



THE COURIER



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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

LOCAL NEWS

A Look into High School

By Isabella Arco & Sophia Levy

Hey 8th graders! Wondering what next year will look like in terms of school? Everyone has mixed feelings about high school. To ease all of our wavering emotions, I interviewed a few freshmen to tell us about their first experiences in high school.

Is it hard to adapt to high school classes and everything in general?

Cassidy: "It wasn't very hard for me overall, but it is way more difficult online."

Graziella: "It is not very difficult for me. The teachers are amazing at keeping you up to date with all your work and just keeping you going. I expected it to be a lot harder, but it turned out to be much easier than I had anticipated...the amount of work is the same, but it is more difficult than middle school.

Overall, as stressful as this year has been, the teachers are dedicated to helping students grow and learn in many ways, while being understanding of the circumstances. So, it seems like we shouldn't be worried at all, and like they said, it may feel a little different at first, but we will get used to it.

What are some tips to stay on top of work and manage time well?

Graziella and Cassidy both recommend making a schedule for yourself to follow! Graziella also suggested making lists helps. Setting time for school work and other activities helps with procrastination.

They also recommend taking advantage of study halls, if you get them. Cassidy also recommends trying to do all your homework on Friday, so you aren't rushing on Sunday to finish it. Another freshman also noticed that it's beneficial to write down your homework in a planner, pay attention in class, be organized, and stay on top of all your work. If you don't like having a physical planner then use an online one, that's what Laura likes to do. If you want an app that makes panning easy online, she suggests that you should use the "My Homework" app.

How important is it to make time to relax?

Many of these answers did not vary much. One person stated that taking breaks and allowing yourself to enjoy something that makes you feel calm and happy, makes it easier



to get work done! She likes to read, go on walks, play chess, watch TV or movies, and play volleyball!

Someone else also explained that it is useful to take time to relax! You are going to be overwhelmed and stressed if you don't take breaks in between homework. She likes to go on her phone and move around. Take your eyes off the screen by reading something you enjoy. Other people like to listen to music, chill out, catch up or hang out with friends and spend time with family. It is important to schedule your time wisely, but it's just as important to have fun and enjoy your high school experience.

Should we be worried about finding our classes?

Everyone said that it is difficult at first, but once you get used to everything, it gets much easier. One person said that knowing your surroundings and buildings will help a lot!

What buildings you may ask? Well, you have A-E building, which are just fancy terms for different buildings. The buildings are mostly separated by subject. For example, some LOTE classes can be found in building A. Cassidy explained, "once you know these buildings, it is not too difficult to find your classrooms."

Remember: the teachers don't expect you to know the building on the first day! If you don't know where you are going, ask a teacher and if you are too scared to, ask a friend! There are going to be so many freshmen in the same position as you so don't be scared!

Are there any activates that will benefit you in the long run that you can get involved in?"

Laura said that the Science Research program and Independent Studies are helpful for college applications. Two people stated that doing sports is a great way to get to know people in a faster way and creates better connections. It also looks great on college applications!

If you are not a sports person like me, don't worry about it, you can join other creative clubs. This is a great way to make new friends and you could even find a career path you are interested in. One student said that you should take electives and do extracurricular activities that you enjoy. Graziella also says that careers are mentioned a lot so take electives that you like just like one person earlier said, try something you have never tried before! Maybe I will try a sport, who knows!

Any last pieces of advice?

Graziella: "Communication is important. Get to know teachers and upper classmates. Also, stay in touch with your teachers to understand their policies with accepting late work, grades, and extensions on assignments. If they make a mistake in Infinite Campus, do not be afraid to email or Schoology message any of your teachers! Finally, be active in class, but don't constantly raise your hand! You should participate in class, but give other people a chance to speak if they want to!

High School is a new chapter in our lives, and when doors open, you should take the opportunity presented to you. I want to thank all our interviewees, Cassidy, Laura, Graziella, and many more people! Lastly, I want to say that you are going to do great in high school and that you can do anything! Everything is possible if you just try!

Teachers: What led them to the classroom?

By Isabella Arco & Sophia Levy

Out of all the words in the world, there is one word that can make people feel a mix of emotions: the future. In this article, we have interviewed teachers and students to show the different career options to those who might be uncertain.

The magic of the future is not knowing what might happen or occur! It is important to learn about all different situations and possibilities. Who knows, you may discover a new passion!

Every individual has their idea of what they want their life to be and what they want to learn on that journey. Some people may have an idea of what they want to do, when others might not. All careers and futuristic possibilities might not be known now, but when you open yourself to new things, you never know where the new beginning will start. We hope that from this article, you learn that wherever you are right now, futures can be planned or be a spur of the moment decision, and both will turn out amazingly.

On our way to discover more information, we interviewed teachers to get their perspective from looking back on their past choices that led up to where they are now.

Question: Did you want to be a teacher when you were younger?

A variety of answers were stated, as some were clueless, and others had a strong idea of what they

wanted. For example, Mr. Scullion said that he was a lawyer and did not even think of being a teacher until a friend decided for him.

On the other hand, Mr. Mulcahy knew at the age of fifteen that, from the enjoyability of his history classes and entertaining teachers, he wanted to be a history teacher.

Out of everyone we interviewed, none of the answers for their life leading up to being a teacher have been the same. Isn't it amazing how two ELA teachers, Mr. Baldasaro and Mr. Scullion were both lawyers, but encountered different situations guiding them towards being a teacher? Inspiration can come from experiences all around you, just like for Ms. Hart, her mother was a teacher, and she has looked up to her ever since. As well as Ms. Davila, who had a strong passion for music and knew that she always wanted to do something with music. Being a teacher was a possibility not discovered. Along with being a teacher, she stuck with her passion in another way, being an opera singer in NYC.

Life takes turns, unexpected things happen, things that were never planned could be the spark of the greatest new future. A great example of this is Mr. Sullivan's life moments and interactions that have brought him to where he is now. Right out of college, September 11th had just happened, and the economy tanked. As a result, it left him questioning the original idea of journalism, which he had studied, but wanted a job quickly and was not able to. He went back down memory lane to his old high school and helped his soccer coach. This led him to coach the travel soccer team, which blossomed his love of not only coaching, but teaching as well. After that, he knew he wanted to turn that into a career and went back to college and by the age 23 was hired at White Plains Middle School.

Mr. Scullion had more spur-of-the-moment opportunities leading him to be a teacher. Mr. Scullion was working at a law firm that started losing cases and eventually needed

to let people go. After, he was left in a difficult spot which led him to return to work at the gas station he worked at when he was younger. He was unaware of what was going to happen in his life. An old friend saw all his best qualities and knew that he would make a great teacher. She set him on the path he needed and pushed him to achieve it to the best of his ability. If this did not happen, right now the lover of Shakespeare himself would be a police officer and a part of him would not have realized all that he missed out on.

