

THE TAG TIMES

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to Know Your Students of the Month!

By Carina and Alondra

Gary Zheng

Gary Zhong Jie Zheng is an 8th grade scholar and has been in Chestnut T.A.G for 3 years. His favorite part of his years in Chestnut was his 6th grade year because everyone else seemed much more kind and there were fewer problems and issues to deal with. We asked him how he succeeds in school and he said by respecting his peers, teachers, and the environment, being prepared with the materials he needs for class, engaging in activities and conversations, and thinking and acting positively. He is one of the students in Chestnut T.A.G that perseveres in school by overcoming challenges and obstacles by never giving up even when it gets rough.

Favorite movie: Finding Nemo

Favorite Book: Eragon

Favorite Color: Turquoise

Favorite Teacher: Mr. Malinoski

Favorite Subject: Math

Mareyls Reyes

Mareyls Reyes is a 6th grade scholar and has only been in Chestnut T.A.G this year. Her favorite part of Chestnut T.A.G is band, chorus, and orchestra. She likes those classes because she can learn how to play an instrument. She became the student of the month by persevering and being successful. Mareyls is successful in school because she is on honor roll, student of the month, and she gets A's and B's. She also perseveres in school by staying after school to get extra help when she needs it and by completing her work.

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Subject: Band

Favorite Teacher: Ms. Rivard.

Favorite Book: The Boy on the Wooden Box

Kevin Vasquez

Kevin Vasquez is a 7th grade scholar and has been in Chestnut T.A.G for 2 years. His favorite part of Chestnut T.A.G is the encore classes because most of them require less work. He became one of the students of the month because he perseveres in class and succeeds in school. He perseveres by trying his best in class during tests and quizzes and by completing all his classwork and homework. He succeeds in school by having mainly all A's and by passing most of his classes.

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Subject: Science/Music

Favorite Teacher: Ms. Rivard.

Favorite Book: The Miraculous

BIG NEWS

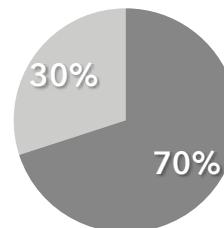
Trump's Immigration Ban

By Hasthika and Angel

One of the actions that President Donald J. Trump took during his presidency was signing the immigration ban on several Muslim countries this past month. Countries that are affected by the ban are Syria, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia. Donald Trump signing the ban means that immigrants from those countries may not enter the United States of America for the next 90 days and suspends the admission of all refugees for 120 days. This ban may have kept 21,000 immigrants from possibly entering the U.S.A. His ban has been called a Muslim ban, but technically isn't.

Some people who are Anti-trump protestors (people who do not support Donald Trump) have not agreed with his ideas since the election started. There has been a lot of protesting since he became president. There has been the women's March, Mar-a-Lago protest, Tax Day March, and Scientists March. The biggest protest, however, was the Kennedy Airport protest which was a consequence of signing the immigration ban. The protest started because 170 people were denied entry to the U.S. even if they had valid visas.

- Yes: Protesting can change things
- No: Protesting cannot change things



We started to wonder if protesting actually helps change anything. So we sent a survey out to all students to see if they think that protesting changes things. It ended up being that 70% of students do think that protesting changes things and 30% do not think protesting changes anything. We also wanted some adults' point of views so we interviewed 2 staff members from TAG. Both didn't consider themselves Donald Trump supporters so they didn't really agree with him issuing a ban. Both did think protesting was important, and one did specify that peaceful and organized protesting was necessary. They also thought that the action that Donald Trump has taken during his presidency makes the U.S.A. intolerant and make more enemies. One even said that Donald Trump, "is just stupid." Tell us what you think about Donald Trump's actions... Did they improve America or just make it worse?

HOW TO

How to Study

By Alexangeliz and Mohammed

Today we will give you some tips and tricks to help you study. We all know studying for a test is boring and no one wants to do that. So try a few of these tricks and soon enough, you'll ace that test.

