

THE COURIER



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Brussels Attack Super Tuesday



By Aine Nicholson

There have been many well-known terrorist attacks over the years, but the most recent one was in Brussels, Belgium on the morning of March 22nd 2016. There were multiple attacks that day, including two at Brussels Airport in Zaventem, and one at Maalbeek metro station in Brussels. There was another bomb found during a search that was made after these attacks. At least 32 people were killed and three of the four bombers were killed during the events. Two of the bombers were brothers named Khalid and Brahim el-Bakraoui. It is also confirmed that one of the bombers worked a month-long summer job in the EU Parliament. Over 300 people were injured. The Belgian government declared three days of national mourning to remember those lost in the attacks. There is a lot

of footage that captures the suspects walking around the airport and train station. During the search, someone found a note left in a garbage bin by one of the terrorists saying how he was afraid of getting caught and getting arrested. President Barack Obama made a speech about this tragic event. He also spoke to Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel and offered his condolences on behalf of the American people. Terrorist attacks have been a major problem all around the world. There is at least one terrorist attack almost every day. Unfortunately here in America, we don't hear as much about the terror attacks that happen regularly around the world, especially in the Middle East. For many people, acts of terror have become sadly commonplace.

Earth Hour

By Anna Kristina O'Hanlon

This year, 2016, Earth Hour took place on Saturday, March 19, from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, local time. During Earth Hour, participating people are to turn off their lights for the entire hour. In 178 countries around the world, millions of people switched off their lights for Earth Hour. Earth Hour is an annual event which highlights global environmental threats, such as climate change. This year's Earth Hour was a huge success in many places. Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia. There, 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour to make their stand against environmental damage, with a focus on climate change. Many people liked this idea. So in 2008, Earth Hour became a global event, with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating. The next year, Earth Hour expanded even more, when in 2009,

more than 4000 cities in 88 countries officially pledged their support for the planet, making Earth Hour 2009 the world's largest global environmental and climate change initiative. Over the past couple of years, more and more people are turning off their lights for Earth Hour. You should always turn off the lights when you leave a room or when the light isn't being used -- not just for an international event. By doing so, you are being more respectful to the environment. Another way you can be more respectful to the environment would be to use less water. Instead of taking a 45 minute shower, take a shower that is 10-15 minutes long. Another way is to bring reusable shopping bags with you to the supermarket. Since plastic doesn't decompose easily, they can be harmful to the environment. I am sure you can think of many other ways you personally can help the environment.



By Aine Nicholson

On March 1st, there was an event called Super Tuesday. It is a day during the presidential primaries holds the most primaries and caucuses in one day. The states that participated were: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. The Republican Party caucused in Alaska and Wyoming, and the Democratic Party held their caucus in American Samoa. For the Republican Party, Donald Trump won the most delegates and states including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia, and Vermont. Ted Cruz won three states including Alaska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Marco Rubio won one state, which was Minnesota. Marco

Rubio has dropped out of the race since then. For the Democratic Party, Clinton won the most delegates and states including Alabama, Arkansas, American Samoa, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Bernie Sanders won four states, which were Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Vermont. So far, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are leading in both of their parties with Donald Trump at 743 delegates. The Republican Party candidate needs 1,237 for the presidential nomination and there are only 733 delegates still available. Trump is leading with 845, and Cruz is at 559. Hillary Clinton currently has 1,930 delegates while Bernie Sanders has 1,189. Either candidate would need 2,383 delegates to win the nomination, and there are still 1,646 delegates available.

International Women's Day

By Marina Rosenthal

Did you know that the United Nations (UN) has an annual day set aside towards achieving gender equality?

International Women's day is observed every year on March 8th, to focus on issues relating to women, including empowerment, human rights, and gender equality.

The UN has a projection for 2030, in which they aim to live in a world where women and men have equal opportunities and rights. They hope that if they "leverage the arts", they can influence our society towards believing

that men and women are equal, and deserve parity (equal pay). To them, "leveraging" the arts consists of friendly sports matches between men's and women's teams, ballets, operas, and art openings, each partnering with the UN to raise money and awareness for gender equality.

Currently, women with full-time jobs still only earn about 79% of what a male would make in their same position. Is this fair? No. Can we change this? Yes. All we need is dedication and perseverance, until our goal is reached, and women are treated fairly and equally in our society.



Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Hart



By Genesis Roseau

What do you like to do when you don't have to do any school related activities?

I like to go on Pinterest, run 5k's and 10k's, learning how to cook, and traveling. I recently went to Paris over the winter break.

What would you be doing if you weren't a teacher?

There's nothing I would rather do. In this stage of my life, being a teacher is the perfect job.

Tell us about your other work experiences and education.

I went to the University at Buffalo, where I majored in Music Theatre and English. It was great because I got to be involved with the arts, which I feel really passionate about, but I was still able to work towards my goal of becoming a teacher. I was able to perform in about 12 college productions, which were all really fun. After college, I worked as a substitute teacher, and I first started teaching when I was 24.

What made you want to get involved with Willy Wonka Jr.?

What made me join the play Willy Wonka Jr. is that I have a degree in fine arts and did eight other play productions at the high school and middle school.

Who is your inspiration?

My dad is my inspiration because he taught me how to do what makes me happy. He's changed a lot, and he's always trying to be a better person.

What is one piece of advice that you would

Zika Virus

By Bethsie Brice

The Zika virus, a mosquito borne virus, has spread to at least 34 countries. Those include Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and more. Since this is spread by mosquitos, as long as the mosquitos reproduce, people are in trouble. There is no vaccine for the virus and there is no medicine to treat it. The vaccine won't be available for

give your 8th grade students?

One piece of advice I would give to my eighth grade students is embrace your differences, be unique, and be your best self.

What is your favorite quote?

My favorite quote/poem is by Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Success":

"To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the respect of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived – this is to have succeeded."

What's the best part about being a teacher?

The best part about being a teacher is seeing my students grow throughout the year, and I also like it when my students come and visit me after they have graduated.

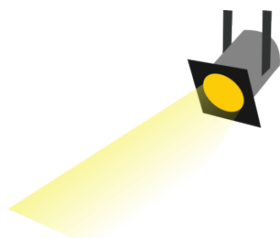
Was being a teacher your dream job?

Being a teacher was not always my dream job. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a singer, fashion designer, and actress. As I got older deep down I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

What is your favorite book and/or author?

My favorite book is The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. My favorite young adult author is John Green.

years. If a lady is pregnant with the virus her baby could be born with an abnormally small head. This can lead to developmental issues and even death. Most people who have the virus don't know because the symptoms are mild. The best thing to do is avoid the areas that have the Zika virus or at least wear mosquito protection if you must travel to one of these areas.



Ask Tigress

ney Junior show! But seriously, just inform a teacher or an administrator. That should do the trick!



Annoyance Aardvark

I have a problem. I am getting really annoyed by this kid *****. We are partners in a project and he just won't do his work. We all have finished our slides but he just keeps fooling around. Tell me what to do.

Dear Annoyance Aardvark,

No hello? I am just messing with you! Now, fooling around aside, let's get to business! So, I recommend asking him to pay attention one last time, and if he refuses or doesn't show any signs of effort, talk to your teacher. You would be doing everyone a favor.

Hippity Hippo

I limp. And this problem is kind of limp too, if you know what I mean! My hip has been hurting for a while now and nothing is helping. I've tried the nurse, ice, heat and more. It has come to the point where it is affecting my everyday life. I have to take the elevator in school instead of walking with my friends, I can't even hold my own belongings, and it is a matter of time before my life is ruined. Help me please!

Dear Hippity Hippo,

I am no doctor, but you should see a doctor! In all seriousness, you really should see your doctor. He or she would definitely help and get you back to hippity hopping!

Binder Badger

Hello, Tigress! Can I please make up my own name this time? Badger Binder has a nice ring to it, but you can change it however you want. Anyways, I have a friend whose binder is severely broken. Papers are always falling everywhere and I want to help her but she keeps on refusing. Please help.

