

83's Barking Barking News



March 1, 2018

Volume 4 Number 3

PS 83 Math Champions Bring Home The Honors



PS 83 has outstanding mathematicians that are bringing home top honors. On January 13, 2018 students from the seventh and eighth grades participated in the “ Martin Luther King Jr ” math competition. The PS 83 top winner was Melanie Vasquez, 8-509, who was the first place eighth grade winner. She received \$250 and a laptop as “top female scorer . Angelica Diaz, 7-409, was the first place winner for the seventh grade participants. She won \$150 and a laptop as a result. All of the eighth graders placed as follows: Erand Rugova, 8-509, (3rd), Andrew Huynh, 8-509, (4th), Nishat Chowdhury, 8-508, (sixth) and Brianna Gjongecaj 8-508, (10th). The remaining seventh graders who all received trophies were Nicholas Tripoli, 7-409, Amani Hayah, 7-409, Rukhma Chaudhry, 7-409, Arabella Uy, 7-409, JK Ronobin Rajjo, 7-409, Ashyra Montanez, 7-408, Danielle Mataquel, 7-409, Isabella Lozano, 7-408, and Lena Almaqdam. 7-408.

This competition wasn't the only math contest that the school participated in. Each month from November to February, top math students compete in the Perennial Math program. In January, three students, Ergi Agaj and Samuel Buena from 7-409 and Erand Rugova from 8-509 scored five out of a possible six points which is considered above average. As a result, their names will be placed on the Perennial Math Wall of Fame.

In commenting on the recent successes, their faculty advisor, Math Staff Developer, Ms. Jillian Salerno, said, “ I am very proud of all the students

Annual Blood Drive Strives To Save Lives

by Paulina Frangjaj 8-508



P.S.83 will be hosting its annual blood drive March 14, 2018 from 2:45-7:15 P.M. It will be held in the Annex Gym. Adults from the PS 83 Community and the neighboring area are asked to donate blood in order to save lives. Every year there is a raffle that takes place at the blood drive. The winner will receive two free Yankee tickets.

The student government will be working to remind everyone what day and time the event will take place. The New York Blood Center representative, Ms. Tina Rivera, will be asking the Student Government representatives to help spread the word. In addition, she will address the PTA meeting. Her message is that the need for blood is constant and all blood types are needed to ensure a sufficient supply is available.

Success At PS 83's Annual Science Fair



The PS 83 Science Fair was held on Saturday, February 10, in the Annex Cafeteria. The science fair was a showcase for the top three projects from each class in Grades 2 through 8. The school winners were first place winner, Emily Tran 8-509, second place , Stephanie Albarracin, 7-417, and third place, Aiden Hernandez, 4-305. The remaining grade winners were Gabriella Ramos, 2-220, Sophia Lindo, 3-327, Luis Rivera, 5-307, and Alyssa Uy, 6-312.

Leading up to this competition, each student in these grades had worked continuously on their projects which had to be a topic from their grade curriculum. All projects were due on Monday, January 29. Before the due date, the school's students had to adhere to multiple deadlines to show teachers that they had done the work.

This year, students also received assistance in a science help program after school, where students consulted their teachers with issues and questions they may have had. After projects were completed, presentations began and teachers selected the top three students from each class. This was a change from last year when the top five projects from each grade was included. The winning students then participated in the Science Fair, competing with the two other stu-

Mock Trial Program Begins At PS 83

by Agnesa Rraci 7-409



Mock Trials, a program new this year at PS 83, is being offered to the seventh grade classes, 7-409 and 7-408. It was named after Thurgood Marshall, a famous historical figure who fought for black rights and integration. He was a Supreme Court judge who he fought for what he believed in, so, it's obvious why he is the face of the program.

Mr. Andrew Bernstein, the faculty advisor, brought this challenging new program to PS 83. The program is similar to debates and class discussions. However, these discussions are much more extreme.

They were given a packet containing a case that they must learn about and solve. These cases, according to Mr. Bernstein are based on real trial proceedings! The students need to be prepared when they compete

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 Tavaréz, 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

Sport Teams’ Names Who Do They Hurt?

by Bassam Hussein 7-409

Different teams from baseball, football, and even colleges teams might not think twice before choosing their teams, nicknames and logos. Teams had offensive names like the Washington Redskins with a logo of a Native American. The fans of the Atlanta Braves baseball team perform the tomahawk chop in the stands. This move is a cruel imitation of the Native American way of life. With many teams having names and gestures that offend American Indians, this have led them to be angry.

The team Cleveland Indians made a logo of a chief called Chief Wahoo which has made most Natives upset because they believed it is racist. After many protests for decades from the Natives about the insulting name, logos, and mascots, the team has finally made some changes. According to the Major League Baseball, the Cleveland Indians team is going to abandon the logo of the Chief Wahoo on their uniforms and merchandise by 2019. Some Native American have appreciated the fact that they will stop the logo. As it was said in The New York Times, Philip Yenyo, the executive director of the American Indian Movement of Ohio said “another step in the right direction”. But that did not stay for long, after he found out that it would take a year to change. “Why wait?” he questioned. “If you are going to go this far and get rid of it, why not do it now? All they are doing is testing it out, because the name has to go too. The



Mr. Muccino’s Corner

Security Alarm System Installed For Safety



This is the debut of a column in which the school’s principal, Mr. Muccino, will share his perspective about what’s going on in the school.

Recently P.S.83 installed a security alarm system that is connected to the unguarded exit doors. The alarms are an important effort to keep the staff and students of the school safe. Before the installation of the alarms, the school didn’t see the need for them. However, the actions of some students leaving school forced the administration to take action. The action the school took was to install an alarm security system.

Safety in the city is the number one priority for any school. Many public schools have alarm systems set up so having it in our school isn’t something unusual. The system was provided to the school by the city. The only thing the school has to pay for are the batteries that are used. If someone enters or exits without a key, the alarm alerts the staff. In addition, the school will know if an intruder has entered or exited and what door they left from.

With two buildings, it is easy for the doors to be left open. This can potentially affect the safety of all. Anyone can walk in or out. The alarm forces people to close the doors. The staff is now getting used to leaving the school



by Jona Dedinca 7-408 and Danielle Mataquel 7-409

Women all over the world get paid less than men for many different types of jobs. It doesn’t matter what type of occupation a specific woman has, the fact still remains that women are being paid less than men. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act made it clear that women and men must be given equal pay for equal work done at a specific workplace. This act has been around for more than fifty years, yet there is still a gender pay gap. Despite the Equal Pay Act, women are still being paid about 20% less than what men are being paid.

Changes are being made, but there is still little progress. Almost half of the workforce is made up of women. In half of families in the United States with children, they are the sole or co-breadwinner. Women today earn more college and graduate degrees than men. Yet they continue to earn considerably less.

A recent example was widely reported in the media when female actress, Michelle Williams, starred in the movie, All the Money in the World, and didn’t get paid the same amount as male actor, Mark Wahlberg, when both of them had to reshoot some scenes. Mr. Wahlberg got paid a total of \$1.5 million for only ten days of shooting while Ms. Williams earned only eighty dollars per day, resulting in a total of \$1,000 dollars. This was less than 1% of what the male co-star, Mark Wahlberg, received. When this became public, Mr. Wahlberg donated the money he earned as a result of

NYC DOE Looks For A New School Chancellor



Ms. Carmen Farina, New York City's current school chancellor is retiring, sending Mayor De Blasio on a search for a new school chancellor to guide all New York City public schools. Ms. Farina was a retired public school teacher, a principal, a superintendent, and the Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning, when she was chosen by Mayor De Blasio to be the Schools Chancellor on January 1, 2014.

During her tenure as Schools Chancellor, Ms. Farina has implemented actions that have improved New York schools. She worked to decrease the amount of school crime and suspensions in New York schools. Of course, the goal is always to maintain a safe learning environment for all students. In mid January, 2018, Farina's campaign to encourage more students to take the SHSAT was a success with the number of students applying to specialized high schools dramatically increasing. Ms. Farina has made many great actions for the schools of New York, but as she retires, the next Schools Chancellor must be able to continue to improve current public school problems.

As Ms. Farina retires, Mayor De Blasio as well as the City of New York have several expectations for the next person taking place as New York City's Schools Chancellor. This person must take action to close down schools that are not fit for a student's education. New York has a number of families who are struggling to send their children to school, and often times the schools those children are being sent to are not good enough to support a child's education. It is the next Schools Chancellor's job to close those schools and open better ones for those students.

It is also expected that the next leader will continue to focus on teacher quality. He/she must work to pay the teachers more in order to attract and keep the best teachers the profession has to offer.

Like Ms. Farina and all the past school leaders, the new Schools Chancellor must act as a protector for the students. This is particularly true in view of the recent school violence and the controversies about how to best keep the New York City schools as places of learning and not as battlefields.