1. Listen to some instrumental music. Listening to music helps get rid of distractions, whatever they may be. If you listen to music with lyrics, the lyrics will distract you and you'll get nothing done.
2. Find a more fun way to study. So maybe sitting down on the floor or your bed with a bunch of books isn't the best way to study. So maybe try doing some work, then a short break. Or maybe work on one subject, then watch YouTube or something for a set amount of time.
3. Reward yourself. So let's say you want to study for a test you have in - I don't know - science or something. You need to study or else you'll get an F. Reward yourself with a marathon of your favorite show if you get a B. Or a shopping spree for an A.
4. This is one you might enjoy. Eat chocolate while you study. Chocolate will help you focus and soon enough, you'll finish studying. Or, work on another subject if you want (which I bet you, none of you want to). Work on one or two subjects, just to be prepared, ya know?
5. Get some sleep! You got that test tomorrow, you studied and everything but, oh god, my favorite show got a new season! You know, maybe a few episodes, and then... it's dawn! Getting sleep will help your mind remember what you studied yesterday and you know, stop you from sleeping instead of actually taking the test.
6. If you have a really hard subject to study and the study guide is so hard, it's practically Japanese or something. If you've ever been in this scenario, try finding the lesson on YouTube. YouTube might have the same lesson, but in a simpler form. Now, you also have an excuse to watch YouTube while studying.
7. Make a schedule for studying. If you're one of those people who like to study every day (which is probably a very small amount), try making a schedule for what subject you study each day. That way, you could be a bit more organized and study all the things you need to.
8. Write your notes in blue pen. If you write in blue pen, you'll remember your notes and be able to memorize what you studied a lot better, and take less time to study. So, you have more time to do what you want for a while until, you know, you gotta sleep.
9. Put your phone away or turn it off. We all gotta study, but obviously YouTube is more important. Put your phone in another room, or somewhere you'll be too lazy to go to while studying. Or turn your phone off and keep it at a desk or something.
10. Didn't finish your homework or that one question on your study guide? Your brain is programmed to finish things. You know when you have to go somewhere when you're almost done with that one level, it's always on your mind, or those last 2 pieces of a puzzle you need to fit in. Your brain has to finish things completely, or else it'll bother you for the whole day... or not, like, no one wants to do homework.



How to Pass Mr. Paskov's Class

By Feras

Mr. Paskov is new to Chestnut TAG this year and his class is new class to the 6th graders. He teaches Social Studies and it is hard. I interviewed him and here are some tips to pass his class:

1. Do your work.
2. Participate in activities.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously, but take your work seriously.
4. Read everything I tell you.



5. Always be ready and excited to change your opinion, because you never know if somebody might change your opinion.

6. And also be prepared to come to terms that the fact that PHISH is the greatest act of all time aka THE DAK PRESCOTT OF MUSIC!

Fun Fact: Ms. Eisermann was teaching Geography last year

SPORTS

Boys' Basketball

By Sergio and Meshach

Did you know that the boys basketball coach is Mr. Cook? He is also the coach for every other boys sport in the school. The boys have four wins and three losses. The names of the boys on the team are Odayne, Joseph, Brandon T, Cotto, Brandon, Josh, James, Angle, Xjaviar, Zavanta. The boys points-per-game average is 50. To be on the team you have to have between a 1.6 and a 2.5 G.P.A.

Girls' Basketball

By Ava and Janiya

The only sport that is going on right now is girls' basketball so we decided to gather some information about the sport. We have interviewed some people who played and the coach.

We have some questions we asked Ms. Smith, the coach, and we have responses that she answered with. One question was, how's the girls' basketball team doing? She stated, "They are undefeated and they are also learning a lot." She also said, "They are working very hard." Another question was, when are other sports coming out? Her response was, "Volleyball is coming out in the spring so stay tuned for information." One last question was, who are the girls from T.A.G. that are on the team? Her answer was, "For sixth grade, Gia M and Inari-Jade B. For seventh grade, My-Asia M and Kaylyn C. Then for eighth grade is Nefmary R, Melody C and Nayeli R."



Then we interviewed Inari-Jade, one of the girls who plays on the team and have asked her some questions. One question was, are the teams you played against easy to beat or hard? Her response was, "They were

easy to her but some of them were a good fight." Another question was, are your teammates nice to you? Her response was, "Yes they are very nice." One last question was, are your teammates fair and do things to help the win the game. She stated, "Yes but some of them are too shy to go in and get the ball."