Dear Binder Badger,

What a conundrum! Lucky for you, I happen to be a super duper binder fixer. Just kidding, we are not in a Dis-



Earth Day

By Anna Kristina O'Hanlon

Earth Day always occurs on April 22. This year in 2016, Earth Day is on a Friday. The purpose of Earth Day is to save living things on our Earth and to be aware of anything that harms our planet. The idea for a national day to focus on the environment was created by Gaylord Nelson. Nelson fought for environmental concerns as a governor and Senator from Wisconsin. On the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans went to many places to show what a healthy environment meant to them. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the harm that was being done to the environment. There are and were groups that had and are fighting against oil spills, polluting facto-

Rager Rabbit Rumor

I cannot take it much longer. There is a rumor going around that I did some bad things and got in some big trouble. I did do something wrong, but soon after I apologized and I barely got into any trouble. Even one of my teachers told my whole class that I was suspended. Rumors are going everywhere. Some said I was expelled, or I was sick. People are making fun of me online and real life. They are even giving me nasty, violent threats. I know I should bring this to an adult's attention, but every time I do they tell me to ignore it. You can't ignore something like that! One day I am probably going to be beaten up by these kids physically instead of verbally. Please help Tigress, whoever you are!

Dear Rager Rabbit Rumor,

I can sense where you are coming from; The other day I was sent to special duty for stealing some of my friend Hawk's jerky! Okay, so maybe not on that serious of a level, but I'll get you through it. Tell an administrator who you truly trust will take action, and your parents. When I was a young tiger cub, my parents said "Take action with wisdom", which I never really understood until I heard your situation. You know what to do in your heart, so go get 'em tiger!

ries, power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, the extinction of wildlife, and so on. With the coming of Earth Day, they realized that they shared common values -- the preservation of the Earth! In White Plains we do activities that are healthy for the environment. In some elementary schools, they decorate paper bags and then on Earth Day, they use those bags in super markets instead of plastic bags. The plastic bags so many shoppers use harm the planet and animals. White Plains held an Earth Week, and encouraged White Plains residents to drop off shoes at Ebersole Ice Rink from March 15 till until Saturday, April 23. Join us for Earth Day on April 22nd and help us save our planet!

Editorials

Labels or Fable?

The popularity, the competition, the people; some of the many things teens are faced with in this atmosphere of mixed emotions. Yes, as you were probably thinking, this is school. During this point in time these kids are transforming into young adults, which leaves them with the question, who do they want to become? The answer to this question has been influenced by the way society perceives every one of us. Labels. This word is much more relevant than you may believe. I spoke to some students here at Highlands about their opinions on labels.

Aine Nicholson

I think that students in this school are pretty open-minded towards others. Kids form groups of friends, but groups are casual and usually welcome other people to hang out. No one really judges other people, and if they do, they keep it to themselves.

Genesis Roseau

Labels are overrated. They do not define who you are. I don't belong to any label, because I am myself. It really depends on the person if I label. Now thinking, I do use a lot of labels, but yet again, it depends on the person. And honestly, most of them are pretty good labels.

Anna O'Hanlon

Labels are mean and can really hurt someone. I have been labeled before. I don't know what I would label myself as. It depends, but I guess I do label. I keep it to myself; I don't go speak to people about my labeling. They aren't bad labels though. I bet you hear that often but it is true. This interview made me kind of aware of not only my surrounding but myself in some sort of way.

Isabelle Levine

I don't really hear kids labeling each other in this school. If I do hear a label, it is usually positive, such as "oh you're really smart". I don't think we judge each other in this school based on labels, but it might be different in other schools. Kids tend to define each other based on their actions, rather than their hobbies or interests.

Madyson Eisen

I think kids in this school do label each other and it's not right. Some labels I've heard have to do with physical appearance, mental ability, race, and sometimes hobbies or interests. If kids are labeled negatively, they'll feel bullied. Kids should stop labeling each other.

After viewing these interviews one can concur that people do label, but certainly not to the extent of being rude, but does it still hurt the feelings of fellow teenage peers? It all depends, in the eyes of the common teen.

Are Parents Too Overprotective?

In our worst stage of life and "ugh" phase, our parents are part of our pain. They seem to want to know *everything*. The frustration and anger that comes from this is explosive. But does everyone experience it and/or agree?

I took a survey of my peers to see how much they think their parents are involved. Three out of four of them said their parents are fairly involved in their lives, while one said they are not involved enough. Maybe some parents aren't helicopter parents, but I have personally seen otherwise. I've noticed among my friends that the ones with overprotective parents ended up being more rebellious. The parents think they are helping their children by protecting them, but they're not. The reality is that parents are making their children mad at them, which in turn makes kids want to ignore their rules. For example, my friend isn't supposed to have a boyfriend until she's 18, yet started dating at 13.

TED speaker Gever Tulley agrees that parents should stop trying to keep their children too safe. Psychologist Michael S. Broder also believes this. He says that parents who are in constant communication, maintain financial

control, and treat them like babies prevent their children from growing up properly. When parents ask too many questions, children get annoyed. They feel that you are invading their privacy and social life. Some parents refuse to give their children money which affects their social skills, responsibility, and makes them think that their parents don't trust them. Parents that treat their children like babies embarrass and annoy them. Just as in sports competitions where everyone receives a trophy, children who are overprotected are not well-prepared for the disappointments they will inevitably face in life.

I think parents need to start trusting their children and not invade their space. The helicopter parents that help their kids with everything and overprotect need to stop; no teenager deserves to be spied on by their parents. On the other hand, we all need to remember that when our parents do helicopter, they're trying to protect us. We need to respect that and they will respect our space.

**Do you like to write?
Do you enjoy taking pictures?
Contribute to The Courier! See Ms. Miller, room 141, to join!**

Random Positive Stuff

- Kentucky lawmakers just approved a free community college tuition plan.
- SeaWorld stopped captive breeding of Orcas in all of its parks.
- A principal gave students \$100 in cash if they got a 4.0 gpa.
- Scotland's national animal is the unicorn and for Wales it is a dragon.
- "The rat the cat the dog chased killed ate the malt" happens to be grammatically correct.
- On every continent, you will find a city called Rome.
- One in every eight Americans has worked at a McDonald's in their lifetime.
- The world record for a chicken flying was 13 seconds. Mozart wrote the nursery rhyme
- "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" When he was five years old.
- A snail can sleep for more than three years at a time.
- There is no word that rhymes with "month."
- 12% of people dream in black and white.
- Cows have best friends and they tend to spend most of their time together.



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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Highlands

On Friday February 14th, Highlands students participated in the Hoops for Heart American Heart Association Fundraiser. Highlands students had 345 participants and raised \$7,157. Congratulations students!



Happenings

Highlands Singers Share their Voices throughout the County and Country!

During the month of March, many singers from Highlands participated in

county and national choir events. On March 5th, nine seventh grade singers joined two hundred and twenty other seventh –ninth graders in the WCSMA (Westchester County School Music Association) Intermediate choir. These singers had the wonderful opportunity to sing under the direction of Dr. Malcom Merriweather and performed four beautiful songs (I Hear America Singing, Fa La La, Two Brazilian Folksongs and Walk on/Climb Every Mountain) at Suny Purchase College. These singers worked very hard at lunch and after school rehearsals from January

through the concert date to prepare the music. They all represented Highlands very well!! Sincere Congratulations to these talented 7th graders.

On March 12th, five young singers (seventh and eighth grade) made us proud as they performed in the OAKE (Organization of American Kodaly Educators) Youth Choir, in Long Beach, California. These five students began the process at the end of September, preparing an mp3 audition. Then, in January they began their lunch and after school rehearsals to prepare the

following six pieces (Gloria from Mass #6, Lilacs from 12 Romances, Lauiki Lapsepoli, Bedu Pako Baramasa, Goza Mi Calipso, Let It Shine!). Under the direction of Dr. Sharkova, these young singers had intense rehearsals on March 10th, 11th and 12th along with 200 singers from all over the country in preparation for the wonderful concert on March 12th. We congratulate them for their dedication to singing and for their strong representation of Highlands.



