

CAN YOU? SHOULD YOU?

CARRIE FAUST

ADVISER, SMOKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL
(AURORA, CO)

ERINN HARRIS

ADVISER, TJHSST
(ALEXANDRIA, VA)

MEGHAN PERCIVAL

ADVISER, MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL
(MCLEAN, VA)

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KIDS LOVE RULES.

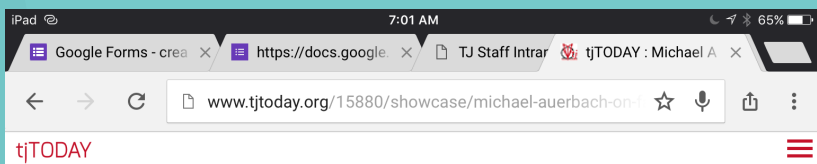
**You've got to know the rules
before you break the rules.**

But what if we told
you there are
no rules?*

There are some rules.

It's called the law.

Can we cover the
same thing in
multiple
publications?



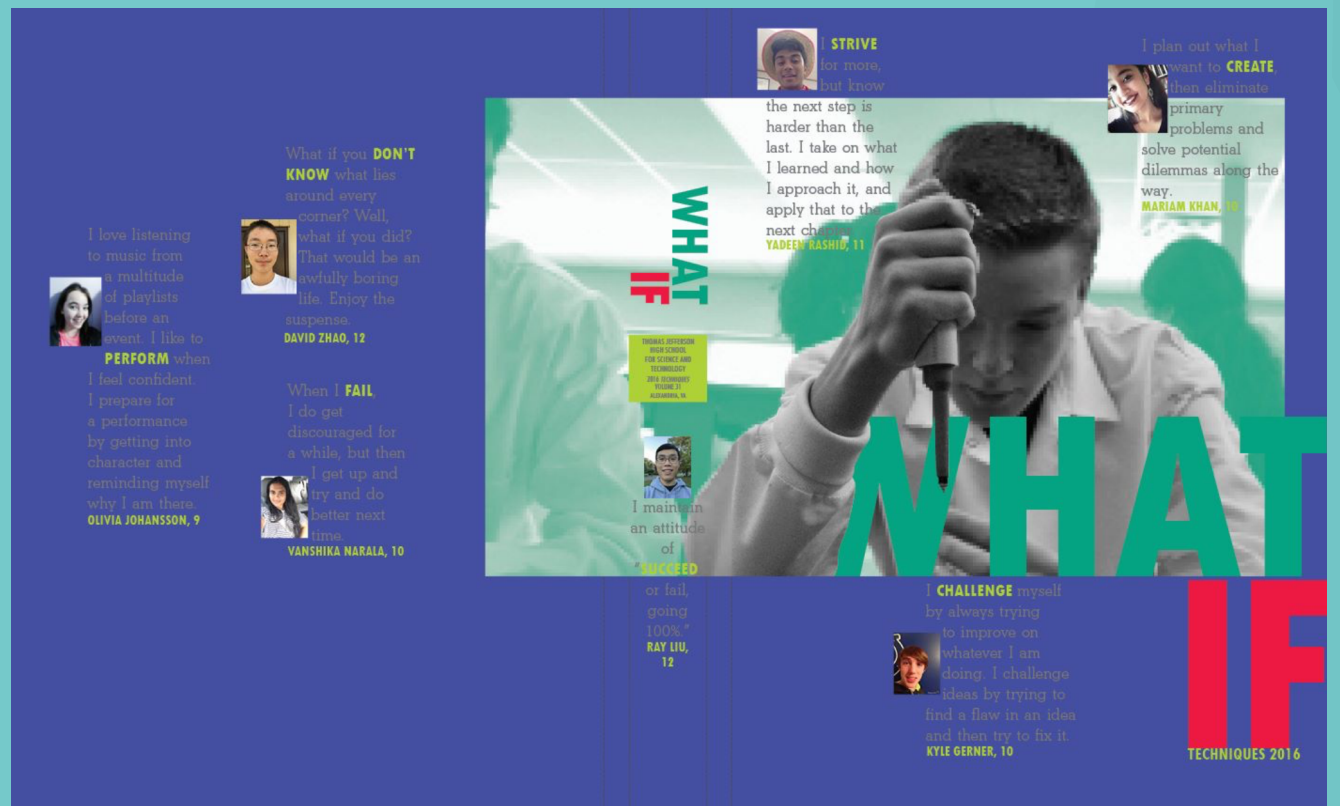
Michael Auerbach On: Failure



Alexa Ngunly and Melanie Kurapatti
November 19, 2015
Filed under [New on tjTODAY](#), [Showcase](#), [TJTJ](#)



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Can you use a theme
another staff has
already done?

360° of YOU

all you, all the time.



Chantilly360
2015 ODYSSEY

The logo features a large, stylized number '3' in a light blue color, which serves as a background for the text. The text 'Chantilly' is in a serif font, and '360' is in a bold, sans-serif font. Below 'Chantilly' is the text '2015 OFFICIAL' in a smaller, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background.

Dynamic Duo

RENEE GRESE AND MONA BROWN IN COMPETITIVE DANCE COMPANY

HOW DOES DANCE AFFECT YOUR DAILY LIFE?

"Take the Parler Academy for Communication and the Arts dance class everyday. I'm gaining extra technique from it and it's a stress reliever from my regular school classes. I'm pretty much always at school or dance. Typically, I dance 22 hours a week between Parler Academy and my studio, Encore Performers. I'm really dedicated and that's what keeps me motivated to keep going to my dance classes." **MONA BROWN**

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED AND WHY DO YOU KEEP GOING?

"I was taking classes at the studio and the director asked if I wanted to be a part of the company. I went through periods where I asked myself why I didn't quit, but I was so happy when I danced. I couldn't imagine stopping. It was hard to see some of my friends involved in school sports and clubs, but it was the best opportunity to pursue what I love." **RENEE GRESE**

WHAT IS IT LIKE DANCING TOGETHER?

"It's really fun dancing with Renee. She is one of my best friends and not only do we go through the same things at dance, we go to school together. We've really built a bond and passion for dance. We both want to become professional dancers, and we both got into Oklahoma City University, so we may go there to pursue a degree in dance. She's like my twin, and it's great because we are going through similar experiences so I always have someone to talk to." **BROWN**

DreamBig

"This year I was picked to win a scholarship to the Rockette Intensive. It was kind of shocking when it was announced because I wasn't expecting it. The program is five days that I will spend training with the Rockettes in New York City. Nine hours a day. I will learn Rockette choreography and work on the legendary Rockette kick lines." **GRESE**

FOUR KICKS: At the Princeton Performance, Monica Brown and Renee Grese, along with Cig Reman, Claire Grese, Alia Arshadi, Jason Fisher and Sophia Abramowitz, dance at Lombard Middle School. **2-DANCE, 1-STARV, 1-ROCK** During the ETAP show at NAVA Community College in Annandale, Grese poses her toe at the crowd while performing. **3-DANCE, 1-ROCK** Dancing at NAVA Community College, Grese and Brown perform at the ETAP show. **4-DANCE, 1-ROCK** As the lead role in the "Waltz of the Furies," Brown plays the role of the King King in "The Nutcracker" at Fairfax Academy. **5-DANCE, 1-ROCK** Performing in the "Waltz of the Furies" at Fairfax Academy, Grese and Brown dance off their talent. **6-DANCE, 1-ROCK** "It's a Wonderful Life" during "Along" in the show, Brown is photographed for college auditions and senior pictures. **7-DANCE, 1-ROCK**

8-DANCE, 1-ROCK In their dance company's Christmas show in 2013, Brown and Grese perform their dance "The Soldiers." At the end of the dance, they did a mass ball, just like the Radio City Rockettes in their Christmas Spectacular. **9-DANCE, 1-ROCK** During the show, Grese and Brown, along with other dancers, learn a line during the ETAP show. **10-DANCE, 1-ROCK** Standing on heels, Grese and fellow dancers Emma Smith and Mariah Smith are happy performing at NAVA Community College in front of a large audience. **11-DANCE, 1-ROCK**

2014 LIFE/Entertainment

RENEE GRESE: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES; MONA BROWN: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

"Monica wanted to be a Rockette and I thought that was crazy, but then I went and saw her dance on the first time it wasn't hard to tell that she was on her way to reaching her goal."

GRESE: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

"It really was being able to dance with my sister was a really hardworking and it's nice that the first time we got to do the song together at the time."

GRESE: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

"Monica is a hard worker. She's pretty grounded and has a positive attitude. She was a pleasure to have in class her first year, and she's a great student as a senior."

GRESE: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES; BROWN: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

"Renee is a very good dancer. I have seen her dance many times. She is also really nice and a good friend."

GRESE: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES; BROWN: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

CHANTILLY 360 is a student-led organization at Chantilly High School that provides a variety of programs and services to the community. The organization is made up of students who are passionate about giving back and making a difference in their community. Chantilly 360 is a student-led organization that provides a variety of programs and services to the community. The organization is made up of students who are passionate about giving back and making a difference in their community.

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Chantilly 360's being staffed on Scripps-Lawland for 30 minutes every morning actually means the completion of two lanes, and the anticipation of 11 balls in seven days, making the school's CPTI team.

It's the excitement that makes our time meaningful.

It's the school, gift items, field hockey and more time to give back to the community. From gift baskets adjusting to a new coach to school during 11 training games, competition is the best that drives us.

It's more than just being a member of a club. Whether spending long hours of practice playing the Veterans Drive, or participating in the Fall Sports Initiative Challenge, we embrace time involvement.

It's having from students in Jordan Brown to Erin A. Ward, Bulldogs, and pasting Prince Thomas Johnson, for the 20th anniversary of the Year. Whether regular, hours or 40, we know it's our difference.

Chantilly 360 means more than leading people or listening to the Chantilly Lawry Law. It's understanding that we hold different views, opinions and ideas, and celebrating that we all are connected.

We are athletes and artists, thinkers and performers. We are students, we are a community. **We are Chargers.**

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Can you use images
students have posted
on Instagram, Twitter
or Facebook?

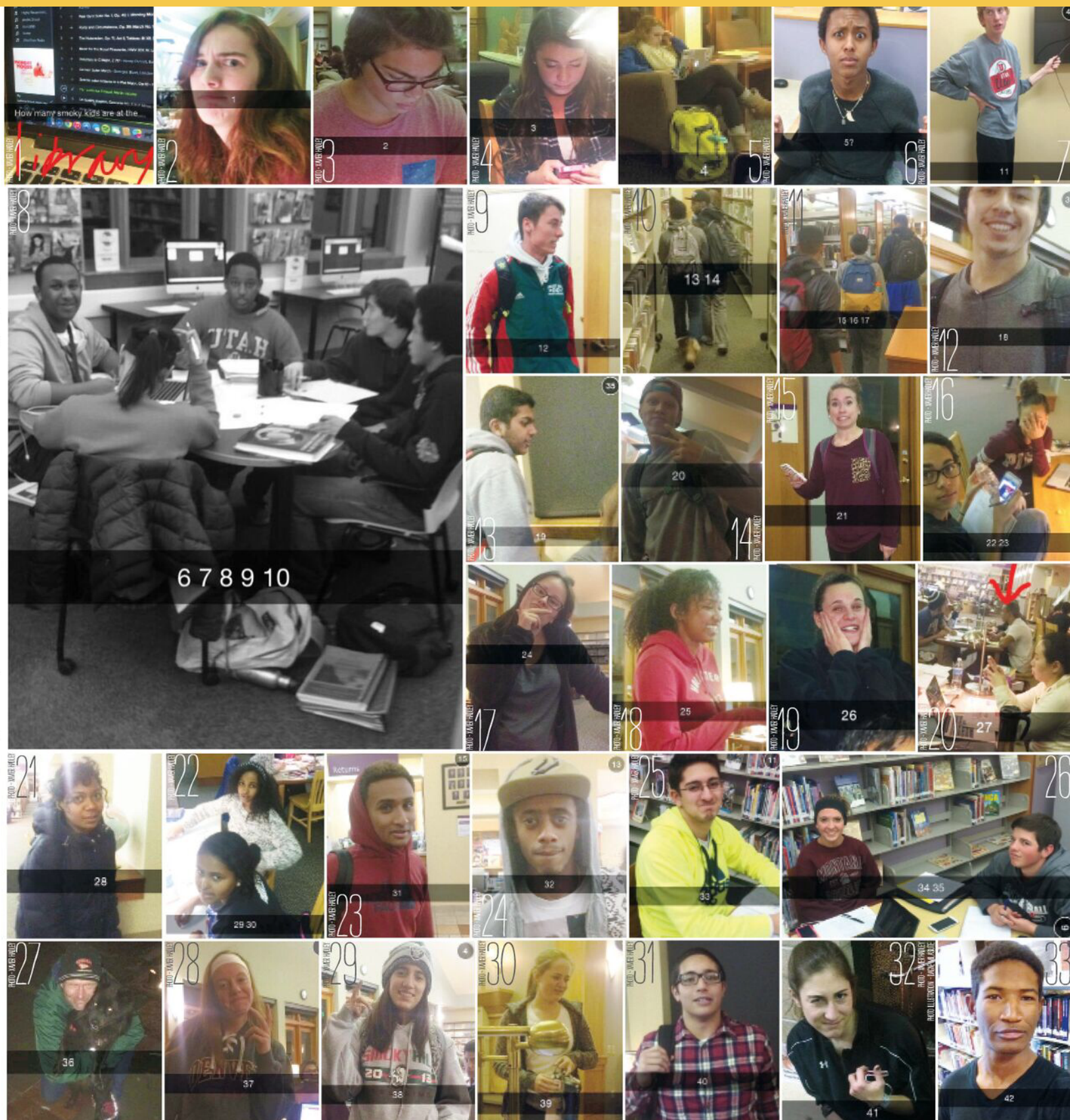
1. XAVIER HADLEY documents total amount of Smoky Hill students on his Snapchat Story. 2. RACHEL MELTON studies for her chemistry final. 3. CARLOS DE LA ROSA studies hard for his math final. 4. RACHEL KING feels that it's a good feeling to study hard and pass all your finals. 5. BAY VAGHER enjoys the calmness of the library. 6. NEBYU TADESSE makes a funny face for Xavier Hadley's Snapchat Story. 7. ANDREW MILLS studies for finals. 8. ANTEHE TESSEMA, JOHNATHON SCHUBERT, ALEXANDER YOHANNES, GRACE NA, and PATRICK O'BRIEN studied in a group. 9. BLAKE YOUNT studies with friends. 10. JORDAN VAZ and NATHANIEL DEMEKE spend hours reviewing before finals. 11. JARRELL GANAWAY and ANSHUMAN MOHAN spend a late night at the library. 12. FRANCISCO LUNA takes a selfie. 13. KARAN AGARWAL greets his friend. 14. WALTER PRINCE tries to stunt by posing in the picture. 15. FRANCES BOWLES studies with friends from her statistics class. 16. TESSA TALLBULL and KEISHA ANN LOPES review for their chemistry finals. 17. NATALIE BUSH crams for her psychology and math tests. 18. MILLEN MIKEL meets up with friends. 19. SVETLANA YEAGER makes a funny face to make herself seem stressed for finals. 20. EVAN ADAMS studies with a group of his friends. 21. LELA BROWNE is getting ready to leave from studying for a long time. 22. WENGEL TADESSE and MAHELET MOLLA take a break to pose for the camera. 23. SIMON GEDAY studies for statistics and AP economics. 24. AMIR KASSAHUN studied for five hours. 25. MITCHELL KHOSHDEL goes to the library to avoid distractions. 26. TIMOTHY HART and EMILIE ROBERTS spend two hours reviewing biology. 27. BRIAN MANLEY walks his dog past the library. 28. KIERSTEN JOHNSON studies for AP calculus. 29. SAMANTHA VIGIL is fierce. 30. TAYLOR WAFER takes a study break to talk to friends. 31. CARLOS ZERNA puts on glasses to get in the spirit of focus. 32. MELANIE VASINA is ready for finals. 33. XAVIER HADLEY poses for his own Snapchat Story to finish the night with 42 Smoky Hill students at the library, all studying for finals.