So there you have it... Maybe you should try out for the girls' basketball team next year!

SCHOOL

The Fine Arts Department

By Ada

Do you ever wonder what The Fine Arts Department is? Well it means Music and Art, which are run by Ms. Rivard and Ms. Cruz.

In my opinion, this world wouldn't be awesome and fun to live in without music and art in our lives because in some way music helps us express words we can't speak and art helps us express the way we feel and expresses the way of our free soul.

Music

The music teacher is Ms. Rivard. She has been teaching in Chestnut T.A.G for 2 years.

Instruments: Ms. Rivard can play 18 instruments, the longest instrument Ms. Rivard has played the trumpet for 15 years.

For Students: Ms. Rivard's goal for students is for them to gain independence and to take control of their own learning.

The Inspiration: Ms. Rivard studied Music Education at UMASS Amherst. She was inspired to become a music teacher when she was younger. As a student, people told her she didn't play well so she wasn't in concert band anymore. Then, Ms. Rivard tried again for Concert Band and she wanted to play the tuba. They said she couldn't play the tuba because she was a girl. However, when she could finally play, that's when she fell in love with music.

The Reason: Ms. Rivard absolutely loves music because it connects everyone, and everyone can play music they don't have to know, speak the same language or even be smart. Music involves and includes everyone and allows students to express themselves and be creative.

Art

The art teacher is Ms. Cruz. She has been teaching in Chestnut T.A.G for 7 months.

Artwork: Ms. Cruz prefers to complete her work using acrylic paints, oil on canvas, and water colors.

For Students: Ms. Cruz's most important achievements for her students to reach is to find themselves and help them achieve their full potential. Ms. Cruz says students should be able to receive the highest quality of education and learn instruction through guided practice, constructive feedback and positive reinforcement students should also feel challenged creatively to encourage and empower all areas of thinking.

The Inspiration: Ms. Cruz studied Art at Bay Path University, she has been into art for 15 years. Ms. Cruz was inspired to study art was when she was in Middle school and High School it was very stressful, art helped her relieve stress.

The Reason: Ms. Cruz says she is very passionate about art because it allows her to express who she is in a creative way. If ever she is feeling down, or confused, art allows her to make sense of these feelings if she can't do so with words. Art has always been her safe place and the only thing she is truly good at. "It's a hobby, it's a coping mechanism and it's simply my lifestyle."

Chestnut History

By Jaylee, Aleishka, & Leilani

There are things about this school that you might or might not know. For example: Chestnut was once a whole school. This was good for most of the Chestnut students, but there were some disadvantages. Another thing you might have not known is that they didn't have a uniform at the beginning, then after that they had to wear a white shirt and khaki pants. Did you know that this school has been open for at least 20 years? Did you know that the only TAG teachers that were in the "Old Chestnut" are Mrs. Trujillo, Mr. Gee, Mr. McGrath, and last, but not least, Mr. Malinoski. You might know them as your ELA, Math, and Social Studies teachers. The reason that the school split up was because the teachers wanted it to be more like a family and because it was suggested that smaller schools would be more successful. Another reason the school split up is because they wanted it to be easier for the newer students to navigate around the school. What do you think about Impact? It doesn't have history with the "Old Chestnut." The reason that it is not a part of the history of the school is because it began in the fall of 2016. The behavior of the students of the Old Chestnut was bad at first, but later on it calmed down.

Congratulations Ms. Smith

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards program has brought recognition to more than a thousand distinguished educators since its launch in 2004.



The program annually honors Western Massachusetts educators and seeks to motivate teachers at all stages of their careers to aspire to excellence. Ms. Smith was given the award earlier this week.

SURVEYS

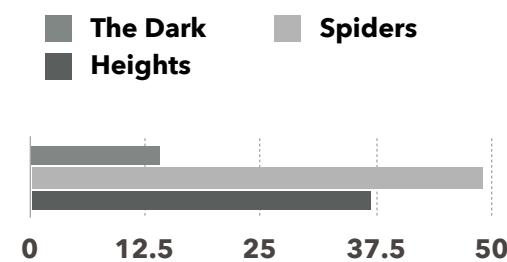
Fear of Spiders!