When a new chancellor comes, he/she will

PS 83 Student Council Helping Those In Need



3

The Student Government of PS 83 has been striving to make a difference in the school and the community. There are so many varied projects that representatives have separated into action groups to work on the proposed projects.

This month, there was an important event known as Valentines for Veterans. It began by hanging up posters to remind students and staff to participate in this drive. Next, donations which included nicely wrapped toiletries were collected from the 83 Community. Then, the representatives delivered them to veterans at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx on Valentine's Day. The Rocking Bulldogs band group joined the Council members to perform a show.

Next month, PS.83 will be holding its annual blood drive on March 14, 2018. The Student Council members will meet the New York Blood Center representative, Tina Rivera on February 28, 2018 to discuss how important it is to donate blood to those in need. She will also be asking for their help to spread the word around the school and community. Although the representatives themselves are too young to give blood, their effort is crucial to getting donors.

The Student Council team is also trying a new initiative to help others. It will be holding its first ever Winter Gear Drive for the people who need for warm winter clothing. Students and staff may donate hats, coats, scarves, gloves, and other articles of clothing which will be donated to the Salvation Army. There will be a prize for the class that brings in the most items. In order for the donations to be acceptable, the items must be clean and gently used or brand new. The Student Government representatives will collect these items and then store them so that they will be ready for distribution right away at the beginning of the 2018-2019 winter season.

Blood Drive Saves Lives (cont'd. from pg. 1, col. 1)

The donation of blood is very important to a community. Blood banks and hospitals need to have access to large supplies of blood in case of an emergency or disaster where the lives of people are at risk. Blood donations are especially critical in the winter months. In these times, many people may not be able to go outdoors due to the cold. In addition, many blood drives might be cancelled because of weather conditions. So when there is a blood drive happening it is really important for people to donate.

The statistics tell the story. 4.5 million Americans would die each year without life-saving blood transfusions. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States. It is vital that there is a continued supply of donated blood because just like milk, blood spoils. It can only be used for forty-two hours and the fresher the blood the better it can be utilized. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives.

4 Becoming An American Citizen Risks and Rewards

by Sam Carello
and Brandon Tripoli 8-508



Most of us take for granted the rights and privileges of being an American citizen. Many may not stop and think about what it means to pledge allegiance to this country every morning. Recently, Robert Qeta of Class 8-508 received his American citizenship. This was necessary because he was not born in this country and, thus, was not a citizen. When a young child begins the process of becoming a citizen, he/she has to have paperwork filled out by an adult which indicates that he/she wants to be a citizen of the United States. If a person is older than fourteen years old and wants to come to America, he/she has to take a loyalty oath.

In Robert's case, his parents decided to leave Albania and come to the United States for opportunities for them and education for their children. Luckily, his parents won a green card in a lottery and were able to immigrate. Sometimes an individual decides to give his/her homeland citizenship up to become a citizen of the country he/she is currently living in. Robert did this because he wanted to feel that he truly belonged here.

The cost of citizenship for one person is \$740. In order to become a citizen of America, a parent or guardian has to fill in a great deal of paperwork and then mail it to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services which is located at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan. If there is a mistake made while filling out the paperwork, a parent or guardian has to submit it again. There is also an interview and a citizenship test. This entire process can take up to two years to be completed. After waiting all this time, Robert and his family signed the official documents ensuring that the process was successfully completed a few weeks ago.

Throughout this long journey, Robert had to take a chance that he would be granted citizenship but he felt that it is worth it in the

On Thin Ice: Politics In The Olympics



This year, the 2018 Winter Olympics was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. For the first time in twenty-seven years, North and South Korea has had a single team together in the Olympics. This year, it was Korea's women's hockey team.

Amid the escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea's participation in the games is considered a major breakthrough. Both South and North Korea's entire delegations entered the opening ceremony under a single flag called simply Korea. This move has split public opinion amongst South Korean citizens. Already, North Korea has pulled out of a joint ceremony with South Korea for the Olympics. The outcome of these attempts by North Korea might affect the overall political landscape between America and North Korea. However, the South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been invited to Pyongyang in North Korea to talk with Kim Jong-un, a sign of good things to come. This burst in progressiveness is unusual for this isolationist country.

Where's The Party?

Lunar New Year



February 16, 2018 marks the first day of the year of the Yang Earth Dog. Celebrations for the new year start a week before and end almost two weeks after. It is recognized as one of the most extravagant holidays in Southeast-Asian cultures. And yet I still wonder why classes at P.S. 83 do not have festivities. We have Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, so why not Lunar New Year?

For my family, we start preparing weeks before by buying tailored outfits, purchasing red envelopes, withdrawing new money from the bank, and sending invitations to distant family members. In Vietnamese culture, females wear "ao dai" which is a traditional dress generally made of silk. We have our measurements taken and sent overseas to Vietnam for designers to make and ship them back over again. Chinatown is especially busy at this time of year with people visiting the small shops for jade bracelets to large supermarkets for pounds of sweet rice cakes. My aunts and uncles become regular customers at banks after visiting almost every week. Each nook and cranny of our houses are cleaned spotless and my grandma's rule is, "If it's not sparkling, it's not clean enough."

Lunar New Year is considered a new start for everyone, just like American New Years. From February 16, 2018 to February 5, 2019, it is the year of the Yang Earth Dog. For people that were previously born in the year of the dog, they're warned by relatives and fortune-tellers to be extremely careful with their relationships, luck, and money. This holiday is mainly based on luck, happiness, and prosperity. Tangerines, firecrackers, chrysanthemums, red lanterns, and many more represent good fortune.

This year, Ms. Connolly-Shanley's homeroom class held the first Lunar New Year celebration on February 9th. We prepared days before by cleaning, decluttering, and re-decorating the classroom. Although pizza is not a traditional food, we still enjoyed it in addition to mooncakes and treats belonging to the Tray of Togetherness. All four walls of the class had some sort of red lanterns, dragons, and red streamers adorning them. As a symbol of good luck, students wore red clothing.

PS 83 is known for its diverse students, teachers, and staff. Everyone has different backgrounds, traditions, religions, and ethnicities. We acknowledge this fact and praise it. The school marks Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas as celebratory days. We have some sort of event for each to represent its significance. For example, on Halloween, students are able to wear costumes according to a theme. For Thanksgiving, classes have a cultural feast and have reminders to be thankful.

PyeongChang 2018 (cont'd. from pg. 4, col. 1)

Hopefully, a peaceful solution can arise and "defuse" the nuclear bomb-filled tension. The current situation is a great opportunity to prevent any extreme measures. Time is ticking for any real action to occur, so it should start now.

It wasn't all fun and games at the Olympics. Political interests have sparked over all the events. Whether or not this invitation to talk in Pyongyang is accepted or not remains to be seen.

Futbol vs Football

by Ergi Agaj 7-409



The Super Bowl LII has ended and as the 2018 FIFA World Cup approaches, there will be much controversy between fans regarding which event is more worth a person's time. Futbol which is known in America as soccer, has been around ever since the mid-nineteenth century when people in England began to kick around a ball. Some historians even say that it was created by the Chinese who played a version of it centuries earlier. Despite this, the history of modern soccer began on December 8, 1863 when the Association of Football (Soccer) and Association of Rugby finally split into two different organizations. Later that year, on December 19, 1863, Barnes Football Club and Richmond Football Club went on to play the first ever recorded and organized Soccer match at Barnes Common in Mortlake, London.

On the other hand, the history of American football is much different from that of soccer. American football first started on November 6, 1869 when Rutgers and Princeton played what was billed as the first college football game. However, it wasn't until the 1880's that a remarkable rugby player from Yale, Walter Camp pioneered the rules changes that changed rugby into the sport of American football.

When it comes to statistics, there are many differences between soccer and football. For example, soccer has an estimated 3.5 billion fans! That's roughly one in every two people on Earth. On the other hand, football only has about 400,000,000 fans mostly in the United States. The average stadium attendance of a football game is about 68,000, whereas the average for Soccer clubs such as Borussia Dortmund have an average stadium attendance of 80,354 fans. The football stadium that can hold the most people is MetLife stadium with a capacity of 82,566 people but that's still not enough to beat the Camp Nou, the stadium for the Soccer Club Barcelona with a capacity of 99,354 people. The top speed of a kicked soccer ball is about 131 miles per hour which was executed by Ronny Heberson in 2006. The top speed of a football is only sixty miles per hour as thrown by Logan Thomas in 2014. Speed is another category in which soccer prevails. The top running speed in soccer, held by Arjen Robben, is about twenty two miles per hour. The top running speed for a football player is only about nineteen miles per hour which is held by Chris Johnson.

In the United States, soccer is often neglected and usually doesn't get as much recognition as American football. Americans often believe that they have the best of everything in the world.

