A person is still able to understand cursive even without learning how to write in it. Also, there are no studies that show that writing in cursive is more effective than printing.

Animal Abusers May Indicate Potential Future Killers

by Nora Krasniqi 8-509



There are some children who abuse animals and this is a terrible thing. But this type of sick behavior is more than it seems to be. Research shows that animal abusers are more likely to perform criminal activity when they become adults. People who abuse animals want to hurt other living things and after they abuse animals, they believe that they want to take a next step and move on to humans. They have a different mindset that confuses the difference from right and wrong, thus changing their morals. According to the New York Post, an article named "Can the FBI catch futures serial killers using this test?", states, "There seems to be a 'graduation effect,' where troubled youngsters rehearse by torturing the family pet or other animals before subsequently hurting humans." Criminologists have recognized a link between serial killers and past animal abusers. It was concluded that people who think hurting living organisms is morally correct start out with abusing animals and move on to abusing humans. When abusing an animal, the abuser believes that its life is inferior to his/her own and decide that other people should feel the same way.

The NY Post also states, "Animal abusers are five times more likely to commit acts of human violence (for example, assault and rape), four times more likely to commit property offenses (such as burglary and vandalism) and three times more likely to commit drug offenses." The issue states statistics on how much more likely someone is to commit crimes after abusing animals. The article further lists many examples. One example states "Jeffrey Dahmer strangled and dismembered seventeen men and then kept their decomposing bodies in a barrel of acid. In childhood, he would reportedly kill animals to skin and soak their bones in acid before mounting their heads on stakes in the backyard." Dahmer used the same tactics when he abused animals and later moved on to abusing humans. He murdered seventeen men and kept their bodies in acid, which is similar to his experience in killing animals and keeping their bodies in acid as well.

This leads to the question of how can we stop people from committing these crimes. The FBI can keep track of animal abusers and their activity. This can allow them to keep track of their whereabouts and to make sure that they will not harm others. People can also play a role to report any activity that they witnessed to the authorities. Moreover, the government can regulate this issue more and not only help the people who are at stake, but the animals suffering as well.

All in all, animal abuse can gradually become something more serious. Abusers are more likely to commit crimes, especially killers since they have this mindset that they can kill other living things. There have been many instances that prove this theory as well. From this evidence, the FBI can stop more crimes from happening and the world can be a safer place. So if you see an animal abuser, contact the authorities because you might be the one who saved lives!