All County Singers top l-r – Edwin Robles, Armani Carden, Cayla Ross, Janilssy Luna – Bottom l-r – Sebastian Andrade, Ashleigh Nutt, Kevin Silva, Johnna McLaughlin, Emily Marin



OAKE National Youth Choir l-r: Sabrina Koff, Adam Lemoine, Ashleigh Nutt, Lauren Elmer (Absent from photo – Margaret Caserta)

On March 17, 2016 the SAIL class went to the Greenburgh Nature Center to learn all about Maple Sugaring. They learned that maple syrup comes from maple trees and that you collect the sap from the trees by drilling a small hole. You cook the sap to get the water out. The students were very interested to learn that Native American children did all the work of getting the sap to make the maple syrup.



Spotlight On: Community Service Club

On Thursday, March 17, 2016, six members of the Community Service Club spent their St. Patrick's Day afternoon volunteering at the Food Bank for Westchester in Elmsford, NY. The students, along with advisor, Mr. Vela, and Social Studies teacher, Mr. Eaton, arrived in Elmsford at around 4:00 and spent the next two hours sorting and packaging frozen bread into cardboard boxes that the Food Bank will distribute to local homeless shelters, food pantries and other organizations. Students donned hair nets, aprons and gloves and were led to a "clean room" where they began their work sorting and packaging donated bread into banana boxes. The boxes were weighed by a staff member and then loaded onto pallets before being brought back into an enormous house-sized freezer where they will remain until they are distributed. The work was fast-paced as, according to Department of Health regulations, there is a strict time limit on how long frozen food can be left out of the freezer before it needs to be refrozen or discarded. The students worked hard and were rewarded at the end with a tour of the Food Bank's facility.



Members of the Club, accompanied by Mr. Eaton

Conversation with Community Service Club Member Lily Nguyen

By Genesis Roseau

Why did you decide to join this club?

A lot of my friends are in community service and you get to help one another, so I thought it would be fun.

Tell us about some of the projects you've done with the club?

We created recycle boxes for teachers, planted daffodils, and decorated boxes for the phone drive.

What was your favorite project so far and why?

Decorating the boxes and planting daffodils because I helped create the boxes and the daffodils add color to the school instead of making it look like a scary castle.

What did you enjoy about volunteering at the food bank?

It was for a great cause, it was like working on an assembly line, and I also had to restrain myself from eating all the food because I was really hungry. It was a good thing they did not put me in the back because I would have eaten all the deserts.

Spotlight On: Student Writing

Mi Viaje: Parte 2

My Voyage: Part 2

A Continuation of the Author's Story From the February Edition

por Anonimo

A mí se me ha hecho fácil adaptarme a la comida, a la forma de vestir y a mis clases y a la escuela. A mí se me ha hecho difícil adaptarme al idioma de este país porque se escribe de una forma y se pronuncia de otra forma. Y también al clima de invierno porque es un poco frío. Lo que más se me hizo difícil de dejar en mi país fue a mi familia y a mi mascota, o sea a mi perrito yo extraño más a mi perrito. Mis sueños son ser una gran profesional. Mis metas son, primero es aprender a hablar y escribir el Inglés y tener buenas calificaciones para obtener una beca para estudiar la Universidad.

For me it was easy to adapt to the food, to American ways of dressing, and to my classes and school. However, it was difficult to adapt to the language of this country because it is written and pronounced differently. And the winter weather was hard to get used to because it is a bit cold. The most difficult things to leave in my country were my family and my pet; I miss my dog the most. My dream is to become a professional. My goals are first to learn to speak and write English and second to have good qualifications to obtain a scholarship to a University.

La mejor decisión

por Anonimo

Uno de mis sueños era viajar a Estados Unidos para visitar y ver nuevas cosas pero nunca me imaginé en quedarme. A mí y a mi familia nos salió la visa y todos estábamos felices. Un día mi mamá compró 2 boletos de avión para ella y para mí y yo me puse muy feliz pero también triste porque iba a dejar a mi papá y a mis familiares pero esto era una oportunidad única. El día llegó y estaba feliz. Todos me apoyaban y me decían que esto era algo muy especial porque tendría un mejor futuro. Yo en el avión estaba cansada porque era un viaje largo; eran muchas horas de vuelo. Yo pensaba encontrar cosas grandes, edificios modernos y muchas cosas modernas. Cuando llegué todo era como yo decía edificios y casas grandes y bonitas. Los primeros meses fue muy triste. Estaba con mi mamá, pero extrañaba a mis amigos y familia. Todo era nuevo para mí como amigos, lugares, pero tenía a la persona más importante a mi lado, mi mamá. Lo que

no me gustó era el clima; era muy frío y también hacía mucho calor pero poco a poco me voy acostumbrando como también al inglés. Claro que yo sabía lo básico pero era desesperante porque te preguntan algo y no sabes como responder. Lo más difícil era dejar a mi familia, amigos y mi vida atrás, pero yo sabía que tengo que hacer un sacrificio para tener un mejor futuro. Mi sueño es ser alguien en la vida, saber superarme, y tener una gran profesión. Quién mejor para darme ese ejemplo que mi hermana. Ella ya tiene una bebé y tiene una muy buena profesión porque ella supo seguir adelante a pesar de que todos le decían que escogiera algo fácil. Ella siguió su sueño y ahora tiene una gran recompensa que es su hija. Ella es mi ejemplo porque supo pasar todos los obstáculos que le puso la vida y así quiero ser yo; alguien que pueda salir adelante sin importar cuantos sacrificios tenga que hacer. De eso sale algo bueno y siempre valoras lo que tienes aunque sea lo más mínimo porque en cualquier momento tu vida puede cambiar para bien o para mal. También valorar a las personas que te rodean porque algún día te van a hacer falta y ahí te darás cuenta de cuanto

Leonardo DiCaprio Wins Oscar

By Marley Westlund

We all know him from his recent Oscar win: Leonardo DiCaprio. The man with 161 nominations and 45 awards across multiple different award giving ceremonies and critics. Leonardo DiCaprio was first nominated for an Oscar in 1993 for the film "What's Eating Gilbert Grape". He then received even more nominations for "Blood Diamond" and "The Wolf

of Wall Street". Leo finally won this year's much deserved award for the film "The Revenant". This role also earned DiCaprio awards from The Boston Society of Film Critics, The British Academy of Film, The Golden Globe, and The Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association Awards. So, it's very clear how much DiCaprio deserved that Oscar! Congratulations Leo!

Would you like your writing to be featured in The Courier? See Ms. Miller in Room 141 if you have a piece you would like to publish! Submissions can be of any type: poems, stories, essays, articles, even journal entries! Your piece can be published with or without your name.