SORTA AN ANIMAL LOVER



"I have a strong passion for animals and the fair treatment for them and being a part of that means a lot to me. I was glad (TAMARA SCHLEGEL) brought her dogs in for the presentation."

WILHELM WILLIAMS



A FINALS GATHERING

42 STUDENTS STUDY AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY THE NIGHT BEFORE FINALS

Making the best of finals week, XAVIER HADLEY takes pictures of each Smoky Hill student at the Smoky Hill Public Library on January 13. "I went to the library because I have trouble focusing at home, so I figured that going there would be better for studying. I took the Snapshots because I personally found it entertaining to count all of the kids that had the same idea," Hadley said. Hadley enjoys using Snapchat and the Snapchat Story function. "I like Snapchat Stories because it's interesting to see what people do throughout their days," Hadley said. -chasya gallegos

One of 42 Smoky Hill students that went to the Smoky Hill Public Library the night before finals was RACHEL MELTON. "I chose the library because it's usually a lot easier to concentrate than at my house," Melton said. "Xavier and I thought it was funny how many kids were at the library because we had been there almost everyday that week and hadn't seen nearly as many people as were there that night," Melton said. "It was like a school-wide study session and I think it was a really good example of how Smoky students come together on certain occasions." -chasya gallegos

EXACTLY NOW: BILL COSBY SCANDAL

who: Barb Hinchcliff, now known as Barb Bowman
what: former Smoky Hill student accuses Bill Cosby of sexual harassment
when: January 16, 2015



BARB BOWMAN

claims she was a victim of rape

"I was drugged and raped by that man... He came at me like a monster. My hope is that others who have experienced sexual abuse will not be intimidated into silence by the famous, rich and powerful. If I can help one victim, then I've done my job," [Bowman said.] source: Dailymail.co.uk

FINALS STUDYING PUPPETS BILL COSBY SCANDAL
JANUARY 2-18
115

Can you publish
freelance work?

Red Starbucks cups aren't an attack on the holidays, so leave them be

Adam An, Guest Writer

November 28, 2015

Filed under [New on tjTODAY](#), [Opinion](#), [Student Voices](#)

What's the big deal about early Christmas preparations in November? If it makes the stores bank, I'm all for it. When you phrase it as "Thanksgiving versus Christmas," debate all you want. Phrase it as "no money versus money" and there's no argument— nice and succinct.

Of course most stores this year have all forgotten about Thanksgiving. It comes once a year and receives only six hours of preparation, much like the SOLs do here at TJ. Who decided we needed a holiday to celebrate a time when two groups of people didn't kill each other? There's a reason we don't celebrate it when someone does the bare minimum to not fail. If that were the case, my freshman year IBET paper would be a national treasure.

"Write about how Starbucks is already issuing red holiday cups!" was requested of me. You want a Thanksgiving cup with a turkey on it? Turkeys are the Danny Devito of birds. They're so bad at self-defense they can't survive without the president granting them legal immunity. And you advocate for them?

No, Christmas cups make more sense since you should always have a symbol of capitalist greed staring at you with every sip. This somehow justifies the fact that you just



photo courtesy of news.starbucks.com

This year Starbucks, along with countless other stores, has skipped over Thanksgiving festivities entirely in favor of more Christmas-themed decor. On Nov. 1, Starbucks issued Holiday themed red cups without the acknowledgement of an approaching Thanksgiving.

Cultural exchange programs allow for an expanded worldview

Virginia Sun and Andrew Shi

November 8, 2015

Filed under [New on tjTODAY](#), [Opinion](#), [Student Voices](#)

As instant communication and airplanes have breached huge geographical expanses and transformed the world into a global village, the United States has found itself becoming more international as well. The U.S. has always been known for being a "melting pot", where different races, ethnicities and cultures blend to create a unique American heritage. However, no time in history has this been truer. According to Migration Policy in 2015, over 80 million people, which represents one-quarter of the U.S. population, are first or second generation Americans.

The high immigration rate has implications not only for a more globalized facet of America's economy, politics and populace, but also for an individual's everyday life. It is incredibly important to be able to coexist and communicate with people from all backgrounds. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, America is on the trajectory of becoming a majority-minority nation (where minority ethnic groups will outnumber Caucasians) by 2050. Among children, it will only be five years until minorities become the majority.



photo courtesy of Virginia Sun

Seniors Virginia Sun and Andrew Shi participated in the High School Diplomats program at Princeton University last summer.

WHAT I THINK: Jennifer Lee

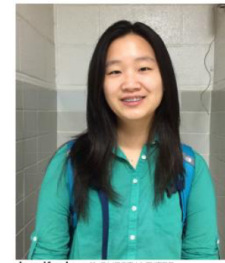
Winston Churchill once said, "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." I realized this quote applies to me more and more with each passing year. Many Jefferson students, the cream of the crop in middle school, begin to re-define "success" as the ability to move on from failure-to-failure; big fish in a pond become tiny fish when they enter the ocean. When you place 2,000 of Northern Virginia's brightest kids into a single school, there is bound to be heartbreak and cut-throat competition.

During my past three years at Jefferson, I have had my fair share of disappointing test grades and impossible teachers. But what remains in my memory the most is the nagging feeling of inadequacy as I attended school with my classmates. My 800's, my 5's, and my A's suddenly all lost value when I looked at my Jefferson peers. I quickly realized that what is considered the best at

a base school is really only average when you attend Jefferson. While this fact has felt like a horrible curse during my time here, in hindsight, I realize that it has actually been a hidden blessing all this time.

Our environment simulates that of a college setting, where everyone is extremely smart and chasing after only a limited number of A's. For Jefferson students who have dealt with enormous competition since their freshmen year of high school, the transition to college suddenly becomes much more manageable than previously thought. In fact, TJ alumni say year-after-year that the study skills they gained

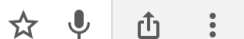
from TJ have led to their success in college. In this light, we as TJ students should all take a break from lamenting about school, and instead take a moment to think about how well TJ is preparing us for success in college. We are simply facing the shock of college four years in advance.



Jennifer Lee II GUEST WRITER



www.tjtoday.org/category/student-voices-2/



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November 8, 2015

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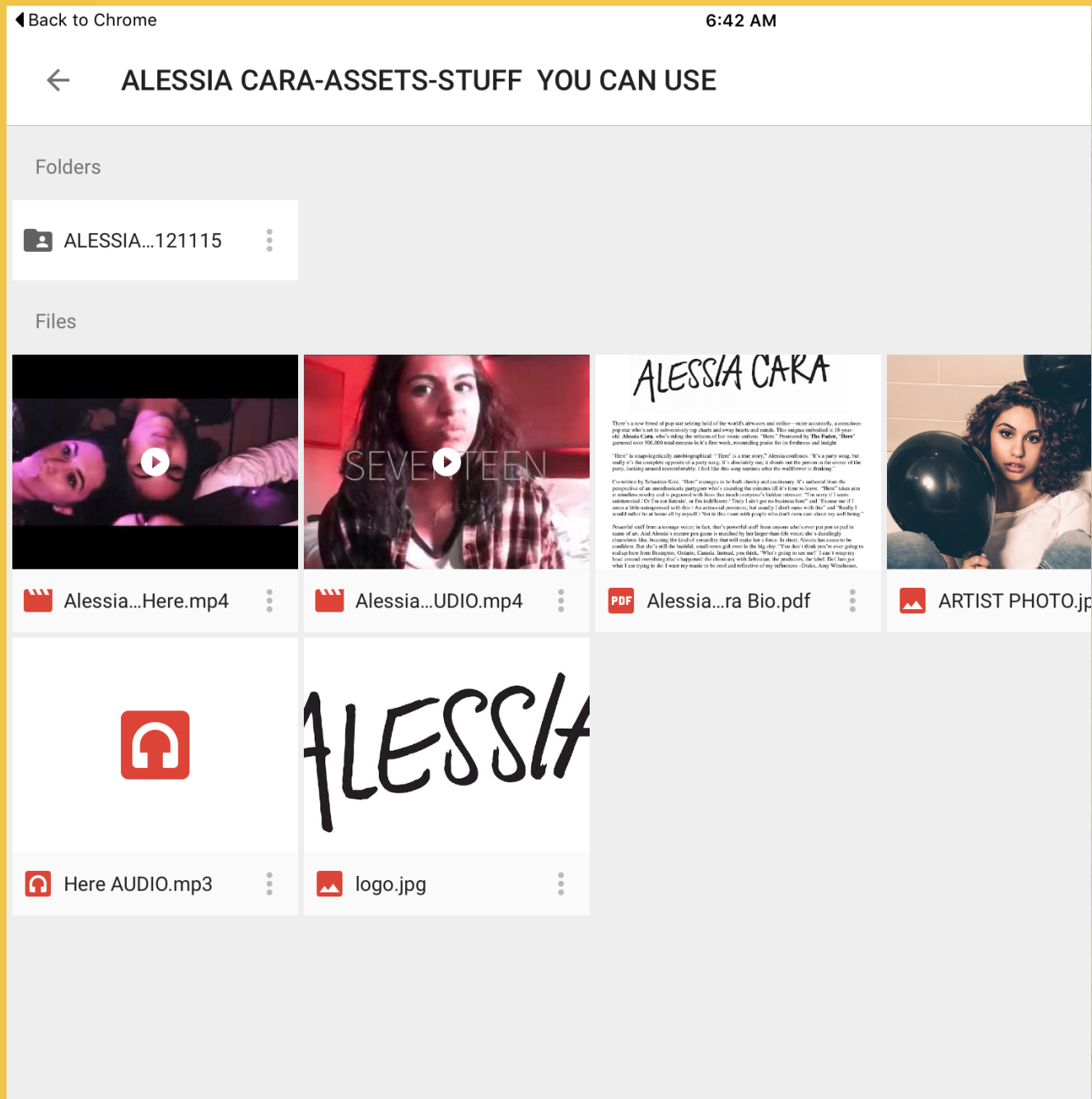
TJTOMORROW

STUDENT VOICES

WINTER STORM JONAS

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GoMoxie.org



jeadigitalmedia.org



**MEDIA RESOURCES-STUFF YOU
CAN USE**

***download-access* ALL ALESSIA
assets** (video, photos, bio)
to use in articles or broadcasts

My Songs

FX

6:41 AM

68%


1

2


3


4

5



Audio Recorder





60s Shu...mset 01

Apple Loops

Audio Files

Music

Search Apple Loops

Instrument

Genre

Descriptors


None

None

None


Reset Keywords

Touch and hold loops to drag them to Tracks view.




60s Shuffle Drumset 01

2 bars




60s Shuffle Drumset 03

2 bars




60s Shuffle Drumset 06

2 bars




60s Shuffle Fill 07

2 bars




70s Electric Piano 06

2 bars




70s Electric Piano 08

2 bars




70s Electric Piano 11

2 bars



80s Synth FX Riser 01

2 bars



80s Synth FX Riser 02

4 bars

1,338 Items

Can you cover
controversial
topics?

"Genius Girl" should spark conversation about academic pressure

tjTODAY Staff
June 25, 2015
Filed under [New on tjTODAY](#), [Opinion](#), [Showcase](#)

Her story has graced Time, USA Today, The Washington Post and dozens of Korean news agencies abroad. She has been the topic of conversation for weeks now on campus amongst parents, students, faculty and alumni alike.

In early June, an article published by the United States branch of a South Korean press reported on a Class of 2015 student who decided to attend both Harvard and Stanford Universities in the coming year through an unprecedented dual-enrollment program. Named "Genius Girl," the student gained international attention not only from the local community, but also from her homeland, South Korea, until subsequent reports found that the student's claims, including her special phone conversation with Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, were false.

The scandal, which was recently covered by [the Washington Post](#), has renewed a conversation in the very same community that spread her story around like wildfire, a conversation about the societal and academic pressures surrounding college admissions.

As the phrase "from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA" seems to work its way into nearly each and every published article, it prompts current students, teachers and alumni to re-evaluate the true merits of attending an academically rigorous high school and the influence of being exposed to a competitive environment. The student's true motivation for falsifying admission may never be known, but her story sheds needed light on the pressures that many students face when applying to elite schools.

From the Class of 2015, six will attend Stanford, five to Yale, five to Princeton and three to Harvard. It is clear that admission into the nation's top schools is more difficult than



Victoria Bevard

The international scandal on the South Korean "genius girl" acts as a springboard for the discussions the school community should be making about academic and social pressure.

Principal Evan Glazer's Response

Principal Evan Glazer's Response

IN-DEPTH

DEFINED BY HERITAGE?

PHOTO // Anjali Khanna DESIGN // Anjali Khanna

High-achieving students reflect on the role culture plays in the societal and academic pressures they face every day

Uzma Rentia, Adithi Ramakrishnan, Anket Agrawal, Kaitlynne DeJi TEAM LEADERS

Teaching for the Top

Is it Race Related?

absolute best. This reputation causes immense stress, yet also serves as a push factor for students to be at their absolute best.

"I think that most East Asians generally have a standard of high academic excellence, which can often cause pressure to kids that come from immigrant families," junior Tiffany Sun said.

Add the extreme pressure for academic success students at Jefferson feel to racial background, and the re-

sult can often be less of motivational force and more of a negative toll on mental health. In other words, students can expect themselves to reach a certain level of success because they are a specific race or of a particular descent.

However, there is also a stigma that surrounds eastern cultures with mental illness. It is a myth that Asian Americans have the highest suicide rates in the United States, according to the American Psychology Associ-

ation (APA). Yet the stress that many face every day cannot be ignored. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for Asian-Americans aged 15-34 in a study conducted in 2007, and according to APA, Asian-American college students were more likely than White-American students to have suicidal thoughts or actions.

continued on page 9

HITTING HOME: Cultural Assimilation and the Immigrant Crisis in Syria

Uzma Rentia || TEAM LEADER

As the civil war in Syria rages on, Europe is feeling the repercussions of the turmoil as an influx of displaced Syrians continue to immigrate into the continent's borders in the hopes of asylum.

Natives often voice concerns over terrorism and loss of jobs; however, one complaint in particular may strike a chord with many Jefferson students: assimilation. Natives of many European cultures fear their home country may become a melting pot with no distinct culture. Given Jefferson's large immigrant population – 70 percent of the Class of 2019 is of Asian descent – many are accustomed to the multicultural environment. Although the experience of Jefferson students is vastly different from that of the Syrian immigrants, as the school watches the refugee crisis and its repercussions unfold, it begs the question: can people really consider themselves a part of two countries and remain equally steadfast in practicing both cultures?

Sophomore Lily Ko looks the part of the quintessential American, one would think she never stepped foot outside the U.S. Except she has. In fact, Ko immigrated to America when she was seven. She came to this country still learning to speak language. Now she is a Jefferson student by day yet still plays Cyooyoon, a Korean instrument, in her spare time and participates in Korean extracurriculars. Despite the cultural dichotomy in her activities and her personal and private life, Ko does not consider herself any less American.

"I'm a bit of both, I'm Korean-American I guess," Ko

said. Something with which senior Hacin Chhatrasena, originally from Singapore, agrees.

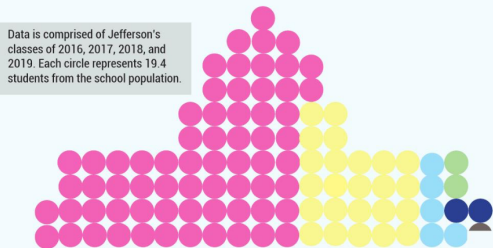
"I assimilate pretty easily into the American culture as I had only spent two years in Singapore. My family managed to maintain their cultural values and adjust to the different lifestyle that was promoted in the United States," Chhatrasena said.