The fact is that soccer is an international sport played across all of the four corners of the Earth should earn it more respect. Quite frankly, one category that America isn't one of the top contenders is in the sport of soccer. This plays a key role to why soccer isn't very popular in the United States, the reason being that if Americans aren't the best at soccer, then they don't want to associate with it. The bad part is that, that desire to be the best, can lead to arrogance and sometimes even ignorance.

This alone isn't enough to keep Americans away from the sport though. It's becoming a known fact in the United States that Americans have an obsession with being bigger and quicker. For example, we have supersized meals, huge cars, and the biggest houses that we can afford. A prime example of this would be the scores in sports. In American football, the average score is twenty to seventeen, in comparison that would be about seven goals. Additionally, in the National Basketball Association the average score per game is 97.2 points which is about seventy five to eighty five goals. To contrast, in soccer the average score per game is 2.2 goals and that's just not enough scoring for most Americans. To further support that point, I turn to the players themselves. Football players aren't very tall but they do compensate for their height with their weight since the average football player in the National Football Association is about six feet, three inches and two hundred fifty pounds. Additionally, As expected, soccer players aren't anywhere close to that. The average soccer player is five feet, nine inches and one hundred seventy five pounds.

Another reason that makes it hard for soccer to compete with football has to do with money. This is because the main broadcasters of Soccer, which are ESPN, CBS, NBC, and ABC, make most of their money through advertisement and commercials. This is important because soccer just isn't conducive for advertisements. American football has the end of the first or third quarter, the two minute warning of the second or fourth quarter, time-outs which include injury time-outs, instant replays, game stoppage after punt return, game stoppage after score, and game stoppage after turnovers which all lead to commercial breaks and a chance for advertisements to be shown. In comparison, soccer has halftime. That's just not enough for the networks. But even if it was and networks did air soccer matches, Americans still wouldn't watch. This is because as Americans, we value the time that we spend watching sports. For example, most American people think spending an hour and a half to watch one goal isn't technically the best use of one's time.

In conclusion, until Americans don't care as much about being the best at everything in the world and can get over the fact that everything needs to be huge, soccer will be just one of those things that a person occasionally sees while looking through television channels. Meanwhile, football will be praised by Americans. Soccer still has a chance in the United States, since there are many people from other countries who come here and bring their passion for soccer with them. Another

2018 FIFA World Cup
What A Person Needs To Know



This year, is a big year! 2018 starts the FIFA World Cup for the national sport, soccer. The location of this year’s World Cup is in Russia for the first time in its history and it goes on from June 14 to July 15. It will be hosted in eleven cities which are Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Ekaterinburg, Kazen, Samara, Volgograd, Nizhny Novgorod, Saransk, Rostov-on-Don, Kaliningrad and Sochi. This will be the twenty-first World Cup. There will be thirty-two teams participating in the competition. Russia has entered the World Cup automatically because they are the hosts. This rule to me is wrong because it's unfair to any team that didn't make the playoffs like the United States team.

Right now, the team with the most trophies is Brazil. But, if it wasn’t without the best player in the world, Neymar da Silva Santos Junior, common known as Neymar Jr., they wouldn’t have made it up to where they are right now. But, the team I want Argentina or Portugal to win because my two favorite soccer players are on them which are Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. But right now the current Fifa World Cup winner is Germany.

In order for any teams to be part of the Fifa World Cup, they have to try out like any other sports to get into something really important to that sport. So, there are eight groups of four teams who will each compete against each other two at a time. These groups are Group 1, Russia, Uruguay, Egypt, Saudi Arabia; Group 2, Portugal, Spain, Iran, Morocco; Group 3, France, Peru, Denmark, Australia; Group 4, Argentina, Croatia, Iceland, Nigeria; Group 5, Brazil, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Serbia; Group 6, Germany, Mexico, Sweden, North Korea; Group 7, Belgium, England, Tunisia,

Respect Don’t Neglect!
Cheering As A Sport



Many people in this day and age don’t know what it takes to be a cheerleader. As Captain of the PS 83 Cheer Team, I believe the veneration given for other sports such as basketball should also be given to cheerleading. As my former cheer coach once said, “It is not about being the best. It’s about pushing yourself to your best.” This proves that being the best isn’t everything but that cheerleaders constantly push themselves to be the best they can be.

There are many myths and stereotypes that are applied when a person has the designation of “cheerleader.” One being that cheerleaders aren’t athletes. Although cheerleading isn’t recognized by the NCAA and Title IX regulations, this doesn’t mean that cheerleaders are not athletes. The definition of an athlete "a person who is trained or adept in exercises, sports, or games requiring physical vigor, limberness, or stamina.”

(cont’d. on pg. 6, col. 2)

Super Bowl LII
A Hike to Stardom



The Super Bowl has come and gone. It's like Christmas for some people but, unfortunately, just like Christmas, it only comes once a year. The score of Super Bowl LII was a nail-biting 41 to 33 in well-played game of amazing passes, catches, and joyous moments. The final football game of the year showed the sport at its finest.

The Super Bowl is over but the game was something to talk about for the ages. The Philadelphia Eagles won the game. This was a team who had only played in one Super Bowl before this and they lost that game. This is crazy madness because the only team who beat the Patriots with Quarterback Tom Brady playing was the New York Giants. Everyone assumed the Patriots could easily beat the Eagles and losing to them was very strange.

It was like an all-star game. The game was full of moments that are unforgettable but most memorable was the skill of the substitute quarterback, Nick Foles, who played hard and used every ounce of strength in his arm firing away. He did an outstanding job even though he did throw an interception. Nick Foles wasn't the only one playing hard. The Patriots weren’t going down without a fight. Tom Brady walked on the field ready for war and this fight would end only when the time ran out. Tom Brady threw with every ounce of strength in his arm. This was remarkable considering he had stitches in his hand and he is forty years old. He threw bullet after bullet until he saw his wide receivers and tight ends in the end zone. The defense wasn't the best for both teams. It was an all-out offense battle. These two amazing teams attacked non - stop.

After a while, the teams were tired and weak and needed rest. The first half ended and when the teams got back on the field, Tom Brady was angry. He wanted to win so he threw and threw and he got ahead by one point but Nick Foles wasn't done either. So he came back got a field goal and a touchdown. He didn't stop so it was all up to the defense and they made the G.O.A.T fumble.

The ball game was almost over but Tom Brady didn't give up. He went back out and fought. He drove as far as he could and, with his last play, he almost got sacked, broke off, got out of the pocket, and threw a hail mary. But there were too many defensive players for Gronk, Amendola, and Hogan to handle so it missed and that ended

Cheering As A Sport (cont’d. from pg. 6, col. 1)

ed the game. With that, Super Bowl LII was over and the Eagles players were crying with joy as they earned the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the prize for victory. Cheerleaders have this and so much more.

Cheerleading is an astounding sport to many. The paramount priorities of competitive cheer are health and spirit. The PS 83 Cheer Team shows a lot of dedication when cheering in basketball games. The boys basketball team is going to the playoffs this year and I would like to think that the cheerleaders helped them reach them. From cheers to jumps, a cheerleader shows dedication like no other. In football and basketball, there are always cheerleaders giving it their all. But, most of the time, the cheerleaders go unnoticed. The respect that is shown for the popular sports should be shown to cheerleaders. Cheerleaders help bring the spirit all the way. They help the



The Opioid Crisis A Growing Epidemic Sweeping the Nation

by Ismail Shahid 7-408

For the past couple of years, the opioid crisis has swept the country. Huntington in West Virginia is the new opioid capital of the United States. Teens and young adults are the main users of these drugs. Many have overdosed on the latest opioid drug called fentanyl. The crisis is so severe that the life expectancy of the average American has dropped from 78.9 years to 78.6 years in the last twenty-four months due to the rise in opioid deaths. So far, the United States has spent over \$500 billion into dealing with this epidemic.

Opioids are drugs that are supposed to imitate the effects of the pain-reducing properties of opium. Legal painkillers like morphine, oxycodone, and hydrocodone are prescribed by doctors to deal with extreme pain. These drugs can become addictive and cause users to turn to a drug like Fentanyl. Fentanyl was created as an over-the-counter drug to people suffering from long term intense pain. Heroin is a natural drug that is derived from a poppy plant and has been used as a medicine for centuries. Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than heroin. Both are highly addictive and can cause long term damage. They are fast acting. Carfentanil is a cheaper variation of fentanyl. It's made to be even more powerful.

Prescriptions drugs are a colossal problem in this outbreak. Prescription opioid painkillers are highly addictive and will cause addicts to turn to fentanyl or heroin for something stronger. They were originally labeled safer than other painkillers and less addictive but they ended up being even worse than what was already out. Doctors started to sign away on high doses of the drug. Then overdose victims spiked to a record-setting high. After people became addicted to the painkillers, they craved more which lead to heroin. People with tolerances to heroin moved to fentanyl and carfentanil.

