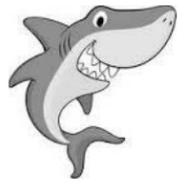




THE TAG TIMES



AROUND THE SCHOOL

MCAS Pep Rally

By De'Jour F.



All TAG students gathered in the cafeteria for the Pep Rally

The pep rally was a blast. It was in the school cafeteria and the students were sitting at the tables. Leverett and Tandy were just about to start their show. Both, Tandy and Leverett, were in the student council and they helped set up the pep rally. The show ended up being a comedy and the whole pep rally was like an inspiration for the students taking MCAS. Leverett played the role of a student who didn't study and thought he was going to fail the big MCAS test, but he ended up studying and had faith in himself about this test after all. Tandy played the narrator of the show. This is the first year that we have had a pep rally for MCAS, but we've had other pep rallies before. (This is my first year in TAG so I don't know the other pep rallies.) After their show, we all applauded and the next event began.



Here are the TAG teachers who got pied in the face

The next event was a relay race. There were three people in each grade that participated on one team. So 6th grade versus 7th grade versus 8th grade. The first person would get to run to the other side of the cafeteria but had to flip 3 water bottles and land them and run back. The second person would have to balance a ping pong ball on a spoon and walk to the other side of the cafeteria and back. Then the third person would run down with a balled up piece of paper and shoot it in the trash. The first team to do all that wins. The team that won would get a free dress down for themselves. The eighth graders were the winners of the first MCAS relay race this year!

The second to last event was the Spelling Bee. One sixth grader, seventh grader, and eighth grader stepped up. The student council announced a person and told them which word to spell. At one point, everyone had 1 strike and if you got 2 then you were out of the game. It was the sixth grader, Inari-Jade's turn and if she spelled the word correctly then she was the first winner of the MCAS Spelling Bee. Inari stepped up and started to spell her word. Each person in the audience in each grade got quiet. When Inari was done with her word it was

time for the student council to say "correct" or "incorrect." We waited and then suddenly the student council said "CORRECT!" All of the sixth graders were banging the tables and screaming their lungs out because Inari won this year. She got a free dress down day, just like the relay racers.

The last event of the pep rally was my favorite. A couple kids were called up and the student council handed each of them a plate of whipped cream. Then a couple teachers put a bag over their body, but didn't cover their faces. I think all of the students knew what was about to happen to the teachers. Each student had to answer a question before they got to the best part. All of the students got their questions correct, so now it was time for the fun: hitting the teachers with the plate of the whipped cream. I wanted Ms. Leveille to get whip-creamed first, but Mr. Paskov got it. From what I saw, most people wanted to hit Mr. Paskov with the whip cream, and in the end he got whip-creamed about three times. But he wasn't the only one who got it. Mr. Paskov, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Leveille were the only ones that got whipped creamed and two other teachers - Ms. Rivard and Mr. Lessard - got lucky. One thing that wasn't the best thing about it was it made a mess on the floor.

Well, that's it, The Chestnut TAG 2017 MCAS Pep Rally. I could say that was one of the best pep rallies I've ever been to. It definitely cheered up the students for MCAS this year. I wonder what it's going to be like next year!

Aqua Bux

By Chey H. and Marcus C.

Chestnut TAG has had some type of point system for a long time. Points can be earned by good deeds such as helping out teachers, and by following the PREPP traits.

First it started with "Strive for Five," then "Scholar Dollars" and now "Aqua Bux!" So far Aqua Bux seems to be the most efficient way. Each student has an I.D. and teachers get an app to scan and put in a certain amount of points. Also, if a student doesn't have an I.D. then the teachers can go online and do it without it.

There are usually things you can "buy" with your Aqua Bux. For instance, you can use your Aqua Bux on an activity, like an ice cream social.

Egg Drop

Save the Egg Babies!

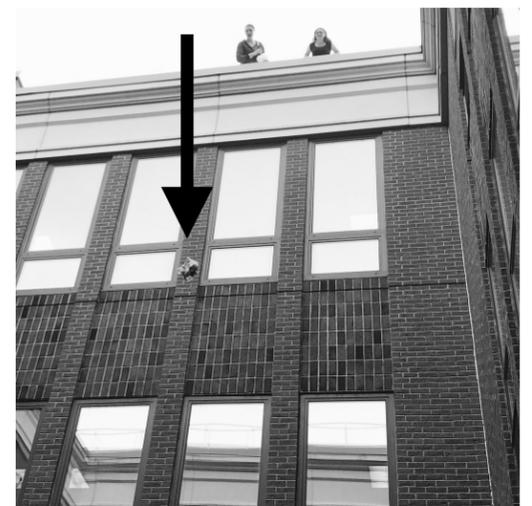
By Tia T.