For every individual, multiple choices have been made: good or bad. For teachers, many great decisions have led them to where they are now.

That brings us to our next question, what was the best decision you ever made?

Mr. Baldasaro's best career decision was simply leaving a profession that he was not happy in. This can be hard for people because some might think that once you pick a job, you are stuck with it, which is not the case. Just like he did, you can leave options open because whatever you end up doing should make you feel hopeful for all the amazing things you can encounter while working.

Ms. Conrad believes that her best decision was staying in White Plains to teach in the schools that she has gone to when younger. She keeps in touch with people from her livelihood memories and this helped her to once do what she does now.

As for Ms. Hart, her best career decision was allowing herself to change and not feel restricted to only pursue something that she thought was made for her. It is important to see everything that changes as a journey and not defeat.

Everyone has a belief that teachers have gone into their adolescent years knowing exactly what is going to happen and when, but things take time. Not something that can last a lifetime can be created in a couple of years. As people develop, so do their thoughts about certain things. Mr. Babicz expressed that finding stability is key. Life will open certain doorways and people will enter through to guide and help you through anything life might throw at you. Find what you love and follow your heart whenever doing something that may scare you. Ms. Irlen believes that as you progress in life, interest will come and go, but it gives you time to figure out what is out there and all your wonderful life-changing opportunities.

All teachers have similar beliefs just like Ms. Simmons. She reveals that it is more than okay to not know right now. Trust and believe that life will take you where you should be.

Next question: what made you chose your specific subject?

For our second to last question, we have some amazing stories that we wanted to share that are super inspirational. Our first story is about Ms. Powers and how she embraced her French culture. Ms. Powers' mom was born in France, so she grew up speaking the language. Every single year, she went to France for several weeks to visit and enjoy time with her side of the family. "Getting to teach my first language to my students, and the French culture that I hold dear to my heart is a privilege for me."

Ms. Davila always knew that if she were ever become a teacher, she would be a music teacher. As a senior in high school, she noticed that her voice was more suited for classical music rather than Broadway music. As you know, she is part of an opera company which she fell in love with by listening and exploring the culture. Everything that is encountered during life, will ultimately make an impact on your career or future in general. Your path never ends, it keeps going as you keep learning, growing, and making your way through twists and turns that can change your life in impossible ways.

Thank you for all the amazing, thought-out responses that our teachers supplied us with. We appreciate all the teacher's time to be interviewed for this article.

Students: What does the future hold for us?

By Isabella Arco & Sophia Levy

In our first segment of this section, we asked our teachers how they made their choices to lead a classroom. With high school looming in our futures, we can't help but feel excited and anxious about what lies ahead! Yet, high school truly makes us start to think about what the rest of our lives look like, and that is a scary thought.

All students are at different points in their lives, where some know what they want their future to be while, others might be unsure. When we asked some students what they want to do in the future, we really got some mixed reactions. Some panicked, not having a clue, while others were excited to tell us their plans! Read on to get some perspective, and hopefully, feel secure in wherever you are at in the process.

Question: What do you want to do in your future?

Answers varied as some students knew, while others did not. Some people wanted to be in the medical field like April, Sandra and, Saira. April wants to be a nurse for OBGYN, Sandra wants to be a nurse possibly in radiology and Saira wants to be a doctor, but is not sure of which kind. On the other hand, various people want to be in the education field. Maeve wants to be an elementary school teacher and Ella wants to be a special needs teacher. Business is also a popular choice, as a classmate wants to be a Criminal Investigation lawyer.

The great thing about interviewing different individuals is that some do not know what they want to do, but that just makes their journey better. As far as college goes, many people might be curious about majors that they want to take if they want to have a certain career. In the medical field, some of the majors that were mentioned were nursing science or biology. Education-wise, the popular majors were therapy and psychology majors. For business/ law the majors were criminal justice major and political science major.

Many people may have a certain idea that everything must go according to plan, but the reality is that life will take you where you need to be. In the previous article, teachers have said that it is more than acceptable to not know where your life will take you and we asked some students their preferences.

Question: Do you have a plan, and do you think we need to have one?

Some students do not know exactly what they want to be but have a general idea that they want their life to be somewhat planned out. April's answer was to take it day by day because you never know what happens. Saira believes that taking it day by day is best. She wants to live in the present and not worry about the future just yet.

The great thing about this question is that some people might use this time of not worrying to fully embrace the amazing things they were meant to do. Also, some people may prefer the idea of knowing a little more and being ready to

take on their future. For example, Emma said, "I would like to have my life planned out, but not only rely on the plan because sometimes things happen that you cannot control."

The beauty of being human is that some may be in the middle or want a little bit of both. Some people want their future to be planned out but there are certain things that they may want to take day by day. There is no rush in planning your future but if you have an idea embrace it but also let life take you down a long path filled with experiences that guide you.

Question: Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

This was the next question we asked, and the answers were similar with a little twist. The majority said that they hope to have graduated college and have a good job. Sandra, for example, wants to work at WP Hospital in her future, while another wants to be working/pursuing a great career. It is kind of difficult to tell exactly where you will be as a life journey is not meant to be known but is supposed to be an adventure.

Question: Do you have any idea of what college you might want to go to?

All our interviewers have listed college possibilities that match up to what they might want to do. For example, Sandra wants to go to NYU or Pace, and it would work in her favor because NYU is the #3 Nursing School in the country. One student wants to go to West Point Academy which can put her on a great path to achieve her goal. April wants to attend either University of Minnesota Duluth or Manhattan College. Saira wants to go to Columbia University, NYU, or Yale University. Ella is thinking about Penn State or NYU. Some people do not know exactly where they want to go but have a little bit of an idea that can narrow down options in the future. Emma does not know exactly but she wants to go to a good school or possibly an Ivy League university. Maeve does not know where she wants to go but some people know that they want to stay local. All these options can help decide your life path.

Thank you to all our interviewees that helped us create this article: Emma, Maeve, Sandra, April, Saira, Ella, and so many more!

Your Summer Reading List: Summer 2021

By: Francis Fokoue, Eliana Lieber, Olivia Tuzel

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang

Reviewed by Eliana

Ranking: 4.7/5 Stars



This book takes place in the early 1800s and follows Prince Sebastian and their newly appointed dressmaker, Frances. Sebastian has a secret. By day, they are Prince Sebastian, the prince getting ready

for his eventual betrothal, but by night, they put on dresses and take Paris by storm as Lady Crystallia, the latest fashion icon. Frances, their best friend, and confidante is one of two people who know the truth, but how long can she defer her dreams to protect her best friend?