In 2016, roughly 64,000 died from drug overdoses. This number is greater than deaths from guns and cars. The United States government has sunk \$500 billion into the epidemic. According to [usa today](#), the epidemic could claim one million lives by 2020.

There are some ways to end the opioid epidemic. The doctors need to stop over prescribing. A bottle can be given for something as small as ankle pain or a simple medical procedure. A bottle can contain thirty very powerful pills. So, after an over prescription, a patient can become hooked as an addict. There needs to be more access to treatment for those who have a drug problem. Drugs such as methadone, buprenorphine can help with addiction. But, it is better if they are combined with mental treatment.

The opioid epidemic is a major crisis that doesn't show any sign of slowing down, \$500 billion later. With the exploding growth of this problem, it isn't easy to keep this under control. With incorrect labeling of the safety of the drug and high doses being prescribed, this crisis looks to be getting worse every year.



Questions Grow About Recreational & Medical Uses of Marijuana

by Carinna Sarmiento 8-509

Marijuana, a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant, has been a controversial topic in the United States for many years. The drug has been used by 55 million Americans countrywide. almost 22% of the entire population. With its many users, the legality of marijuana is still in question. The drug today has been used for both medical and recreational purposes. This raises questions as to what extent will the legality be adjusted and whether laws should be enforced to limit the use of the drug.

Currently, only nine states claim the recreational use of cannabis as legal. These include Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia. Whereas there are twenty-nine other states that pronounce only the medical use of marijuana legal, and the twelve other states have completely decriminalized the drug. Americans have argued on its legality for years and the topic still remains undecided.

On the side supporting marijuana being declared illegal, many people think marijuana is a gateway drug. A gateway drug typically means it'll lead to other dangerous drugs. Furthermore, people think it's corrupting health and overall society. As of now, there's no adequate parameters to control and supervise marijuana use. As an example, the U.S has a well-defined line when it comes to driving under the influence of alcohol. If a person is under a blood-alcohol content of 0.08%, they may or may not be arrested for driving impaired. If their BAC is 0.08% or over, they will be fined or arrested. The same restrictions and supervision doesn't exist with marijuana.

Then on the other hand, the side supporting marijuana for both medical and recreational uses also has valid points. The majority of the American public favors legalization. So why fight it? Gallup's October 2016 poll and CBS News' April 2017 poll found 60% and 61%, respectively support legal marijuana throughout the United States. The facts speak for themselves. The public opinion in a democratic nation should be respected, so why can't the legality of marijuana be adjusted to fit the expectations? Furthermore, cannabis can also help with health, especially Glaucoma. Pharmaceutical companies are working on expanding cannabis plant related medicine to help

Equal Pay For Equal Work (cont'd. from pg. 2,col. 2)

Still, this type of inequality continues. Many people believe that women get paid less because they are viewed by employers as people who put their families above their job. Women are often unwillingly or unable to work longer hours and, thus, seem to stay stuck in the lower paying positions in a company. Surprisingly, when a man becomes a father, statistics show that he often gets promotions and raises in salary. This is an issue that doesn't seem to have an easy solution.

Unfortunately, many experts believe that the pay gap won't be rectified for at least fifty more years. This time period is even longer for women of color. Never-

8 **Sitting-The New Smoking**

by Isabella Lozano 7-408



For many years people have been worried about smoking and the illnesses it caused but now the rate of people smoking has decreased. However, the population has a new problem caused by the modern sedentary lifestyle. Experts are saying that sitting has become the new smoking. Smoking is a very serious matter that has caused many to die. People are saying that sitting is the new smoking because sitting and smoking both have a serious effect . These two actions are decisions made by people that can be stopped.

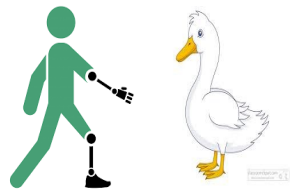
It is said that sitting can cause blood clots, most likely in the leg, because of too much sitting. This great amount of sitting at home, offices, school, and work might cause people to get these blood clots. Blood clots can cause a heart attack, stroke, or other serious medical problems. Because of this terrible effect, people are deciding to sit only when needed but if it's just to relax, they are trying not to sit at all. This hazard is not telling people to stop sitting but just to try to sit as little as possible.

Carpenters have made a new type of desk that helps kids stand while working in class. Many health experts like this idea because it can help kids stay healthier. This new invention has been tested and is said that is comfortable but people think that the desks are too expensive. The estimated price is about \$400 each. Imagine how much that would be for a school! Something that schools should try to do is order a few of the desks, test them out, and then get feedback from the students.

Another reason for these amazing desks is to help prevent childhood obesity. Obesity can lead to many serious health issues such as heart disease and cancer as a person ages. Obesity also causes low self-esteem because other kids like to make

Peg's Leg Leads To New Possibilities in Prosthetics

by Mahnoor Sultan 8-509



Poor Peg lost his leg, and that might just benefit the rest of us. With 3D printing becoming widely available and being used more and more, it may have a lasting impact on medicine and prosthetics in the future, for both humans and animals.

Peg the Duck was suffering as he got older due to his injured leg, because of a turtle chewing it off. An organization at a high school called the Armored EAST Lab found out about the situation and wanted to help. According to Alicia Bell, Armored EAST Lab facilitator, "We already were looking into ways of creating sophisticated creations with our 3D printer and we saw that we could do just that for a duck."

**Childhood Obesity
A Click to Weight Loss?**



For many years, the rate of childhood obesity has risen to 18.5% from 2-20 year old children. Because of this, doctors needed to find a solution to drop the numbers from getting even higher. Fortunately, in the 1960's, Doctors Mason and Ito created a procedure to lessen the amount of food transfer into the stomach. The name of this procedure was the Gastric Procedure or the Restricted Surgery.

During the Gastric Procedure, surgeons use a stapler to separate the stomach into two sections. One section is a small pouch that can only hold an ounce. It will expand though into at least three to five ounces over the years. At first, a person can eat a certain amount (three-quarters to one cup of food) but this will change throughout the course of time. The downside of this operation is that if the patient doesn't chew the food correctly, vomiting and nausea will occur and upset the stomach quickly.

Throughout the United States, childhood obesity rates have risen and risen higher and higher than they have in other countries in the world. Parents and other citizens have stressed over the amount of deaths that have tripled due to obese children in the last thirty years. The excess fat in their bodies is caused by the fattening foods they eat. The more a child eats, the higher the risk is of him/her suffering from a chronic health issue.

If a parent is going through a difficult situation where his/her child is overweight, doctors concluded that a solution can be to exercise every day or to get the gastric surgery done. More than a thousand children have gotten the surgery and complained about the difficulties they faced. For example, the amount of food that they have to eat or the way the substance has to be chewed or swallowed. This can cause digestive issues to occur and interfere with the purpose of the surgery.

Throughout the years of attempting to find a solution, the rates of childhood obesity have dropped tremendous-

Prosthetics Possibilities (cont'd. from pg. 8, col. 1)

The high school wanted to help advance in prosthetics and needed somewhere to start. If it worked with one animal, then it could work on many more. Peg the Duck was the perfect candidate to start with and may just be the start of something new, that will have long lasting benefits for all.

Humans will experience advantages just as animals will. This benefit will not only value the face of medicine but also the financial state of families. According to an article by [TechCrunch](#), "However, as 3D printers become more affordable, with some available for less than \$200, the possibility of anyone being able to design and print a prosthetic limb in their home or local community is rapidly becoming a reality." Regular prosthetics can cost tens of thousands of dollars. With 3D printing, the ability to customize it properly for the user can occur. Getting a prosthetic that is a perfect fit can cost a great deal, but now only a couple hundred have to be spent.

Who knew a duck would be the reason for a better future towards prosthetics? 3D printing helps in a multitude of ways. From being economically beneficial to being a passionate topic, 3D printing prosthetics is bound to in-

Top 5 Young-Adult

Book-to-Movie Releases!



Books that tell memorable stories have the power to transcend the ordinary. That's why an outburst of highly-acclaimed novels, whether they're classic reads or new releases, have become so popular that they will be adapted into movies to be released in theaters later this year. Here's a list of the top five Y.A. book-to-movie adaptations coming out in 2018 that critics say should definitely be watched:

1. The Death Cure, based on the concluding novel of James Dashner's "The Maze Runner" series.

In order to save his friends, Thomas must break into the legendary Last City, a WCKD-controlled labyrinth that might become the most dangerous maze of all time. If they make it out alive, they will get the answers to the questions that the Gladiators have been asking since they arrived in the maze. The film was released on January 26.

2. A Wrinkle In Time, adapted from the novel by Madeleine L'Engle.

Meg Murry and her little brother, Charles Wallace, have been orphans ever since their father used the concept known as tesseract (the "fifth" dimension of the universe) to travel to a new planet five years ago. However, they discover that their father is still alive and is being held prisoner by evil forces on the planet. The siblings, joined by Meg's classmate named Calvin O'Keefe and three mysterious astral travelers known as Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which, go on a dangerous journey through space and time in order to find the planet where their father and all the evil forces in the universe are. The film will be released on March 9.