By Emaly M.

Many people are afraid of spiders so if you are one of them there's no need to be embarrassed. The official name for the fear of spiders is Arachnophobia. There are many ways to help you get over your fear of spiders, that's why I am here, to help you get over it.

Ok so first of all you have to expose yourself to a spider or spiders if you want a quicker result. You have to expose yourself to a spider no matter how terrifying it could be - That's the point! Just so it can help you see that they are more afraid of you than you are of them.

Students surveyed at TAG



If that doesn't make much of an effect then try this. You have to have a friend come over that isn't afraid of spiders. After they are finally at your house you have to go find a spider with them. (Or you could have them bring one over) After this they have to take the spider and hold it in their hand. You will have to watch them and see how well they do with the spider and how the spider doesn't bite them at all. If it does not work, try the next tactic.

This is going to be very disturbing and very hard to do at first but it works. You have to go on YouTube and search up "videos of spiders". After this you will have to find one that calls out to you and you have to sit through the video and watch it. You don't have to watch the whole thing, but at least a little more than half of the video.

If that is way too extreme for you then how about you try this: Have someone you are always around buy a fake spider and out of nowhere without telling you they have to place it next to you. This will show you that they are harmless and won't attack you. (Unless you're in a desert with really dangerous spiders).

OPINION

The World's Worst Enemy

By Driss

With the recent election most people fear that the land of the free will become the forefront of an all out thermonuclear war. This isn't an irrational fear. Think of this: around the years after World War 2, The United States, and every other country, was living in fear because all they could think of was "I'll shoot when you shoot." This tension was unnatural.

Think of it like this: You're on this island with strangers and you feel that they're out to get your coconuts, the thing that keeps you alive, so you keep a rock with you at all times because you don't trust them and they do the same. Now, say these coconuts are your people and they see you as their protector. And say the strangers are those who live around you who share the same authority as you. And the rocks represent nuclear weapons and the island is the Earth.

Let's take a look back in time to August 6th, 1945 sometime around 8:00 AM. At this time, the first nuclear weapon was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Then the second nuclear weapon was dropped on Japan and the third was deployed on August 9th sometime around noon on the city of Nagasaki.

These bombs were fairly weak in terms of nuclear bombs standards. You may think the deadliest part of a nuclear bomb is the bomb part and if so you are sadly mistaken because the deadliest part of blast is the radiation.

The Russian nuclear bomb "Tsar" has biggest blast radius of any other man made weapon. This 50 megaton bomb had a fireball radius of 1.43 mi, a radiation radius of 4.08 mi, air blast radius of 6.18 mi and a

thermal radiation radius of 36.04 mi. These measurements aren't exact, however, Tsar had the largest blast radius made by man so far.

It is truly amazing how far the human race has come. Just look around at trains that use electromagnetic fields to move, homes that can speak with us, AI (artificial intelligence) that can learn from its mistakes and try again, and self driving cars. This just the beginning. The children of today will be the creators of tomorrow or the ones who travel the void of space or cure major disease or creating things only to be thought as dreams.

But every good thing comes with a bad one. As technology advances and our understanding of how things work and why the work the way they do, it makes it easier to create something even stronger than Tras, and then even stronger and stronger until we reach a point where the nuclear weapon is so strong it could rip this every planet apart.

We only have one Earth. This place we call Earth is home and possibly has the only life in space. By setting off nuclear weapons it shows you don't care what happens to your only home. We are supposed to be the smart life forms. War I understand, what I don't understand is how weapons of mass destruction are used in times where it wouldn't help to win the fight. If anything, it makes it harder because the radiation stays in the sky for years making some places uninhabitable. Also, the enemy will fight back with his own nuclear weapon - maybe even stronger than yours. In the end, as you fight and fight, you destroy more than you gain.

A Dog's Purpose

By Dominic and Matthew C.

Have you seen the movie *A Dog's Purpose*? Or at least the trailer? I've seen the trailer and what I got from it is that it is about a dog who dies repeatedly and is born as another type of dog. Now at first it looks like a cute movie. But like with everything there is a dark-side.