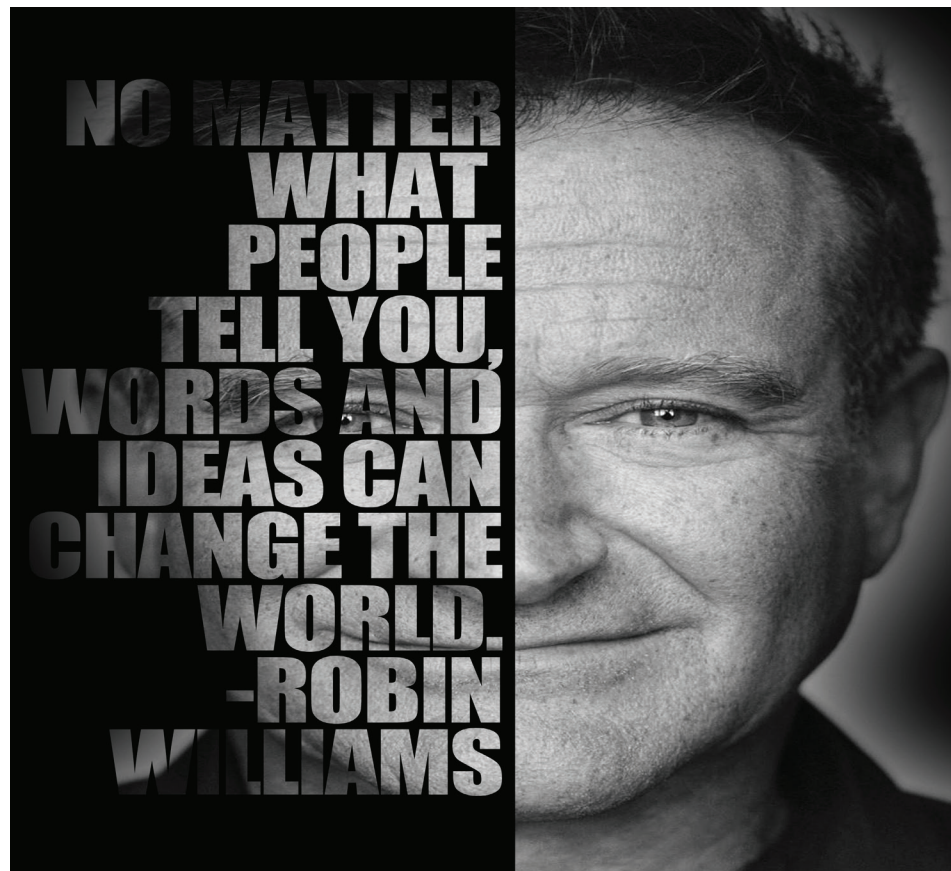
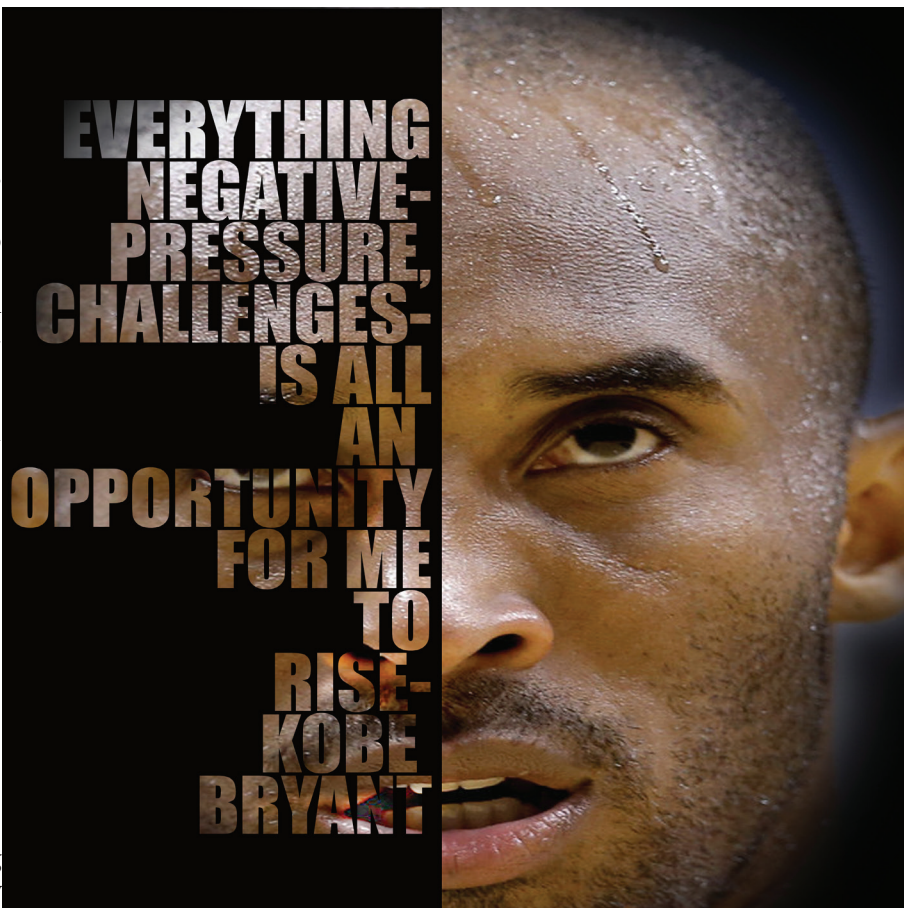
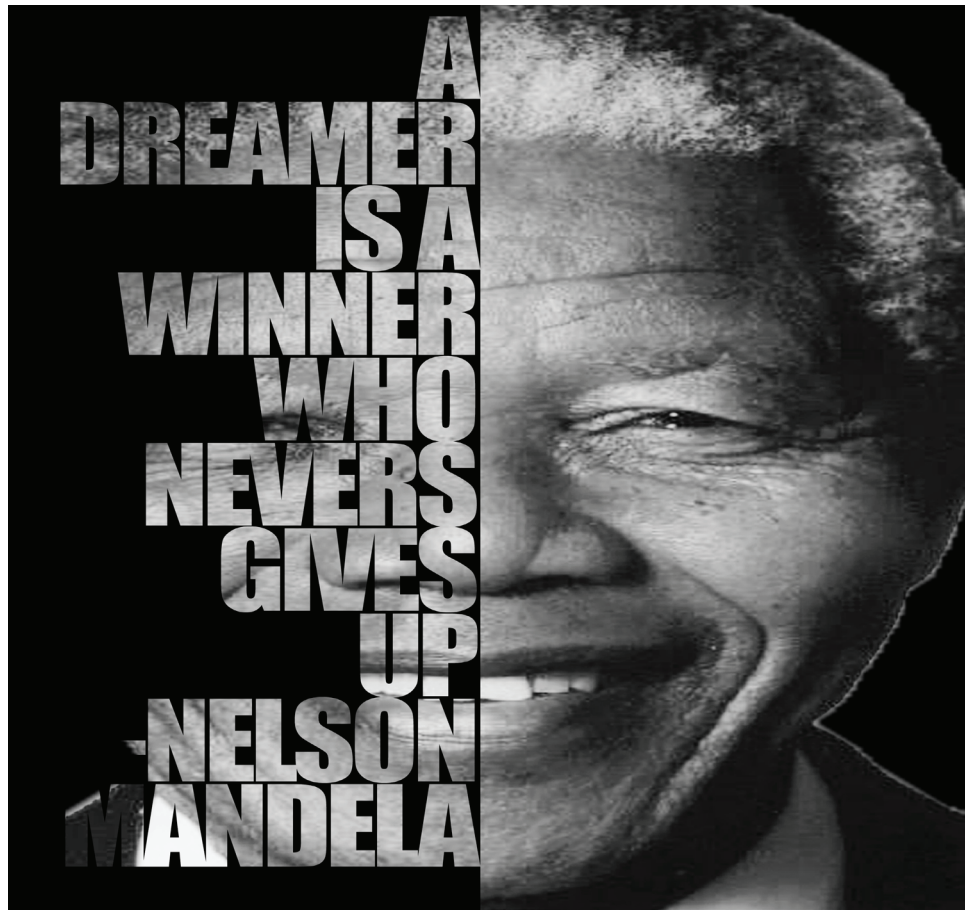
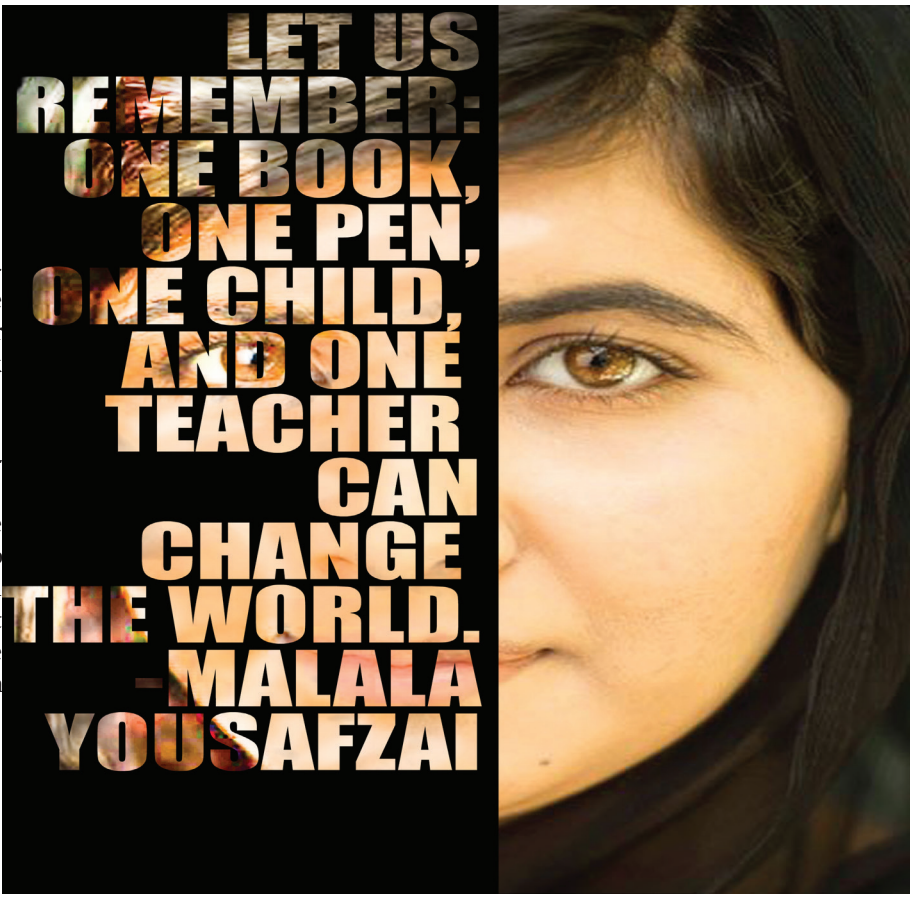
importaban en tu vida porque «Uno no sabe lo que tiene hasta que lo pierde» y esta es mi historia.

