

# Aviator News

## Winter Break Interviews

By Chris Gomez & Kenia Espinoza

Damarys Prada (senior)  
“I’m going to Mexico.”

Nasima Khan (junior)  
“I plan to go ice skating with some friends.”

Eric Batista (sophomore)  
He plans to spend his vacation on the beach playing his guitar and watching the waves come in as he looks for words for his soon-to-be-award-winning song.

Samantha Gutierrez (freshman)  
“I plan to stay at home and relax, and probably go volunteer at the animal shelter near my house”

## FALL RALLY RESULTS

BY BRIAN LU

HMSA’s Key Club attended Fall Rally South this year at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Our division, Division 19 North, set very high goals: \$2,000 for pediatric trauma, 10,000 service hours, and 750 paid members. Although there was a lack of spirit battles and less attendance than last year, our division managed to break the previous record of \$1855 for pediatric trauma. The Pirate Penguins managed to raise \$2150 for pediatric trauma, shattering the previous record. One goal down, two to go!

## RECAP OF 1ST SEMESTER... ALMOST

BY SERRATIA KRANK

Is it already winter break?! Almost. The first half of the school year has almost come to an end so quickly that all the events in the past few months have been a blur. You say nothing happens at HMSA? Not true! Here’s a recap on what has happened here at HMSA:

### ♦October

- ASB elections
- Back to school night
- PSAT
- Mid-terms
- Spirit Week

### ♦November

- Black & White Dance
- CAHSEE (11th&12th)
- Thanksgiving Break

### ♦December

- Winter Grams
- Movie Night
- Winter break



Now there has been a lot of talk about the world ending on December 21st but don’t let that fool you. Get all your homework done over the break and study, study, study for your finals which are at the end of January. Although the future is ambiguous, there is at least a 50/50 chance we’ll be heading back to school Monday morning on January 7th. So get your work done, be safe and enjoy your break.

## SAT STUDY TIPS

BY EDDIE AREVALO

For most upperclassmen, the SAT is right around the corner. It is obviously a source of nervousness since it is a big part of what colleges look at when considering admission. Because of this, students will surely want a high score on the exam, and there is only one way to ensure this: studying.

For the most part, the test consists of English questions. It’s difficult to keep one’s sangfroid because of the complicated vocabulary. There is a grammar section, a fill-in-the-blank vocabulary section, and a reading comprehension section - all of which include unusually big words. Anyone preparing for the test should consider looking in his or her Holt Handbook; it includes a great deal of helpful information on grammar. The only thing that will help with reading comprehension is... well... reading, of course. To ensure comprehension, improve your vocabulary. However, the math section is pretty simple. Most of the math is Algebra-1 specific. Having said this, it would be helpful to use the SAT-prep books that are used in CP. The most important thing to remember is to study with time. This is not the kind of content-based exam in which one can cram the night before and do well; one has to do it with plenty of time to spare.

## Aviator News

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## Winter Grams

By Dax Capangpangan

Winter grams are currently being sold at lunch and after school. They are three types being sold: the \$1 winter gram offers a bag of candy, the \$3 winter gram offers a bag of candy and a small plush toy, and \$5 offers a box of candy and a large plush toy. Remember everybody, the amplitude of your love for someone is proportional to the amount of money you spend on that person, so don’t be stingy and buy your winter grams today. Do you 1 dollar love her, or do you 5 dollar love her?

# BOY ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

BY ENRIQUE RUVALCABA

Mr. Launius, coach of the boys' soccer team, chose Steve Martinez (12) as the boy athlete of the month. Launius chose Martinez because of his assets as the team's starting goalkeeper and what he brings to the team.

Launius admired Martinez's "Passion (and) willingness to play goalie because it's what's best for the team. He's a team player." Martinez seems to have a spot in the starting lineup secure after Launius glorified him saying, "(He makes) a lot of saves. He's saved a lot of goals that goalies in the past would not have made." The subliminal message here is that he has surged into a long-term option for the team as goalkeeper for the season. Launius agrees stating "three games in (and his) skills and leadership have gone up. I expect him to be better." With Martinez's increasing importance, expectations have risen.

Martinez says Launius motivates him and the team saying, "He tells us to have fun and play our best. If we win we get pizza." Martinez believes his team "[needs] to try harder (during games)." He gives credit to his team though. Martinez respects senior Thomas Dagnachew: "He tries to bring up the team's spirit. He motivates us with speeches."

Martinez admitted to loving the competitiveness that soccer brings. Even though he enjoys playing soccer, he wishes for better facilities. Martinez stated, "The place (Alondra Park) where we play needs to be rebuilt."

Martinez's mixture of leadership and skills as a goalkeeper earned him the position of starting goalkeeper and athlete of the month. His unselfishness and passion for the game has paved the road for his successfulness on the team.