I absolutely loved this book! It is one of my favorites of all time. It is a graphic novel, and has many intricate illustrations, and the dialogue is amazing. I gave this book 4.7 stars. Pretty much my only complaint is that there isn't a sequel. There is one copy available at Highlands library, one copy at White Plains Library, and 3 copies on Sora.

Truly Devious

Reviewed by Olivia

Ranking: 5/5 Stars

Ellingham Academy: The notorious school known for one of the most groundbreaking incidents of all time. During the spring of 1936, a mysterious threat is sent directly to Albert Ellingham, (billionaire and founder of Ellingham Academy) signed off with "Truly, Devious." A couple days later, Albert's wife and daughter disappear, along with the murder of a student. 80 years later, the cold case still remains unsolved, but Stevie Bell is determined to solve it. It's her first year at the academy, and she is beyond excited to be given the opportunity to stay at the luxurious school. Although she plans on dedicating her time to the case, a new problem sprouts. Truly Devious has made a startling return, and yet again,

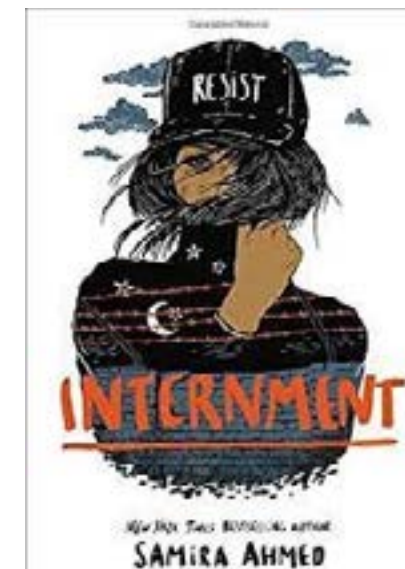
murder occurs.

I cannot describe how intense this book was. I was practically on my toes every time I turned the page. The urge to spoil everything was very strong. Luckily, I was able to stick through it. I think that everyone can enjoy this book, especially if you're into thrillers/mystery. *Truly Devious is the first book in a trilogy* There are 11 copies at White Plains Library and 21 on Sora.

Internment by Samira Ahmed

Reviewed by Francis

Ranking: 4.4/5 Stars



Layla Amin is only seventeen, yet every morning she wakes up in fear, wondering if her family will be next. A newly elected president leads an Islamophobic order and has declared that Muslims are now a threat to America. Things take a turn for worse when books written by Muslims start to be burned by

the public and curfews are being issued. A more dismal development occurs when Layla's family is sent off to Camp Mobius where they are grouped up and have tags and IDs tattooed on them. There she meets Ayesha, who will become her best friend and Jake, a guard who wants to help. With the help of her friends and her boyfriend, David, who is on the outside, there may be a chance of a new life outside the fences.

This book was incredibly captivating and impossible to put down. I truly recommend. There is 1 copy at White Plains Library, and 8 on Sora.

Continued on the next page!

Slay by Brittney Morris

Reviewed by Eliana

Ranking: 4.4/5 Stars

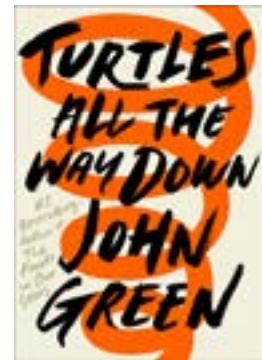
Kiera Johnson, a seventeen-year-old honors student from Bellevue, Washington has a secret. One that nobody else knows. She SLAYs. Not just that, she is Emerald, the game developer. SLAY is a multi-player, online role-playing game for people of color. It is a place where they can be themselves, without having to face racism. People from all over the world SLAY, people of all ages. It's amazing! But when everything goes wrong and a teen in Kansas City is killed over a dispute in the game, Kiera's world starts to crumble. How far will she have to go to protect her safe space?

This is an amazing book! It is written beautifully, and I could not put it down! I gave it a 4.4 because I do wish the chapters were shorter, but all in all, it was amazing. I really recommend this book! There is one copy at the Highlands library, one at the White Plains Library, and 3 copies on Sora.

Turtles All the Way Down

Reviewed by Olivia

Ranking: 4.8/5 Stars



The second I started to read Turtles All the Way Down, I could not put it down. Aza, a young woman who struggles to fight against her own thoughts just wants to live a "normal life." Her best friend, Daisy (A Star Wars fan fiction writer), has been by her side from the beginning. When infamous billionaire Russell Pickett disappears, the two friends set out on a mission to retrieve clues related to his disappearance. As they attempt to do so,

they run into David, Mr. Pickett's son (and Aza's not-too-close friend). From there on, many events spiral out.

This coming-of-age story is both heartwarming and heartbreaking. Although the word amazing can be overused many times, it is the perfect word to describe this book. At the same time, I'm not surprised that this book has such a powerful message. The author was literally John Green, and we all know that his books are next to perfect. This book has a permanent spot in my "favorites" section, and that's saying something. There are 2 copies at White Plains Library and 37 on Sora. *This book has mature content. Please check in with your parent/guardian before reading!

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Reviewed by Eliana

Ranking: 4.3/5 Stars

This book follows Matthew Corbin, a boy struggling with undiagnosed OCD. He knows that he should reach out for help, but he just wants to be left alone. Every day, he watches from his bedroom window, watching life go on. He hasn't been to school in weeks for fear of germs, and just wants to be left alone to observe. Then, one day, a young child who lives next door goes missing, and Matthew is the last one to see him! Police and news reporters swarm the area, and it is increasingly difficult to avoid people, especially because everybody is curious as to what he saw from his window. With help from his friend, Melody, he uses what he knows to help find the toddler, but will he be able to go through with it if it means exposing his secrets?

I really enjoyed this book. It's a mystery, but still believable and realistic fiction. There are many different characters to analyze, and the concepts covered are so interesting! I gave it 4.1 stars because though it isn't my favorite book, it was still very good! I really recommend it! There is one copy available at the Highlands library and one on Sora.

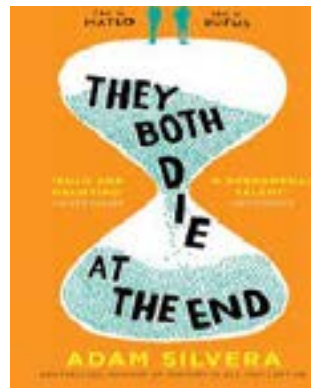
They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

Reviewed by Olivia

Ranking: 4/5 Stars

On the early morning of September 5th, Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio both receive a call that everyone hopes to avoid: a call from Death-Cast, telling them that they will die in less than 24 hours.