One of my dreams was to travel to the US to visit and see new things but I never imagined staying. My family and I got the visa and we were all happy. One day my mom bought two air tickets for her and for me and I was very happy but also sad because I had to leave my dad and my family but this was a unique opportunity. The day came and I was happy, everyone supported me and told me that this was something very special because I would have a better future. I was tired on the plane because it was a long trip. I thought to find great things, modern buildings and many modern things. When I arrived everything was like I thought: buildings and nice big houses. The first months were very sad. Even though I was with my mom I missed my friends and family. Everything was new to me, like making new friends and getting to know new places, but I had the most important person by my side: my mom. What I didn't like was that the weather was very cold and very hot but gradually I got used to it. Also, with English it was clear that I

knew the basics but it was frustrating to be asked something and not know how to respond.

The hardest part was leaving my family, friends and my life back home but I know I have to make a sacrifice for a better future. My dream is to be someone in life, to succeed and have a great career and there is no better example to me than my sister. She already has a baby and has a very good profession because she was able to get ahead even though everyone said to choose an easier path. She followed her dream and now she has a great reward which is her daughter. She is my example because she was able to surpass all the obstacles that life put in her way. That's how I want to be. Someone who can get ahead no matter how many sacrifices you have to make, because from that comes something good. Always value what you have, even the small things, because at any moment your life can change for good or ill. Learn to value the people around you because someday you are going to need them and then you will realize how important they are in your life. Remember "you do not know what you have until you lose it."

Art Projects created by Mr. Wintersteen's 8th Grade Digital Art Students





Willy Wonka Speaks: An Interview With Adam Lemoine

What character did you play?
I played Willy Wonka.

What was your favorite scene to perform?
That would probably be the prologue which had Pure Imagination and Golden Age of Chocolate because I got to see the Oompa Loompas do their special talents. I also liked being able to interact with the audience.

What was the best part about being in the play?
Finally performing it because we were able to use all of the hard work we did: practicing every day, learning all the songs, practicing the stage movements. We got to use all of that to make an amazing performance, which I always enjoy.

Which costume do you think was the best?
I would have to say Violet's costume because they put a lot of work into making sure it blew up right and it served a pretty good punchline about how she "blew it".

Veruca Salt Speaks: An Interview With Dana Boshart

What character did you play?
I was Veruca Salt.

What was your favorite scene?
This is biased, but all of the ones I was in.

What was your favorite song from the show?
"I Want It Now" because it was fun to perform and was amusing to the crowd.

Who had the best costume?
I really liked Violet's because of the blow up suit.

How long have you been acting?
I started when I was about 5.

Do you get nervous when you perform?
No, I had done it before and we practiced a lot.

What was your favorite part about being in the show?
It was cool getting to know everybody and getting to know my character. I had to learn how she acts and how to say the lines properly.

What's your favorite candy?
Snickers!

What was your favorite song to perform?
My favorite song was "Pure Imagination".

What was it like being the main character?
I was very surprised; I never thought I would become the main character. I auditioned for anything I could get because I had never been the "star of the show". The closest thing to main character I've ever been was Rooster in Annie Jr.

What was your favorite part about performing?
All of it, I've never had a favorite part, I love all of it!

How long have you been acting?
I've been acting since I was in fourth grade.

Were you nervous?
In the first minute of all my shows I always feel like I'm having a heart attack, but then I feel totally fine.

What's your favorite candy?
Jolly Ranchers!





It takes a Village to Create a Bag of Chocolate

By Ms. Ciofolo

Several of our teachers and students collaborated on a 'chocolate project' to help raise money for the musical production of Willy Wonka Junior and learn a little bit about product production along the way. The chocolate was designed by students in Mr. King's technology class and prototypes were printed out on our 3D printers. Mr. King then researched type of plastic that would be suitable for food molds. Once students decided on a design, it was transferred to the plastic using a vacuum mold. The molds were then turned over to Ms. Dalto's home and careers class where the chocolate was produced. Students had been studying food safety and followed food safety protocol in the chocolate molding. Students also came up with suggestions for a name and a tagline. The school voted to call the chocolate 'Pure Imagination Chocolate' that was Oompa-Loompa Approved. Mr. Wintersteen's Digital Art class designed the labels and Ms. Nelson's science class came up with 'cool facts about chocolate' that we included on the packaging. A few of our students made videos (commercials) to advertise the chocolate and one of Ms. Simmons' math classes priced it taking into account the cost of materials and expected profit. They also calculated the probability of winning the prize. The 'prize' hidden in 5 bags of chocolate is actually a sticker which entitles the bearer to a Golden Ticket or \$15.00 iTunes card that was donated by the PTA. We hid 5 stickers in the chocolate to connect with the 5 Golden tickets in the production.



Humans of

Generation Z (born 1995-2010) Loud. Obnoxious. Lazy. Entitled. Media-Obsessed. Self-Obsessed. Insecure.



Interviewer-Rhodni Boyd-Postell

Are you a scholar? Does your present electronic life affect your future career ideals?

"Electronics don't control my future, but they help me towards the goal because I want to be an artist, and they help in a way because they help with drawing tutorials." When asked about her school ethic and intentions towards a scholarship, she replied "I don't need it as much as other kids, but I deserve it as much as other kids".

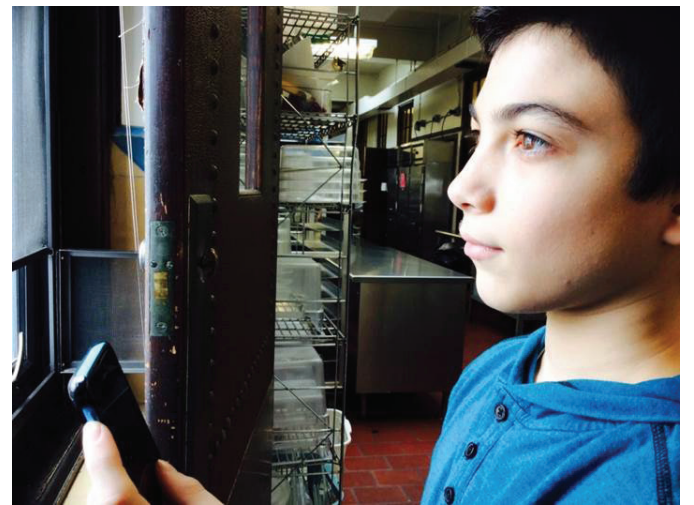
These are just a few of the stereotypes attributed to American teens. Are all teenagers rebellious, out of control, and up to no good? Obviously not; there is no way that every single teenager in the world could fit that description. And yet, our society still labels teenagers with these negative connotations. Can we break these stereotypes? Can we change the way society perceives us?

Over the course of 2nd and 3rd quarter, Critical Literacy II students conducted research to determine what it means to be a teenager in their generation (Generation Z). Students marked various texts using metacognitive markers to help them gain a deeper understanding of each article. The students worked in groups to think and discuss the texts in depth through questioning, Socratic Seminars and Philosophical Chairs. After reading the articles, students needed to determine what it really meant to be a part of their generation. In order to do this, they answered this question using evidence from the text. They tested their statement by interviewing teens in and outside of Highlands Middle School. Thus, Humans of Highlands was created. Their work was modeled from Brandon Stanton's Humans of New York (HoNY). HoNY features street photos and stories collected in New York City and currently has over 14 million likes on Facebook and 3 million followers on Instagram.

