NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

By Samantha Hanson, Grade 8

There have been countless figures in History that have stood up for something, some of the most memorable and prominent being Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, Jesse Owens, and Abraham Lincoln. However, there are countless more left to be discovered, and this is your chance to get involved.

Every year, National History Day is celebrated at the University of Maryland, College Park. Almost 3,000 students and their families attend the event. National History Day is a large competition for students in middle or high school from all over the world. For instance, students come from countries such as the United States, American Samoa, Guam, China, Korea, and many others. They each prepare a project - either paper, website, documentary, exhibit, or live performance - that follows the contest rules and fits the theme. “Standing Up in History” is the theme for the 2017 competition, which will take place from June 11-15, 2017. Students that participate in the competition have the opportunity to win awards such as the Civil War History Prize, Immigration and History Award, Legacy Prize, U.S. Constitution Award, and Women’s History Prize, as well as many others. However, to win these, participants have to survive the multiple rounds in which they go head-to-head with other students.

Students interested in entering the competition should join the Skyview NHD club or consult the National History Day website for more information. The competition is a fantastic opportunity to better understand historical events and their significance, as well as meet new friends and have fun.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

“The Diabolic” By S. J. Kincaid
By Chloe Koh, 8th Grade

“A Diabolic is ruthless.
A Diabolic is powerful.
A Diabolic has a single task: Kill in order to protect the person you’ve been created for.”

The diabolic by S.J. Kincaid is a very well written novel which captivates you from the first sentence. The book focuses on the concept of humanity, and what being a human means, and why someone is classified as a person.

Nemesis is a Diabolic, a humanoid teenager created to protect a galactic senator’s daughter, Sidonia. They have grown up side by side, but are not sisters. Nemesis is expected to give her life up for Sidonia, and would do so, gladly. She will take lives with no hesitation, as long as it keeps her safe.

When the power hungry emperor learns that Sidonia’s father is going against the law by participating in a religion, he summons Sidonia to court, as a hostage. There is only one way for Nemesis to protect her friend; she must become Sidonia. Nemesis travels to the court as Sidonia, now a killing machine masquerading in a world of corrupt politicians and two-faced senators’ children. It’s a gauntlet with threats on every side, but Nemesis must keep her true abilities a secret or risk everything, including Sidonia, the one person she must keep safe.

As the Empire begins to fracture and rebellion looms closer, Nemesis learns there is something more to her than just deadly force. She finds a humanity truer than what she encounters from most humans. Amidst all the danger, action, and intrigue, her humanity just might be the thing that saves her life, and the empire.

“I’ll Give You The Sun” by Jandy Nelson
Hanna Koh, Grade 8

This book will make your heart hurt. It's about a pair of twins, Noah and Jude. When they were 13, they were inseparable, calling themselves NoahandJude. Jude was a daredevil and cliff diver. She talks for both of them. Noah is quiet, antisocial, and falling in love. At age 16, something has happened to tear them apart in unimaginable ways. It also would seem as if they switched personalities. Now Jude is the quiet and antisocial one, while Noah is the one who wears the “flame retardant” as his 14 year old self called Jude’s personality.

It's told in alternating chapters, Noah telling the early years (13-14), and Jude narrates the later years (16 and onwards). They each tell half the story, and "if they can only find their way back to one another, they’ll have a chance to remake their world" (Official Synopsis). This book has won many awards, and it is obvious why. “I’ll Give You The Sun” will tear you into pieces and put you back together again. This book will change your perspective on family, the world, art, and most importantly, love. Everyone should read this heart wrenching book! I rate this 6/5 stars!

Sources: http://jandynelson.com/books/i'll-give-you-the-sun/
http://ourbookishblog.blogspot.com/
Raven and the Kingdoms by Sophia Arzamendia, Grade 8

It is spring time. The birds chirp every morning and we are starting to have longer days. Despite all the flowers blooming and the sunshine, something isn’t right. Lately something in the atmosphere is off. I can’t quite explain it, but it seemed as if trouble was brewing somewhere. I told my friend about it, and he looked at me as if I’d just said the most ridiculous thing in the world. Which I suppose is reasonable, because I didn’t have any evidence or reason to believe in this. “There’s nothing wrong, Raven.” He replied to my seemingly insane theory. So maybe I was losing my mind, but I knew that there was trouble and it was near. The entire week I couldn’t shake the feeling. I arrived home Friday afternoon. The little flowers around my house are starting to bloom, making them look like little spots of bright colors on a green canvas. I walked towards our mailbox humming a little tune, when our garden gnome springs to life right before my unbelieving eyes. I scream. He (or she?) was walking towards me with a casual posture and a bored looking face. The gnome has white hair that goes down to its shoulders and has on a green coat, with blue pants and a red hat. Its nose is round and red and its cheeks are rosy.