In Science class, Ms. Nelson put together a fun project. The assignment was to build a structure that protects an egg when launched from the roof of the school building so that it will land safely on the ground. Students were partnered up to successfully complete the project, but the catch is that you can only use certain items that are in limited amounts. Also, students were able to bring in one item from home that is no bigger than both of your palms. You couldn't use any bubble wrap, adhesives/duct tape or plastic bags. The teams that successfully land the egg with no cracking or marks was awarded for "Co-Parent of the Year"!

THE EGGS:



THE DROPS:



THE CARNAGE:



School Website

By Aliyah P.

Did you know that our school has a website? A lot of people in our school do don't, but we do, and it was created by Ms.Eisermann!

The website is: www.chestnutTAG.com

There is a lot of information you can find on the website. The tabs include: Events at TAG, Staff Directory, Parents Info, and About (the School).

In the Events tab you will find the school calendar and information about fieldwork. The school calendar shows things like when report cards come out and days that have no school. Fieldwork shows the celebrations that we do here at TAG, like the February Math Academy, and The Black History Month Celebration that Ms. Trujillo hosted.

In the tab Staff Directory you can find all your teachers and all their email's if you wish to email your them, and if an adult at home might want to work at TAG they can apply in the Staff Directory tab.

In the tab Parents Info you can find the TAG store, and the school's contact. information.

The last tab is About. In this tab you can find our school mission statement, a mission statement is what our school wants to accomplish by the time you graduate. Another thing in the About tab is the principal's address, this is what our principal address's to our school and what our school does, she gives information to people who want to come to TAG. The last thing in this tab is yours's truly - The TAG Times! You can find old TAG Times newspaper's if you lost yours's and would like to read it again. It also states that Ms.Leveille is the Editor in Chief. This is what our school website has to offer, so go check it out!

PREPP Traits

By Aiden & Ian V.

At Chestnut TAG, scholars are expected to be **positive, respectful, prepared engaged, productive, and to persevere.** These traits must be understood by every pupil, in order to succeed at this school. These traits encourage scholars to stay on task and stay out of any trouble that awaits.

When scholars are being **PREPARED**, this means everyone must be ready for their class, anything that they might need - for example, a writing utensil. Not being ready for school and not bringing proper materials, shows that you are not prepared.

When scholars are expected to act **RESPECTFUL**, this means they must have manners towards one another, this includes other students and teachers, and one another's possessions as well.

Yet, there is another trait that must be followed, and this trait is being **POSITIVE**. Being positive tells students to not feel discouraged, and to do their best at this school.

To be **ENGAGED** means "to be involved in something." To a TAG scholar, being engaged means many things. It could mean being focused on your work, or just listening to what your partner has to say. It also means listening to your teacher when she/he is talking.

To be **PRODUCTIVE** means "to be achieving or producing a significant amount of result." To a TAG scholar, being productive means getting all your work done, or at least working efficiently. It also means getting a lot of work done.

To **PERSEVERE** means "to continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success." To a TAG scholar, to persevere means to not give up, either on a test or homework. It also means volunteering to pass out the papers even if there is no reward.

HOW TO

Make New Friends

By Jaylee S.

Friendless? Do you find yourself in a new school and having trouble making new friends?

If you are, this article will help you tremendously. It includes 8 different tips to help you make friends, even if you have to step out of your comfort zone.



Tip #1 - Be yourself: Never change. If friends don't accept you the way you are, they are not really your friends.

Tip #2 - Be hygienic. Good grooming can make you more approachable.

Tip #3 - Be kind: Make sure to be kind to people of all cultures and backgrounds.

Tip #4 - Be inviting: Smile and make eye contact when walking through the halls.

Tip #5 - Make the First Move: Introduce yourself - letting people know who you are and where are you from.

Tip #6 - Remember people's names: People like it when you use their names.

Tip #7 - Do Something nice for Someone: Save someone a seat in the cafeteria. Pay a sincere compliment. Ex: "I love your shoes".

Tip #8 - Avoid making groups - When people make groups others feel excluded.

Make Slime

By Aleishka R.

Do you know how to make slime?

Well if you don't, then here is what you have to do and here are the ingredients that you will need is:

- * Elmer's glue (any kind of your choice)
- * Detergent (of your choice)
- * Food coloring (optional)
- * Shaving cream
- * A spoon (something to mix with)
- * A container (to make it and store it in)

Those are all the ingredients you will need, now here are the steps:

- * Add any amount of glue into a bowl
- * Add any amount of shaving cream to this
- * Add food coloring (optional)
- * Mix all ingredients
- * Add a little bit of detergent at a time and keep mixing. As you are adding detergent and mixing it starts to thicken
- * Once thickened, if it is sticky you can add a little bit more of detergent and mix. To also make it less sticky you can knead with your hands after you are done mixing.

When you are done following these steps you will get awesome slime to play with!

DIY Lava Lamp

By Jaylee S. and Leilani W.