3. Love, Simon, based on the novel "Simon vs. the Homo sapiens Agenda" by Becki Albertalli.

They say that everyone deserves a great love story, but seventeen-year old Simon Spier has spent most of his life trying to find his own. He hasn't yet told his family or friends that he's homosexual. What's worse, he's fallen in love with an anonymous classmate of his online. How can Simon now come to terms with his identity while simultaneously trying to discover the identity of this anonymous online persona he's suddenly fallen for? This journey he goes on is destined to hilarious, thrilling, and life-changing. The film's release date is March 16.

4. Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, from the story of "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" from J.K. Rowling.

Magizoologist Newt Scamander will join forces with young Albus Dumbledore to prevent the devious Gellert Grindelwald from raising pure-blood wizards to rule over the Muggles, or non-magical beings. The film will be released on November 16.

5. To All the Boys I've Loved Before, adapted from the book by Jenny Han.

Sixteen-year-old Lara Jean Song Covey writes love letters to all the boys she has ever loved and puts them

Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle Best Movie Of The Year?



The Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle movie is an entertaining and funny movie featuring Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Nick Jonas, and Jack Black as the main cast. Four high school students who are in detention find video game while cleaning a room. The curious high school students find a game called Jumanji. They choose characters and somehow get mesmerized into the game. They are the characters they chose. The skinny nerdy kid transformed into a muscular explorer (Dwayne Johnson); the jock changed into a short zoologist (Kevin Hart); the quiet girl transformed into a skilled fighter (Karen Gillan); and the pretty girl who is obsessed with social media changes into a bearded male (Jack Black). While playing the game, the characters each have strengths and weaknesses to help them get through the game and they each have three lives. They must get through the game in order to go back to their real lives.

This is a humorous action packed movie that involves teamwork and sacrifice. The Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle movie will make you laugh, but will also make you cry for all the sacrifices being made. By working together as a team, the main characters will be able to accomplish anything. Dwayne Johnson is a strong and smart character who will stand up for his friends. Kevin Hart is a not strong but has a very funny personality. In the real world a girl named Bethany is obsessed with social media. Bethany was turned into a man in the game and she doesn't have her phone that she loves which makes her mad. As the movie progresses, she uses her intelligence and strengths to help get through the game. The last character transforms into a strong girl whose strength is dance fighting which is very epic!

You should watch this movie because it shows you how to work together with people you don't have a strong connection with. You learn how to trust people just like in the movie. In it, they all trusted each other to get through the game and get back to their ordinary lives. If you saw the 1995 Jumanji movie, you will love this modern movie version. The new movie of Jumanji is not a follow-up of the old one but is a modern movie that young people will love.

This movie was released on December 20, 2017 and continues to be at the top of the box office still through February! As of February 5, it has been number one at the box office four out of the seven weeks its been out. It has an estimated \$11 million in ticket sales because of strong word of mouth. Jumanji has become one of Sony's biggest hits ever! So go out there and buy

10 Golden Globes: A Total Blackout!



Award shows! People usually dress in colors like red, purple, pink. This year,

Everyone who attended wore black. Black dresses, black suits, everything! Why? In late December, rumors began circulating that the Golden Globes red carpet would be experiencing a blackout, and many stars were banding together in search of all-black dresses and outfits to make a statement against the epidemic of sexual harassment in the entertainment industry and beyond. In the #MeToo era, that to ask a woman only about what she's wearing, and then to turn to the man next to her and ask him nothing about his clothing, and everything about his work, is sexist and diminishing. Women who walk Hollywood's red carpets are some of the most well-known women in the world. They're the best at their craft and make a lot of money — though perhaps not as much as their male counterparts — and still cannot be taken seriously. And it's not just, "Who are you wearing?" But also: "What's your morning routine?" or, "How did you lose the baby weight?" and even, "Who's at home watching the kids?"

As the Harvey Weinstein fallout and the numerous #MeTooos that followed showed the American people, the reverberations of that kind of culture are profound. Not even the most well-known women in the world are immune to the sexism, discrimination and violence that follows. But, with their

Sport Teams' Names Who Do They Hurt?

(cont'd. from pg. 2, col. 1)

The Cleveland Indians did introduce a logo of a block C rather than the Chief Wahoo. Some colleges also have changed their name. Stanford University changed from Indians to Cardinals. Dartmouth shifted from Indians to Big Green. Siena altered from Indians to Saints. Miami (Ohio) switched from Redskins to Red Hawks and many more.

The fact that teams made offensive and racist names and logos about Native Americans, in my opinion, is something that is wrong and should be stopped. Some people would say it's a mistake and the teams didn't know that it was racist and offensive. But it is. Why do the teams have to wait a year before they change? Why can they do it now?

Some people do not realize what these peoples' ancestors have faced in the country's history. A long time ago, the lives of Native Americans were ruined by the Europeans who came to America. Diseases killed thousands of them. The Europeans took their land and did not respect them.

Now the descendants of these people are making racist and offensive names and logos that continue to hurt them. In my opinion, it's the people that are ignorant and indifferent to other people that do this. Some people care about the money they would lose if they throw out the offensive uniforms and merchandise. Other people say the team they support is part of their memories and tradition. Others say that these things actually honor Native Americans. This

Wait, Who's Running For President.. Oprah Winfrey???



The Golden Globes is a yearly event that awards the actors and actresses in the movies, as well as the people behind the scenes. During this intriguing event, Ms. Oprah Winfrey gave a powerful and inspiring speech. There were some surprising responses to this speech, summed up by the slogan, 'Oprah 2020.' Some people think that this will be a great idea because she is such a motivating and people person. On the other hand, other people think that she can't be president because she has no government experience. As Seth Meyers said, "Now we just wait and see."

Ms. Winfrey is known worldwide for creating her own media empire beginning with her own show, "The Oprah Winfrey show." She is also known for her inspiring words and philanthropic works. She is very successful despite the fact that she started at the bottom. She was born to an unmarried teenage mother. Her parents split when she was born and she was left in the care of her grandmother. Ms. Winfrey learned to read at a very young age and was very intelligent. According to an online biography, "Under the strict guidance of her grandmother, she learned to read at two and a half years old..." Then Ms. Winfrey skipped kindergarten after writing a note to her teacher on the first day of school saying she belonged in the first grade. She was promoted to third grade after that year." She proved to be very intelligent and achieved high standards as a young child. However, she didn't have the perfect childhood. Ms. Winfrey lived with her father and did not see her mother a great deal. When she was called back by her mother, she had to leave the safety of her father's home. The poor, urban lifestyle there had a negative effect on Ms. Winfrey as a young teenager. Her problems were worsened by repeated sexual abuse, starting at age nine by men that family members trusted.

Even though Ms. Winfrey had a rough time as a child, this did not prevent her from being successful. She studied and worked hard. She spoke in front of audiences and when she was nineteen years old and a sophomore in college, she figured out that she wanted to pursue a career to be 'paid to talk.' She spoke on many famous talk shows. She later had her own show. After this, she won many awards. In 1986, Winfrey received a special award from the Chicago Academy for the Arts for unique contributions to the city's artistic community and was named Woman of Achievement by the National Organization of Women. The Oprah Winfrey Show also won several Emmys for Best Talk Show, and Ms. Winfrey was honored as Best Talk Show Host. She is almost as famous for what she has done for others. It is well known that she has donated millions of dollars to various charities and organizations.

However, many people think that she will not be a good candidate for president because she has no experience in government. Having no political familiarity might cause a person to create problems and predicaments that a person may not be able to solve. In running for office, a person can be likable but it is more important that he/she needs to understand how government works. Ms. Winfrey has no such experience. In

Gianni Versace: “The Man Who Would Be Vogue”

by Jason Gjokaj 8-509



Fashion is a way for people to express themselves and their style with their outfits. People who create fashion are innovative, creative, and have a vision of what they want the world to look like. Some of the most well-known fashion companies are Chanel, Prada, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci. Another iconic one is Versace, an Italian luxury fashion company which produces upmarket Italian-made ready-to-wear and leather accessories. It is currently owned by Donatella Versace, but many forget its original owner, her late brother, Gianni Versace. A new mini-series on FX, The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story, retells history by reenacting the events that led up to and followed his murder.

The series began on January 17th, and will conclude on March 21st. It tells the story of Gianni Versace, portrayed by Edgar Ramirez, and his assassin, Andrew Cunanan, portrayed by Darren Criss. Mr. Cunanan was an American serial killer who later was put on the FBI's Top 10 Most Wanted List. Whereas Episode 1 of the show depicts the actual assassination of Versace, Episodes 2 through 8 reveal the events that led up to Cunanan holding Versace at gunpoint. The show goes into depth about Cunanan's murder spree, why the Miami Beach Police Department and FBI failed to catch him, and how other victims were affected by his actions.