“Y-y-you’re alive!” I stutter.
“Well obviously.” He replies, still keeping his bored expression on his face.
“Stay away from me!” I pick up a rock from the ground. My heart was pounding against my rib cage.

“Calm down, I’m not here to hurt you. I’m here to tell you something.” I could tell he was trying to make his voice soothing but it wasn’t helping. “I’m Greg.” he says slowly. “And I need you to do something for the sake of your world and mine.”

“Your world?” I question. He comes from another world? Of course he does. What is it like? Is it in danger? Probably. Is this like one of those fantasy books where the main character is asked to save the world from an evil force? If so, he couldn’t be asking me. I can’t do anything right, so he should find someone else and fast.

“I’ll tell you all about it after you put that rock down.” He said, knowing he has grabbed my interest. My heart had slowed down a little and I was sure that if he wanted to hurt me, he could’ve already done so, so I put the rock down but kept it near me. Just in case.

Short Story by Olivia Costarella, Grade 8

Once upon a time there was a flower and she was caught in a storm. The wind blew hard. She swayed back and forth, she couldn't see anything in front of her, she couldn’t think, it seemed as if she didn’t exist. The lightning struck, the thunder rumbled, the clouds only got darker. Then, after what seemed lifetimes, she saw a light that shined so bright she had to squint. She reached towards it and grabbed it. The light surrounded her with happiness and joy, a feeling she had missed and cherished. But the storm came back again as it always would, like it always did, like it was supposed to. The storm was always just as hard as the one before, if not harder.

But you know what happened? The little flower bloomed, she was beautiful and everything she wanted to be, and more.

The flower didn’t realize then but she would in the future - that to have the sunshine be bright and joyful there has to be the dark and luminous storm that sometimes is so dark and overwhelming it seems as if the light will never come back again. That sometimes it’s easier to see the storm when it is light and bright than it is to see the light when it is dark and stormy. But the little flower knew she would bloom and so will you. We all will bloom.
Self Discovery
By Kirby Long, Grade 8

Who are you? Are you the popular kid who knows everyone? The quiet artsy one? Are you anyone? There are so many things to be, so many ways to define yourself that it can sometimes be hard to figure out who you are and where you stand. So what should you do if you can’t figure out an identity for yourself? The first step is to try things, anything you find yourself interested in, try it! Join a club you saw a poster for, try something new. Figure out what you enjoy. Sometimes it helps to make a list of everything you love. Once you've found things (music, activities, etc...) that you’re passionate about try finding ways to express that. Never stop doing what makes you happy. Another way to express who you are is with your appearance. Find a look that you love. If you want to dye your hair, dress up and just do what feels right to you.

There is no right way you have to be. You don't have to fit into a niche but you don't have to be revolutionary and 100% percent unique ether. Just be someone that makes you happy. We live in an age where it's easier than ever to create yourself and express the person you want to be. Hang out with and do things that makes you feel good. You should love the person you are. Never be ashamed for liking something. Your preferences and opinions make you an individual. You are not your parents, you are not your friends, you are an amazingly wonderful person, and no one else on this planet is exactly like you.

Never change for anyone. Under no circumstances, whether it be to fit in with the crowd or for one special person should you change or hide something you love about yourself. If they don't like or respect the person you are then they aren't worth hanging around, not because they are horrible but because if you feel like you have to change for someone you're probably just not that compatible with them. Stay true to yourself and do what makes you happy and you'll find yourself loving the person you've become.

D.I.Y. (DO IT YOURSELF!)