I was bored so I went online and googled "things to do when you're bored." Then I went to youtube and searched up "DIY projects" and I came across a link to a DIY dollar store giant lava lamp tutorial by a youtuber named Marlin.

What you will need to make this DIY lava lamp is using only things from the dollar store:

- A water bottle/container.
- Vegetable oil
- Food coloring (optional)
- Some Alka Seltzer tablets
- Water



Below are the steps you will need to complete to make the lava lamp:

1st step: Pour oil into container - $\frac{3}{4}$ full.

2nd step: Fill rest of container with water.

3rd step: (Optional) Add food coloring.

4th step: Add Alka Seltzer tab.

To activate again at any time, add Alka Seltzer tab. According to this youtuber, it would be good to fall asleep or meditate to.

Do Well on MCAS

By Alyssa D.

I know all students dread the MCAS, but we like to do well. Here are some things students did on the ELA MCAS and what happened that might help them improve on the math MCAS. There are also some teachers who also caught students doing small things that helped them on the ELA MCAS.



This is the "pep talk" display in the hallway outside of the cafeteria

What small things did you see students use to help them on the ELA MCAS?

Ms. Leveille said: "One small thing that caught my eye during the ELA MCAS was that some students used highlighters to annotate their passage or article and they seemed more confident than the other students"

Ms. Clark said: "One small thing I noticed was that a lot of students were also using highlighters to annotate their passage and article. They were also prewriting before their essay, on a draft piece of paper"

Students were asked: "What do you think you could have done better on the MCAS?"

Solimar (6th) quoted: "Something I could have done better was try little bit harder and not fall asleep during the test."

Jamal (6th) quoted: "I could have studied more to be more prepared"

I think everyone felt this way because the MCAS had some unexpected questions. Or maybe some students were just nervous and felt they could've been more prepared. I certainly felt that way because I was just thinking this could decide if I stay in this school or not.

Let's see what other students were thinking. What was on your mind during the MCAS?

Tia (6th) quoted: "I was thinking of the strategies that Ms. Leveille and Ms. Smith had taught us. For example how sometimes the multiple questions can help our written response, and stuff like that."

Aleishka (6th) quoted: "What was on my mind during the MCAS was to preserve. I was also thinking to stay engaged on the test and productive meaning constantly giving it my all until I finished the test."

Even though we finished one MCAS test, there are still more to go. For example, everyone still has the Math MCAS and the (8th) have the science MCAS. Hopefully this can give you some tips!

What are MCAS?

By Michael M.

If you didn't know, MCAS stands for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. The MCAS was developed in 1993 and was never intended to be a predictor of college readiness.

The purpose of the MCAS is "to determine the progress individual students have made in acquiring the knowledge and skills as outlined in Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks." The Common Core is "a set of high-quality academic standards in math and ELA. These learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards were created to make sure that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college or just their life. In addition, the MCAS gives teachers a snapshot of a student's progress to date."

If you don't pass the Math and ELA MCAS in 10th grade, you don't graduate or you must retake the test. In grades 3-8 and 10 you take the ELA and math MCAS. Also, in grades 5,8, and 10 you must take the science MCAS along with the ELA and math MCAS.

The law says that all students who are enrolled in the tested grades and who are educated with Massachusetts public funds have to take the MCAS.

Why Do We Use #2 Pencils for Testing?

By Mehki P.

We need to use #2 pencils because the higher the number the harder the writing core and the lighter the mark on the paper. So for example, say you use a #1 pencil on a test it would be harder to see because they are thinner than a #2 pencil. That is why we always use #2 pencils on test like MCAS, or other important test.



A #1 pencil is different than a #2 pencil because the #1 pencil writes darker than a #2 pencil because the harder the lead the lighter the markings. The #2 pencil lead is not too dark and not too light, and it's not too hard or not too soft which makes it just right for us to use on test.

The #2 pencils started being made in 1999 when the US ceased the production of the

Ticonderoga Pencil they make the pencil outside the US in Italy, France, Asia, Latin America, and Germany. The Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil is no longer made in the USA.

The reason we always use #2 pencils on test is because early machines scanned and scored test and they found out that test could not detect any marks made by a hard pencil lead. A softer pencil however smudged but was better because the machines read that the electrical conductivity of the lead.

Are there only #2 pencils? No! There are also number 1, 2, 2 1/2, 3, and . There are also other numbers on pencils, but the higher the number the harder the lead and lighter the marking the #1 pencil produces a darker marking but mainly people who are publishers use #1 pencils.

LAPTOP CARE

By Ian R.

Next year we might have the honor of getting assigned our own computers and bringing them around all day.

It's a big responsibility, mainly because if you break it then you might have to pay a lot of money. But still you might just destroy it when you least expect to.