The show was based on the book Vulgar Favors: Andrew Cunanan, Gianni Versace, and the Largest Failed Manhunt in U.S. History by Maureen Orth, an award-winning journalist and Vanity Fair special correspondent. According to GoodReads, while Ms. Orth was writing the book, she interviewed over 400 people and looked at thousands of police reports. Thus, it's safe to say that the book is an accurate depiction of what occurred to Versace and his relationship to Cunanan. Also, since the show bought the rights to the book and used it as a basis for the script-writing, it also accurately portrays Versace's assassination and the events revolving around it.

The mini-series has gathered positive reviews from critics. According to Rotten Tomatoes, “The Assassination of Versace starts with a bang and unfurls slowly, moving backward through an intricate (and occasionally convoluted) murder mystery anchored by a career-defining performance from Darren Criss.” By starting the show with Versace's assassination, it made viewers immediately intrigued and eager to continue watching the mini-series. Furthermore, MetaCritic ranked the show as the seventh best new television season of 2018, and the fourth most discussed television season of 2018. The show is raising awareness on the Versace case and why Versace is so memorable.

Overall, “The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story” is a show I would recommend to anyone who has ever worn Versace. They should be learn about Gianni, the man whose vision created the entire Versace company. By learn-

Pay Up At the Met: Metropolitan Museum's New Admissions Policy



The Metropolitan Museum of Art has established itself as a symbol of New York City, a place filled with opportunities for the public, both young and old. The Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in 1870 by a group of American citizens, businessmen and financiers as well as leading artists and thinkers of the day who wanted to create a museum to bring art and art education to the American people. For more than 100 years now, the Metropolitan Museum, or Met as it is commonly referred to, has provided tourists, school children and New Yorkers, the opportunity to be inspired and enlightened on art from around the world. The most famous pieces being “Self Portrait With a Straw Hat” by Vincent Van Gogh, “Washington Crossing the Delaware” by Emanuel Leutze and “Relief Panel” (c 883-859 B.C) for example.

The admission prices for The Met have been since the 1970's, the amount to pay is up to the individual. However online, the suggested price, is \$25 for adults; \$17 for seniors; \$12 for students; and free for members, patrons, and children under 12. Effective on March 1, 2018, there will be a new policy. The museum said it will begin charging out-of-state visitors. The new rule will affect about one-third of the Met's roughly seven million annual patrons, the museum said. However, only 17% of the people who visited the museum last year paid the full \$25. And that percentage has been in a steep decline.

Back in 2004, for example, 63% of visitors were willing to fork over the full suggested donation. Now, the new admissions price will reflect the suggested price for tourists and foreigners. The current pay-as-you-wish policy will stay in place for all New Yorkers and students from Connecticut and New Jersey, though they'll now need to provide some ID or proof of address before entering the exhibits. New Yorkers won't have to pay a fee because they already support the museum through taxes. Daniel Weiss, the museum's president and CEO, said in a statement that the Met is "determined that the Museum will remain accessible to as many visitors as possible while it also thrives as a financially stable institution." This means that in order for the Met to provide the best for the world, it must have a fee for non-area visitors.

Despite this seemingly harmless agenda, there has been a plentiful amount of justified controversy. One reason being that some feel this is a way of dividing people. Roberta Smith and Holland Cotter, art critics at the New York Times, disagree with the Met's decision, saying such museums should be free. “It divides people into categories — rich and poor, native and foreign,” Another reason is the possibility of economic consequences. The reason is the Met admissions might decrease tourism rates. As is understood by many public institutions, foreign visitors have spent and sacrificed a significant amount of money to come to this country and experience another culture.

In the end, I believe that this small fee for the Metropolitan Museum of Art is needed and beneficial. The \$25 fee provides the Met with the resources to continue to thrive in the best way possible. The Metropolitan Museum of Art must be preserved. Art no matter what must be preserved. This is because the beauty of art is something so rare and so wonderful. Art has the ability to brighten life and one's own level of happiness. Art allows artists to express themselves as they see fit and the truth itself. Art is the roots of our culture and the strength of our society. The Metropoli-



Harry Potter's Messenger Lands in New York City

by Francelys Tavaréz 8-509

Do you all remember in all the movies of Harry Potter, where Harry had that white snowy owl as his messaging animal? These snowy white owls have been spotted in New York City. According to NYup, "it was a matter of 'none, none, none and then a whole bunch'" Upstate New York was where the snowy owls were first seen. However, when the birds were seen the birdwatchers realized that it wasn't just one owl that had come down. It was several.

Even though, all of this white owl spotting sounds exciting, the main question in these discoveries is why!? Why are these snowy owls coming in bunches to New York for the first time in years!? Now the answer to this question is in the article by David Figura in NYup. He states "The birds have the unique ability to lay more eggs if food is plentiful." This year, there are more lemmings coming from the Arctic. This is their main prey. Being that New York has plenty of food for the animals, they tend to come here more. The owls also come here because of all the airports, plains, and grass where the wide open plains are the ideal places for them to lay eggs and find food.

An increase in these numbers leads to the next reason why they are here. This increase leads to more and more owls coming down south according to the same article. The article stated, "increased migration is merely reflective of increased numbers up North." Since more of their kind are here

Chipotle Restaurants Out With The Old In With The New!

by Kiara Alcina and



Chipotle! America's Favorite Mexican Grill Restaurant! It's the home of burritos, bowls, and quesadillas. If it wasn't for Steve Ellis, the present CEO, wouldn't be ranting about Chipotle and its beauty. Chipotle made its first appearance on July 13, 1993. Today, Worldwide there are 2250 Chipotle's in America. According to Vincent Shen, an industry spokesperson, Chipotle's mission is to provide "food and integrity".

According to Chipotle's website, the restaurants provide wholesome ingredients that help humans well-being which include vegetables, meats, beans, and more. In fact, Chipotle is animal-friendly, which means that their ingredients are GMO-free, antibiotic-free and organic. Chipotle has a commitment to only serve meat from animals that have been raised in a humane way and fed an organic diet. CEO Steve Ellis has been a committed anti-factory farming activist. This idea of responsible farming is seen throughout the Chipotle culture.

(cont'd. on pg. 12, col. 2)



Kara Danvers Also Known as Supergirl!

by Lendita Alimehaj 7-409

Along with The Flash, Arrow, and many more famous superheroes, Supergirl is another famous superhero. She is one of the few female superheroes. She was born on the planet Krypton, which was soon destroyed. Kara Zor' El or Kara Danvers has very special powers, no other being has, other than her cousin Superman. Kara Danvers was twelve and her cousin was a baby when they escaped Krypton before it was destroyed. Ever since then, they have struggled to fit into society. However, they soon learned the way.

Supergirl has many extraordinary powers such as laser eyes, strength, cold breath, flying, incredible hearing and sight. When she first came to Earth, she was adopted by members of the Danver family. They helped Kara control her powers and taught her how to live a normal life. She's never actually used her powers out in the open but when her adoptive sister is in a plane that is about crash that changes everything. She uses her powers in public in order to save her sister. This is when she realized she wanted to be Supergirl forever.

When Supergirl is in yellow sunlight, her powers work. If she's in any other colored sun on other planets where there are different colored suns, her powers are aren't useful. Her only other weakness is Kryptonite which was found only on Krypton. However, her Department of Extranormal Operations (DEO) partner was hiding kryptonite from her. Supergirl and her adoptive sister work together in the DEO.

Supergirl is on at 8:00pm, on the CW channel, Monday nights. The show is currently in its third season. The first season was based around the growth of Supergirl and how she came to be. The second season was based around the relationship of Mon El' and Kara Zor El' and how they work together to fight against evil. The current season is based on the return of Mon El' and the beginning of a new villain called Reign. The first, two seasons are on Netflix. And the third season is on the CW chan-

Chipotle Restaurants (cont'd. from pg. 12 col. 1)

Chipotle's founder, Mr. Steve Ellis, started the first restaurant as a way to fund his dream of opening a fine-dining restaurant. In fact, Chipotle has a variety of menu items such as burritos, bowls, tacos, salads, and quesadillas. Also, they have a secret kid meal that contains a cheese quesadillas, or kids can create their own quesadilla which is only \$5.75 and contains between 570 and 780 calories.

In conclusion, Chipotle has been through many highlights in its time as a restaurant, and unfortunately, many downturns as well. Mr. Ellis who will be leaving the company soon has made a big impact on Mexican food. If this article convinces you to find out if Chipotle is as good as it seems, maybe you should try it for yourself. One nearby Chipotle is found at 4760 Third Avenue in the Bronx. Another Bronx location is 815 Hutchinson River Parkway. In Next time, you're craving Mexican food think of this article and see if Chipotle is a good fit for you.