"Beating" the death system is not even possible, so you might as well live out the rest of your life. Thankfully, an app called Last Friend can help you do so. This app can help people that are alone on their End Day, giving them the freedom to create a new (and last) friend. Although Mateo and Rufus are strangers to each other, they are both in need of any sort of friend for completely different reasons. Luckily, they befriend each other through Last Friend. Even if they both know that they will have to die at the end of the day, it's worth spending your last hours creating an adventure of a lifetime.



Frankly, reading this book made me realize many things. More specifically, to live every day of your life to the fullest. Sure, we hear many adults talk about how important it is to acknowledge that, but I was only able to fully understand it after reading this book. "They Both Die at the End" is such a poignant, yet heart touching story. There are 2 copies at White Plains Library and 10 on Sora. *This book is for more mature audiences. Please check in with your parent/guardian before reading this book.

Honorable Mentions

Here are some books that we didn't get to review but recommend nonetheless!

-100 Days of Sunlight by Abbie Emmons (5/5)

-Scythe by Neal Shusterman (5/5)

-The Thief of Always by Clive Barker (5/5)

- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (4.9/5)

- Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy by Rex Ogle (4.7/5)

- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (4.8/5)

-The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by Bryan Mealer and William Kamkwamba (4.999/5)

Editorial: Why Cancel Culture is Terrible

By: Justin Lopez

When you post things on social media, you always wonder if you are going to post something offensive. We'd think that it is normal, because it is. People make mistakes. When someone makes a mistake, they have consequences. Cancel culture exaggerates those consequences and it makes people outcasts, and that system doesn't work. Cancel culture is a culture based off boycotting people who made mistakes that could be deemed offensive. This isn't the way to go. If you want someone to stop making mistakes, you talk to them and teach them, not outcast them.

It's the difference between a forced smile and a natural smile. That is why so many people continue with their hate. They don't learn anything from being ignored. To really stop hate, you must talk to people. Less arguments and resentment take place in person versus online, and we need to fix that.

What are students' thoughts on cancel culture?

Student 1: "I think cancel culture to be a good way of monitoring what people do that could be offensive, and it helps a lot."

Student 2: "Cancel culture has no place for our world. Cancel culture is toxic, and there is nothing to be offered."

Student 3: "The culture in cancel culture hurts a lot of people. For a teen to be boycotted and outcasted seems a bit too extreme."

Student 4: "To be honest, I don't know. I haven't looked into it a lot, but seeing from what I know so far, it seems hurtful."

Most students have a clear understanding, and they are divided, like usual. Cancel culture focuses on hurting people, not educating them to help them grow. Looking back to a 1956 edition of the Courier, an article written stated that the principal of Highlands Middle School cancelled a school event because the students had misbehaved. If that were to happen today, a lot of people would complain, and the principal would have to host the event. The assembly was canceled due to discourtesy started by William Wallace, and going on, the principal indefinitely suspended any meetings and replaced them with a detention-type activity. The thing is, people wouldn't handle this, and the principal could get fired due to outrage by the masses. Instead of canceling, he could have taught the students how to be courteous and respectful to each other, but he lashed out and did next to nothing to help the students learn. Although this was 1956, things like this happen all the time and it is best if we study the past to help us do better in the future.

PRIDE MONTH

Pride Month: What is it, and why do we celebrate?

By: Taylor Cutrone

A lot of people ask, "why celebrate?" It seems everything is goodie-goodie now that the nation has progressed, but it's still true that we have a lot of work to do to make America truly equal for all.

As we go back through the decades, as early as the 1950's, that's where the modern

LGBTQ+ movement was born. Even today, we're still fighting for equal rights and protection in the community, but it's been a lifelong struggle for some. Through years and years of oppression and hate, and even the AIDS epidemic, the LGBTQ+ community has risen to the challenge and pushed through. (If you are interested in LGBTQ+ history read 'The Book of Pride' by Mason Funk.) We celebrate this month to honor those who have made notable achievements for LGBTQ+ rights, all that the community has lost and gained, and to celebrate the diversity of our society.

As our society grows and changes, I recommend you also look back on this history of how incredible and complex our world is. To show support for our LGBTQ+ peers, wear rainbow or any other LGBTQ+ flag on June 1st!



PRIDE MONTH PLAYLIST

LGBTQA+ artists and other songs

- Girls - Girl in Red
- We Fell in Love in October - Girl in Red
- I Wanna Be Your Girlfriend- Girl in Red
- Michelle - Sir Chloe
- I Kissed A Girl - Katy Perry
- California Gurls - Katy Perry
- Oops!... I Did It Again - Britney Spears
- Toxic - Britney Spears
- Heather - Conan Gray
- Crush Culture - Conan Gray
- Born This Way - Lady Gaga
- Rain On Me - Lady Gaga
- Wrecking Ball - Mother Mother
- Hayloft - Mother Mother
- Verbatim - Mother Mother
- for him. - Troye Sivan
- There for you - Troye Sivan
- Take Me to Church - Hozier
- Everybody Talks - Neon Trees
- Sweater Weather - The Neighbourhood
- Girls/Girls/Boys - Panic! At The Disco
- You Need To Calm Down - Taylor Swift
- This Is Home - cavetown
- The Village - Hozier
- Montero (Call Me By Your Name) - Lil Nas X

Lesbian Women/NBs who are only attracted to female presenting people, (NBs, Trans, Gender non conforming)	Gay Men/NBs who are only attracted to male presenting people, (NBs, Trans, Gender non conforming)	Bi Someone who is attracted to multiple genders, these people may or may not have a preference	Pan Someone who is attracted to all genders, these people might have a preference	Ace Someone who experiences little or no sexual attraction
Aro Someone experiences has little to no romantic attraction	Queer Someone who does not identify as heterosexual	Polygamous Someone who wants to be in a relationship with more than one person with the informed consent of all partners involved.	Demisexual people only feel sexually attracted to someone when they have an emotional bond with the person.	Demiromantic People who only develops romantic feelings for another person when they have a strong emotional connection to them
Polysexual Someone who is attracted to most, but not necessarily all genders	Skolio Someone who is attracted to people who are transgender or non-binary	Intersex Someone born with anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of "female" or "male."	Trans Someone whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex.	Non-Binary Someone who identifies as neither male nor female
Gender fluid Someone who does not identify themselves as having a fixed gender.	Gender Queer Someone who identifies with neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.	Demi girl someone who partially, but not wholly, identifies as a woman	Demi boy someone who partially, but not wholly, identifies as a man	Agender who does not identify themselves as having a particular gender.
Gender flux Someone whose gender fluctuates in intensity	Bigender Someone whose sense of personal identity encompasses two genders	Pangender Someone who identifies as all genders	Trigender whose sense of personal identity encompasses three genders.	LGBTQ+ The all inclusive flags for everyone in the LGBTQ+



PRIDE MONTH

Who I Love

(A Story Written by Zaira Sanchez)

I was going to be queen.