Something you can do to avoid this is carefully carrying it with 2 hands. Also protect the laptop from others using or touching it unless you know they will not break it. These are examples on protecting the laptop when moving to other places or using it at home.

Rules for caring for the laptop when at home AND school is don't use the laptop while eating or drinking. This will just make the keys



sticky, broken, wet, dirty, or malfunction if it's just a liquid. At school don't allow others to use it if it was assigned to you.

These are just some examples on how to care for laptops. A side note is that in school if you're supposed to be doing work then stay on that website and don't go on inappropriate websites or/and other websites except the one you are doing your work on. These rules and ways to care for a laptop is important because one, it's a lot of money to pay and two, you're caring for others/the schools property that is allowing you to use it at home and school so you are lucky. Return the favor by taking care of their stuff. Lastly if we do take it around all day then you will need to sign a contract. Which will explain more of the rules then.

STAFF

Ms. Perez

By Solimar



I asked Ms. Perez a series of questions about her job working in the main office here at TAG.

She said, "the pros of working in an office are that you get to interact with other staff and you don't have to see the same people every day. A con of working in an

office is that you have to stay in a confined space and on nice days you have to stay stuck in the office."

Also she said Ms. Vasquez or Ms. Guzman fills in for her on her lunch break. She also told me why she wanted to work here, she said she heard about the leadership in the school with the staff.

She told me she loves her job 100% and her favorite part is getting to know the students and staff that she works with. I wondered if she did anything exciting over break so I asked her: "During break what do you do?" She said she had time to clean and get ready for the next day.

Student Teachers

By Janiya

I would like to give a warm Welcome/Thank You to Ms. Smith and Mr. Campbell for being student teachers at Chestnut TAG this year!

Ms. Smith

Ms. Smith started working as a student teacher at TAG in August. She works in ELA with Ms. Leveille and she earns a whopping \$0! She is attending graduate school at Mount Holyoke College MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching), which is the same program that Ms. Nelson and Ms. Eisermann did. She is 25 and her first name begins with a K (can you guess?) and her last name is Smith. She grew up in Hingham, Mass. And before teaching she worked in business for 2 years.



Mr. Campbell

Mr. Campbell started here at TAG in January as a student teacher in Life skills. He also makes \$0 and he went to Springfield College. He is 22 years old and his first name begins with a N (thoughts?) and his last name is Campbell. He grew up in Melrose, Mass, and he went to college for teaching before he started student teaching.



English Department

By Juan M.

The ELA teachers of Chestnut TAG are Ms. Leveille, Ms. Trujillo, and Ms. Clarke. I interviewed all of them and their answers were pretty interesting.

Ms. Leveille

First, I interviewed Ms. Leveille. Ms. Leveille attended Westfield State College and Western New England University for a total of 6 years. She received a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She has worked at TAG for a total of 2 years, but she has worked at other schools before. She worked at Van Sickle Middle School for 3 years, an alternative school called Valley West for 1 year, a high school called Hampshire Regional for half a school year, and a Kindergarten classroom in Denver for the other half of the school year.

ELA is important to Ms. Leveille because she feels that reading and writing are something that everyone should be able to do well. She also feels that it is a skill that you will need for your whole life no matter what kind of job you have.



If she didn't teach ELA, Ms. Leveille would teach Art because she enjoys it, or History because she was originally a history major in college. She has been teaching since she started substituting in schools when she was 18. But, she has been teaching professionally for 7 years.

Ms. Leveille wanted to teach ELA because she knew that she always wanted to be a teacher, but she didn't know what she wanted to teach at first. During the beginning of her career, she thought she wanted to teach elementary school, but when she began teaching in elementary schools, she didn't really like teaching little kids. She then thought that she would become a history teacher in a high school because she really enjoyed teaching high school, but she realized that finding a job that included history was hard and she didn't know what she would do with her history degree if she realized that teaching wasn't for her. That is when she decided she would go into college to become an English teacher.

After graduating from college, she worked in a high school. She always said she would NOT teach middle school, but once she started teaching middle school, she was hooked!

Mrs. Trujillo

I then interviewed Ms. Trujillo. Ms. Trujillo attended San Francisco State University and received her Bachelor's degree in Theater Arts. She also attended American International College and got her Master's degree in Education. She has been teaching in Chestnut Accelerated Middle School for 13 years and 3 of those years were spent at TAG.

She used to teach reading to Special Education kids. She says she loves teaching ELA because she loves to read about everything and while teaching it gives her an opportunity to read with her students and learn together. She says she also loves watching and hearing her students response to what they have read.



Ms. Clarke

Lastly, I interviewed Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke attended Merrimack College. She attended this college for 5 years. She received a Bachelor's in English and Education and a Master's in Secondary Education.

This was Ms. Clarke's first year working at TAG. She has also taught at Lawrence High School and North Andover High School. But, this is her first official year of teaching. If she wasn't teaching ELA, she would teach a career readiness course.