In fact studies have indicated that immigrants are integrating faster than those before them. According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the newest immigrants are assimilating faster "across all measurable outcomes."

Although students quip about Asians being the model minority and the epitome of success, it also highlights an issue that students face: figuring out how to harness the success often associated with these backgrounds and assimilating into the country they now inhabit. Despite this balancing act and the skepticism from others that comes when a Jefferson students originally hailing from another country say they are American, students believe it is possible to practice these customs and hold their values and still call themselves American.

"Although I speak Korean at home, and it's a part of my culture, I'm also a part of the American culture," Ko said. "Just because I speak Korean that does not necessarily make me not an American. I live here, I am a part of the community also."

ETHNICITY EXAMINATION: A CLOSER LOOK INTO DIVERSITY AT JEFFERSON



Being part of a specific culture comes with its own set of expectations from the public eye. However, a more internalized form of this is familial pressure. Students in families who are all part of a certain profession or are part of a culture that favors a particular job feel pressured to pursue this profession and feel the need to live up to their predecessors. The Jefferson "family" has its own breed of this pressure in the form of emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Jefferson's passion for science and technology offers a thriving learning environment for students to explore their interests, but it can also make it harder to deviate from the norm and pursue a career in the humanities.

However, as a STEM-based school, the students who then attend may already be entering with a greater interest and need to succeed in those fields, thus adding a greater amount of pressure. Students with a distinct passion for the humanities and other subjects may not feel as influenced by the pressure evident in Jefferson's heavily STEM-centric environment.

"I don't think race has a direct effect on [cultural or familial pressure]. I do think some cultures have different family principles and values which can affect pressure levels on kids in the family."

Senior Tai Kao-Sowa, Multiracial

"I feel a need to stand out and to be the perfect child; the funny thing is that a lot of that pressure isn't coming from my parents, but from everyone else that I consider to be a part of my peer-group and which I respect."

Sophomore John Krause-Steinrauf, White

"A lot of people's parents were immigrants that came to the U.S. As a result, they place pressure on us because they want us to work hard and they believe we can do even better things with our lives."

Sophomore Keely Wan, Asian

Familial Pressures

"East Asian kids are often stereotyped as the 'smart' ones and the 'nerds,' so kids that don't do as well in school often feel inadequate. It's very toxic."

- junior Tiffany Sun

students' innate interest rather than the school's influence."

"East Asian kids are often stereotyped as the 'smart' ones and the 'nerds,' so kids that don't do as well in school often feel inadequate. It's very toxic."

- junior Tiffany Sun

Consequences of Cultural Pressure

Though extrinsic cultural pressures can set unrealistic expectations for students to achieve, and thus result in mental and other personal issues, they can also act as a strong motivational force. Students can act on these pressures by setting personal goals with individual expectations that fit their needs, and not just the stereotypes of their culture.

"Cultural and familial pressure can offer the push you need to identify where your interests are," sophomore Nisa Haikishan said. "I didn't actually know about TJ until my dad pushed me towards the goal of getting in, and I'm extremely glad that he did."

In many ways, cultural stereotypes lend a hand in promoting cultural pressure. The various stereotypes placed on ethnic groups can set expectations for learners, but in the

end, academic pressure is specific to a given student and situation. Cultural pressures are challenging to define with regards to numerous racial backgrounds and circumstances.

"I feel that pressure isn't [specifically] cultural, but individualistic to different families," sophomore Nikita Sivakumarc said. "In today's society, we have developed stereotypes of Asian families pursuing their children past the breaking point. Though in some cases this stereotype holds true, I think that culture alone isn't enough to be a determinant of pressure, and that [pressure] is based on personal and familial experiences."

Redefining the 'Status Quo'

Whether students feel it or not, cultural and familial pressures are all too prevalent in society and at Jefferson as well. Though it was Genius Girl's story that made the headlines, there are countless other stories of students at Jefferson and beyond that go unheard. There is no clear solution to eradicate these external pressures, but it's important to set and achieve goals by personal standards rather than a so-called cultural norm.

Everyone learns at different speeds and with different techniques, and such variation, while it is sometimes not taken into account in society, presents anyone, regardless of race, from fitting into their culture's stereotypical "status quo" for success.

"Being a part of a minority is difficult at times because of stereotypes," sophomore Ix Cypriano said. "People inherently expect you to fail. When you're different you have to work even harder than people who are 'normal' to be treated the same way they are. That's why I like TJ; nobody sees race here."

Can you review
student
organizations?

"The Little Mermaid" faces unexpected delays

TJ Theatre revises plans to accommodate the delayed opening night

Natalie Homnyom || STAFF WRITER



Photo courtesy of Natalie Homnyom
Junior Aaryan Balu catches senior Sophia Martinese, portraying the lead role of Ariel, as they rehearse for opening night.

Natalie Homnyom || STAFF WRITER

With Winter Storm Jonas came two feet of snow, a week and a half of snow days, and the cancellation of TJ Theatre's original five shows of their first musical this year, "The Little Mermaid." Because of school closure and the inability for anyone to travel, the cast and crew were unable to hold any performances at TJ on their scheduled dates.

Following the excitement leading up to opening night including a pajama day to spread the word, the sudden snow storm put a damper on production.

"I was pretty disappointed when I found out it was going to be pushed back because we put so much effort into it," freshman Christina Blake said.

Furthermore, this long break also offered unexpected obstacles for a successful show from set to rehearsals to timing of the opening weekend. "It has totally messed everything up. We're actually supposed to be finished with the show by now; our last performance was supposed to be [Jan 30]," junior Timmy Chan said.

Rescheduling new shows has proved to be difficult because of constant renovations at TJ. "The auditorium is being destroyed the same day we were planning to have open night," sophomore Masha Goykhberg said.

As a result, there are plans to have the majority of "The Little Mermaid" performances in other locations, and rather than having performances the first week back, the play has been pushed back further. "We're doing multiple performances out

of TJ at different high schools. We're looking to do it at Hayfield because it's open and they have a nice theater," junior Matthew Heninger said.

Additionally, the group has had to communicate over break to make sure everything is going well leading up to the production.

"There's a lot of communication over Facebook reminding people to know their stuff and really get familiar with their material," Chan said. Moreover, members such as Heninger have been practicing over break to make sure rehearsals are just as good as before.

"I've been listening to all the music on my off time to keep the tunes in my head. I've also been going through the script like the scene changes and the lines so I know when to come on and when to come off," Heninger said. As of now the extra rehearsals for the next few weeks are for putting the finishing touches on the performance.

"We're working on scene changes now to make everything smoother. Everyone knows their lines; most of us know our music. We're also changing blocking a lot recently because we're moving to a new stage," Chan said.

Finalizing the date and location of opening night practice was not as efficient as it could be with the uncertainty of where and when shows will be.

"All the work that we've done at TJ, like all the work for scenes like making scenery, that's kind of moot now if we're not going to be able to do our performance here. Without [solid plans] we're not sure what to work towards at this point," Heninger said.

In the final stages of preparation, the cast and crew are working together to coordinate a perfect performance.

"Now it's just a matter of finding out where we can do stuff and finalizing them. And obviously there are going to be people that can't be here, and we'll use understudies but it's going to work out," Blake said.

But those wishing to see it can look forward to "The Little Mermaid" coming soon. All shows will be at Hayfield Secondary School, and opening night will be on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. In addition, TJ Drama is still optimistic for a good performance.

Senior Debi Das said, "This is a show I think a lot of people would enjoy. Everybody can just sing along because they know a lot of the songs from the movies. The Little Mermaid is a huge thing for little kids so we're really excited for them to come and see. We're just really excited to put on a great show."

LAYOUT // Katherine Du

Can you cover
student & staff
deaths?

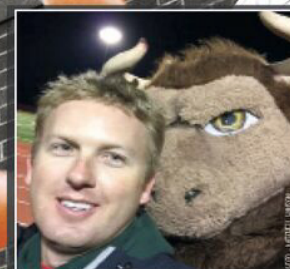
ORANGE WISHES & BROKEN HEARTS

STUDENTS RELEASE BALLOONS IN MEMORY OF MR. HANSON

Playing a huge role in Mitchell Hanson's memorial service, MADILYN GAULT honored his life with over 250 other students. "Teacher doesn't even begin to describe what he was to me; he was my best friend, he was my safe place, my rock, he took care of me. When he went on leave, it was really hard to know that he wasn't there. He was supposed to come back and realizing that he was gone forever, was something that I couldn't wrap my head around," Gault said. Madilyn Gault, TAYLOR GAULT, and HANNAH MITSCH organized the event as a way to say their last goodbyes. "Knowing that I got to play a role in his life and play a role in his goodbye, that was my favorite part," Gault said. emily wise

Watching the balloons fly through her tears, MIA COATES stands with her friends for Mitchell Hanson's memorial. "It made me happy that so many people showed up just for him. At the same time though it was sad to say goodbye," Coates said. Coates had Hanson for her freshman year, and he was her AVID teacher this year as well. "It didn't hit me until I walked into his class and he wasn't there. It just made me sad that the idea of never seeing him again. It just made me really sad. I really miss him and I do plan on going to the service on Saturday because I feel although it's a good way to memorialize him and to say goodbye once and for all," Coates said. taylor gault

Among many other students, RYAN ALLES attends Mr. Hanson's student set up memorial. "The memorial was great. It was a good final goodbye to Hanson. We all got to learn about how he treated everyone and what his story was. It made me feel like since so many people cared about him, there was no way that he would be forgotten in any way. There was hope for moving on," Alles said. Hanson was Alles' teacher all of last year and up until the time Hanson took his leave. "He was my AVID teacher this year and my world geography teacher last year, and he was such a good guy. I'm so bummed that he's gone. I think we will all be very changed. It's just not the same without him," Alles said. Alles



WE REMEMBER YOU

Social Studies, AVID teacher, Mock Trial Advisor, and Percussion Instructor Mitchell Hanson died suddenly and accidentally January 16, 2015, from "complications of depression and substance use disorder." Hanson was in his fourth year teaching at Smoky Hill High School and students showed how much they will miss him through an emotional balloon launching.

"Mr. Hanson was an amazing teacher. Anytime I needed advice or somebody to talk to, he was there. His death really affected me emotionally and mentally. I am going to be grieving for awhile." KALEIGH ELLIS

"Mr. Hanson always knew what to say to cheer me up and he told me that I should just be myself and not worry about what others think. He was my favorite teacher and he was always there for me." MARISSA MORGAN

"Mr. Hanson made such an impact on my life because when I was upset or had a bad grade in one of my classes he would sit down and talk to me one on one and actually give me advice." NICHOLAS MARTIZ

"I will remember Mr. Hanson through band but he was a great friend and just a person that made a difference. I had a close relationship with him and I am glad we had a memorial." KAMELA MOULTON

"Well I guess at first I didn't believe that he was actually dead, but he was. I was at school and my friend and I started crying because I realized he was never coming back and that my friend was gone." CLARE TORD

"I was really close with Mr. Hanson. I knew him in lots of ways so I knew that he was a really fun loving and happy guy. I'm trying to stay positive, but it's hard." TRINITY CERZA

"Honestly it just really hurt knowing he was gone. He and I weren't that close but when we were talking he was always so energetic. It sucks, but he's in a better place now." ASIA BROWN

"It was really hard. I was really close to him and it was really nice seeing how big of an impact he had on everyone and the balloon memorial made it really special." JESSICA GOULD

"It is really sad that he is gone now. He is one of the nicest, kindest people at Smoky. He was always smiling and he was always trying to make everyone else's life easier." MIA CRISTINA



TO DA Y

I AM HERE.

SENIOR CAL STEVENS RETURNS TO SCHOOL WHILE BATTLING LEUKEMIA

Having his friend, Cal Stevens, back for the first time this year, Jesse Finger was surprised he was back. "I saw his car, and I thought he was still in the hospital so I texted him and then I was actually really surprised when I found out that he was at school, I was surprised that he could come with how bad he was doing," Finger said. Despite the fact that he was sad that his friend was battling cancer, Finger tried to make the best of the time that he had with Stevens outside of the hospital, "It made me feel good to see that he was doing a lot better than he had been before," Finger said



1 TAYLOR KOLAR



2 MADILYN CAULI

11. Having his friend back at school for a day after starting to recover from cancer, Taylor Kolar enjoys the company of Cal Stevens back in class. "It was nice to see him. I didn't really know that over the break we had that he had gone through that. So when he came back and I found that out, it was a little sad but it was good to see him," Kolar said. 12. Finally seeing her friend after him being in the hospital for so long Rebecca Wood held back tears. "At first I didn't recognize him. Then when he took his facemask off it took a lot out of me not to cry. I was really happy to see him though and know he is okay," Wood said

TODAY

I AM HERE.

SENIOR
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035
SENIOR
CAL
STEVENS
First Day Back

1. Having his friend back at school for a day after starting to recover from cancer. I... enjoys the company of Cal... back in class. "It was nice to see him. I didn't really know that over the break we had that he had gone through that. So when he came back and I found that out, it was a little sad but it was good to see him." Koler said. Finally seeing her friend after him being in the hospital for so long... hold back tears. "At first I didn't recognize him. Then when he took his facemask off it took a lot out of me not to cry. I was really happy to see him though and know he is okay," Wood said

TODAY WE REMEMBER YOU

Senior Cal Stevens passes away after a long battle with Lukemia



Dear Cal, You fought a tremendous battle. You've been a fighter you're whole life. For the rest of my life I'm going to fight harder because of you. You're going to be truly missed. I met you our freshman year, and since that day we met I have always liked your work ethic toward baseball. You made me a better ball player, and we were outfield brothers. I will always remember the game last year, where you hit the game winning walk off hit against Eaglecrest. I'm glad that could be the last game that we played together. You'll always be my brother and one of the best teammates I've had. I'm playing this spring season with you in my heart. Our team will play for you. We are all family. We are going to ride the season with you and the jersey #8 in the dugout through every game. I'm grateful for you being in my life. I will cherish all the memories I've had with you. I love you Cal Stevens.

-JESSE FINGER

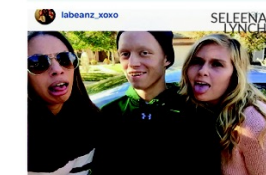
will martin @will_j22
RIP to a friend, a teammate, and my brother, Cal, since we met I admired your work ethic and your strength & was grateful for our friendship

1/5/16, 2:25 PM

5 RETWEETS 10 LIKES

will martin @will_j22
@will_j22 rest easy bud and thanks for the memories

WILLIAM MARTIN



labeanz_xoxo Today we all had to say goodbye to a dear friend of ours. He was so strong. We lost a friend but heaven gained a handsome angel. It hurts to have lost someone like Cal but knowing that he's in a better place makes it a little easier. We're all gonna miss you. Rest in paradise, Cal!! you don't have to fight anymore

Emilie Roberts
Rest in peace to one of my best friends. I'll see you soon buddy



Emilie Roberts

Mackenzie Newell shared Smoky Hill H.S. Alumni Baseball Page's photo.
Yesterday at 10:50 PM ·

I've known Cal for 12, almost 13 years. He was always the goofy, funny kid that everyone laughed with. Much love for Cal's close family and friends. RIP Cal.



Smoky Hill H.S. Alumni Baseball Page
RIP Cal Stevens. You touched all of our lives. We are forever grateful.