Finally, after all these years, I will rule the kingdom just like my parents did. However, this isn't how I expected to feel. Shouldn't I be happy? This is what I dreamed of since I was a little girl, the concept of love too complex for me to understand. In three days, I will marry the son of another king, and I will be forced to say I do to his empty vows. Why don't I love him?

This wasn't how the story was supposed to go, she shouldn't be making me feel this way. I quietly sobbed into my pillow, the guilt growing more and more. A knock on the door made me jump.

"Who is it?" My voice sounded hoarse, probably due to my crying.

"It's me, Melody. Can I come in, Hannah? Please? It's important."

Melody. The last person I wanted to see. I hated the way my cheeks flushed at the way she said my name. Melody was the sister of the man I had to marry. I crept out of bed and walked towards the door, my heart thumping in my chest. I slowly turned the doorknob and peered through the small opening, and there she stood.

Even in her nightgown, she was gorgeous. Her sun-kissed skin seemed to glow in the moonlight. Her chocolate hair was short and curled, neatly framing her face. She was beautiful all around, but her eyes stood out the most to me. Her blue eyes rivaling the brightest sky. I looked down in shame, I wasn't supposed to feel this.

"Come in, Melody." She quietly walked in and sat down on my bed.

"Come sit next to me, I need to speak with you." I felt all the color in my face drain away, had she figured out my feelings for her? How will she react? Will she be disgusted with me? I sat next to her, mentally preparing myself for what's to come.

Despite this, nothing could have prepared me for what she said.

"Hannah, I've been thinking about this ever since I first met you. I'm so sorry but, I can't let you marry my brother.

My eyes widened in shock, "Why not Melody?"

She got up and cupped my face, "Because, Hannah, I love you." My heart threatened to jump out of my chest. "Wait, what? You love...me? Are you sure?" I laughed, assuming she was joking, but she looked dead into my eyes. My face turned red.

"Melody, if I'm being honest, I-I love you too." She flashed me a small smile. As if an automatic response, our lips connected, as if the world stopped just for us. Her lips tasted like strawberries; an addictive taste I could live in forever. Just as it started, we separated and allowed ourselves to get lost in each other's eyes.

"Run away with me," Melody spoke softly, as if to not scare me away.

"I would be happy too," I tucked her hair away from her face and smiled. "You will be my girl."

Modern Queer Artists

By: Elena Bediako

1. **Girl in Red** : Marie Ulven Ringheim was born in Norway on February 16 1999. She grew up without instruments in her household, but she taught herself piano and guitar. She started her career on SoundCloud and quickly grew. She identifies as gay.

2. **Dodie**: Dorothy Miranda Clark was born in England. She grew up with her parents and two siblings. She posted her first songs and covers on YouTube. She has written books, as well. She is bisexual.

3. **Cavetown**: Robin Daniel Skinner was born in Oxford on December 15, 1998. His father is the one who inspired his love for music. He published covers of Pinegrove, Twenty One Pilots, and Joji. He is transgender and uses he/they pronouns. He is also on the asexual and aromantic spectrum.

4. **Hayley Kiyoko**: Hayley Kiyoko Alcroft was born on April 3rd, 1991. She is a singer, songwriter, and dancer. She appeared in many films like the Scooby Doo! Movies and Lemonade Mouth. She started playing drums at age six and was selling them at age eleven. She is a lesbian.

5. **Panic! At The Disco**: Brendon Boyd Urie originally was in a pop rock band, but transitioned into his solo project called Panic! At the Disco. He was born on April 12, 1987. In 2018, he launched a non-profit organization for human rights. He is pansexual.

6. **Halsey**: Ashley Nicolette Frangipane was born on September 29, 1994 in New Jersey. She grew up with her parents and two younger brothers. Her family moved



frequently, since her parents worked lots of jobs. She started writing music when she was 17, and in 2012, she began posting videos to YouTube and Kik. She is bisexual.

7. **Sam Smith**: Samuel Frederick Smith was born May 19, 1992 in London, England. They are a singer/songwriter who has produced many songs. They are non-binary and gay.

8. **Lil Nas X**: Montero Lamar Hill was born on April 9, 1999. His song "Old Town Road" was the longest-running number one song on the US Billboard Hot 100 Chart ever. When he was six his parents divorced and after three years, he went to live with his father. He became an Internet personality to promote his work. He is gay.

9. **Melanie Martinez**: Melanie Adele Martinez was born April 28, 1995. She is a singer, songwriter, actress, director, photographer, screenwriter, and visual artist. She appeared on The Voice then released her debut single "Dollhouse." She wanted to become a singer at a young age. At age fourteen, she taught herself to play guitar. She is bisexual.

10. **Sia**: Sia Kate Isobelle Furler was born December 18, 1975. Sia started a career as a singer in the local acid jazz band Crisp. Sia decided to move to London to follow her relationship with boyfriend Dan Pontifex, but he died a few weeks later. She struggled with it, but endured. She is queer.

For the last editon of The Courier this year, we were lucky to receive some work from our Highlands Community. Enjoy these articles from some of our amazing students!

TIGER TALK

THE KIDNAPPING OF SARAH EVERARD

By: Allyson Aguilar

On March 3rd a girl name Sarah Everard was walking home from a friends house after having a sleepover, Sarah’s mom got suspicious because Sarah didn't come back home, so Sarah's mother called the police and they put out a missing persons report. They also put pictures of Sarah up on their neighborhood and in other neighborhoods to see if one of the neighbors or if anyone had seen Sarah. Nobody had seen or heard from Sarah, the last video taping that they got of Sarah was her going into a supermarket. The 33-year-old woman Sarah Everard was found eight days later on March 10 they found a body, and later it was declared that it was Sarah Everard.

When they got the autopsy report back about Sarah, she had been sexually abused and raped . Sarah was found in Kent Woodlands after being gone for 8 days. Her killer was a 48-year-old London Police Officer by the name of Wayne Couzens, he kidnapped her when she was walking home from her friends house and he did those awful things to her. When they went to court he was charged for kidnap, murder and had been fired from his department. They still don’t know what the cause of death was but they, also confirmed that Wayne only made the confirmation of his name, those were the only things he said while in court, and he had nothing else to say after that. Wayne has more trials to go that was his first court appearance. The family described Sarah as a joyous person, a person who put others before her, incredibly kind, a thoughtful person and a person who loved bright colors. They still haven't announced how long Wayne is going to jail for. The chief who was on this case made a statement about Sarah and how him and the department are truly sorry for what happened to Sarah.