ELA is important to Ms. Clarke because she says this subject teaches all of the fundamental reading, speaking, and interpretation skills that you will need in life. She says it is imperative that we know how to effectively articulate ourselves in any aspect of life by writing or speaking. She says we also need to be able to read and interpret any text that we encounter. She says to imagine reading your first job contract and not being able to understand the terms because you did not learn how to close read a text because in that instance you could end up agreeing to job rules that you actually don't like.



She says that she decided to teach ELA because she wanted to help students develop skills they can use at any time in their lives. She also says she loves reading and learning about all different topics, so teaching allows her to share that experience with her students!

Math Department

By Sangay G.

To get a check plus or a A+ in Mr. Malinoski's math class, you have to really pay attention to what he has to say. You want to contribute and answer some of his questions and do the work he asks you to do. Also, do not talk when he is speaking or else you might get a check which is a 75. Finally, show all your work if it's an independent work zone.

To get a check plus or a A+ Mr. McGrath's class you want to pay extra attention to the lesson he is teaching about. You want to show some work you did on a white board or a paper (I recommend the paper). Also don't talk if it's an independent working time unless you want a X which is a 0.

To get a check plus or a A+ in Mr. Cambell's you want to - surprise - pay attention in his class. Sit in the right spot ad don't talk when he is speaking. Do the assignment he tells you to do and don't talk to your friends very loud if it's a group work. Also show all your work if it's an independent work zone.

To get a check plus or a A+ in Mrs. Carter's class do your homework if you have task with her and remember to complete the parts of the packet she assigned you. Don't talk when she is talking and don't talk to anyone if it's an independent work zone and show all our work on paper.

What is TTO?

By Issac & Alfred

T.T.O stands for TEACH TO ONE. It's a program that allows students to learn at their own pace while helping them to get better at math and get them more prepared for high school or the next grade up

T.T.O Vision: "To see a world where individualized learning is just a way students can learn. A world where every student who attends a school that meets them where they are, adapts to all students and the unique ways they learn, helps develop habits for future success."

On a regular day, a TTO classroom looks as if work is being done. Students are diligently working whether they are working peer to peer or even just doing more research on a task that is troubling them. Students walk to their designated math advisory. From there they grab the laptop that was especially chosen for them. The students log in to their laptops and from there they go to (TTOHome.org) which is a special page for students to log into and get their every day dose of math. The students use their special username and password and from their it's as easy as 1-2-3. Students know where they are heading and what they are doing, which leaves very little room for confusion. When the bell to switch rings, students are off on their own to learn what is on schedule for that day.



Photo from masslive.com of Mr. McGrath during Teach to One

Teach To One has done wonders for me and most of my classmates. I could honestly say that without Teach To One I would probably not be able to keep up next year when I am in high school. I support Teach To One and everything it stands for. With this program set in place, students should do a lot better when it comes to standardized test.

We interviewed the Math teachers about the program and this is what they had to say:

Do you feel that the T.T.O program is a better method of teaching math than the previous years? Have you noticed progress with the program?

The largest benefit of TTO is its ability to assess what the student knows, and give them appropriate material to learn the next day. This is very hard to do without technology and is allowing our students to grow at their own pace.

What kind of students do you like to work with? What type of students could you teach most effectively?

My teaching style revolves around getting the student to come up with the information. I enjoy teaching students who enjoy critical thinking and a good challenge.

Do you think the T.T.O. program is working for all of the students? Why?

In my opinion, our students are doing more work than ever with the Teach to One program. It is yet to be seen if that hard work will pay off on the MCAS, but I'm confident because our students are applying themselves on a daily basis and doing some awesome work! It also helps that students rotate through different modalities and teachers, this way it is guaranteed that something that works for them will eventually come up. This is definitely not the case in a normal classroom.

If you could change anything about the program what would that be?

If I could change anything, it would be the structure of task. The idea of doing real world learning is great, but we only apply ourselves and create projects for a small amount of time. I would prefer task to be one real world challenge that we have multiple days to tackle. This way we could really dive into the mathematics and come up with some unforgettable projects! My last issue with the program is the grading. It is way too easy to get a good grade! I would include more graded assessments or have the exit tickets count towards your grade.

A news article from the *MassLive* website on the Teach to One program at Chestnut TAG can be found using the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/MassliveTTO>

Paraprofessionals

By Melody C.

I had the opportunity to interview _____ about the paraprofessionals in the building and ask some questions about their job.

Who Are The Paras at TAG?

* Ms. Rosado * Ms. Hopper *
* Ms. Guzman * Mr. Bonsu * Ms. Laboy *
* Ms. Vazquez * Ms. Sternowski *

How Do You Become A Para?

Many Para's stated that many people becoming para's usually have to take a Keys Test or have college credits. A Keys Test is a test kind of like a placement test that determines if you are fit for the job.