MACKENZIE NEWELL
"He made me realize I can't just sit around and wait for something good to happen. I have to live my life and not take crap from anyone." -REBECCA WOOD

I've known Cal since I was in 6th grade and we've been friends ever since. He was like a brother, always protective. Never a dull moment when we were together." -JAMIE ANDERSEN

"If I ever come to the point where I wanna quit, I'm not going to because I know he put up a really big fight for so long and if he could do it, then I can too." -RACHEL FINGER

c. Goals of TJ TODAY Online

To produce a daily online newspaper that keeps students current on news in-between print cycles, as well as utilizing the flexible format of the online SNO website to work lucratively towards maintaining a creative multimedia convergence zone between all aspects of Jefferson's Journalism program.

4. Obituary Policy

a. Extent of Coverage

In the event of death, current students, alumni from the past 10 years (about whose deaths the school community was notified of), current faculty and former faculty from within the last five years will be covered.

b. Location of Coverage

If a student or alumni (from the last four years) death occurs from within a week to two days of the end of the print production cycle, an obituary will be included in the print paper. However, if information or reporting is insufficient in that time, the coverage will be transferred to the online paper and completed as quickly as possible.

In the case that the print cycle is not imminent or has already passed, coverage of a student death will be restricted to the online paper.

Additionally, in the case that the death of an alumni who graduated between four and 10 years ago, coverage will be included in the online paper.

Coverage of a faculty death will be covered in the print paper if within the same time span as required for students. The death of a former faculty member whose information is sufficient to be covered will be included in the print paper.

c. Amount of Coverage

In the case of both print and online coverage, the word count of 600 words. All obituaries will be included in the case of online coverage.

Any remembrance activities and may include articles, photos, and videos, with emphasis on the individual's life.

Details that may be covered include the student body at Jefferson, details about memorial services. Students and alumni from the student body or alumni from the past 10 years.

c. Suicide

In the event of suicide, announcements will be conducted at the discretion of the editorial board, except in "cause of death," guidance counselor Sean Burke, who was also Ton's counselor at Jefferson, said. "She

Additionally, if the former is the student body, it will be included in the coverage.

5. Advertising

a. Types of Advertising

Advertisements accepted will be at the discretion of the editorial board. Advertisements include, but are not limited to, local restaurants, stores and private companies.

Community grieves loss of Class of 2013 graduate

by Sandy Cho and Ellen Kan
Online Editor-in-Chief and Print Editor-in-Chief

An Ton, a Jefferson Class of 2013 alumna, passed away on Feb. 5. Ton was a sophomore at Wellesley College, where she was majoring in biological sciences.

Ton was known for her musical talent and artistic spirit, and her death left many Jefferson students, teachers and alumni to look back on the cherished memories they made together.

"She was so creative. She learned to play the piano, ukulele and guitar on her own. She composed music, wrote poetry and could sing," guidance counselor Sean Burke, who was also Ton's counselor at Jefferson, said. "She

was comfortable in her own skin, unafraid to be herself. I admired that and it motivated me to be more authentic."

Many of Ton's younger friends remember her as a steady support figure and mentor. Class of 2014 alumna Lauren Mostrom first met Ton when they played on the junior varsity (JV) soccer team in 2011. Ton later gave Mostrom a warm welcome when the latter decided to join the Wellesley College Class of 2018.

"An always made me feel as though I wasn't alone - that was a talent of hers," Mostrom, now a freshman at Wellesley, said. "What I'll miss most was the way she smiled with her eyes, gave a small nod, and said, 'Don't wor-

ry, it'll be fine' whenever I felt nervous about any of the problems that seem insurmountable when you're 15."

For junior Cheryl Mensah, another close friend of Ton's, Ton inspired her to channel her energy in Mental Wellness Week, which was hosted by the Active Minds eighth period club from Feb. 9-13.

"People I had never talked to before reached out to me right after An died, and it makes me happy to know how supportive the TJ community is," Mensah said.

Both a viewing on Feb. 11 and the funeral on Feb. 12 incorporated traditional Buddhist themes. Presented in Ton's native language, the events focused on how

life is transformed. Teachers and alumni attended both events to pay their respects to Ton.

"An taught us how to have courage in being who you are and not hiding," Burke, who attended these ceremonies, said. "She lived life on her terms and never settled for anything less."

The Jefferson community will also remem-

ber Ton for her involvement in activities such as the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and French Honor Society (FHS), but what many friends will miss the most about Ton is her caring nature.

"She always made time for people, and she would remember everything I would tell her," Class of 2014 graduate Sib Shewit, a freshman at the University of Notre Dame, said. "I always felt like she really listened to me."



photo courtesy of Techniques

Can you share drafts
of your work?



"LIFT"-ING STANDARDS OF DIVERSITY

Jefferson's first year of LIFT program starts off with success

Lilia Qian || STAFF WRITER

Of the 93 middle school participants in Learning through Inquiry, Fellowship and Tutoring's (LIFT), over two thirds applied to Jefferson. In January, about 20 of the students gained semifinalist status in the Jefferson admissions process.

"I think [LIFT] instills confidence [in participants]. I think exposure to TJ [helps] too," assistant principal and LIFT program organizer, Shawn Frank said. "[Scholars] had tutoring sessions [at Jefferson] and they got to tour the school. A lot of times people apply to TJ and they've never seen it."

The LIFT program works to increase the number of low-income students accepted into Jefferson. By preparing LIFT scholars for Jefferson's admission tests and exposing them to the school environment, the program strives to supply underrepresented individuals with

guidance and resources in the application process. LIFT aims to triple the amount of economically disadvantaged students

"Just having that person there as a resource does a lot and gives them someone to look up to."

- Assistant Principal Shawn Frank

attending Jefferson within two years. "[LIFT is] going to hopefully lead to having an increasingly diverse student population," Frank said.

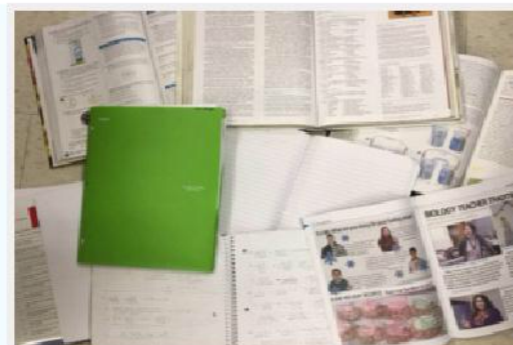
LIFT, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Jack Kent Cooke foundation, provides academic enrichment opportunities. Scholars participate in the Middle School Tech Institute (MSTI), summer courses that expose students to STEM.

In addition to the preparatory courses and materials for the admissions test, LIFT also pairs their own scholars with student mentors throughout the school year.

"The student mentors are probably our most critical element, because when [LIFT] students have mentors they can relate to and talk to about what it means to come to TJ, it definitely goes a long way," Frank said.

The second round of Jefferson's application process, the essay portion, takes place on Feb. 20. Application decisions will be released to students around April 30.

DESIGN // ANKIT AGRAWAL



Mini snow-cation: was it actually helpful?

Avni Singh, Staff Writer

2.

This school year, we students were able to enjoy more than a week of no school due to the snow. Though snow

February 2016

| Period | Start | End |
|----------------------|---------------|-----|
| Period 1 (Classroom) | 8:45 - 10:40 | |
| Period 2 (Classroom) | 10:45 - 12:15 | |
| Period 3 (Classroom) | 12:20 - 1:50 | |
| Period 4 (Classroom) | 1:55 - 3:25 | |
| Period 5 (Classroom) | 3:30 - 5:00 | |
| Period 6 (Classroom) | 5:05 - 6:35 | |

More snow days may mean increased stress for students
January 31, 2016



Snowzilla with a film (or two)
January 29, 2016



Avoid procrastination over break with bullet journaling
January 27, 2016

ARTICLES

DESIGN // KATHERINE DU

Can you have
superlatives in your
publication?



CLASS OF 2015 SENIOR HALL OF FAME



SHEVONNE SUA

"I think one of my greatest fears in life is that I'm going to be forgotten, that I won't be able to make a lasting impact in history. I want to be remembered as a person who actually made a difference by making a positive impact on other people's lives. Most of my friends know that I'm extremely ambitious and I don't let things get in my way. Once I set a goal I always go out and make that goal, I make it no matter what. One of my biggest dreams is to become a writer. I've always looked up to people like Jane Austen, or I think my favorite author is John Steinbeck right now. His work was so prolific; yeah it wasn't the classical sense of ruling the world, but their names are known throughout the world. If I can touch other people in every part of the world, and have that little part of me, that can be my legacy for ruling the world, I don't have to be Mao Zedong or something."



MOST LIKELY TO RULE THE WORLD

TED ZHU

"I don't think I would want to rule the world. I think if I were given that position, the first thing I would do is abolish the position because I believe power corrupts. I don't think anyone should have that amount of power. Even the best of people can let power get to their heads, and in the end we're all human, we're all fallible. I don't think I'd be capable of ruling so many people. I think that instead I want to serve by pushing science and research into the public spotlight. I would like to become someone who makes people reconsider their first convictions into a broader perspective. I think ruling the world is a little too much."



MOST SPIRITED

ROCKY DYTUCO

"For every Spirit Day, pep rally, or just any school activity in general, I always try to dress to the best of my ability. I always try my best to really put myself out there and be unique and go the extra mile. School spirit is important because it unites people; everyone has something in common, like something to bond with and it lets everyone have fun. Just like, going the extra mile and cheering louder than everyone else and going out of my way to try to out-spirit everyone is just me, you feel me? I love seeing everyone get hyped and support our school at sporting events and to help our teams win."



CAMILLE CASILANG

"The more involved you are, the funner school is for you. It sucks when people just wanna be party poopers and are just like 'I'm too cool for this.' Like no, you're not too cool for school."

When you see everybody and they're all dressed up for a certain theme, you really get to see each person's individual personality, because everyone kinda puts their own creative flair into their outfit. It gets everyone more pumped up, and the entire atmosphere of the school is just ten times more cheerful than it is usually. I'm not afraid to look stupid for Spirit Day."

6 superlatives

t/TODAY



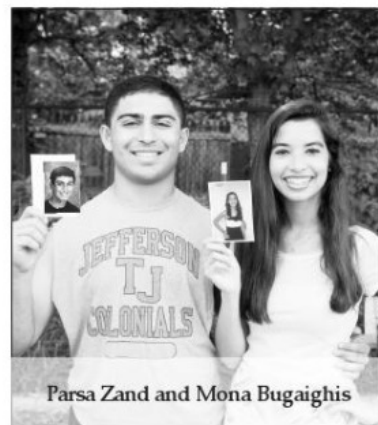
Will Long and Ellen Kan

Best to Bring Home to Parents



Pegah Moradi and Anant Das

Social Media Maven



Parsa Zand and Mona Bugaighis

Most Changed since Freshman Year



Didi Park and Susie Lee

Next Picasso



Sreya Atluri and Shreyas Garg

Most Likely to Dominate Wall Street



Andrew Seliskar and Monique Mezher

Most Athletic



Kira Becker and Misha Ryjik

Most Likely to Be a Movie Star



Michelle Namkung and Tim Cha

Most Contagious Laugh



Leon Kim, Sam Cadd and Andy Donate-Perez

Most Hipster

photos by Ellen Kan and Esther Kim

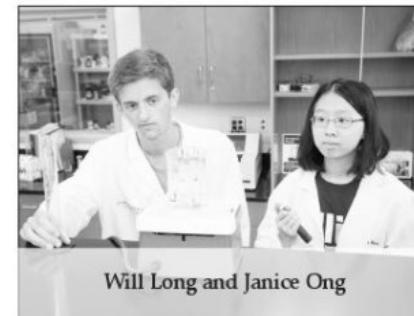
t/TODAY

superlatives 7



Ramya Radhakrishnan and Corwin de Boor

Master Chef



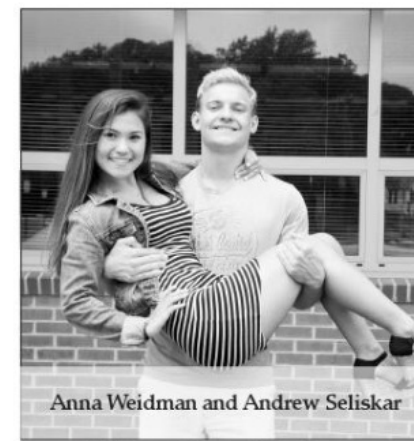
Will Long and Janice Ong

Most Likely to Cure Cancer



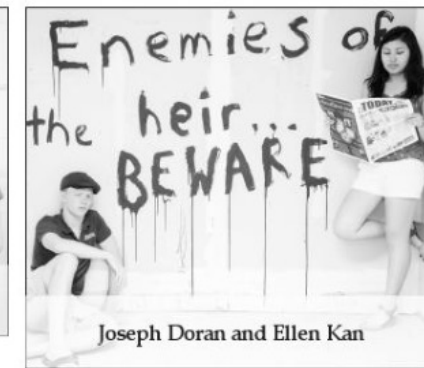
Anant Das and Pooja Chandrashekar

Most Likely to Have Hermione's Time Turner



Anna Weidman and Andrew Seliskar

If You Could Date Anyone



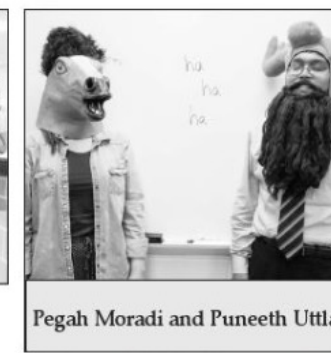
Joseph Doran and Ellen Kan

Most Likely to Win a Pulitzer



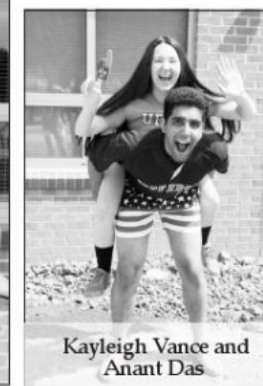
Stefan Young and Becca Clark-Callender

Next Herbal Essences Hair Model



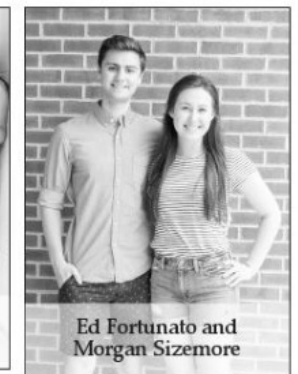
Pegah Moradi and Puneeth Uttla

Most Likely to Be on SNL



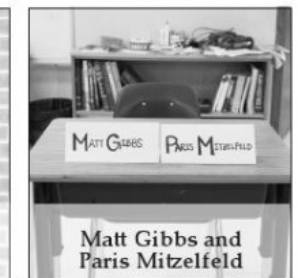
Kayleigh Vance and Anant Das

Most Spirited



Ed Fortunato and Morgan Sizemore

Best Dressed



Matt Gibbs and Paris Mitzelfeld

Worst Case of Senioritis



Sraavya Poonuganti and Kayvon Tabrizi

Most Likely to Win a Record Deal

OTHER SUPERLATIVES:

BEST EYES

Callan Monette & Luke Thorsell

MOST LIKELY TO MAKE HISTORY

Pooja Chandrashekar & Andrew Seliskar

PREPPIEST

Ed Fortunato & Morgan Sizemore

photos by Anant Das, Ellen Kan and Esther Kim

Can you include
senior quotes?

18 aphorisms

Ayesha Akbari

Washington University in St. Louis
"I'm standing up and I'm telling you, I am Warhol. I am the number one most impactful artist of our generation. I am Shakespeare, in the flesh. Walt Disney, Mike, Google, who's going to be the Medici family, to stand up and let me do more? — You ain't got the answers Sway!" — Kanye West

Tara Abrishami

Johns Hopkins University
Varsity Math Team (9-12)
MythInvestigations (10-12)
Volleyball (9-12)
"I recognize the council has made a decision, but given that it's a stupid decision, I've elected to ignore it." — Nick Fury, The Avengers (2012)

Sergio Adams

University of Pittsburgh
Tutorwaphus
Namaste (SENIOR GIRLS 2015)

Being Late Club

MUN

Taking the L

Taco Bell

TJTVB

Drake

If you're reading this, I don't want no rap/oli - uh I don't want it man.