People and communities were frustrated when they found out the news and everybody wants justice for Sarah. People all around the world are sharing how they feel about the recent case, some a disgusted because women cant even trust people that are supposed to make us feel safe. Others are questioning if anyone can trust people because of what happened to Sarah. Others left flowers and letters for Sarah and they also prayed. She was a young women who was victim just like others that still haven't gotten justice and, she had the rest of her life ahead of her until somebody took it away from her just like other innocent people. The Everard family has not made a statement about the situation. If you want to learn more about the case my source were BBC News, 4 News, etc. You can also see what people are sharing about their feelings about this case at #JusticeforSarah.

Attacks on Asian-Americans rising? Anxiety and fear?

By: Amy Zarate

Attacks on Asian-Americans across the United States are becoming more frequent every day. Asian-Americans are feeling anxious whenever they go out, fearful that people will attack them out in public. Crimes against Asian-Americans have risen this past year, most of them get physically attacked and get injured seriously, in some cases people have died as well. The New York Times says that, “The attacks are random,

and they are fast and furious,’ said Jo-Ann Yoo, executive director of the Asian American Federation, a nonprofit network of community groups. ‘It has stoked a lot of fear and paranoia. People are not leaving their homes” (Petri)

“Taken together, they stoked fears that the wave of racism and violence that has targeted Asian-Americans during the pandemic was surging again in New York. Those concerns intensified after a man of Asian descent was stabbed Thursday night near Chinatown” (Petri, The New York Times). Cities with large Asian communities like, the Bay Area, Los Angeles and New York City have the highest number of crimes against Asian-Americans.

The New York Times says that, “Asian-Americans are grappling with the anxiety, fear and anger brought on by the attacks, which activists and elected officials say were fueled early in the pandemic by former President Donald J. Trump, who frequently used racist language to refer to the coronavirus” (Petri). In the USA Today it says that, “The surge in hate incidents against the Asian American community since the start of the pandemic was set aflame last winter when Trump began scapegoating Chinese people for the explosion of coronavirus in the United States” (Abdollah). A lot of people have jumped to conclusions, and are now acting under those false allegations, and because of these false allegations many Asian-Americans have gotten hurt.

Something that can help solve hate crime against Asian-Americans is for people to learn more about them, and learn how it’s not their fault. Just like most problems people have to know the truth, which means learning and teaching others about the subject, so they are able to learn and understand more about it. People who have high influences should also try to help shine a light on this problem, so many Asian-Americans have already gotten hurt by people not knowing enough, that they just act

in a impulse. People should learn more about a problem before they decide to act upon misinformation, and do something that they can’t take back.

Celebrating women all around the world

Samantha Hance

“Women’s History month” originated from “Women’s History week.” In 1981, a request was made to proclaim the week of March 7, 1982 as “Women’s History Week.” For the next five years congress continued to pass joint resolutions in favor of this cause. In 1987, the National Women’s History Project requested making “Women’s History Week” into a whole month. Congress decided to pass the Public Law 100-9 which officially declared the month of March as “Women’s history month.” The public Law 100-9 states that “American woman of every race, class and ethnic back-ground have made historical contributions to the growth and strength of the nation...”



Women’s history is celebrated all over the world. We learn to appreciate important female contributions to our society. “Women’s history month” is not only to celebrate important female figure but also to bring spotlight to figure who never got the recognition they deserved. While many of us celebrate by educating ourselves on these inspirational woman, others present gifts and flowers to women to symbolize gratitude and respect. Some people chose to wear purple to show their appreciation. Women have had a huge impact on things like science, government, art, literature and more.



This year in particular was important and very symbolic. The theme this year for “women’s history month” is Valiant. Especially during this year everyone is facing different challenges this theme was used to uplift women. A year where many lost their jobs and domestic violence increases. It’s important to recognize woman’s contributions and sacrifices. The list goes beyond: Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Michelle Obama, Amelia Earhart. “ behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women” This quote is a reminder that no matter how big or small your contributions may be they are all valued and deeply appreciated.



Citations:

- Women’s History Month. (n.d.). National Women’s History Museum. <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>
- Women’s History Month. (n.d.-b). Woman’s History Month. <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

TIGER TALK

Back in April, Mrs. Rondinelli's READ 180 class was learning about the seriousness of the global and national drought. The class collaborated and researched ways to help alleviate the recurring drought problem, especially at our national level, and learned that recycling sewage water may become a future drought solution.



Recycling Sewage Water

By: Mrs. Rondinelli's Read 180 Class

Water is essential to human life. A toilet tap program is a good way to help with the shortages of water in our country. The Toilet Tap Program has shown that water comes out cleaner than the reservoir water. The future may bring more water shortages and we must be prepared to use new resources to save water.

A Toilet Tap Program is a good way to help with the shortages of water in our country. Treated wastewater from sewers and factories can be reused for irrigation and to replenish depleted groundwater. It can even be used for drinking water (Toilet to tap). Wastewater that has gone through a cleaning process can be placed in the dry grounds and later used to drink from. The new "direct potable reuse" system in Big Spring, Texas, recovers 2 million gallons a day of water. That's about 40 percent of what the town consumes (Toilet to tap). This new method for cleaning water has helped Big Spring, Texas regain 2 million gallons of water a day. This



supports a tremendously large portion of their town.

The future may bring more water shortages and we must be prepared to use new resources to help save water. Orange County, California faces chronic water shortages. The county spent 500 million dollars on a water treatment plant. It is good for the environment and not costly and it recycles. But what may become a problem in getting this project going is not technology, it is getting the people to accept drinking the toilet to tap water, as explained by Ron Wildermuth, a spokesperson from the plant (From toilet to tap: Getting a taste for drinking recycled wastewater.) People visited the factory and tasted the recycled sewage water. Many were convinced that it tastes just like fresh water. Many shared that we are "running out of water." The people in California are slowly accepting that recycling water is the way of the future and may solve a great portion of their recurring drought issues.

In essence, water is crucial for life. The Toilet Tap Program can be beneficial to the country's water shortage problem, especially out west, such as Orange County California, where recently, a lot of money is being used to help recycled sewage water plants. Therefore, we must be prepared to accept new and ongoing research in technology that can recycle sewage water so less time is spent worrying about water shortages. This may just be the answer to all our major water problems everywhere.

Mental illness that 2020 has brought to young teens

Did you know that even young teens today have mental issues for the problems that we have today? Oh yes, most young teens have these mental issues with themselves because 2020 was the time of year that everything shut down and everyone was isolated and separated from each other and weren't able to see each other for a couple of months. 2020 was the year that the COVID-19 pandemic happened and everyone had to quarantine. Everything was hard for the young teens especially for school and everything start to worry them and come hard to their shoulders so they started to get anxiety and depression.

2020 was the year where the coronavirus has begun and this illness had no cure and was a very, very, VERY deadly sickness that millions of people have died from and luckily young teens were very low of a chance to get it but that didn't mean that it was still not hard for them because that double the times as much work for them to do. What has happened to young teens this year is so fat and thinking about what we should do next and most teens lead their mind to death because they had enough of this pandemic and wanted to end everything with There life.