What Do Paras Do?

Para's assist teachers by working one on one with students to help with their daily tasks.

Why Do You Think Your Job Is Challenging?

One para responded by saying that "sometimes its hard because "some" teachers expect things that aren't on the contract."

Another para said " Yes my job is challenging because not only are they our student, but we become their second mom too"

Why Do You Like Being a Para?

Ms. Guzman said " I do because I love working with all the students especially the ones that give me a challenge"

Ms. Rosado said " Yes of course I love my job"

Ms. Thu said "Yes because I love the kids so much"

So there you have it maybe one day you will decide to become a paraprofessional too.

CLUBS

Rugby

By Leverett

Every Monday and Thursday (or Wednesday), Rugby Club is held after school. Rugby Club is led by resident rugby player, Mr. Lessard, who also happens to be the 8th grade Science teacher.



Here is Mr. Lessard playing for the Springfield Rifles Rugby team

Rugby is usually played with 15 players on the field for each team. These players are divided into forwards and backs. The 8 players in the front are the forwards. These guys participate in scrums and usually run the ball. The back 7 players are the backs. These players mostly throw and kick the ball.

Rugby Club encourages people who don't know much about the sport to learn about rugby, how to play it, and overall have a good time. All the players are pushed to do their best and learn about how great the sport of rugby is.

OPINION

School Uniforms

By Saniya

A vast amount of people dislike wearing uniforms, but very few people actually enjoy them! I am one of the many people who dislike wearing uniforms for a few reasons.



Saniya and Aliyah are excited while Leverett and Jamal are sad

First of all, it limits creativity put into our outfits. We should be able to express our personality, and lots of people like to do this through their style. Some people say that uniforms prevent bullying, but there is a possibility that students will get bullied wearing uniforms. Like if they wear the same uniform outfit twice another student might point that out.

People also say that uniforms are less expensive. Well yes, some regular clothing's are expensive but so are most uniforms and with regular clothing you have many options and prices to choose from.

Another reason why people think uniforms should be worn is because some people take freedom of not wearing uniforms too far with wearing inappropriate clothing. Some people do take this freedom for granted, but I think that not everyone should lose this amazing privilege.

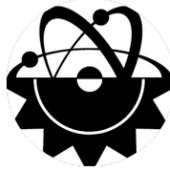
Ms. Leveille didn't have to wear uniform when she went to school. Lucky! I don't like wearing uniform because it's like we are all wearing the same outfit. Solimar also dislikes wearing uniform because not all parents can afford and find certain uniforms. I 100% agree, and so do many other people seeing how I couldn't find one person in my English class who likes wearing uniform.

Genetic Engineering

By Driss

Genetic engineering is "the deliberate modification of the characteristics of an organism by manipulating its genetic material."

I wrote this short opinion piece because genetic engineering reminds me how people can do or be anything. Think about it: humans have traveled through the voids of space, created nations, and changed the way we live. Genetic engineering will change not just the world, but humans and the way we survive for years to come.



For example, if a farmer needed to produce more beef to keep up with other farms they could pick from to choices. One choice would be to buy more cows which means they're going to need to buy more land and food to care for the cows. The other option is to genetically enhance the cows to be bigger and eat less which, in turn, means more beef produced which turns into revenue and less overhead cost.

The question I'm asking is, what if we do this to humans? Just think about being able to pick up a truck 1,000 times your own weight or being able to live up to 200 years old. But this brings up the question of mishaps like disease, overpopulation, and pollution, which could result in global chaos. Pollution is already a problem with around 7 billion people. Think how bad it would be with 10 or 13 billion people? This would mostly likely cover the planet in trash or dead people. How about if only a few people were allowed to be modified? Then those few people would be the super humans.

But, every success comes with a failure and that failure in this case would be test subjects. Why you may ask? Because messing with the building blocks of life has to come with some consequences. For example, say you wanted bigger muscles, the first thing you're going to have to do is to find the gene that contributes to the muscles. There are a group of genes for certain things and changing one of them could have a negative effect like over-growing the muscles almost in a cancer like way. The muscles will grow until you pop like a weak bladder.

However, genetic engineering can still save the human race despite all of the things I have listed. You see, in theory, genetic engineering could make humans indestructible. This means being able to grow back limbs in hours or fixing massive flesh wounds. Genetic engineering could also be used as a military application such as enhanced soldiers who are able to go into battle head first and defeat the enemy. One fish species that has already mastered this is Axolotl, this fish is native to Lake Xochimilcan and Lake Chalco - both in central Mexico. The Axolotl can regrow limbs in a matter of weeks. This happens because of a cell set found in their immune response. Scientist still don't know what exact cell it is but once they do they will be able to give the mutations to humans.