Sangeetha Agarwal

Georgia Mason University
TJ Media (9-12)
Ballroom Dance Club (11-12)
Guitar Club (10-12)
"I'm only as tall as my heart will let me be
And I'm only as small as the world will make me seem
When the going gets rough and I feel like I may fall
I'll look on the brightside - I'm roughly six feet tall."
— Never Shout Never

Al Alamed

University of Virginia
SAACHH (16-12)
Basketball (9-12)
Muslim Student Association (9-12)
National Honor Society (11-12)
National Art Honor Society (11-12)
"I walk in the world today as a traveler, knowing tomorrow might just be the end." — RezaLestAlamed

Shahin Alamed

College of William & Mary
Touareks (leaves)
MSA (9-12)
Track and Field (10-12)
"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive, and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."
— Maya Angelou

Kim Alkhani

Case Western Reserve University

Linda Alworth

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Basketball (9-12)
Crew (9-12)
Chemistry Research (12-forever)
Life is too short for bad coffee.

Artelle Angeles

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Lacrosse (9-10, 12)
National Art Honor Society (10-12)
Action Africa (11-12)
WISE (10-12)
Relay for Life (10-12)
4-H (6-12)
"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day." — Winnie the Pooh

Siobhán Anand

Proctor University
Lincoln Douglas Debate (9-12)
"I usually don't like thinking about the future. I mean, let's face it, you can't predict what's going to happen. But sometimes, the thing you didn't expect is what you really wanted after all. Maybe the best thing to do is stop trying to figure out where you're going, and just enjoy where you're at." — John Dorian

Marie Andersson

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
TPMCO (12)
Onward, to futility.

Steven Androphy

University of Pennsylvania
HA (10-12)
KST (10-12)
PAD (9-12)
SHS (10-12)
YD (9-12)
Dining Nema (9-12)
Lee Ann Clan (10-12)
AMZZD (473)
Our time at TJ has come to an end, and saying goodbye is always tough. But now you can also say goodbye in Portuguese (tchau), Dutch (tot ziens), Welsh (hyoi!), Ojibwe (nongem), Saman (tota sofua), and Aikamelew (mactaci).

Neway Araya

Ohio State University - Columbus
Basketball (9-12)
Piano (9-12)
Tutormentor (9-12)
Don't worry Sway, I got the answers.

Shawn Arkadad

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Varsity Basketball (10-12)
Homes Tutoring (10-12)
FBLA (10-12)
Tutoring (12)
"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." — Thomas Edison

Ganesh Arupalli

Johns Hopkins University
Mentorship at NIH (12)
Guitar Club (10-12)
Chemistry Team (9-12)
Piano (9-12)
How Can Quotes Be Real If Our Eyes Aren't Real

Melvin Aslam

College of William & Mary
Varsity Soccer (9-12)
Sci Talk (11-12)
Environmental Impact Club (10-12)
FBLA (9-11)
Don't be so stressed out about the future that you forget to live in the present.

Sergio Athari

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Model United Nations (9-12)
CARE (10-12)
GIVE (9-12)

Matthew Bader

Big Sibz Coordinators (11-12), Student Advisory Council (11-12), Bioengineering Projects for the Future (9-12), Spanish Honor Society (10-12), X-CARE (10-12), TWIST (9-12), National Honor Society (11-12), JT-31 Squad (9-12), "Live, Laugh, Love"

Kim Alkhani

"Where there's a will, there's a way." Thank you so much for such a fantastic and unforgettable experience TJ. - I will forever cherish the extraordinary memories I've made, the wonderful people I've had to privilege to meet, and the amazing endeavors I've had the opportunity to be involved with. To all the incredible students, teachers, staff, administration, mentors, and more, thank you for leaving an indelible impression on me. I've been phenomenal four years, and I can't wait to see what exciting things everyone will continue to accomplish! Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Pravus Baderina

Virginia Commonwealth University
Public Forum Debate (9-11)
FBLA (9-11)

Pravus Baderina

Track and Field (10)
"Go sit behind fish tank" — Dr. Jo

Tony Bask

University of Maryland - College Park
Urban Dance Movement (9-12)
Swing Dance (10-12)
Homes Middle School Tutor (12)
Maybe you're one of those people that believe that sometimes, the most reckless thing you can do with your heart, is not being reckless with it." — Ian Thomas

Wyatt Baker

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
First Robotics Team (11-12)
Lacrosse (9-12)
"I hate when I'm on a flight and I wake up with a water bottle next to me like oh great now I gotta be responsible for this water bottle." — Kanye West

Nasi Baker

Washington University in St. Louis
HA (10-12)
2015 Class Council (10-12)
Midwestern (forever)
Thanks Fr Th Muns - Fall Out Boy

Mostafa Bal

University of Virginia
Muslim Student Association (9-12)
French Honor Society (10-12)
Model United Nations (10-12)
Astronomy Club (9-12)
TJ Lacrosse (10)
"Wanna know the recipe of baklava? That's nobody's business but the Turk's!
Just kidding, we love sharing, just like how we all have done the last four years. Thanks to our friends, teachers, and families, we got to be a part of making the Class of 2015 unforgettable."

Sudhish Balasubramanian

Duke University
Namaste (9-12)
Belvedere Elementary Tutoring (10-12)
Ravioli (12-forever)
Tutoring (12-forever)
Golds Gym (12-never)
Lemonade

Pravus Baderina

Columbia University
Chemistry Team (10-12), Orchestra (11-12), History Bowl (11-12), Physics Team (11-12)
Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get.

Sudhish Balasubramanian

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Physics Team (9-12)
Organic Club (11-12)
Math Team (10-12)
"I don't know what of you half as well as I should like, and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve." — J.R.R. Tolkien

Orcia Banerjee

Cornell University
Symphonic Wind Ensemble (9-12)
TJ Latin (9-12)
Latin Honor Society (10-12)
TJ LHS (11-12)
Tomorrow is another day.

Matthew Bader

Duke University
Chemistry Team (9-12), Spanish Honor Society (10-12), Science Bowl (11-12)
"When life gives you lemons, construct a crude electrochemical battery." — Unknown

Jared Bantini

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Orchestra (9-10)
Crew (10-12)
Jkmas (11)
TJSTAR Planning Committee (11-12)
LDS Student Social (9-12)
"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the universe." — Albert Einstein

Jack Basley

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Electronics

Eva Becker

Amherst College
TJ Drama (9-12)
iGems (11-12)
Kilmer Crew (10-12)
Andrew Butler Fan Club (10-forever)

Bea Becker

University of Virginia
Varsity Tennis (9-12)
Model UN (9-12)
Spanish Honor Society (10-12)
National Honor Society (11-12)
Hispanic Alliance (10-12)
"Diamonds are made under pressure. Thanks for all the wonderful memories, TJ."

Cathy Bendini

Brown University
Baseball (9-12)
Dot Comedy (11-12)
Cliffhanger Media Project (10)
B-Block Class Council (9-12)
"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country." — Kurt Vonnegut

Sammy Bennett

Brown University
Soccer (9-12)
Neuroinspire (11), Slava (10-12)
Medical Society Senator (11)
The cricket is wisest in the east. It is

Send a Smile (11-12)

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Can you use
professional designs
as inspiration?



Acquire
AUGUST PG. 77

**EACH
TIME
SLIGHTLY
BIGGER
SLIGHTLY BRAVER**

HOW JEREMY RENNER
GOT HERE / BY CHRIS JONES
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
NIGEL PARRY

TECHNIQUES 2013 VOLUME 28
THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A PLACE WHERE

THERE'S

**SUCH
THING
AS A**

**COMFORT
ZONE**

**BECAUSE ORDINARY IS NOT
WHO WE ARE**

VOLUME 28
2013 TECHNIQUES
THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL FOR
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING AS A
COMFORT
ZONE





acquire
AUGUST PG. 77

**EACH
TIME
SLIGHTLY
BIGGER
SLIGHTLY BRAVER**

**HOW JEREMY RENNER
GOT HERE / BY CHRIS JONES**

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY
NIGEL PARRY**





DIOR

AZZEDINE ALAÏA sandal
in the Shoe Salon

COLOR loves color, and designers mix hues with Fauvist abandon. **PINKS** in every shade from Schiaparelli shocking pink to the palest blush surfaced as the most important color of the season. I adore the flirty femininity pink brings to a wardrobe and the fact that it is flaring on everyone.

Rethink your opinion of what defines a neutral. **SILVER** is sleek and sexy; it becomes the most modern choice for footwear day and night. **YELLOW** is the new common denominator. As an accent or a statement, the color will make you smile and terribly chic.

Eye-catching as well are the many iterations of **PRINTS** this season. Flowers from romantic to modern, stripes or dots (as Paul Klein said, "a line is a dot that went for a walk"), and butterflies and birds delight in every name.

Color and prints hit below the belt in one of the hottest trends of the moment, **FANCY BANTS**.

A renewed appreciation of Art Deco and the 1920s is in the air, often with a wink and a nod to flapper style.



AKRIS

YELLOW
IS THE NEW
COMMON
DENOMINATOR



BURBERRY PRORSUM



MARNI



GUCCI

ALEXIS BITTAR earrings,
in Designer Jewelry

GO BIG
WITH THE
DRAMATIC
EARRING!



But Luhmann's upcoming remake of *The Great Gatsby* and the opening of *L'Oratoire des Sables* at the Grand Palais in Paris (an exhibit looking at the collecting of Gertrude Stein and her brothers Leo and Michael, which premiered during Paris Fashion Week) has style creatively thinking Picasso, Matisse, and Cézanne.

Look for these magnificent masters' standard in print, many with the stroke of Picasso in his Cubist period. His influence—African art. Fashion is looking through a Fabre lens, paying tribute to all things **TRIBAL**. It's a multicultural mix of the avant and the adventurous.

This season there is also an art to dressing up with a sporty spirit. This is a trend that will make you an instant fan.

Art, like fashion, makes our eyes come alive. This spring, just be sure to frame them with a strong brow—our favorite beauty trend of the season.

KEN



FENDI clutch, page 207



MICHAEL KORS

LOOK WHO'S HERE

IN THIS INSTALLATION OF THE BOOK, WE INTRODUCE YOU TO THREE COLLECTIONS NEW TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS ROSTER.

PIERRE BALMAIN
PETER PIOTRO
AURELIE BOERWANN

DISCOVER WHY WE FIND THEM SO COMPELLING ON PAGE 110.



ALWAYS ON.

STUDENT LIFE

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 014
ASKING WEEK 020
HOMECOMING 023
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS 125
I-NITE 345
ACADEMICS
PHYSICS 030
IBET 035
FRENCH 044
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CHEMISTRY 108
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PROTOTYPING 152

ON THE FIRST DAY OF IBET, freshman Stephanie Do stacks textbooks on top of a tower made of paper cylinders. The Rosenblum IBET was divided into teams that built and designed towers using only paper, straws and tape, and then tested the towers to see how much weight they could hold. "We got twenty mini textbooks and seven biology textbooks (on top of the tower). It could have held more weight, but the tower shifted and it finally collapsed," Do said. *more by E. Nerva*

SPORTS

MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD 010
FOOTBALL 016
GOLF 018
VOLLEYBALL 034
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FIELD HOCKEY 057
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PEOPLE

SENIORS 160
JUNIORS 180
SOPHOMORES 192
FRESHMEN 204
FACULTY 216



AS PART OF A PROJECT FOR AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS, sophomore Antonio Chan tests his robot with an LED light. The robot had to be able to find a light source and turn towards it. "The fine-tuning of the coding to make sure the robot could read a light value at each point of its rotation was challenging. That took about two hours, and the finished product was a relief," Chan said. *more by M. Phillips*



DURING THE FIRST JAPANESE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY PRACTICE for its New Year Calligraphy Performance, senior Emily Zhou leans over to finish writing a Japanese character. As part of the performance, Zhou and her teammates printed calligraphy on paper that was 11 by 14 feet. "We tried to show something representative of Japanese culture to the rest of the school. This year's message was 'The shining dream inside of our hearts will turn sadness into kindness with your strength and change.' [The message] was a reflection of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics," Zhou said. *Photo by M. Phillips*



PARTICIPATING DURING A PEP RALLY, junior Kate Salamiido shows her class spirit during Homecoming Week. On Beach Day, Salamiido wore goggles, sunglasses, lei and arm floaties, and carried pool noodles. "This year, I decided to go all out. One day I dressed up as a cowgirl and borrowed cowboy boots, but they were a size ten so I wore four pairs of thick socks," Salamiido said. *Photo by M. Phillips, photo illustration by J. Wiggins*



AT THE HOMECOMING PEP RALLY, junior Kaito Pionitskaya dances to "Wings" by Little Mix with the varsity dance team. Dance team was the only sport spanning two seasons, and was busiest during the winter when the team juggled halftime basketball performances and dance competitions. "[The performance] went even better than expected! Pep rallies can be a bit nerve-racking because the dances are performed in front of the entire student body," Pionitskaya said. *Photo by E. Kiefer, photo illustration by E. Harris*



slightly off

renovation 012
senior vs. junior rivalry 028
schedules 042
innovation 048
satellite launch 068
fashion 072
on stroke 080
around the world in 20 clubs 092
deadlines 094
only at 100
service 110
trips 116
science fair 126
stress 132
we came for the sports 138
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slightly off profiles 158

AS PART OF THEIR JOINT HOMECOMING ASKING, juniors Carson Whard and Nick Brady wait for their dates to find and untie them. Whard and Brady had their friends tie them together with string and wound it around the courtyard for their dates to follow. "Since all of our friends had already [done asking], we felt like we had to do something different," Whard said. *Photo by M. Zhang*

ON THE COVER
1. TWIRLING A FLAG IN THE AIR, sophomore Kevin Chaplin performs in the marching band and color guard show "Capture the Flag." "The story that goes along with the show is that color guard has been stealing the band members' instruments, so the band members are trying to recapture the color guard," Chaplin said. *more by E. Nerva*
2. REACHING OUT WITH HER HOCKEY STICK, freshman Dana Scheetz plays on the school's first ever freshman field hockey team. "There are a lot of times at practice where you think things like 'how is this drill going to help?' or 'why do we have to do so much running?' but when you start playing in games you can see all the hours that you put into practicing pay off," Scheetz said. *Photo courtesy of J. Leach*
3. AT THE DEC. 13 HOME GAME AGAINST FAIRFAX, senior Brian Panglin, dressed as a gorilla, cheers on the varsity basketball team as part of the Monocello Maniacs. "We use creative heckling. We're the sixth man, we're the ones who try to change the game in every way that we can," Panglin said. *Photo by M. Thompson*
4. HOUSING NEXT TO THE TJSAT, senior Kaito Pionitskaya displays his senior research project, which is the first high school student-built satellite to be launched into space. "There are a lot of nerves. If something in the satellite doesn't work there's nothing you can do to fix it; it's all done," Pionitskaya said. *Photo courtesy of A. Kemp*
5. WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE CROSS COUNTRY "CLASSY TRASHY" SPIRIT DAY, seniors Andreas Butler and Jamie Simon wear trash bags to show off their team spirit. "We forgot to bring our [trash] bags so the girls gave us theirs to put on," Butler said. *Photo courtesy of C. Mayes, photo illustration by M. Phillips*





SEAN
MALTO

INSPIRED BY BOSTON

WIDEFOOTSPACE

NOLLIE
NOSEBLUNT

LEVEL 10 TRICK
BASIC SKATE

24" 24"

NOTE: NOLLIE
AND NOLLIE NOSEBLUNT ARE THE SAME TRICK
BUT THE BACK FOOT IS IN A DIFFERENT POSITION.