During a scene when a German Shepard saves someone from rushing river, a dog was harmed during filming. In order to do this they used a pool with multiple turbulent fans. The dog is fine now, after nearly drowning and going through mental abuse to jump in the water. American Humane sent in all the dogs in the movie in hopes they won't get hurt. Even if the directors were only given \$25,000 for props and C.G.I for the movie which is more than enough to make a movie. Now knowing that it's B.S the movie is still in production right? Well guess what that's not all they abused they didn't just abuse the one German Shepard they abused all the dogs in the movie.

Innocent dogs abused for a movie? Many people are suing the directors for hurting innocent animals just for fame and fortune. What has this world come to? It's like Milo and Otis, the main cat? Isn't the same cat, nearly 20+ cats died during the making of the film!! It's sad to know what people do for fortune.

THANK YOU

By Dr. O'Connor

I would like to take this space to thank two groups in particular:

1. Thank you to the newspaper crew for being a part of our first-ever school wide news team.
2. Thank you to student council for your input on lots of big school-wide decisions.

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

Are you interested in writing for the school newspaper?

By Ms. Leveille

Do you want to write an article about a school event? Maybe an opinion piece about a school issue! Or perhaps you would like to contribute a creative writing piece? Here is how to get involved with the newspaper this spring:

If you are interested in investigating a certain topic and writing about it, think about the options listed below and then stop in and see Ms. Leveille or email her about it at leveillej@springfieldpublicschools.com.

NEWS

Write articles about school, local, national, or international news. You might even be able to interview the mayor, city council, and other city or county officials. In writing about local news, make sure it relates to the students in your school in some way.

EDITORIAL (OPINION PIECE)

These articles are about influencing popular opinion. People need to read your article and become interested in it, even if they completely disagree with you. Some may read your piece because they completely agree. Others will read it because they just like the way you say it. Still others will read it because they feel a need to disagree with you.

REVIEW ARTICLE

A review article is a first-hand experience (good or bad) of a product, service, person, group, or idea. Your job here is to give as an unbiased experience of the good and negative aspects of your experience. You want to inform readers of what to expect.

PROMOTIONAL ARTICLE

The idea here is to encourage your readers to join in, engage in, participate in, purchase, or otherwise become involved with an activity, a group, a product, or an opportunity. For instance, an upcoming school activity might also be written about to encourage students to participate.

HOW-TO ARTICLES

These types of articles have become much more popular in recent years. For a school newspaper, writing about how to study, how to memorize better, how to utilize certain school resources, or how to best take advantage of the school cafeteria. All of these ideas, and many more, might be of interest to the student body.

SELF HELP ARTICLES:

You can write articles that help people overcome certain issues, bad habits, and fears. Write articles on what to do if someone tries to take advantage of your kindness, how to overcome the fear of authority, how to approach the principal, what friendship really is, and so forth.

CREATIVE WRITING:

If you have an original piece of writing to share with the school please do! Email your submission to Ms. Leveille just as you would one of the other articles. I am always happy to edit submissions or take a look at your drafts. You are also welcome to submit anonymously but are encouraged to take ownership!

NEXT DEADLINE:
March 10

ARE YOU READY?!

SPIRIT WEEK March 20-24th

"My favorite day last year was **Pajama Day** because I got to walk around the school comfortably." - CHRICELYS M.

"I really liked **Throwback Thursday** because we got to wear clothes from the 70s, 80s, and 90s, and it was funny to see what people wore and how their personalities are outside of school." - LIANA C.

"I think this year we should have a Disney Character Day where you can dress up like your favorite character or just wear something with that character on it." - NEF and ISAAC G.

Here are some hints as to what's in store for this year's Spirit Week themes - any guesses?



MCAS TESTING

ELA: April 11-12

Math: May 16-17

Science: May 23-24

LOCK-IN May 19th

"The freedom of last years Lock-In was the best - get prepared for another one! Also the way you see your peers and awesome teachers act when they feel at home. The Lock-In is going to be fun." - NIKOLAS S.

"It was better than I expected and an amazing experience with less rules and a better side of the teachers which allowed me to connect better with students I didn't normally talk to." - BREANN R.