Have you ever wondered how the world would be like if all the great minds from the past were still alive today? If so, genetic engineering will not only keep your grandmother alive, it can also keep geniuses alive to help in future need or to advance the world even faster than now.

One thing that could fall between good and bad is super humans enforcing the law or a law they see fit. It sounds childish, but if the mutations are given to the wrong person or the mental state of the person is low then the person could be used against the law. However, when you think about it, both goody two shoes and jerk faces break the law. It's just that one does it to save lives while the other does it to take lives.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Selection Series

Kiera Cass

By Anabelle Ramos

I have read all the books in the Selection series and I loved it. I recommend people read this book because it's really interesting. The book is about a girl who didn't want to become



a princess at first, but was persuaded by her mother and the person she had feelings for. When she got there, she didn't like the prince, but soon she ended up gaining feelings for him. She endured so much and has gotten into different problems and situations in this series. She has a kind heart and knows what she wants. She goes through all of the processes of the "selection" event thinking she can't beat the other girls, but at the end of the day she is a warrior fighting for a prince. The moral of her story is you might like something if you just give it a try. This story can encourage others to believe in themselves to reach their goals.

Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity

Dave Roman

By Ian Rodriguez



There are lots of good genres like fiction and non-fiction which are the common ones. But then there's genres like fairy tales, poems, and the book genre I will review: graphic novels. The book "Astronaut Academy Zero Gravity" is about a kid who is a hero that has to go to school after failing to convince his mom that he doesn't need schooling and for what reason he will need schooling. He is then sent to Astronaut Academy, which is in space, where he will need to get use to a new place. That summarizes the beginning and the story's main subject. It sounds like a boring type a book but it actually has the most randomness times and has jokes that you can actually get. It's a funny and weird book at the same time and when this is done it makes the book interesting. Also the main element of the book is that the story takes place in space. The story doesn't have a main character but instead gets a hand full of characters and talks about their point of view. It's an amazing book and, again, has a lot of jokes that are funny enough to make you think about it for a while. It can also confuse you at some point but when you get it everything would make sense. If I had to pick from 1-5 stars it would be a 4.5. The reason is because most background information isn't said but that's what makes it interesting and mysterious. Hope you enjoy or enjoyed the book if u get or got it and trust me, you will not regret your choices.

DATES!

SPIRITWEEK
May 1-5

MATH MCAS
May 16 & 17

LOCK-IN
May 19

SCIENCE MCAS
May 23 & 24

CARNIVAL of LEARNING
June 15

LAST DAY!
June 21



The Fever Code

James Dabsner

By Mehki

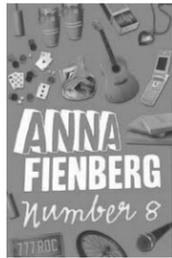


The book that I will be writing about is *The Fever Code*. The author of the book is James Dashner. It is a really good book not just because it's in a series, but because even though it has many pages it is a really interesting book because it is the first book in the series. This makes it a really important book because it tells you how it all began and who founded the building they stay in. *The Fever Code* is also important because it explains the main characters and how they became the people they are in the other books. I think it's a really good book because the kids that are at the safe place don't want to be there. They don't want to be at the place because the people are technically torturing them. The kids get stabbed with needles every day and get the back of their ear cut open so the people at the place can put devices in them. But the thing about the main characters is that they like to sneak out of their rooms and explore around the building. The main characters once snuck out to a balcony outside and got caught and were sent to the crank pit but weren't hurt that is where they met the founder of the building who turned into a Crank and attacked the kids. Cranks are people who just are going through a virus and the kids are immune to the virus so that is why the place took them so they could use them to find the cure.

Number 8

Anna Fienberg

By Nicole Z



The best book I've read this year was "Number 8" by Anna Fienberg. This book is about a teenage boy named Jackson who is struggling to fit-in to his new school. Jackson and his mother Valerie, a former singer, are originally from New York and is obsessed with numbers. His peculiar obsession move from the Big Apple to Australia hasn't helped him get a good reputation in his new school. But that is all changes when Esmerelda and Aism, his neighbors. They are very understanding and are true friends. On his first day of school, Jackson soon realizes everyone's personalities. He encounters a boy named Bruce Badman, who only goes by Badman. As you can probably tell by the name Badman is bad news. Besides Badman, school is great according to Jackson. But, when strange phone calls start, and a blue mustang stops frequently in front of Jackson's house, Jackson decides to tell Aism. Later in the book, Esmerelda becomes Jackson's girlfriend. A few days later Esmerelda goes missing leaving Jackson both perplexed and unsettled. At this point in the book readers are at a cliff hanger and want to keep reading. If you like mysteries and numbers, then this is the book for you.