DIY: Art Tip
By Veda Singireddy, Grade 8

You need:
- 1 okra
- 1 knife
- Paint
- 1 piece of paper

Steps to follow:
1. Cut the okra using the knife. The size differs based on which size gives you a better grip.
2. Dip the sliced okra in paint.
3. Use the okra as a stamp to make flowers.
4. Enjoy!

Elementary vs. Junior High Valentine’s Day

By Anshu Kotha, Grade 8

The people I asked at school were all about the Valentine's Day during elementary school. I personally think that elementary school was way better, mostly because everyone was told that if you bring a valentine for your friends, then you should have one for everyone. Also, you got a party on Valentine’s Day, so you got to eat food, and to read valentines. You also got to watch a movie (my favorite movie was Gnomeo and Juliet). Valentines might seem really boring in middle/junior high, but the fun part is that you get to send candy grams to people. You can still give your friends valentines, too. It’s not as bad at it seems. Last year was pretty fun, since we got candy grams, and some teachers gave us candy too. People still gave each other valentines. You should make the best of Valentine’s day, it’s not as bad as it seems to be, but elementary Valentine’s day is better.

Source: https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/24/2d/13/242d13df04f0a831ad184de19ba3c75b.jpg
Reasons Why You Shouldn’t Attend Circuses
By Olivia Bustillos, Grade 8, and Zosia Helak, Grade 8

Circuses might be fun to watch but the sad truth is that their animals are abused on a daily basis. The animals are kept in cages anytime they aren’t performing or training. Most cubs, calves and other babies are separated at a very young age from their parents and “trained” very early on.

Every animal is treated differently. Big cats are whipped or beaten to fear the trainer. Elephants are beaten with bullhooks repeatedly, sometimes until they bleed, forcing them to do dangerous tasks like standing on their heads. Also, other tools used for punishing are ropes, electric prods, and food deprivation. When animals don’t get enough food they don’t have the energy to perform the tricks causing even more problems when trainers don’t understand that the animal is trying to tell them that it’s tired and repeatedly gets beaten and scraped until it gives in and does what it’s being asked. An eight month old elephant named Riccardo fell while being trained to get onto a pedestal and broke his hind legs. The damage to his legs could not be treated so veterinarians euthanized him.

To stay in business, circuses have to move around. Animals are transported in boxed cars for as long as 100 hours at a time. These often don’t have ventilation, enough food or water and proper veterinarian care. The animals can’t run, let alone turn around in their cages. Animals suffer from ‘capture myopathy,’ it is a stress syndrome that happens in wild and captured animals. It happens when animals are put under a lot of stress or are restrained. Also, stress during transporting causes physiological traits to be changed. Constant movement and change of environment is abnormal to wild animals making them stressed which makes the animals vulnerable to disease. Some of the animals choose to rebel against these ways. When an animal decides to rebel, they usually end up hurting themselves and often die. To some animals, this might be better than staying in the circus and being abused until the day they parish. These animals think that hurting a few people before getting shot is a better option than being abused in the hands of their trainers. Some animals that choose to rebel live, but they still face the hardships of their daily lives.

These animals will most likely never get to do the things that normal animals should be able to do like running, jumping, or socializing with their mates. Also most of these animals are born into captivity and those that aren’t will most likely never see their family again. You can help these animals by not going to any circuses that use animals, and telling others about this.

Sources:
rspca.org.uk
PETA: http://www.peta.org/features/10-reasons-attend-circus/
Animal Equality: http://www.animalequality.net/entertainment/circuses
Tyke’s Last Day* (Graphic): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4IH-EqoHws

*We pre-watched all videos. Be warned, most of them are not pleasant to watch but are also very truthful about what happens in circuses*
Computer Science by Sherin Chetippuzha Philip, Grade 8

Computer Science is the study of data and computational procedures. In other words, CS is about solving problems better and faster. Coding is where you give the computer a series of instructions that tell it what to do and how. If you know how to code, then you can construct the next cutting edge craze in fashion, make the next knockout movie, rescue people, make the most downloaded app, or build the most creative and liked website. CS stays unimportant in K-12 education, yet in the next decade, it will become the highest paying job because of the need for more technology and its modernization throughout the United States economy. In the near future, most CS jobs will pay $15K more than most average ones. Right now there are 800,000 available CS jobs worldwide, yet only 42,969 CS students graduated last year in our country. Students can only sign up for CS courses for high school graduation in 33 states. Washington does not have a K-12 CS syllabus and does not feel the necessity to give CS classes to all high schools throughout the state, although Washington does have 23,625 accessible computing jobs which are 3.1 times the general state requirement. In the United States about 80% of girls who are in junior high and middle school express an interest in STEM which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, but when it's time for high school only 1% take CS courses and only 0.3% of girls plan to major in it in college.