HANDRAIL/STAIRS

10 10"

11" 29"

NOTE:

SKATE
LOCATION
CANDID

34" 34"

40' 40'

NOTE:

SKATE
LOCATION
CANDID

11" 11"

SKATE
LOCATION
CANDID

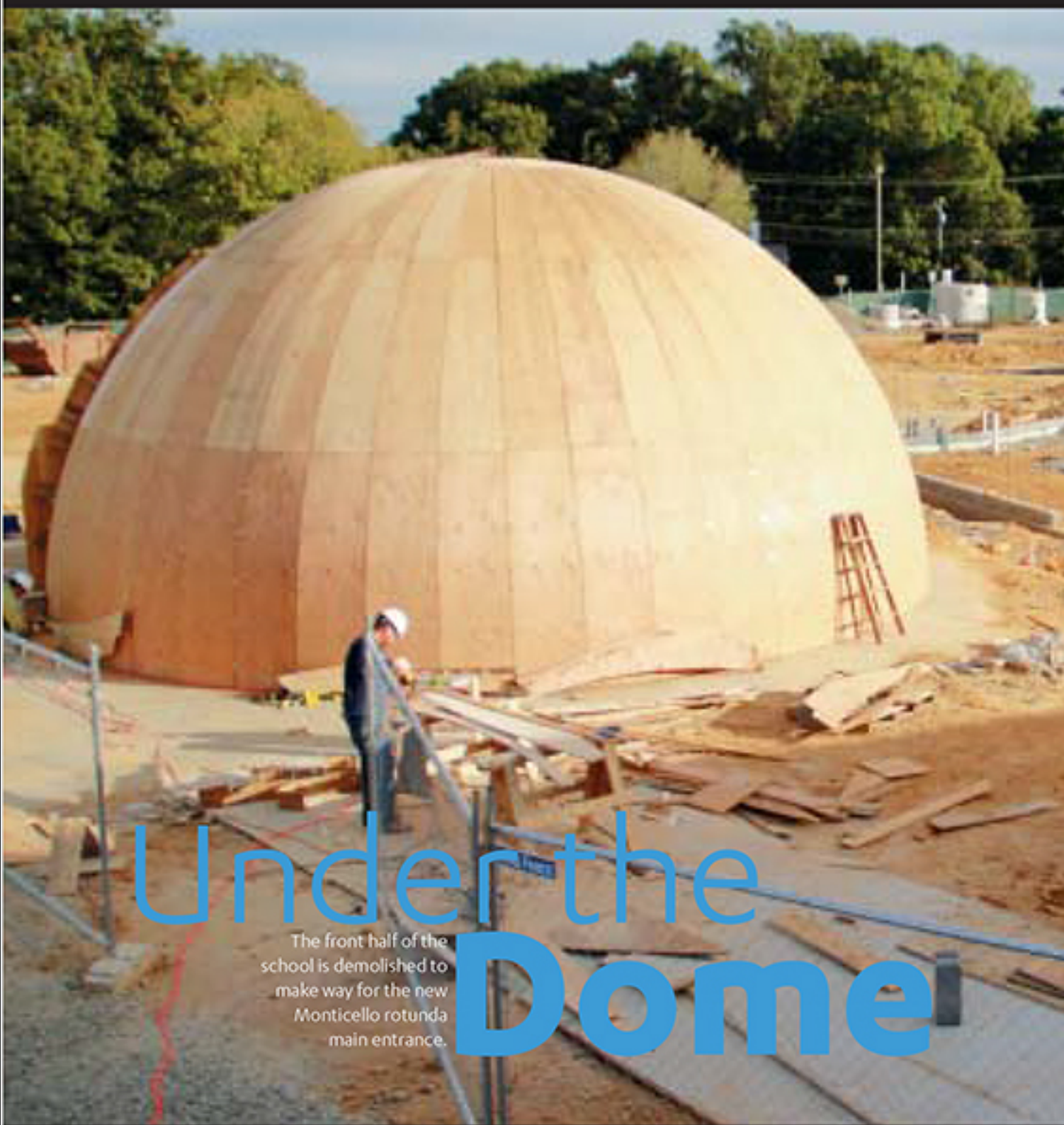
NOTE:

SEAN MALTO
INSPIRED BY BOSTON



NIKE AIR MAX

INSPIRED BY BOSTON



Under the Dome

The front half of the school is demolished to make way for the new Monticello rotunda main entrance.

Renovation
Total Cost Spring 2013 - Fall 2014
\$90,000,000

Fairfax \$75,000,000
 Prince William \$6,700,000
 Arlington \$7,800,000
 Fauquier
 Loudoun

6:13.4
 Time it takes to walk from the new senior lot to the building

131,169
 Square feet to be added to the building

125
 More senior parking spaces

Photo courtesy of Ballou Justice Upton

150 Red construction hats for teachers
1 Pink hat for Ms. Cathie Love
1 Red, white, and blue hat for Dr. Evan Clasper

Photo illustration by J. Kabe

42
 Learning cottages

6 events no longer possible at TJ
 Summer school
 Open House
 I-Nite
 Relay for Life
 Lock-in
 Campout

Photo by A. Zhao

150 earplugs
200 masks
1 Construction company
 Ballou Justice Upton, Architects

Photo illustration by A. Zhao



With the demolition of the front of the building, senior lounge and classes were displaced.

WHAT'S OFF HERE?

"We carried a couch a mile to senior lounge."
 [Seniors] Joey [Valery], Roy [Rinberg] and I were running when we saw the couch along the edge of the road on Little River Turnpike. Next thing I know we had a couch on our shoulders and were walking back to TJ. I like the new Slounge, although I think that it's too small which leads to cramped spaces for large groups."
 -senior Jesse Judish Photo courtesy of J. All Photo illustration by A. Zhao



"I have six trailer classes." It's not the most enjoyable thing, especially because I don't like getting wet. All of my classes are in the same general area, so I don't have to go that far, and it's not hard to get to my classes. Although, some of the trailers are really cold or really warm - they just have temperature issues. I'd rather they just be called trailers, because they are not learning cottages. Cottages are supposed to be warm and cozy, and not like what the trailers are like."
 -sophomore Dhriti Vij Photo by B. Zhao, Photo illustration by J. Morgan



IT'S NOT GONNA BE EXPECTED

What is the most unexpected thing that's happened to you at TJ?



"When I did an **INTERNSHIP** AT TORC ROBOTICS over the summer, because I didn't think that I would actually be able to get in."
BOHAN SURI, 10
Physics & Robotics



Ashish Ramakrishnan, 11
Andrew Tao, 11
"I started **DANCING** and playing a few **INSTRUMENTS** again and just started doing some **EDITING** last week."
ARISHK RAMAKRISHNAN, 11
Physics & Music



"I didn't expect the **NEW BUILDING** to be so pretty and open so soon."
CATHERINE IM, 11
Physics & Art

dominican republic, robotics, marching band, soccer, volleyball
WORTH IT.
003

IT'S KIND OF A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP.

Sometimes we have to walk from Weyanoke R to Trailer 32 (in the rain). We look forward to seeing "Mockingjay" with our friends for two months, only to find out

that there's a Physics Quest on Monday (not to mention TWO WebAssigns). The list goes on. I mean, **the struggle is real.**

Waking up at 5:30 in the morning for an hour-long bus ride (depending on the traffic on the interstate) is tiring, **to say the least.** But hey, we've made our closest friends on the bus.

SO,
WHEN PEOPLE ASK US IF WE'RE GLAD TO GO HERE, WE ALWAYS RESPOND:
IT'S GONNA BE

And then during lunch we make our way through the **ONE** crowded hallway (it's the only one left) to pick a spot to sit on the floor (**we know, it's kinda gross**) and eat.

Gotta pack up early to rush to the biotech lab and start an incubation. We'll make a difference though, if we can find a link between **epigenetics** and **induced pluripotent stem cells.**

BUT DON'T GET US WRONG, we can't imagine being anywhere else.

Going to MEX practice every JLC for a month isn't easy, but when it all comes together, nothing beats a **homecoming win.**

We get the weirdest looks from the bus driver when we wear **trash bag dresses** during cross country spirit week. **Doesn't matter; we gotta uphold our reputation for QUIRKINESS.**



1. AS THE CHARACTER THOMAS DIES, Junior Kevin Chaplin performs the color guard's choreography in the Marching Band show about Thomas and his best friend Libby, who work on the railroad. "I met my best friend through marching band and I don't think there would be any way of meeting her otherwise," Chaplin said.
2. TEACHING A CHILD HOW TO SWIM, senior Joe Gonzales helps him float on his back at a children's camp he runs in Cabrera, an impoverished part of the Dominican Republic. The

kids do not speak English and did not know how to swim even though they lived on an island. "Other than a few crazy incidents where we had people leaping out of the building to get into the pool, it went off without a hitch," Gonzales said. **3. STRUMMING THE GUITAR,** freshman Zahin Faruque practices at Guitar Club during eighth period. As a pianist and singer, Faruque does not get to play the guitar much. "I feel like music cannot be expressed through words but [only] with music itself," Faruque said.

Photos by W. Ryu

WORTH IT.



1. CELEBRATING WITH THEIR CLASS, Juniors Abby Peterson and Sydney Parks cheer when Parks wins Best Dressed on Dress Your Best day. In addition to winning Mex, the Class of 2016 placed first in Frost and Money Wars. "Other schools have similar things, but at TJ there's more freedom to do whatever you want to. I've heard that there's judgment that takes place when you go all out at other schools, but that doesn't really happen here," Parks said. **2. SPRAYING WATER FROM A WATER BOTTLE,** Juniors Abhishek Karkar, Akash Raju, Srikanth Kozari and Sahaj Sharda simulate rain for an asking. Junior Kunal Nalik asked junior Christina Wei to homecoming with a "Singing in the Rain" themed asking. **3. SERVING**

THE BALL, senior Dorothy Wang plays in the Dig Pink volleyball game, which the varsity volleyball team won over Lee High School 3-0. "We were not allowed to sell as many baked goods throughout the day but we had pledge sheets that we started this year and they worked out pretty well," Wang said. **4. INSTALLING A SERVO MOTOR,** sophomore Robert Velasco assembles a robot. Velasco had been interested in robotics since middle school and was able to take the class this year. "There are a lot of restrictions at first since we're only given specific parts and a basic instruction book to build that robot. Later in the year we're building one from scratch," Velasco said.

Photos by W. Ryu



SOUTH
BEACH'S
BRAVE
NEW WORLD
CENTER



EL NUEVO SONIDO DE
SOUTH BEACH

By | Por Sebastian del Marmol



GRIEF www.drow.com IN AURORA

One student remembers the night of the Century 16 shootings

The movie began at 12:01 a.m.; James Holmes started shooting 20 minutes later. I was sitting four rows up in Theater 8, right next door to Theater 9.

In our theater, the shooting happened during a major fight scene so there was no way to differentiate between the shots in the movie and the actual gun shots in the theater. Eventually, people got up and went to check the walls using their cell phones as flashlights. I heard "those are bullet holes," and "I think those are bullet holes." There were over 100 shots fired that night, and I, right next door, heard only four.

As the moviegoers realized gunshots had been fired, we all started to panic. People tried to get to an exit; everyone was running around. I crawled under the seat, crouching below to hide from any stray fire.

The emergency exits were blocked with people pushing to get out; the door opened but shut seconds later. All the people trying to get out, rushed back in yelling, "Don't go outside! He's out there! Don't go out that way!"

I remember thinking, "Just stay down and don't move right away. Just don't be the first one out or the last one out. Make sure you're in the middle and you'll be fine."

The fire alarms, the announcements, and Bruce Wayne made it hard to hear and think about what was going on, where I needed to go, and what I needed to do. People kept screaming, "Turn the movie off!" and "Turn on the lights!" adding to the noise.

As I made it to the top of the stairs and onto the balcony, the image of the bullet holes and the knowledge that people had been shot, began to sink in. Over the railing, I saw the barrel of a SWAT shotgun

aimed right at me. She screamed, "Everyone get down!"

I threw myself against the wall and hit the floor. Crawling to the staircase, I heard her voice cut through again. "Move quickly! Get down here!"

After I ran down the stairs, I turned and saw 12 to 15 SWAT members, weapons drawn, moving toward the theater.

Before I caught my breath, I saw something that will stay with me the rest of my life.

A young girl, maybe 22 or 23 years old, was sitting on the curb. She was bleeding from everywhere: her nose, her chest, her arm and she had a hole in her face. One of his guns was shooting buckshot, so the hole was no more than half an inch in diameter, but her shirt was drenched in blood, as if someone had poured a dark dye on her chest.

We tried to talk to her, to ask if she was ok. But, she didn't respond. She sat there, in shock, until the paramedics took her away.

Over the next 45 minutes we saw people get carried to the ambulance behind us. Then we saw the police officer. He was 300 yards away, still inside the building, carrying a little girl in his arms. She was only five or six years old. The way the police officer walked struck me as odd.



I knew something was wrong. He didn't rush toward an ambulance or call for help; he just walked slowly the entire way. The way he carried her was sad. He didn't cradle her gently in his arms; instead, he hugged her as tight as he could, and her body hung limp against his. Her legs and arms were stiff and hung out awkwardly.

As he passed, we saw he was sobbing. I'll never forget her face. Her eyes were closed and her dark hair fell all around. If I hadn't known what had just happened, I would have almost believed she was just sleeping. It was so quiet; no sirens were going off; no one spoke as she went by. It was a complete silence as if the outside world had been shut off for this little girl.

We were there until four in the morning, checking the news sites on our phones. As we walked outside the perimeter created by the police, we drove home with the knowledge that we were lucky. We got to go home to our families. In the end, 70 people were injured, 12 were killed, and a community was changed. Forever.

Almost immediately after the shootings July 20, a memorial to the victims began to grow outside the theater. Over the summer, Aurora citizens, Mayor John Hickenlooper and Batman himself, Christian Bale, visited the site. "Being there was so surreal. It's like we all forgot what we were going through individually and just thought about what had happened. Everyone prayed together and held hands," Lacey Hyde (77) said.

ANDY & JANET


 *met in a pub* 

janet was at cov uni, andy wasn't*

(*educated to gcse standard only)

she liked him and he liked her
THEY BECAME FRIENDS

many nights out later (and 1 year overdue)

JANET GRADUATED 

THEY LOST TOUCH....

janet
went
travelling
then came back...



...just as andy
quit his job,
ran the marathon
(4hrs 20mins)
& went travelling

SOLD THEY BOUGHT A HOUSE
IN COVENTRY. AT FIRST...

janet related chapter "it's much greater than here"

but they loved their house

AND ALL THEIR HOLIDAYS EVEN MORE

THEN ONE DAY... A YEAR AGO THEY SAID

BABY WHICH FIRST **MARRIAGE**

MARRIAGE IT IS, SAID ANDY!

THEY DID NOTHING FOR AGES

planned it all in a month...

THE END OF ONE STORY.

AND THE START OF ANOTHER...

OVER THE SUMMER LEANDI, ALEX, HANNAH & MELANIE

went camping in Ohiopyle, PA.

They made s'mores
and posed with a life size statue of Yogi Bear.
It rained and it poured

*so they ate in the car because they
didn't like the outdoors
THAT MUCH.*

The friends went rafting on the
Youghiogheny River.

**THEY WENT OVER LEVEL 4
RAPIDS FOR THE FIRST TIME
AND FEARED FOR THEIR
LIVES.**

**MELANIE FELL IN THE RIVER AND HAD
TO BE RESCUED.**

IT WAS TERRIFYING.

The entire time,
Hannah yelled at them for making her
go over the rapids and
—for almost killing—
Melanie.

THEY LEFT THE WILDERNESS OF
PENNSYLVANIA WITH HOURS OF DRIVING
AND GLEE SONGS

between them and home.