This pandemic was a very difficult and hard time for everyone and in this article that Victoria Freire wrote they are talking about what tragic thing happened to these innocent children that they wanted to take their life because they had enough of the pandemic. She said, "Such stressors can make teens more vulnerable to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Pre-COVID-19, suicide was already a leading cause of death among teenagers in the U.S. Mental health experts are concerned that suicide rates will increase during the pandemic".

Please enjoy some fictional writing from members of The Courier!

The Chase

By: Diego Urzua

So, summer is the best time of the year for people who still go to school, but it depends if your active during summer or not. To kick off the summer, I am going to tell you about my favorite memory: the big escape. For privacy, I'm going to call the people in story by number.

This happened in 2019 during the last day of summer camp, Camp Quarropas. At this time, this kid had an idea to play a game of tag, you know the classic game that everyone has played at some point. It happened when all the kids were in different gyms, and I was in the South Gym.

In the South Gym, there was this big divider that divides the gym in half. In one half, students were playing wall ball and the other side, dodgeball. In the dodgeball side, everyone there got bored of dodgeball, and decided to play tag, instead.

The first round of the game of tag was normal, nothing extreme, but second game was getting more interesting. First, kids went hiding in the rooms where all the equipment was. This room was restricted, so no one would go besides a group of three kids and me. Me being me, I went with the group of kids to hide.

Later some kid on the other team saw all of us hiding, so everyone ran away. I went behind the bleachers and I saw this kid hiding, then he came charging at me and somehow he got injured! He still managed to run really fast, and it was dark, but I ran faster. Next, I decided to run into the locker room, but it was very dark.

While I was in the locker room, I



found more kids hiding. I didn't realize, though, that they weren't hiding for the game of tag, but they were hiding from the counselors! We weren't supposed to be in the locker room at all, and I knew we would get in so much trouble if we got caught.

Suddenly, this counselor came into the locker room, catches a kid that was in the group, and the rest of us sprinted away as fast as we could to try to avoid getting into trouble.

After running off, I found a new hiding spot behind the stairs. I overheard the counselors speaking about how multiple campers have left the South Gym.

I instantly relaxed. I wasn't the only one, so it was only going to be harder to catch me. Yet, if I got caught running away it meant that I would have multiple counselors running after me. I decided it was best to keep moving.

As I was moving around the school, I saw another kid running away from a counselor, heading my way, and we knowingly looked at each other. We bolted for the cafeteria. He, however, wasn't as lucky as I was: he got caught.

It seemed that people were getting caught left and right. They were making the same mistakes of staying in one spot. Again, I found more friends, and we headed toward the pool. The pool was so dark it felt like we were in a horror movie.

The pool was obviously closed, and we were told to never be down there without an adult. As we made our way around the outside of the pool, we noticed more bodies in the shadows. There were other campers hiding out down here, too! After all of our running around, we decided to stay there and hide out.

The good thing was that there only like half an hour until we all get to go home.

Then, we hear a counselor walking to the pool and headed to the corner where the rest of the people were hiding. We all were sent to the left or south gym, but I was thirsty because of all the running, so I decided to get water. There were two people left who were hiding, and I saw them, but they knew the counselor caught the rest, so they decided to hide out a little bit longer, until the coast was clear.

I followed them. There was another exit to the left gym, apparently those two people did not get caught because they pretended they were drinking water. Interesting.

I had a bad feeling that if I hung around these two, I'd get in big trouble, too. I made my way back to the gym and pretended as if I were playing dodgeball the entire time.

It was time to leave, and I made it out without getting into any trouble at all. I was luckier than other campers: the counselors even called some parents to complain about the bad behavior.

As fun as it was, (and trust me, it was a blast!) I do not recommend doing this because I could have been in big trouble. Even though it was a good ending for me, it wasn't so good for the other people. I just loved how a simple game of tag turned into a game of running away from the counselors, and we didn't even plan it that way. It was so fun, it felt like mission impossible, and it was a perfect way to end my summer!

The Spartan's Story: Chapter 2

By: Christian Booker

I woke in a bland room, on a mattress on the floor. There was no furniture, all the walls were white, and the mattress was as well. I immediately got a headache, so I sat down, closed my eyes, and opened them again.

Much better.

As my eyes adjusted, I noticed a TV in the corner of the room.

The second I looked at the TV, a video started playing. I realized with a start that it was the guy from the speaker earlier. Or last night. Or yesterday. As I came to the realization that I didn't know, I was terrified. The voice told me to go outside and take two rights and a left. I did exactly that.

I arrived in a huge room; unlike any I have ever seen. The ceiling was at least 200 feet high, with a glass sunroof, or water roof, I guess.

It was a miraculous sight.

Turns out, he was serious when he said it was underwater. I saw hundreds of species of marine life, including turtles, school fish, and there was even a tiger shark. I was beyond amazed.

Once the shock wore off, I started to think, tried to remember what had happened to me. My thoughts were-very rudely, might I add, cut-off as someone entered the room. The man demanded authority. He was about my height, probably in his late 60's or early 70's.

"Hello."

As soon as he said those words, everyone stopped moving, turned around and faced him. His voice was very soothing, and I was compelled to do the same, but it didn't really matter seeing as I was already staring at him.

"I understand you are scared, but you may relax."

As he said this, I was immediately calmed, and the rest of the room seemed to relax as well, all at the same time I did.

He continued; "As you may know



by now, you are underwater. Now, upon entrance you were all told that you are in an underwater Spartan facility, so you know that, as well. Getting right to the point, you will be trained as Spartans for the next three years. As we do not work for the United States government, you have no obligations against any act, and therefore have no limitations. You will protect America from any threat. I will be programming you over the next three years to do so.

"There will be individual meetings with me or any other elder here. These meetings are severely confidential. You may now back head to your rooms, as you will receive a schedule. You will get a different one every week. You are dismissed."

Upon his saying this, I turned around and left, mindlessly. I opened my room door.

Wow.

As I arrived at the room, I was shocked. The room looked exactly like my bedroom back home. It was identical. Same bed frame, lights, posters, the list goes on. I sighed as I realized: I knew what they were doing. Psychological warfare may be a brutal thing, but at least I understood it. They want this to feel like home. I suddenly had a terrible thought. One that I knew was true, but didn't want to believe.

This meant they had footage on my house, my family, my brother, my father. It could be more.

What if they had Mia, or my grandparents? The list goes on. I pushed myself not to give in to the familiarity, as hard as that was to do. So, I just ignored it. I saw my schedule, laying on the bed. My bed. The bed where I slept.

The bed I once slept in with my brother a few years back. The bed where my dad and I evaluated every game I've ever had, football or basketball. It suddenly felt so foreign; I made it feel foreign. And I got to work.