Interviewer-Meylin Jerez

What do you feel is the most important thing in your life as a member of Generation Z?

"Friendship. Friendship because it is important to not always be on technology and to go outside and explore the world around you. Our problem is technology. Using technology interferes with my social interaction with other people and can prevent me from getting to know new people."



Interviewer-Isabella Florindo

"I'm very prepared for my future, I know what I want to do. My goal is set and I'm already working toward achieving my goal. Technology has played a huge part in me realizing what I want to do and helping me reach my goal. I'm able to research and better understand how to reach my goal."



Interviewer-Wendy Orzuna

What has been your reaction towards the negative characteristics that people have said towards Gen Z?

"I don't think we are phone addicted or lazy. My parents put a limit on how much time I can use my phone and I don't often watch television because I rather hang out with my friends and use my time wisely. I don't think it's good to spend a lot of your time in a screen. I think that it is a waste of time."



Interviewer-Gurveen Dhallu

"One on one talking is where you can really see a person saying what they're saying, rather than just words on a screen. It would really mean a lot to me if I can actually have a one on one conversation with them not through technology, but just having that physical and social experience, and actually getting to know them. I think it's faster, through technology, than mail or finding the time to talk to somebody, but I definitely prefer talking to somebody than text messaging."

Interviewer-Jade Balarezo

What do you feel your biggest flaw is?

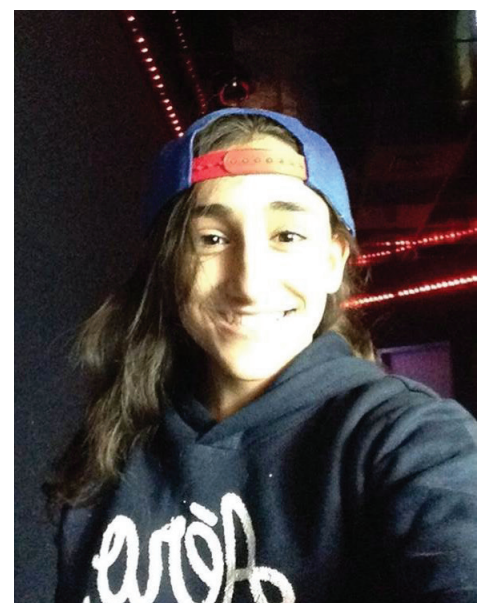
"My biggest flaw is being very demanding. I'm always determined to get something, by doing whatever it takes. This one time I really wanted an iPad. I was in 4th grade, and I was begging my parents, until one day I gave up, and I basically rebelled. If my parents needed to go buy groceries, I would always say "I won't go unless, unless you give me an iPad" I was basically boycotting, so my parents were fed up and gave me an iPad."



Interviewer-Vanessa Remedios

"How do you feel about being put into a generalized group?"

Personally I don't like being put into a generalized group because it's very offensive and is very rude as well. I actually do other things than be on social media. I actually do community service and read a lot too. So NO I don't think or believe I am a part of thing generalized group of social media obsessed self-centered brats."

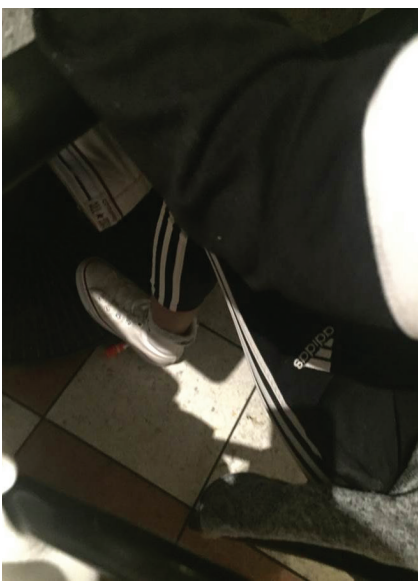


Highlands

Interviewer-Saul Pesantez
 "I do feel that I can be targeted by advertisers. I think that advertisements trick me into buying products, and when I finally realize it it's too late to turn back. I ask myself a question, why did I buy this?"



Interviewer-Abby Ortiz
 "Yes, I do think my phone has made me a better person because I talk to a lot of inspirational people and they help me out with life problems. When I can't reach out to someone I can always text them and ask them anything. Also, I learn a lot about stuff going on around like tragedies which helps me understand what other people think about or know. I think that if I didn't have my phone my parents would be really worried where I was all the time, and when they do know where I am they're more relaxed and trust me. Also, I get to take pictures of memories that can help me realize things later in life. Also, I can really easily reach out to my family back in Bulgaria, and talk to them without a problem. My grandma has the best stories to tell me when I'm talking to her online, mostly about my mom and I like knowing who my mom was when she was little."



Interviewer-Pamela Hermoza
 "They think that they are older than what they are. However, society constructs citizen among everyone. Stereotypes are seen on social media and by people with more authority".



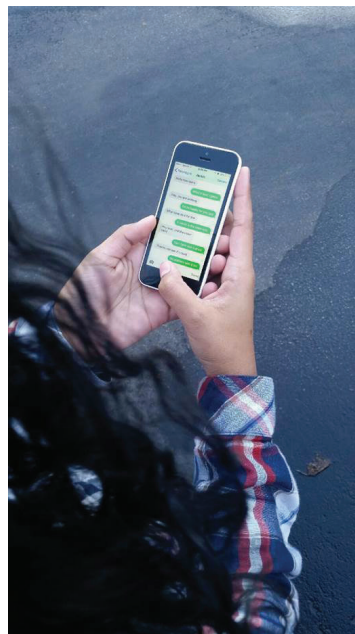
Interviewer-Guerdyna Gelin
 "I feel like my phone breaks me and my family apart because I am always busy talking to my friends, it keeps me distant from them. Sometimes I don't even know what's going on with their lives."



Interviewer-Juan Alvarracin Naulaguari
 Do you consider yourself obsessed (with your phone)? Explain.
 "No that's a good question and sorry if my answer is weird. I wouldn't consider myself obsessed, but I would consider myself dependent on it. I communicate with a lot of my friends mainly through messaging or texting and I need my friends. I also use my phone to text my best friend when I really need support and he knows the whole story so I don't have to explain anything, and vice versa if he needs help he texts me. I use my phone as a distraction as well. When the world becomes too much or I'm not doing great or I'm experiencing internalized acrophobia. I go to Tumblr or YouTube so I can take my mind off of the "real world." So while I don't feel the urge to check it every second of the day, I also depend on it to keep my mental health slightly better than it would be otherwise".



Interviewer-Gabby Holm
 "How has technology made an Impact on your life? How large of an Impact has it made?"
 "Technology has made a HUGE impact on my life! It's made communication a lot easier. We used to move a lot, but I can still keep in touch with my old friends a lot quicker without having to worry about writing and mailing letters. It's also helped a lot with school. I'm a freshman in college, and new textbooks are expensive! Instead, I can just do my research on my laptop in half the time. Being educated with tech, I know what websites to trust and what websites I shouldn't trust."



Interviewer-Paola Magana
 Do you consider yourself "tech-obsessed"? Why or why not?
 "Um, yes. I do. But like I don't mean to it's just like it's, like, um, it's like our generation. And I feel like when people are given a phone there just and there with their friends and their all on their phone it kinda like just provokes people to spend more time on their phone because people around them are on their phone. It distracts you a lot and you don't realize it. It's provocative. It's addictive."

Interviewer-Guadalupe Saldivar
 What are your goals for the future? How are you preparing for that?
 "My goals for the future is to get into a good college, study very hard and travel around the world. I am preparing by studying hard and getting good grades in my classes. I am trying hard to reach my goals."

Interviewer-Kayla Tillman
 "What you put on social media will always be out there, you don't know who has a screenshot of the picture. Because of the consequences others suffered because of social media I am more aware of what I put online. "



Humans of



Interviewer-Jennifer Mercado
How does social media effect your life? What would your life be like without social media?