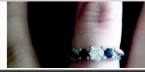
Can we include posed pictures?

TODAY

THEY GOT ENGAGED

KELSEY LONG AND STEVEN DEYULIA GET ENGAGED DECEMBER 2015

Planning a surprise proposal, Steven Deyulia asks for Kelsey Long's hand in marriage. "I didn't know when he was going to propose, but I did know he was thinking about it. I actually brought



STUDENT FINDS COMFORT BUILDING

HOBBIES IN SIGHT



1 TAYLOR GAULT started learning how to cook when she was only nine years old. She is the only one in her immediate family who cooks, it's her passion.

2 NICOLE IRVIN attends concerts for her hobby. She went to 39 concerts last year, and plans to go to more this year. She also collects every ticket she gets.

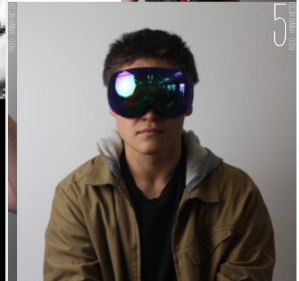
3 MADLYN GAULT collects the memories she makes with her friends and family by printing them on t-shirts.

4 MITCH collects vintage keys because she is in the elegance in the keys made them back in the

5 R CHANG goes birding in his free time, as with friends, because he has the opportunity to be outdoors.

6 V FORCE plays hockey bby because his parents have been really into hockey since he was a kid.

7 LEW JENKINS has a passion for over 20 lanyards. He has a collection of over 20 lanyards, cheap and they give him something to remember in his life by.



8 TAYLOR GAULT

MALHA ZAVIN

Henna has always been a passion of mine. When I was thirteen, I started doing henna because I used to work at a salon and people always wanted me to do henna for them so I said to myself, 'why not just start my own business?' My family is proud of me for having my own business, but they always make sure I am still prioritizing school then just having fun and doing henna on the side. I started out practicing a lot, and from there I just kept getting better. I purchase my henna from Bangladesh, so it's difficult to get but it's a good price. Most of the time I do the tattoos at my house. I have people that message me on Facebook, friends of friends, or people at events and birthday parties. Having a business will help me develop as a young entrepreneur and it's a fun job. I am going to continue doing henna tattoos because I love being able to show my skills and it's a tradition, really wise

EXACTLY THE RIGHT OCCUPATION

ALISON SU

Every picture is different depending on the person and how they incorporate their style and personality. I love photography because I'm able to express a concept through photography. I've gotten to photograph several fashion shows hosted by Denver Fashion Week. I love going there and taking the action shots because it gives me inspiration on being creative with my photos. I like working with different people and building that relationship with people. I began photography the summer before high school; my friend and I entered a contest. Ever since that summer I've been doing many senior pictures. I did my sisters senior pictures along with her friend's, I guess the word just got out. I have a Facebook page where I get most of my business from. My biggest accomplishment would be winning two gold keys and an honorable mention in the Scholastics Art and Writing contest.

taylor gault

041

What is tomorrow?

Friday

Oh gosh, what do I have to do?

First hour, there's that chapter six worksheet but it's not due until the test. Wait — when is the test? Did he say? I don't think so. I need to pay attention more. I don't understand anything, I'm going to fail. I'm going to get a Parent Connect. I can't get one.

"I hate Parent Connect. I think it should stop," junior Megan Johnson said. "I usually already know how I'm doing in my classes so I don't need my parents on my case about it."

Parent Connect was a program that automatically sent an email to parents after each failing grade. Johnson's parents forwarded her the email indicating that there would be an awkward conversation when she got home. Johnson described Parent Connect in just one word. "Nagging."

Nagging... School work.

What else do I need to get done? Oh yeah, homework for every other class. Shoot, I forgot, when's the next NIS meeting? I can't miss that. Next week? No. I don't know.

When are the hours due for that? March. Right. I need to get that done. When am I even supposed to get those? It's not like I'm ever busy or anything.

"It's hard to prioritize things since everything that I do I feel is important to me," senior Edselwint Hussien said. "It's stressful just figuring out which things to put first and if I should put something off until later."

After coming home from working on the newspaper Monday nights, Hussien still had to find time to get her homework finished. Trying to get the perfect grades while balancing extracurriculars, jobs and a social life made high school stressful. For Hussien, five hours of sleep was a good night considering all of her IB diploma work.

"[High school] used to be your carefree years of life

but it's really not that way anymore," counselor Jim Mowry said. "It would be nice if it was, but you have to learn how to handle that because that's just the way life is now."

What are my grades right now? I don't even want to know. What more do I have to do. Think — read for English. What chapter is it? 10. How many pages is that? 20. Oh my gosh, 20 pages. That is going to take forever. I don't have time for that. The worst that could happen is fail and then get a bad grade on the test and then there goes my acceptance into college. No big deal.

Wait, I can't. My grades, my future, my life. Fail. Never mind. Must Read.

"Now that I'm a senior, I'm ready to be done. It's getting harder to motivate myself because it's so close, yet so far away," Hussien said. "The fact that I have all of these IB and AP tests in May is the stressful part."

Before graduating, students had to earn 23 credits. For seniors, graduating meant trying to figure out what they

wanted to do after high school which required them to take standardized tests, complete college applications or apply for jobs, depending on their future path. For Hussien, the challenge was to first complete the perfect 500-word essay for her application to her dream college, New York University.

"As you look into your immediate future there is a lot of uncertainty there," Mowry said. "That adds to that stress that you have while you're in high school."

Spanish. NIS. Tutoring. Laundry. Key Club. Chapter 6 math test. pick up paycheck. tell mom I'm out of contacts. dress for WPA. Make reservations. Orange card. Talk to Kincaid about ACT. Essay for US History. Solve life problems with BFF. Work out tomorrow and be sure to eat healthy. Paper due at 11:59 on turnitin.com...

Oh my gosh, it's 2 a.m.

Ahhhhhhhhhh!

SHOW STOPPER



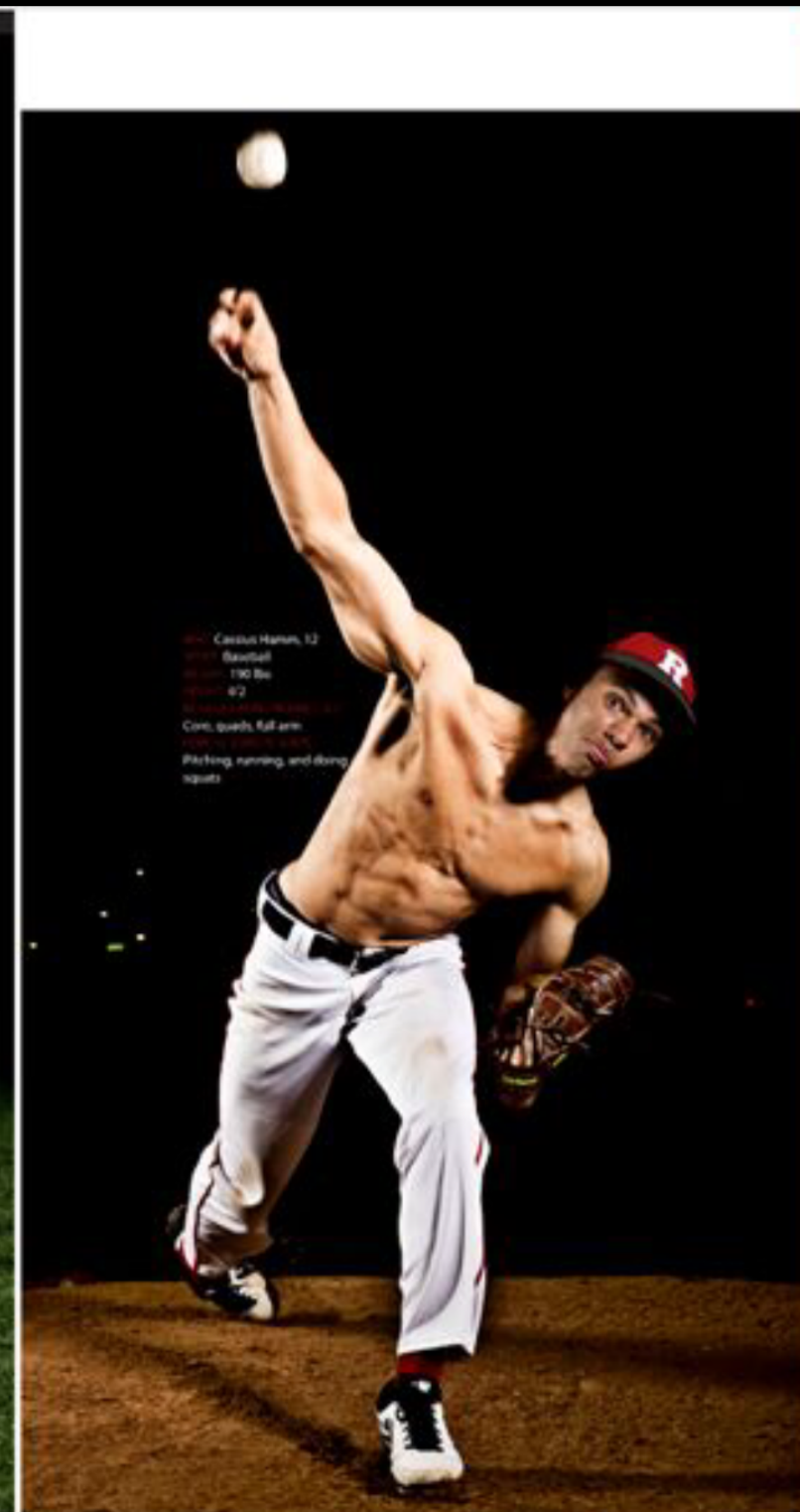
NAME Kaden James, 12
SPORT Wrestling
HEIGHT 181 lbs
WEIGHT 135 lbs
WORKS HARD ON Full body
GOES TO THE GYM 2-3 times a week
TRAINING TIP Grappling, Muay Thai, and lifting weights



NAME Allie Worndorn, 10
SPORT Lacrosse
HEIGHT 118 lbs
WEIGHT 54 lbs
WORKS HARD ON Quads, hamstrings, biceps, and triceps
GOES TO THE GYM 2-3 times a week
TRAINING TIP Running in the soft sand and conditioning with my team



NAME Shelby Barnes, 12
SPORT Soccer
HEIGHT 120 lbs
WEIGHT 53 lbs
WORKS HARD ON Abs and legs
GOES TO THE GYM 2-3 times a week
TRAINING TIP Run from 2 to 5 miles, do stairs, abs, and sometimes lunges



NAME Cassius Hamon, 12
SPORT Baseball
HEIGHT 190 lbs
WEIGHT 62 lbs
WORKS HARD ON Core, quads, full arm
GOES TO THE GYM 2-3 times a week
TRAINING TIP Pitching, running, and doing squats

WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE

WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

Can you use all of the
design tools at your
disposal?



LINDSAY

CHAD

PARIS

BEYONCÉ

HILARY

**25
HOTTEST
STARS
UNDER
25!**

Teen

**150
HAIR &
MAKEUP
LOOKS**

**STAR
WARS**

Natalie Portman &
Hayden Christensen

Cheap & Chic
**FASHION
FINDS**
(\$5 AND UP)

**YOUR
SUMMER
Love
HOROSCOPE**

♡ 25 PAGES
OF TIPS! ♡

BUSTED!

Your most embarrassing moments

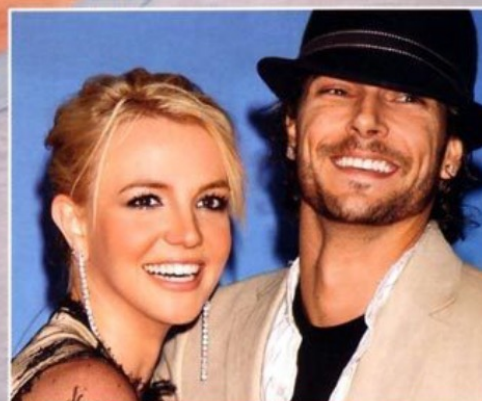
**"I HAD TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN MY PARENTS"**

**REAL GIRLS,
TOUGH DECISIONS
PG. 73**

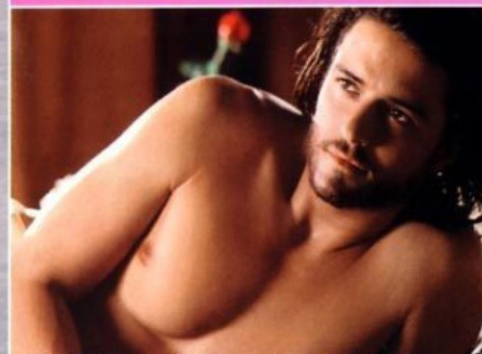


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JUNE/JULY 2005 TEENPEOPLE.COM (AOL KEYWORD: TEEN PEOPLE)



**BRITNEY & KEVIN:
WHAT'S NEXT? PG. 62**



SEXY ORLANDO PIC PG. 70

Can you use
anonymous
sources?

EVERYBODY HATES YOU

but not really—it's just people's
fear and insecurity of what they
don't know or understand

"I have been bullied, [because] people don't think of being attracted to the same sex as 'normal.' Look at all of these opposite-sex couples on TV, the radio, movies, pop culture, and magazines; there's just so much straight-culture that portrays that as the idea of 'normal,' but this is my normal. I've learned to explain it to people by saying, 'Love is love and it is okay to be like this.'"

Bullying is the worst feeling. It's one thing when you don't like yourself, because no one truly likes themselves, but when a whole group of people are against you for something that you cannot change, it's just this whole other dirty feeling you get. You think, 'What am I? Who am I? Why am I this way? What is this?'

I've been 'out' for three or four years in school, and to my family; everyone's accepted it by now. In the beginning I did not accept myself. I used to have girlfriends. I used

to be straight, and I honestly don't know what changed. I did doubt myself in the beginning. I was like, 'Is this really what's gonna happen? Is this really what I want my life to be like?' And I realized that I couldn't change it, so I might as well embrace it.

People used to taunt me in middle school. And I felt like [being gay] was just another thing, and I was fearful of adding another piece of ammunition for them to use against me.

It's high school, word gets around, and I was very open about it. I would hold hands with my first boyfriend in the hallways. In the beginning I was like, 'Am I really gonna do this?' But then I was like, 'Why not?' There was definitely an element of fear that I had to overcome. At first, we only hung out after school. I barely even looked at

him during school just to throw the radar off. I guess, of people knowing that I was gay. But it gradually just progressed into me being completely open about it. I honestly wish I'd just been open about it earlier, because it would have saved a lot of stress and fear. I've learned to really not care. I've

built up this shell of humor that I can use. [Bullying] now is usually cyber—it's never a frontal assault. I kept all my friends. I haven't lost one from being gay. I've surrounded myself with a lot of support, and removed the negative things from my life. My two longest friends [and I] have been a support group for each other; we can talk to each other if we

need to. They were the first people I came out to, and they were actually really accepting of it. I think they were just like, 'What just happened?' in their minds, but thankfully they didn't show it or recoil or anything. And when I was being bullied, they stuck up for me. True friends will do that for you, and I've done that for them too.

There is a message being sent about preventing bullying, but it's not being picked up. If I see someone getting bullied, I try to get right in and stop it. No one should have to go through that. If you're being bullied, one of the hardest things to do is tell someone because they've probably told you, 'You're a snitch,' and that's not true. You are protecting yourself. You're probably saving yourself and you're probably saving someone else." Edited by Kevin Nguyen.

Because of the sensitivity of the content of this story, the identity of the source has been kept confidential.