CREATIVE CORNER

My Best Friend

By Migdalia

Dear Nana,

I know I'm shaking. It's so obvious it's almost stupid. Any normal person wouldn't have to

declare things every single time. They wouldn't have to be afraid. But ...even though I couldn't do something so simple. You didn't make fun of me. You did all you could to support me...to keep reaching out to me. This is all because you're so important to me. Don't you ever tell yourself you're less than perfect to me. Because you've been the one to help me when things got rough or went wrong. I would give my life to save you from the evils of the world. Because that's what best friends do for each other. And I hope you can do the same for me too one day. Just imagine the future. It might be absolutely perfect, or it could be a mass destruction. But no matter the effect, I want to go forward with you beside me. It would be a nightmare if you left me alone, like in the beginning. It was painful, and I don't want to experience that again. I will fight for you when you are weak, and make sure you can run through the depressing darkness. Like you did for me. When the cold replaces my warmth, you there to melt the frost away with your smile. So if you abandon me, I will freeze. The whole world will freeze.

Sincerely,

Your lonely friend

A Collection of Poems

By Anonymous

Pencil On Paper

Pencil scratches paper
Expressing words that can't be spoken
Words that can't escape one's lips
Though they sometimes tend to slip
Pencil scratches paper
A foe of no one
A friend of deep emotion

Haikus

Haikus are unique
With five first then seven
Then you can repeat

BANG BANG

Another man was shot down today
we don't know why yet
they claim he attacked
most people think that he was shot because he's black
the community screaming the want their brother back
is it real?
the killing
the shooting
the dying
is it real?
the children
their mother's
their crying
is it real?
this happens in 2017
even though we're supposed to have progressed since 1960
bang bang

EXTRAS

RIDDLE ME THIS

1. *What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?*
2. *A boy was rushed to the hospital emergency room. The ER doctor saw the boy and said, "I cannot operate on this boy. He is my son." But the doctor was not the boy's father. How could that be?*
3. *How many months have 28 days?*

STAFF TRIVIA

Match each of the following random facts with a TAG staff member from the list at the very bottom.

Which staff member has a cat named Elvis?

Which staff member won an "Impala Poop Spitting Contest"?

Which TWO staff members graduated from the same high school the same year?

Which staff member had Dr. O'Connor as a high school English teacher?

Which staff member was born in Long Beach, California?

Which staff member was helped picking out a special piece of jewelry by famous actress Anne Hathaway while in NYC?

Which staff member has been to 23 different countries.

Which staff member was a Diana Ross impersonator on a cruise ship?

Which staff member had open heart surgery while in middle school?

Which staff member sang back-up on the lead singer of Green Day's first single when he was 10 and she was 16? (YouTube the song *Look for Love* by Billy Joe Armstrong - this won't help you but it's hilarious and awesome).

Which staff member was once chased around by a rabid raccoon?

STAFF: Leveille, M. Smith, Sullivan, Eismann, Lessard, Trujillo, Malinoski, Graveline, Paskov, Nelson, Jones, Perez



High Honors

6th: Inari Jade Barrett, Juan Martinez, Adianes Medina, Michael Montanez, Amy Zheng

7th: Angel Collazo, Hasthika Gunawardana, Imanni Hayes, Ashely Ortiz, James Ramirez, Carina Reyes, Jenny Tran

8th: Destiny Deleon, Yaleniz Delgado, Catherine Jorczak, Julie Lassalle, Gary Zheng

Honors

6th: Carina Aguilar, Feras Ahmed, Danicha Auguste, Genesis Diaz, Angel Espinoza, Isabella Franco, Nidaycha Gomez, Sangay Gurung, Chey Hollowell, Berried Hernandez, Leverett Horrigan, Weronika Kaczor, Hannah Nguyen, Sergio Ospino, Aliyah Pedraza, Miles Raynor, Angela Revilla, Aczel Reyes, Marelys Reyes, Ian Rodriguez, Ava Salvador, Nathan Stevenson, Alexis Suprenant, Tia Tillman, Saniya Williams, Nicole Zancan

7th: Audrey Amanfo, Angel Anglada, Nicklus Aponte, Wilbert Bonilla, Maya Bridges, Tandy Brownell, Alijah Daniels, Alondra Diaz, Brennan Frankhauser, Wandaliz Gonzalez, Jairequen Hayes, Jordan Holmes, Christian Lebron, Olivia Lemke, Carlette Melendez, Troy Mitchell, Faviola Molina, Ariana Molina, Nyla Pabon, Emily Regan, Juan Rodriguez, Brandon Tejada, Kevin Vazquez, Martin Wagura, Jaydeon Williams, Leanna Zayas

8th: Neidelin Almonte, Dominic Burgos, Miranda Cole, Cesar Figueroa, Gabriel Franco, Mathias Hardy, Aviane Lozada, Naiyasha Morales, Kadajah Parkes, Erick Picart, Jesanet Rivera, Nefmary Rivera, Serena Simmons, Eliana Sumler, Mickey Vazquez, Vy Vu