"At times social media is really fun to have it keeps me entertained but not always in a good way. Social media makes me obsess on what's hot and what's not. It makes me wish I was prettier once I compare myself to everyone else, it also takes up a lot of my time just scrolling, sharing, and liking post that in no way benefit me. Without social media my life would be less stressful not having to worry about anyone else's life but my own"



Interviewer: Sarah DiSanto
"10 years from now...
hmm.. I would love to graduate college and become a teacher. I'd hope to leave my parents' house and move to Florida because I hate the cold."

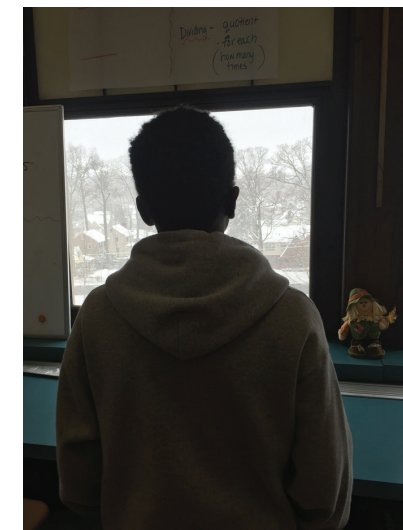
Interviewer: Matthew Brand
Describe a moment in your life that defines you as a person.

"Me making my first basketball team. I love basketball, it's a passion of mine. Basketball has made me a hard-working individual, and I consider myself athletic because of it."



Interviewer: Rebecca Salim
How would you describe the current generation?

"I would describe our current generation as people who are dependent on their electronic devices. I would say that we are addicted to our devices. For example, I am dependent on my phone to communicate with others."

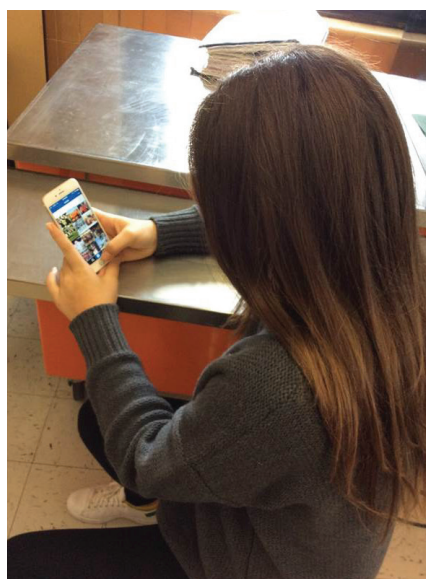


Interviewer: Erik Lora
"I got into social media because all of my friends are in social media and all of them had social media before I did. A lot of conversations happened on social media ad it was kinda weird not knowing what it was about."



Interviewer: Tianna Barker
"Having freedom, is using technology independently and speaking what's on our mind. We are mature in ways that we are responsible and very determine when it comes down to school work. Well in this case not all teens are like that. Interaction with others is one of the biggest thing teens do in our generation. Which is not only healthy for us but it helps when we are in situation where we need to communicate with others not only our friends. Teens love the outdoors and outdoors activity. Most teens at my school plays an outdoor sport and they really like playing it. Lastly but not least we think positively."

Interviewer: Ava Rainone
" Social media has helped me explore what others are like in the world. It also lets me express myself, and contact my friends."



When surveyed if teens are unappreciative, 63% of parents chose "false".

75% of surveyed teens said that they were going to make an impact in the world.

75% of parents said that their teen will make an impact in the world.

40% of teens said that they want a future job in the arts.

65% of teens said that they are not the most important thing that they think about.

When asked about the most important thing to them, 70% of teens said education.

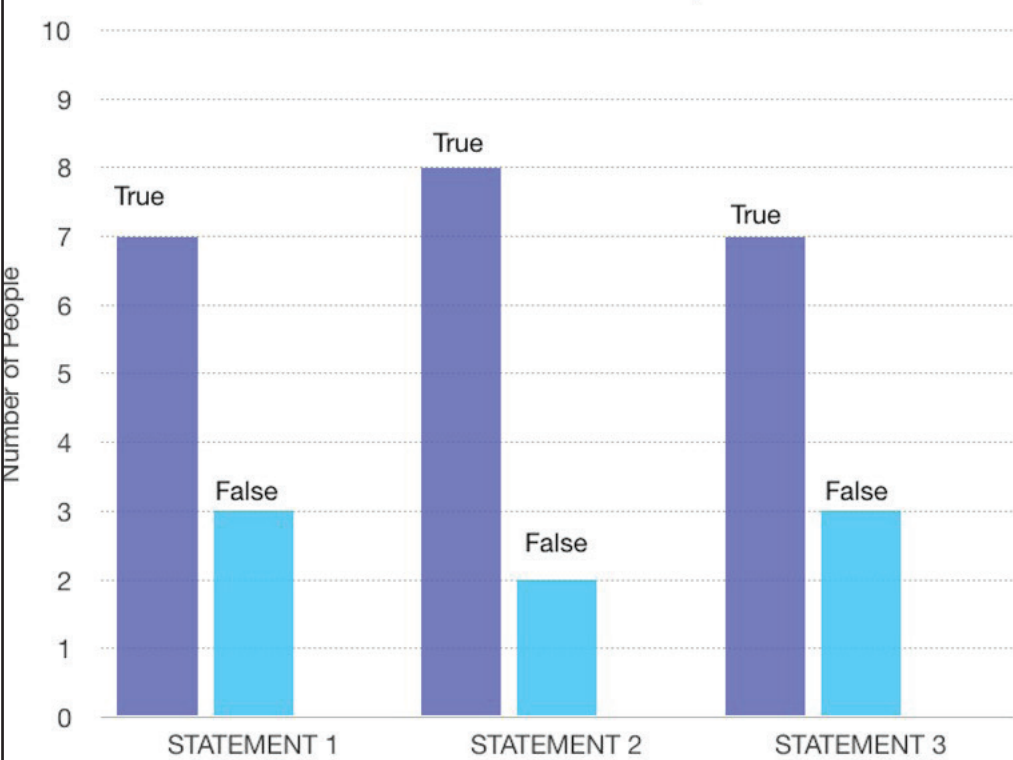
When asked if they cared about their grades, 90% of teens said yes.

-Researched by Lily Nguyen, Jordan Holman, Eric Hofmann, Daniela Mejia, Noble Khairule, and Britney Salgado

We would like to make this a regular feature in The Courier! If you are interested in participating, either as an interviewer or a subject, please attend our next meeting! You can also see Ms. Miller in Room 141 with any questions.

Highlands

Generation Z Survey



STATEMENT 1: I would be able to give up my phone if told to do so.

STATEMENT 2: I am constantly thinking about my future.

STATEMENT 3: I have a good work ethic and am motivated in school.

We conducted a survey which we gave to Generation Z-ers. The results clearly show that although some teens are dependent upon technology and their phones, the majority of this generation doesn't care about it and is future-focused. (Created by Jillian Pope, Amanda Nirenberg, Elma Mrkulic, Gianna Pasacreta, and Natalie Pedi)



"I think I have set myself apart from generation Z stereotypes. I define myself as more than the labels we are given. I want people to see me as a determined individual. (Interviewed by Noemi Pedraza)

"What has been the hardest moment in your life?" "When I was younger my house got destroyed by a hurricane in Miami. I was terrified so I hid under a table crying... I lost a lot. My house. My belongings. Money. I moved away to live with my aunt in Tarrytown. It was pretty sad, but I was able to spend more time with my family. I coped with what happened by reading and drawing." (Interviewed by Samantha Ballin)



"I love to laugh. It keeps me happy, and it's funny to see how your smile can spread so rapidly and uplift so many other faces, and when I see that, I just keep right on smiling." (Interviewed by Melanie Barest)



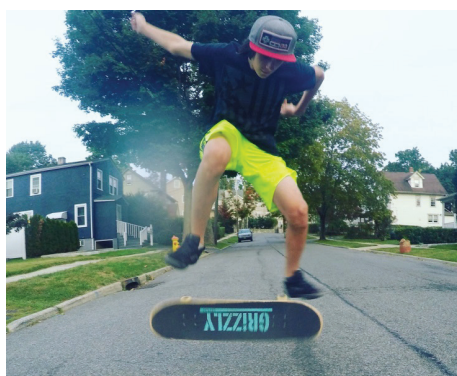
"I am 13, and my best teenage experience was when I was in a basketball tournament. We were playing our hardest in the tournament. I started the second quarter with 0 points and ended up with 25 points in the third quarter. That's when I knew basketball was really for me." (Interviewed by Jared Thomas)



"My relationship with my family as a teen now has changed. Honestly, I only hang out with my family when I have to. My family relationship is very on and off. The teen mindset that I have now is very different than the mindset I've had as a kid. I now see from my own point of view, not my family's." (Interviewed by Sarah Da Silva)



"The reason I play guitar so frequently is because it helps me escape all the stress that I face in my life" (Interviewed by Hugo Vera)



"Starting the 8th grade with a lot of events going on in my life was a struggle. For example, My mom getting another divorce, myself, and sports. I motivate myself equally in everything, sports, school, my life." (Interviewed by Fabian Castano)

"You'll make fun of it but, it's a stuffed animal based on a soccer team. My grandfather gave it to me before he died and I can't go anywhere without it because it makes me feel that he's near me."