Messenger Kids Facebook For Children



Recently Facebook launched a new application for children from 6-12 years old. It is called Messenger Kids, or as it is more commonly called “Facebook For Kids”. The idea of Messenger Kids is to create a social media site for children to use as a safe and educational environment. It is meant to take things that people like from other social media platforms like filters and apply them to make it fun for children.

The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (1998) prevents children (12-year-olds and younger) from using social media sites like Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter because they can be exposed to grotesque language, images, videos, and/or websites. Messenger Kids is able to abide by these laws and is legal for a child to use.

However, some people believe otherwise. They think that Messenger Kids may just be another scheme for Mark Zuckerberg, the owner and founder of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to gain more money through targeting children. However, Messenger Kids is free and provides many features for a safe environment. Parents are able to fully control their child’s contact list, parents and grandparents are able to connect through the app, and with child-appropriate features. The app doesn’t have any adds on it anyway so Messenger Kids is truly a safe site that isn’t simply made to gain profit.

In the end, Messenger Kids is a great platform for children to use, communicate, and learn. The social media site will be like just any other one



Evil Exploits: Meltdown and Spectre

At the beginning of January, two exploits in computing were discovered by Jann Horn, a member of Google Project Zero, a group of researchers and analysts tasked with finding security vulnerabilities in computer hardware. The two exploits Jann Horn found, however, may be the most dangerous two yet. These software tools that are designed to take advantage of a flaw in a computer system affect nearly all devices, specifically almost every processor from 1995 or later, and can do a great deal of damage if used. The two exploits, although equally dangerous, work very differently.

Meltdown works by breaking the isolation between the system and the application. To put it simply, it “melts down” any walls between the user and the system, allowing the person using the exploit to remotely steal data.

Star Wars Battlefront 2: Encouraging Youth Gambling



13

by Arnis Dreshaj 7-409

On November 17, 2017, Star Wars Battlefront 2 was released on the platforms of PlayStation, Xbox, and PC. People were hyped up and excited for this highly anticipated sequel, but were greeted with a unexpected disappointment. Electronic Arts(EA), the company that marketed this game, was accused of promoting gambling to children and scamming everyone who bought it. The game is normally \$60 at the store. But that isn’t the true price.

In this game, there is a loot box system. These virtual containers have items that are randomized. The items acquired boost players throughout the game. So, someone could get lucky and get hard to find rare items making them prevail against a player with weaker items, making the game unfair. But to get these rare items, a player must open many boxes, even if they have to pay to get lucky. Children, being the main players of this game, then ask their unsuspecting parents to open their wallets and supply them with money to buy an in game currency that can be costly. Keep in mind, they don’t get a guaranteed rare item, unless they get lucky. Not many restrictions are placed so in the end, which leads to gambling being introduced to children, and the required age to gamble is twenty-one years old.

The way the system works is that people who paid money to get loot boxes giving them rare items to get the higher ground over players make the game uneven and unfair. This forces players who haven’t paid yet want to pay so they have an advantage also. Calculations have been made and it is said that a person either has to play 4,500 hours to unlock everything or pay over \$2,100 to unlock everything. Thankfully, the gaming community and Star Wars community, including major credible publishers have come out against this sequel of

Evil Exploits: Meltdown and Spectre (cont’d. from pg. 13, col. 1)

Spectre, on the other hand, uses a technology that’s been built into computers for over two decades known as speculative execution. Speculative execution works by “predicting” what the user will do based off of previous actions and patterns, and prepares the system for said guessed actions. Spectre itself can exploit the technology by “tricking” a program through the use of speculative execution into giving the user of the exploit the personal data of whoever is being exploited.

These two exploits are not viruses, but can be used to steal a great deal of personal data. While it has not been used yet outside of lab testing, people should still try to be safer about what they do online. Currently, the best preventative measure against the two exploits is to make

Say YES To Net Neutrality!

by Samantha Lien 8-509



Ever since the early 2000’s, there have been many efforts to enforce net neutrality. According to the White House Archives, net neutrality is a system that prevents independent web servers to charge more money than other website servers. In other words, net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. In 2015, the Obama Administration had finalized net neutrality. Unfortunately, the system of net neutrality had been voted to be repealed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The action inverted the agency’s 2015 resolution made during the Obama administration, to have stronger mistakes over broadband supplier as Americans have relocated to the newer and more mainstream internet and social media platforms for most associations and communications. It reflected the view on the Trump administration and the new F.C.C. chairman that unregulated business will eventually yield innovation and creativity and help the economy.

With this public decision of repealing net neutrality, however, several public and societal interest groups including Public Knowledge and the National Hispanic Media Coalition also promised to file a lawsuit. The Internet Association, the trade group that represents big tech firms such as Google and Facebook, said it also was considering legal action. However, some may wonder why so many people are opposed to the repeal of net neutrality. The simple reality of the backlash on the repeal, is mainly due to the fact that net neutrality positively impacts our modern day society which revolves around the internet. Net neutrality enables free surfing on the web and without it, web providers would have the



Three-Strike Policy Monitors Eighth Grade Behavior

by Brandon Tripoli 8-508

Three strikes and you are out! This is a rule which applies to baseball. But, this year, this declaration applies to the eighth grade which has a three strike policy. In this case, students can receive strikes for behavior, attendance, and grades. This policy is already in effect so it’s important that eighth graders are on their best behavior. There are five levels of infractions, each resulting in a serious consequence if committed. Every five level one and two infraction equals a strike. A level one infraction is based on an excessive amount of latenesses and absences. It’s also given to students not wearing uniforms, cutting class, using a cell phones or any other electronic devices out in a classroom, or not being in one’s assigned

Are Social Media Platforms Doing Enough To Police Content?



Recently, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube have been receiving a lot of backlash based on the content that is available on them. Many users have been blasting the mediums for being irresponsible, careless, and biased. For example, Youtube has taken much heat for the Logan Paul suicide video. In the video, Logan Paul had video-blogged his experience at the Aokigahara Forest, which is notorious for suicide. In the video, he had filmed a hanging dead body which he had been laughing at.

The thumbnail and the title clearly displayed the fact that the video had inappropriate content. The video was also apparently manually reviewed by Youtube's team and was still up on the platform. However, in Youtube's guidelines, it states “It’s not okay to post violent or gory content that’s primarily intended to be shocking, sensational, or disrespectful.” The video clearly expressed violent behavior and was disrespectful towards the victim’s family. Therefore, it violated the Youtube's guidelines without a doubt and yet the video was still not taken down. Not to mention that most of Mr. Paul's viewers are under eighteen years of age and are seeing suicide being made fun of and treated as a joke. This is only one example of how tragedies in today’s society such as suicide are not taken seriously and viewed as entertaining, rather than alarming.

Facebook has been taking its fair share of criticism as well. The Home Affairs Select Committee, which is one of the House of Commons select committees related to the government of the United Kingdom have stated that they have been doing “nowhere near enough” to combat inappropriate content as viewers continue to leave hate messages and live stream killings on the site.

Overall, social media platforms have been slacking off and not doing enough to monitor and police content that is being posted online. Leaving videos up that can endanger society and its newer generation should not be available to them or nowhere near them. Therefore,

Three-Strike Policy Monitors Behavior

A level one infraction will be given to a student who is being disrespectful in any way by making excessive noise in class and wearing hats, hoods, or other headgear in the building. A level two infraction is given to someone who is using profane, vulgar, or lewd language, lying to a school personnel, using inappropriate use of electronic devices, or leaving the classroom without permission. Every level three infraction results in a strike. Any level four infraction results in an immediate strike towards a senior activity. Any level five infractions results in an immediate removal of the privilege of going on the senior trip. If a student fails to bring in his/her science project or social studies exit project, that too will result in a strike. Students can avoid losing privileges by behaving

Bitcoin, The Future Currency?

by Adriana Cabral 8-508



Bitcoin is a digital currency that has skyrocketed in value. It is only available online unlike other finances. This form of money is untraceable due to its complex codes. There is also no central location. It is hosted by computers around the world in which are connected to one another therefore unhackable. Its blockchain is also a decentralized way of currency.

In order to earn Bitcoin, it has to be “mined” by using a computer that is high-powered to solve functions that are cryptographic. This is otherwise known as solving complex mathematics to approve Bitcoin transactions. These miners are then paid in Bitcoin, their support to the blockchain. One Bitcoin is equal to \$11,620.

The inventor of Bitcoin is unknown but, in a 2008 paper which led to the production it was credited to a man named Satoshi Nakamoto. However, no one knows if he’s a real person. Many people believe that the name “Satoshi Nakamoto” is a pseudonym to cover for someone.

Billionaires have come with Bitcoin’s popularity. One of the first billionaires includes the Winklevoss twins, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss. They have made more than \$1 billion using Bitcoin alone. According to cbsnews.com, “Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, twins who made a prescient \$11 million investment in bitcoin, are reportedly now billionaires...”