For Every Person:

For every person that has a heartbeat,
For every person's blood that runs red,
Making an invisible river,
That connects us in the way we were bred.

For every person that has been troubled,
For every person that has escaped their rubble,
Of the sins and the circumstances that fall upon,
Whether you faced your problems or hid in a bubble.

For every nice or mean man,
For every kind or feisty woman,
How we've fought for our life,
Our rights, through pain and strife.

For every one that doesn't conform,
And wishes for a reform,
Of society, of the country, of the world,
Trying to write papers that inform.

For every person who breathes air,
For every person's blood that runs red,
Dyeing a white dove,
That connects us all with a red string of love.

MUSIC AND TAINMENT

My Predictions for Cruella

By: **Eliana Lieber**

**This doesn't have any spoilers for Cruella technically, as I haven't watched it, but the trailers do give a lot of information about the final product, so if you want to keep everything relatively new, I'd recommend skipping this article. **

My first reaction to hearing that there would be a live-action Disney remake about Cruella DeVille was excitement. Cruella is one of my favorite Disney villains, hence one of my favorite Disney characters, so I couldn't wait.

Then, I saw the trailer and I was a bit scared, to be honest. The first trailer made it seem like they were going to make us feel sorry for her and there was hinting towards making her a symbol of feminism. Sometimes that's great, but Cruella is. A. Puppy. Killer. She killed puppies! Sometimes someone just has to be pure evil.

But that fear has passed and more of the plot has been cleared up because as of writing this, there are 17 trailers, so we have a lot to work with. You might not want to watch all 17, so here is most of what we know (and what I assume) so far. (Just so you know, most of this is from my perspective of what I've gathered in the trailers, others may perceive them differently.)

To start, some background: Cruella follows Estella DeVille in her journey in the fashion industry in 1970s London. Her name isn't originally Cruella, it's her secret identity, she changes it later in the story. She is a brilliant designer, but initially, she works in a thrift store, her talent going to waste. One night, she decides that a display in the store, showcasing the Baroness' collection needs some "fixing."

She makes it her own! The Baroness hears of it, and comes to the shop, where she offers Cruella a job. The Baroness starts stealing Cruella's designs, marketing them as her own, and this makes Cruella furious. She wants to show everybody what she can do.

Later, there is a fashion event run by the Baroness, the Black and White Ball. Cruella wants to go, but the Baroness

forbids her to attend. She decides to go, but not as Estella, no, she decides to go as Cruella. She goes to the ball, and makes a scene, starting a rivalry with the Baroness.

After that, there are bits and pieces, but the plot hasn't really strung together yet. We know that she steals the Baroness' dogs (can you guess what kind?), and we know that Anita (or Maya as she's called on some casting websites) is a reporter that seems to be working for or with Cruella. She also crashes some of the baroness' fashion shows, contributing to their rivalry more.

We don't know much about Cruella's backstory, either. She has a short monologue about the stages of grief and about how revenge should be one, so maybe that is one reason she is targeting the Baroness. She doesn't have much family or friends, she is shown to have a mother in flashback scenes, but not in the main plot, and the only people we know for sure are her allies are Horace and Jasper, and maybe Anita/Maya. I've also noticed a dog in certain scenes. In one, it is getting into the car with Cruella, Horace, and Jasper, and they care enough to slow the car down for it, and in another, it follows Cruella to her first day of work for the Baroness. It is also present in the Black and White Ball scene. I'd love to see a backstory for that!

Then we have the parts other than the story, such as the fashion, music, and cinematography. It is fashion-centric, and the designs are absolutely amazing! Cruella has 47 different outfits, and from the ones that we see, I fully expect this to win the Oscar for Best Costume Design! They're so cool! The music is also great. There is a mix of song artists, with selections from Queen, Nancy Sinatra, and Connie Francis to name a few! The camera work in the trailers is amazing! It conveys emotion and shows us what we need to see. I can only expect more of the same for the film.

So, as you can tell from this article, I'm excited for Cruella. The more I learn about it, the more questions I have, the more intrigued I get, and the more excited I am for May 28th. Cruella is coming onto Premium Disney Plus and into theaters May 28th.

Angela's Movie Review: Mitchell's vs. the Machines

By: Angela Bediako

This colorful movie made by a 'group of weird humans' is a fun watch for the entire family. It's unique animation style and amazing story line adds to the wonder of this film. This movie is a mixture of comedy and science-fiction that takes place in the not-so-distant-future. What better time for the AI uprising than when everything relies on technology?

This movie centers around the dysfunctional Mitchell family, mainly Katie, the oldest child. When Kate gets accepted into the film school of her dreams, problems arise when her dad tries to make amends by surprising her with a road trip; and together with the rest of the family they face probably the most challenging thing they've ever experienced... the robot apocalypse. This movie is hilarious and heartwarming, sometimes both at the same time. It shows that sometimes its good to step away from our devices and spend some quality time with our families. I highly recommend this movie for all ages. Happy watching!*

WARNING: Some scenes may have strobing affects that may negatively effect photosensitive viewers
*This movie can be found on Netflix

To our Highlands Community,

Thank you so much for your support during this challenging year. We appreciate you!



To my 8th graders,

Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, and drive. I know you will all do amazing things.

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look

around once in a while, you could miss it." Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

- Ms. Tschinkel <3

A BIG Thank You to the Wonderful Courier Staff 2020-2021

7th Grade

Angela Bediako (writer, editor, designer): "I think you're all insane, but I guess I am too, anybody would be if they were stuck on earth with you." Periodoto

Francis Fokoue (writer): "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Saul Leon (artist): "I'm not lazy, I'm just conserving energy." Oreki

Eliana Lieber (writer, editor): "A villain is just a victim whose story hasn't been told."

Ava Ritterman (designer, photographer)

Madison Steptoe (writer): "What's done is done. But we can't change what happens, we can only move forward." Tikki

Leila Tomlin (writer) : "We didn't choose this life, we're just living it." Five from Umbrella Academy

Olivia Tuzel (writer, editor): "Comparison is the thief of joy."

8th Grade

Kate Abrams (writer): "Let's all die naturally in a healthy way." Lee Know

Isabella Arco (writer, editor)

Elena Bediako (writer, designer): "I probably have serious issues that I need to work through, but not right now." Steven Universe

Christian Booker (writer)

Taylor Cutrone (writer, editor): "I am trampled under sole of another man's shoes, Guess I walked too softly." Stone Temple Pilots

Sophia Levy

Justin Lopez (writer): "I've done a lot of work to get where I'm at, but I have to keep working." Wiz Khalifa

Aayan Karigar (writer): "I think this is the good timelines."

Zaira Sanchez (writer): "Pain is temporary, but swag is forever." The Rock