"I enjoy being away from parents and having a get-together with all of my close friends." - KYANA D.

2017 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest

If interested in entering the contest, please read all of the information in the document on the right and submit your essay to Ms. Leveille by Monday March 13th:

leveillej@springfieldpublicschools.com

In addition to the public contest, Ms. Leveille and Mrs. St. Martin will select THREE school winners who will be eligible to join students on the field trip to Amherst College later this month.

RIDDLE ME THIS

1. *What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?*



2. *What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?*

3. *What is always coming, but never arrives?*

SUDOKU!

6			2			9
	1		3	7	5	
		3			1	
			9			2
2			8	7	5	
		5		1	4	
	7			8		9
	1		4		8	
			2	5	9	

WORD PUZZLE

C	SOOOOO NOW NOW NOW NOW	E4R
GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF	COW	PICKET PICKET PICKET
It Came MIDNIGHT	PAID I'M WORKED	STYgoLE



Student Reproducible

2017 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest



2016 Grand Prize Winner Kendal Young of Spring Lake, MI, with Robert D. Manfred, Jr., Commissioner of Major League Baseball, and Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson and author.

Deadline: March 14, 2017 | Grades 4-9

Write About a Barrier You Have Faced

Each year April 15 marks the anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball in 1947. Honoring this important event, the **Breaking Barriers Essay Contest** is a chance for diverse students across the country to share their personal stories and how they use Jackie Robinson's nine values to face their own barriers.

How to Enter:

1 Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson's nine values (listed below) to face this barrier.

- Citizenship
- Commitment
- Courage
- Determination
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Justice
- Persistence
- Teamwork

2 Each entry must include the following information:

- student's name
- student's grade
- teacher's name
- school name
- school city and state

3 Submit your essay in one of two ways:

Mail:

Breaking Barriers Contest
Scholastic Inc.
P.O. Box 713
New York, NY 10013-0713

Online:

Grades 4-8: Give your entry to your teacher to enter online
Grade 9: Enter at scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9

- All entries must be submitted by March 14, 2017.
- All essays must be factual and based on the student's real-life experience. Fictional stories will be disqualified.

Word Count Requirements:

Grades 4-6: 200 to 750 words Grades 7-9: 500 to 1,400 words

10 National Winners

Grand Prize Winners (2)

- **Grades 4-6:** Trip to the 2017 **MLB® All-Star Game®**
- **Grades 7-9:** Trip to a game of the 2017 **MLB® World Series®**

- Student and teacher laptops
- Class visit from Sharon Robinson

MVP Winners (2)

- Student and teacher laptops
- Class visit from Sharon Robinson

All-Star Winners (6)

- Student laptops

All 10 winners also receive a class set of books by Sharon Robinson and a class set of T-shirts.

Essays will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well does the essay express the student's barrier?
- How well does the essay express how one or more of the values—*citizenship, commitment, courage, determination, excellence, integrity, justice, persistence, and teamwork*—are used to face and/or overcome the barrier?
- How well is the essay organized to express what the writer wants to say?
- How effective is the essay in expressing the writer's point of view?
- How well does the essay incorporate an example of Jackie Robinson?

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. All students who are legal residents of, and currently reside in, the U.S., D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada (excluding Quebec) and who are currently enrolled in grades 4–9 are eligible to enter, except for those who have family members employed by Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., Scholastic Inc., and other related companies (see the Official Rules for a complete listing). Entries accepted in English or Spanish. Visit scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/officialrules for complete Official Rules and restrictions. All prospective winners and their respective parents/legal guardians will be required to sign, notarize, and return an affidavit of eligibility/release of liability within ten (10) days of date of notification or an alternate winner may be selected. In the event of prize unavailability, a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded as determined by the sole discretion of MLB. No cash substitutions for prizes. Prizes are nontransferable. ERV of Prizes: Grand Prize (\$7,659.70); MVP (\$4,859.70); All-Star (\$2,159.70).

For Spanish contest information, visit scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids

Major League Baseball trademarks and copyrights are used with permission of Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. All rights reserved.
Photo: Courtesy of Major League Baseball