Bitcoin isn’t the only computerized cryptocurrency. There’s Ripple, Ethereum, Litecoin and others that have gained popularity in 2016-2018. Still, Bitcoin is on the rise and is the top cryptocoin in the business. But just because Bitcoin is on the rise, it’s not the easiest way to spend money because it hasn’t been approved by mainstream platforms. Therefore, it can mainly be used on contra-

Fly High with Uber In the Future



Uber is a company and app that connects to the drivers that work there. Just by downloading the uber app and clicking the button to call for a ride, a person can signal a driver to come and pick him/her up. Ubers have been around for about ten years now. Over time, they have upgraded and have increased the amount of customers they have. Since they were making a great deal of money in their company, they decided to team up with NASA and modernize the next upcoming invention called Uber Elevate. The company Uber thought it would be a good idea to make a helicopter that goes to places in and around the city, and even to airports.

According to the people who work at Uber, it feels just like riding in a first-class plane. Also, the price is amazing. An average plane at an airport would cost around \$500 to \$1000 but the new innovation should be around \$20 to \$40 depending on how far the destination is. This helicopter is guaranteed to help people avoid traffic and is five times faster than an average plane. Uber’s website states that “Instead of slogging down the 101, a group of four people will get from San Francisco to Silicon Valley in about fifteen minutes.” This new

Are Robots Taking Over?

by Adelina Makovic 8-509



Could robots be taking over the world as it is now in the near future? Studies have shown that robots are helping out in fields that people normally would work. They are taking the place of humans slowly and pretty soon they might just take over completely.

One way they are taking over is with jobs. In a recent interview, Daimler Benz (Head of Mercedes Benz) said “Because of IBM Watson, you can get legal advice (so far for more or less basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. So, if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% less lawyers in the future, only specialists will remain.” People are going to want speed and accuracy, which is why they will most likely choose robots to help with legal advice, rather than human lawyers. Daimler also said “Watson already helps nurses diagnosing cancer, four times more accurate than human nurses.” At that rate nurses will be out of jobs too. However, it is not just lawyers and nurses that could be in trouble from these robots, it’s other people as well. The way things are going, computers will replace the intelligence of the people that built them. If that happens, robots will be relied on more than people.

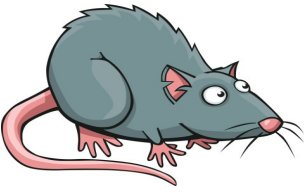
However, jobs are not the only thing the robots are taking over. According to Daimler Benz, “In 2018 the first self-driving cars will appear for the public. Around 2020, the complete industry will start to be disrupted. You don’t want to own a car anymore. You will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you only pay for the driven distance and you can be productive while driving. Our kids will never get a driver’s license and will never own a car.” In this case, there are positives and negatives. With these autonomous cars, the amount of accidents will be reduced. However, car companies will most likely go out of business and people in the future will not get to experience the thrill of driving.

Rocking Bulldogs Chip or Dip

by Sam Carello 8-508



Last year, the PS 83 Bulldog Boys Basketball team made it to the playoffs. It was thought that the 2017-2018 season would be more of a scouting and rebuilding season. However, thanks to Mr. Mark VanVoorhis and Mr. Donal Birmingham, the coaches of the team, the Bulldogs play like a championship team which is the main reason that we made the playoffs. The team is strong with team captains, Brian Guerra, 8-513, the starting forward, and Ikponmowosa Eboigeb (Ik), 8-516, the starting center. These two players have been on the team last year and are two of the best in the school. They help everyone grow and take initiative on the court when someone needs to step his game up. The three other starters are Johvet Garcia, 7-416, Isaiah Rivera, 6-310, and Sam Carello, 8-508. The second and third string include Jayden Hungria, 7-416, Aidan Rodriguez, 8-508, Robert Qeta, 8-508, Jaden Rodriguez, 7-415, Joseph Aro, 7-517, Raffaele Pulitano, 8-516, Edi Radoncic, 8-516, Matthew Rota, 8-510, Jesus Pacheco-Almonte, 7-420, and Carmine Terzigni, 7-416. This team works well with each other which proves how most of the Bulldogs grew from September to February. Make sure you follow us in the playoffs starting next week throughout



Chew on This: Rodents vs. Technology

Rodents and technology have been rivals since time began. Although they're not going to fight to the death anytime soon, it seems like rodents are superior to technology. It's ironic how the development of technology was focused on innovation, and yet something as simple as a rodent can ruin it for everyone. There have been multiple cases of rodents chewing through electrical wires. This inconvenience is due to the fact that rodents require copious quantities of chewable items in order to wear down the extremely fast growth rate of their teeth. If the rats were not able to wear down their teeth, the teeth would grow to a point where it would be impossible for the rat to eat or close its mouth which would result in death.

This conundrum has been evident at P.S. 83 as well. There were times where teachers' cars broke down due to rats creating niches in car engines during the colder seasons. As uncool as this sounds, this is real. Shockingly, recently, the Internet in the school building also went out due to rodents. Also, wires located in the cars are insulated with a material made of soybeans. Since this material is eco-friendly, it serves as a zesty snack for rodents.

All in all, rodents seem to really like chewing through wires. This has happened many times in the school and elsewhere. This is caused by rodents' unquenchable appetite for chewing. There-

Mock Trial Program (cont'd. from pg. 1, col. 2)

This assignment must be completed so the debates can occur correctly. Students are provided with cases, police reports, witness reports and pictures of weapons and much more. The students must have their perspective and argue the case. They must gather and use the evidence provided to support their side. The students are putting in a great deal of effort in their work and it does get difficult. Mr. Bernstein told The Barking News, "The students must balance their regular school activities with the additional responsibilities of participation in the Mock Trial Program as the team meets twice per week, both during and after school." He also included that some methods the students are taught are very difficult to perform correctly. Mr. Bernstein said, "It is the examination of witnesses that proves to be most challenging as the rules of evidence, particularly as they relate to what testimony a witness can and cannot provide are challenging for those who have attended law school, passed the bar exam and practiced law, let alone middle school students!"

Students are pushed to do their best during these litigations. All members of the team have parts in the cases. Every single student, depending on how comfortable he/she is, has different roles. When speaking about the competition at his previous school, Mr. Bernstein said, "For example, one of our most quiet shy students did not enjoy the oral presentations but he became a team leader as

The Controversial Reveal That Put Tech Giant Apple Under Fire



In late December 2017, tech giant Apple, worth \$900 billion in 2017, according to Fortune, was faced with a major controversy. According to Mashable, the company confessed that they slowed down old iPhones with batteries that have lower capacity, when addressing concerns of the manufactured devices. The models that have been slowed down are iPhone 6, iPhone 6S, iPhone SE and iPhone 7 (according to Dezeen). Based on The Verge, the reason for the slowdown was to "prevent accidental shutdowns," and "improve battery life." Also, according to Mashable, the confession is, "confirming a long-running suspicion: that a tech giant has messed with an old device to encourage people to buy a new device."

The reactions to the controversy have been quick. According to Dezeen, "Apple has been hit with eight lawsuits, including one for almost \$1 trillion, after revealing it purposefully slowed down older iPhone models." The claim in the lawsuits, filed in several federal courts in the United States, is because Apple "defrauded iPhone users by not disclosing its actions sooner."

Apple released an apology. In the statement, it stated, "We've been hearing feedback from our customers about the way we handle performance for iPhones with older batteries and how we have communicated that process. We know that some of you feel Apple has let you down. We apologize. There's been a lot of misunderstanding about this issue, so we would like to clarify and let you know about some changes we're making. First and foremost, we have never and would never do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades." Also, Apple stated, that "the price of an out-of-warranty iPhone battery replacement by \$50 — from \$79 to \$29 — for anyone with an iPhone 6 or later whose battery needs to be replaced, available worldwide through December 2018. Details will be provided soon on apple.com." A replacement can be beneficial, replacing an iPhone battery (\$79 with Apple) leads to "returned performance and CPU clock speeds back to normal," according to The Verge.

The controversy has hurt the reputation of Apple. People are upset knowing that Apple uses strategies like

Mock Trial Program (cont'd. from pg. 16, col. 1)

efforts regarding the application of rules of evidence to having items entered into evidence by the court and witness examinations."

There are many roles offered to the students. For instance, there is prosecuting and defense attorney's, as well as six witnesses, three for the both defense and the prosecution. Sometimes, students must serve as jurors.

This program helps the students acknowledge the branches of the United States government. As Mr. Bernstein said, "The Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Program provides a wonderful experience for students to gain exposure to the legal system." They compare these cases and their new knowledge about court cases to real-life. This program takes place on Thursday's after school and on Friday's, seventh period. According to all the evidence provided, the team will be practicing very hard to be successful and represent our school, in upcoming