New Year’s Resolutions by Olivia Costarella, Grade 8

Many of us students make New Year's resolutions on how to improve ourselves, but we don’t always stick to these resolutions, or we decide they are too hard to stick to but there are easy ways to make resolutions or goals and stick to them, and make progress. One of the most common New Year's resolutions is to lose weight or eat healthier. This seems to be one of the hardest ones to stick to, but eating healthier isn’t that hard. Stick to meals and food that are better for you and most importantly, you like, because that is one of the reasons people give up on this resolution. Make sure it is food that you can go out and purchase easily or something you already have, because it is difficult to go to the store every time you have to eat something. An easy way to stick to exercising is to create a schedule of when and where you will be exercising. Exercising can tend to get boring and unenjoyable so invite a friend to do it with you, or do things you like such as dancing or yoga or a sport you like or have always wanted to try.

Another resolution especially for students is getting and staying organized. When first deciding this resolution, make a plan of how and what you are going to do to stay organized such as file folders, special places for papers and assignments, and one of the most helpful things for me - labels! All of these things will be helpful for keeping schoolwork organized and will even help to keep your room organized. Other ways to keep your room organized is to make a schedule of when you are going to clean your room or better yet, so you don’t dread cleaning, split different parts of your room to straighten up on different days.

Lastly, many people want to begin different hobbies or try new things. A major reason people cancel on this resolution is because of so many things to do are too far from here and without a car you can’t get to them. Well there are plenty of things to do right here in Bothell. A very great, exciting thing that you will benefit from is to pick up a sport that you have always wanted to try or that intrigues you. Another great thing to try is different little past-times like art, scrapbooking, writing stories, and cooking. To me, this is one of my favorite resolutions because you get to do more things and try new experiences.
SURVEYS

Teacher Survey

Batman VS. Superman

By: Nitya and Isabelle, 7th Grade

For this edition of The Talon, we decided to ask the question that has been around forever: “Do you pick Batman or Superman?”

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<td>Ms. Reagan (7th)</td>
<td>Librarian - Ms. Haver</td>
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<td>Ms. Hicks (7th)</td>
<td>Mr. Wilkowski (8th and 9th)</td>
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<td>Ms. Johnson (7th)</td>
<td>Mr. Pumpitis (Woodshop)</td>
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<td>Ms. Yates (7th)</td>
<td>Ms. Borst (7th, 8th, and 9th)</td>
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<td>Ms. Damson (8th)</td>
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<td>Ms. Kipper (7th)</td>
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<td>Ms. Farr (9th)</td>
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<td>Mr. Moen (Ceramics/Art/Drama)</td>
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<td>(As a best friend) Mr. Redford (7th)</td>
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SPORTS

Skyview Sports Review by: Sthiti and Leanne

Skyviews sports grew in athletic value over the beginning sports season. But with growing success there were also some minor setbacks as well. Hopefully, we will win many championships.

The singles players on the boys Skyview tennis team were undefeated throughout the season. The last time Skyview won the boys tennis championship was 14 years ago in 2002. After that, the men with rackets team hasn’t won a single championship. This year, new hope has risen. This year’s tennis singles players have been undefeated throughout the beginning of the season, which gives us hope. The tennis team also had many “knockouts” this season. (Knockouts: every person on the team won their designated game.) In fact, this year, the men with rackets won the district championship for the first time in 14 years. Congratulations!

Another sports team is the girls soccer team. The girls soccer team won the championship in 2001. That was 15 years ago! The girls worked hard all season! Maybe we can earn another championship in the future as these girls continue to work together.

Skyviews girls varsity volleyball team and Skyviews girl junior varsity team also had a great season. They only lost a few games, but did a tremendous job despite their losses. The last time Skyview won the volleyball championship was in 2011, which was 5 years ago.

Images by: Google Images