What object in your life do you value the most?

"A bracelet that my sister gave me from Colombia, I wear it every day and never take it off." (Interviewed by Sebastian Gutierrez)



Highlands Talents



ent Show 2016



Ted Cruz vs. Donald Trump

By Arianna Mselle

Like the famous ending to the novel Animal Farm by George Orwell, not many people can tell the difference between an argument involving school-children and the back and forth feud occurring between Republican candidates Ted Cruz and Donald Trump. Names such as "Sleazy Donald" and "Lying Ted" along with other elementary insults have been the only things that seem to be said during the two candidates' rallies and on their social media accounts. But it seems like the bizarre fight over each other's wives has attracted the most attention. It was shown on Ted Cruz's Twitter page that he had posted a naked picture of Trump's wife, Melania Trump, with caption; "Meet Melania Trump, your next first lady. Or you could support Ted Cruz." This sparked outrage in the fellow Republican candidate, who shot back with the tweet:

"Lyn' Ted Cruz just used a picture of Melania from a G.Q. shoot in his ad. Be careful, Lyn' Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!"

– Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) March 23, 2016

After seeing this, Ted Cruz claimed that the picture was not from him, and

warned Donald Trump to not attack his wife, Heidi Cruz.

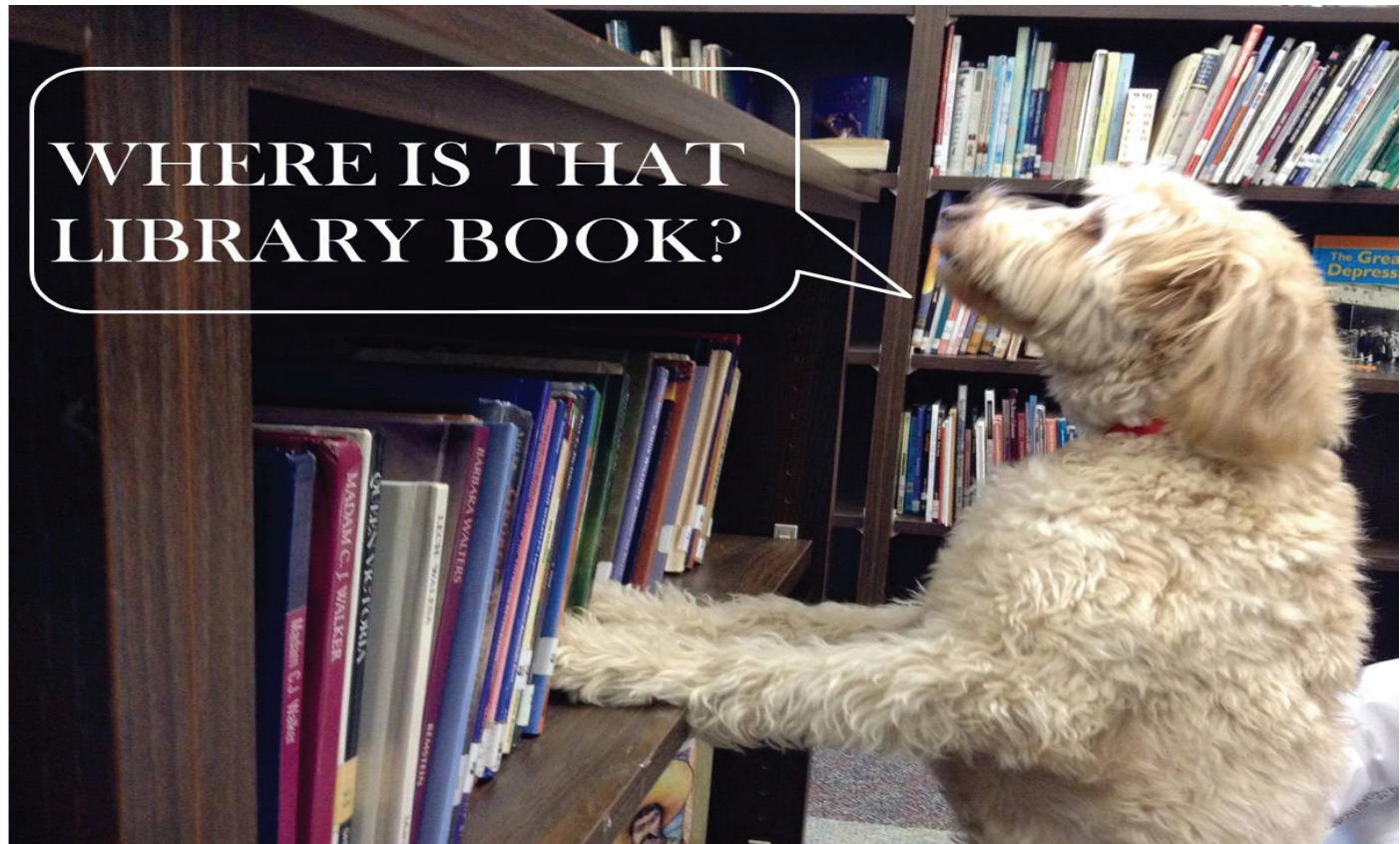
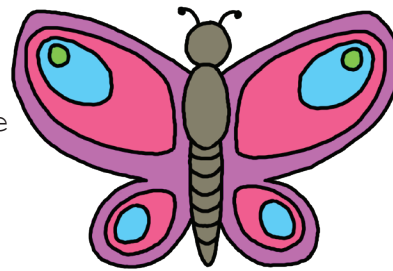
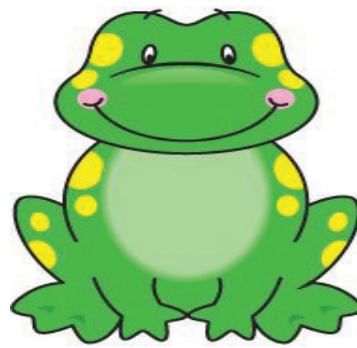
"Pic of your wife not from us. Donald, if you try to attack Heidi, you're more of a coward than I thought. #classless"

– Ted Cruz (@tedcruz) March 23, 2016

But some claimed Hypocrisy against Ted Cruz and claimed that he started the whole thing by posting the indecent picture of Melania in the first place. However, this did not keep Trump from trying to defend his wife the next day by retweeting a post from another user which showed a side-by-side picture comparing the two candidates' wives. The picture consisted of a homely image of Heidi Cruz, and a regular picture of Melania Trump. This was followed with the caption "No need to spill the beans, a picture is worth a thousand words". Cruz struck back during an interview with press telling Donald Trump that he's a "sniveling coward" who should leave Heidi "the hell alone." Both Cruz and Trump received criticism from the general public on their actions and many are certain that the GOP is "doomed".

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baseball
 birds
 blossom
 flowers
 grass
 hatch
 photosynthesis
 rabbits
 rain
 spring
 sprout
 sunshine
 trees
 warm



Upcoming Events

Walk/Bike to School Day - May 4th

7th Grade Spring Concert - May 4th

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip-May 5th and 6th

8th Grade Spring Concert - May 11th

No School - May 26th-31st

8th Grade Dance - Friday June 3rd

8th Grade Picnic - To be announced