GREEP YOU SUCK
"YOU'RE A SNITCH" YOU SUCK
LOSER
what's happening
Freaky
Jerk
BOMB
who am I
GAY
UGLY What am I? to me?
FREAK! ME? weird QUEER
unnatural

STICKS & STONES

Two students recall events in which they experienced bullying first-hand

"I have been personally bullied. I was punched in the gut, and I had a friend I made in school and she stuck up for me and made him back off. After that, I realized I've got to learn some way to protect myself, so I took a martial arts class. From there on I decided that since I'm protecting myself, I'm gonna start protecting others from not just physical abuse,

but verbal abuse as well, because I know what this is like and it's not right. It's just really dumb when people try to show that they're stronger, or that they're better than you, by picking on you. In the end, remember, you just gotta look inside yourself and realize you're just like everyone else here." *Isabel Hernandez, 19*

"I've been cyber-bullied. In one incident, I basically called this one girl skinny. Then the next day, she put on Instagram that she was going to [fight]. When I saw that, I was like, 'Okay, whatever.' She came up to me, and she started calling me a bunch of names—no one said anything because no one wanted to get involved in it—so I just put on my headphones and

walked away. It's the best thing you can do in those situations. I [thought], 'What, I'm gonna go fight her so I can get in trouble too? No.' If you're being cyber-bullied, just try not to care. If you know it's not true, then don't listen to other people. You know who you are." *Victoria Riano, 19*

BULLYING AWARENESS

Do you think bullying still happens?



Have you witnessed bullying?



Have you been bullied?



250 surveyed. Population 1226.

RESOURCES

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, ARE BEING BULLIED OR HAVING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS OR ACTIONS, SEEK IMMEDIATE HELP IN A TRUSTED ADULT LIKE A TEACHER, COACH, COUNSELOR, OR ADMINISTRATOR; THEY'RE HERE TO HELP

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
Trevor Lifeline: 1-866-486-7386
National Council for Behavioral Health: www.bhcrisis.org
The Bully Project: www.thebullyproject.com
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network: www.glsen.org
It Gets Better Project: www.itgetsbetter.org
Stop Bullying: www.stopbullying.gov

or to reach the Crisis Text Line
Text "SUPPORT" to 741-741

*Although bullying can be interpreted in many ways, I don't think the bullying we all think of [like give me your lunch money] occurs as much anymore. *Randi O'Neil, 17*


Can we have more than one

EIC?



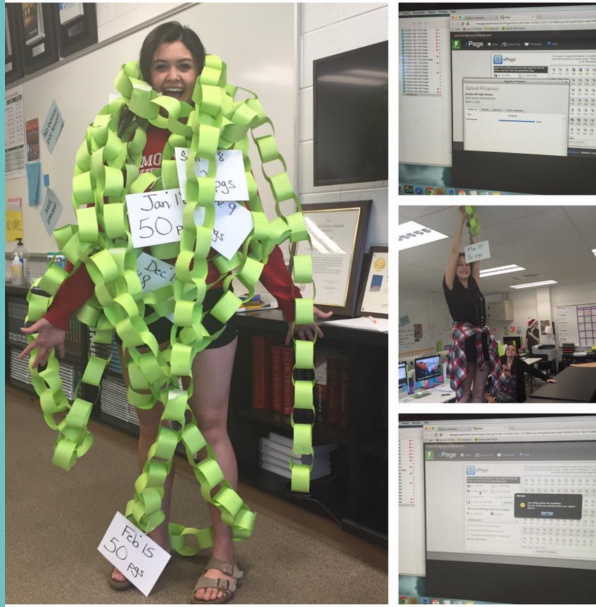


Can we work until
the wee hours of the
morning?



Carrie Faust with Lara Jabr and 18 others at Smoky Hill High School.
Friday at 4:56 PM · Aurora, CO, United States · 🌐

Congratulations, Summit 2016! This is what 260 FINISHED pages looks like! Yes, there is a supplement to do and profts to return, but completing the bound book is fantastic spring milestone! So proud of all my kids! Love you!



👍❤️👏 132

Like Comment Share

15 Comments




Ryan Bagley with Michael Simons and 9 others.
Friday at 9:48 PM · 👤



👍 Like


💬 Comment

➦ Share



Justin Daigle
1 hr · Brighton, CO, United States · 👤

At 2:55AM, the final pages of the 2016 Yearbook were sent. This has to be one of the most challenging years I've faced as an adviser. On the flip side, I got to work with some of the most amazing and dedicated students like my outstanding EIC Carson right here! I'm extremely proud of this staff and the book they created! We had more kids there tonight, but one by one, they had to go home. The book is done! **#youdontknowthehalfofit** **#tacotuesdayforworknight**



👍❤️👏 16

Like Comment Share

1 Comment

News Feed

Requests

Messenger

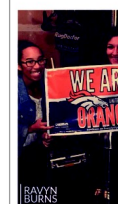
Notifications

More

Can you cover people
on your staff in your
publication?

TODAY'S OPINIONS ON YESTER DAY'S NEWS

Today, February 7, the Broncos win the 50th annual Super Bowl



JEAN ROMAN AGUILAR

"I was really excited when the Broncos were going to the Super Bowl, but I was especially surprised when they won after they lost Super Bowl 48. I wasn't really expecting them to win."

KAYLA CUSHING

"I believe their offense team could do more better. I know they were on the field a couple of times but defense was doing a lot of the work."

SAMANTHA MANDERS

"I was really confident in the Panthers and really wanted them to win. I rooted for the Panthers because they did really well in regular season."

T'GAN MAXEY

"My family is from Texas so my household represents The Dallas Cowboys. I've never really like the Broncos."

DRIBBLING WITH HYPE

Smoky girls varsity basketball plays against Rock Canyon

1 While working with her team, Mikayla Hernandez plays against Rock Canyon. "I think we played a really good game and we planned on improving by running our defense really well like we always do, working on our defensive team, and playing the full 32 minutes," Hernandez said. **2** Playing basketball for five years, Aise Givens plays through Rock Canyon's offense. "I have been playing basketball since I was in 6th Grade, and I wasn't really nervous about it because we had played them earlier this year, and I enjoy the intensity of the game and anything athletic," Givens said. **3** Making two three-pointers, Gabrielle Walker talks about playing against Rock Canyon. "I was really nervous about the game because there was a lot of competition and I knew I had to do the best I could," Walker said. "We definitely did go through a few challenges, but I think we really pulled through," Walker said. **4** Playing basketball ever since she was in the sixth grade, Evan McCleary enjoyed getting to know her teammates better and becoming family with them. "There's nothing really that I don't like, it's just hard when you constantly lose games, it sucks but you just have to look at the greater picture and continue to try harder because you're learning more," said McCleary. As a team, she thinks they are becoming stronger every year.

Keeping the ball from the other team, Mikayla Hernandez helps her team play against Rock Canyon. "We definitely improved from the last time we played them because earlier this year, we played them and we were able to find out how to play defense against them. Communication is

"I'm the crazy one of everyone and I'm constantly going. So when the team sees that hype, it gets them hype. We all play as a team and have fun."

key with our team," Hernandez said, "I was feeling confident in my team no matter how much we were down by, it didn't matter to me. All that mattered at that point was that we kept working together as a team and focused on our left and right, each other. I tell everyone to keep playing no matter what."



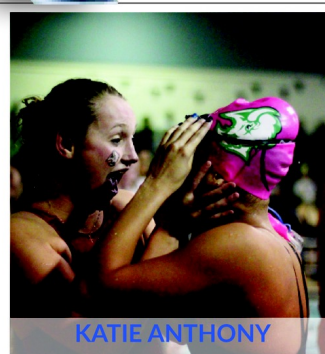
"I was in Fort Collins at EPIC, I swam 50 freestyle individually. It was my first time qualifying individually. I was really excited, I worked really hard for it and when I finally saw my time was a state qualifying time, I became ecstatic."



BRIEYANA WALTON

YESTER DAY'S PRACTICE TODAY'S JOURNEY TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

sophomore Brieyana Walton qualifies for swim state championships



KATIE ANTHONY

It's like a support system. We are there to make her excited and to believe she can do it. As much work it takes it also takes the right state of mind. She needed to know we believed in her and she could do it. We were so excited for her and their to cheer her on as a team."

COLTON ORD

"I like that we get hands on learning and help from professionals and we learn more about engineering because of it without having a proper class and we have a whole community of people helping each other out."



ANDREA SAGAY

"Last year I wanted to be an engineer. ACE is creative and science focused. [ACE] gives me a chance to be around people I spend my time with now and to prepare for professionals for the future."



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tjTODAY

Bomb threats affect schools across northern Va.

Angel Kim, Staff Writer
March 11, 2016
Filed under [New on tjTODAY](#), [News](#), [Showcase](#)

Seven schools across northern Virginia received bomb threats through recorded phone messages around 11:30 a.m on March 4. The schools were Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, Westfield High School in Chantilly, George Mason High School in Falls Church, Herndon High School in Herndon, and Potomac and McLean High School in McLean. McLean had also ended school early on Feb. 29 due to a bomb threat.

Bishop O'Connell, Stone Bridge and George Mason had temporary evacuations, where students waited at nearby schools until their schools were deemed safe. Meanwhile, Westfield, Potomac, McLean and Herndon continued with their school day as usual. After investigations, however, police discovered that none of the bomb threats were credible.

On the same day, several schools in New Jersey had received bomb threats. It still is not known whether these threats are related to the ones in Northern Va.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) released a statement on March. 4, specifying that the sources of the threats seemed to be "intended only to disrupt school operations." Schools were deemed safe for students to resume the day as normal.

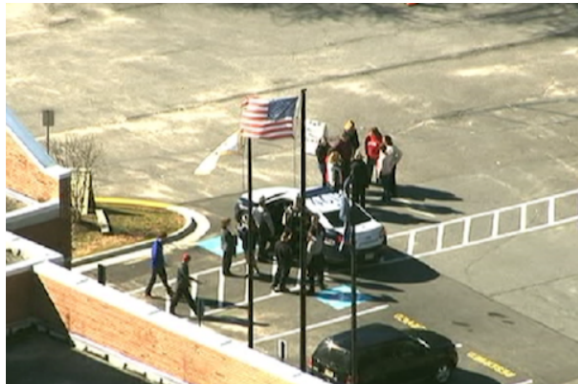



photo courtesy of nbcwashington.com

Police officers and school officials convene at McLean High School following a bomb threat on Feb. 29. According to police, this threat is not connected to the threats made later that week, on March 4.

Three Fairfax County public schools, along with many other schools in the metropolitan area, have received bomb threats today. Our schools include McLean HS, Westfield HS, and Herndon HS. Those parents were already notified.

Police are investigating, and have determined the threats are not credible, and are intended only to disrupt school operations. We do not believe any of our students are at risk.

We are continuing with normal school operations for the remainder of the day. Updates will be provided if additional information becomes available.

Fairfax Schools

@fcpsnews

Follow

In the first baton pass-off of the 400-meter relay, senior Sydney Miller stands to reach one of her team members, sophomore Alynne Cutler.

RACING FOR A STATE OF SUCCESS

ATHLETES STRIVE FOR A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Photo courtesy of Sammy Tavassoli

Sammy Tavassoli || STAFF REPORTER

On the morning of February 26, while most students dashed to reach their second class on time, the members of the Jefferson Track and Field team hustled into vehicles departing for a very different race.

After weeks on end of diligent preparation, these runners and field athletes eagerly strode into the Boo William's Sportsplex, prepared to earn their marks in the Virginia High School League's Indoor Track Championship.

The athletes each qualified for their events through skill demonstrations from previous track meets' times and distances, improving throughout the season in an effort to make the state team. Following semi-finalist elimination, of these participants, six individual athletes and five relay teams reigned as eligible for a final round of competition, set to occur on the

morning of the following day.

Once the final races subsided, the team achieved many victories, including junior Saurav Velleleth securing first place in the two mile run, senior Hongyi (Charlie) Guan obtaining second place in the 55-meter hurdles and senior Nathan Foss achieving third place in the mile run.

While most would've considered the meet assertive of more pressure on athletes to perform at their best, runners actually took the occasion as rather an exhibition of their talents.

"I didn't feel much pressure [and] just wanted to have fun racing with some of the best hurdlers in the state. That's the mentality I always have when I compete, and that's why I enjoy racing," second place winner Guan said.

The team notably prided the state championship participants, considering their scores to be the culmination of their seasonal efforts. The preparation that these feats entailed were nothing short of strenuous, forcing the athletes to settle for practicing six days a week for two hours each. The practices led to advances in stamina and speed during the months prior to the competition. Athletes, however, soon developed other strategies for improvement depending on their particular needs.

"I've tried to improve my core strength a lot, which helps to give you explosive starts to sprints and endurance," fourteenth place winner sophomore Alynne Cutler said. "To improve times, just focus on one thing at a time, [until] you get that, and soon you'll see progress."

Though most athletes remained confident amidst the pressure presented by the meet, fumbles still occurred amongst the team's opponents and members.

"I didn't feel much pressure [and] just wanted to have fun racing with some of the best hurdlers in the state. That's the mentality I always have when I compete, and that's why I enjoy racing"

-Senior Charlie Guan

"If you fumble or mess up in middle of the event, then just suck it up. I've fallen at meets couple of times when I first started hurdling but that didn't detract me [into] quitting my race," Guan said.

However, the key to smooth success in the field remained to be the time and energy athletes allotted to bringing about improvements. By budgeting their time to allow for steady practices, they more efficiently brought about their athletic progressions.

"The biggest thing [for prospective competitors] is putting the time and effort into practicing," third place winner Foss said. "I'm satisfied about how it got me third place, and as well as a new best for indoor track."

MARCH CALENDAR

AWAY HOME

MAR. 10

JV Boys 6:30 pm vs. Eastern HS

MAR. 12

JV Boys 10:00 am vs. Synder Baseball Academy

MAR. 11

Girls 4:00 pm vs. West Springfield HS @ Jefferson District Park

Boys 4:00 pm vs. West Springfield HS @ Wakefield Park

JV Girls 6:00 pm @ South Lakes HS

V Boys 6:00 pm vs. Trinity Christian

V Girls 7:30 pm @ South Lakes HS

MAR. 14

Boys 4:00 pm @ Lake Braddock Secondary School

V Boys 6:30 vs. West Potomac HS

MAR. 15

JV Boys 6:30 pm vs. Dominion HS

BASEBALL TENNIS LACROSSE

GRAPHIC//Alexa Nguony
DESIGN// Uzma Rentia

PHOTO || Bayliss Wagner

Senior Yasmine Iskander and junior Daniel King had been best friends for five years. One of their favorite moments happened in school. "We were dancing," Iskander said. "Yasmine was holding Daniel's hand and the music was playing and they were dancing," multiple disabilities teacher Mark Thompson said.

"You're my buddy, right, Daniel?" Iskander asked. King responded with the Tobii, an eye gaze device that he used to communicate. For the first time, King responded by indicating "best friend".

"He's never done that before, ever. It was also the first time he wasn't prompted to use it, and the comment was appropriate to what we were talking about," speech pathologist Debra Opalesky said.

"I was dumbfounded when that came out, it was too relevant for it to be a coincidence. To get to that screen, he had to do some serious navigation. There is information in that guy's head that he needs to get out. That was one of the magical moments of my 30 years of Special Education and we've only scratched the surface. It's sort of an epiphany for a moment like that," Thompson said. *photo by Sophia Keilholtz*

Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m.
principal's conference room

▶ it starts
with a

LAUGH



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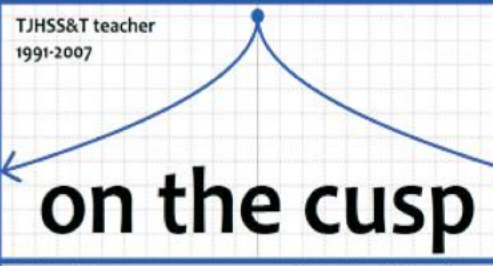
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Dr. Tripathi received a PhD from Stanford. He has been teaching since 1983.

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