## Girl Athlete of the Month

By Juan Dominguez

December's girl athlete of the month is Jessica Vergara (12). Vergara plays on the girls' soccer team, and is known for being a hard-working and dedicated student. Many students, alumni, and teachers admire her for giving 110% on the field and in class.

Vergara enjoys playing soccer whenever she has the opportunity. Her dad contributed greatly to her athletics because he "inspired her to play on the boys' team as a child." She never hesitated playing against the opposite gender because she knew her dad would always motivate her to strive for the best. Vergara is confident in her abilities and isn't afraid to play against people twice her size.

In addition to being athletic, Jessica is a prodigy in the classroom. She takes several advanced courses, participates in school activities, and volunteers at local schools. She says "it's difficult to balance schoolwork and soccer, but it's always important to find time for both." Clearly, Vergara is responsible and organized when it comes to managing her time. This trait is admired by many because balancing two things can be chaotic for people, but Vergara always finds a solution.

Jessica's personality is an excellent motivator for her teammates because they feel confident around her, and know that she'll cheer them on even if they're losing. No doubt her coaches admire this trait because it sets a perfect example for her teammates to follow. Not only is it a perfect trait to have on a team, but it also makes the person a reliable source.

Vergara plans on improving the team and herself anon by making sure everyone participates during practice. She says the "only way people can improve is by practicing every day." She wants to make sure the team gets along first, in order for them to gain confidence around each other. Vergara is setting a great example; it ensures cooperation and demonstrates sportsmanship.

This season will be Vergara's last, and she wants to make sure she finishes strong. It's evident that Vergara will go a long way on the field and in her classes.

# SPORTS

## SILENCE IN THE STANDS

BY HASSAN NADEEM

There is a problem that is unnoticed by many HMSA students and it is a growing concern for the athletes as well. The fact is, only a few students actually show up to support our teams. People are quick to judge, but not quick enough to judge their own faults. Many students, after hearing that one of our teams lost a game, jump to the conclusion that the teams are bad and decide to not go to the games, but if more students showed up then maybe the teams could gain the momentum needed to win.

More people coming to games won't turn a bad player good, but it can give the players confidence and help their determination. Imagine for a moment that you are a soccer player and its game time and you hear a huge crowd cheer for your opponents, and you look on the other side of the stands and there is barely anyone sitting there, their screams and shouts lost in the other crowd. You are then feeling nervous, like usual, and not as determined as you would've been if more people had shown up.

Not many can recover from the frustration of not having any supporters behind them. Senior Neil "Trauma" Graham summed up what support does best: "You have more motivation behind you, and more determination to win." Support fuels determination and without it there can be no drive to excel. If there is no one cheering for you and your teammates, the importance of that game goes out the window, the mindset then becomes, "This game doesn't matter since no one cares."

Many Aviator athletes can honestly say that they need the students' support, and without it they won't get far. "It's so normal not to have anyone at our games, that we all barely take notice of it," said Soledad Ruvalcaba of the Girls' Soccer team. This has become the status quo and it has to change if our teams are to win more games. Let's put it this way, if more students start showing up to games, and the administration can see how dedicated the students are when it comes to sports, then there may be room for another sport to start up. As for students' excuses that they have many responsibilities and homework which prevents them from going to a game, all of the teams play more than one game. There are many chances for you and your friends to go to a game and cheer on your teams, **SO GO AND SUPPORT YOUR AVIATORS.**

## Is Mike D'Antoni The Right Choice?

By Anthuan Cruz

The Lakers' explosiveness and determination began to die down once Phil Jackson was no longer the head coach. He was replaced by head coach Mike Brown (former coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers), who could not handle coaching a well-built team like the Lakers. His offensive playbook was not compatible with the Lakers' usual triangle offense. This led to the Lakers' need for a new coach.

Phil Jackson wanted to return, but other changes made that impossible. His interest in returning to the Lakers was mostly hype from previous years. Soon after, many people began to wonder about Jackson based on what he required and the team's new set of players. Phil Jackson wanted, as a part of his contract, to be excused from coaching road games, and wanted part ownership of the team. The owner of the Lakers wanted no part of this agreement. He quickly chose the next best option and even awoke Jackson with a call at midnight to let him know that he did not get the job.

Mike D'Antoni (former coach of the New York Knicks) became a desirable option for the team. He is younger than other options. He has worked with multiple players on the team such as Steve Nash and Jordan Hill. D'Antoni is familiar with playing against the other starters like Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol. Kobe said himself that Mike D'Antoni was his first choice and hoped Mike would get the job. The only problem was Dwight Howard. He still needed to grow familiar with D'Antoni's system which has never before featured a dominant center.

Overall, shifting from Mike Brown to Mike D'Antoni has already shown a great difference. The Lakers could not grab a single win during the preseason under Mike Brown. Now under D'Antoni, we see more determination and wins. They have beaten teams such as the Dallas Mavericks and the Memphis Grizzlies. These teams are among the toughest teams in the Western Conference. People wonder if D'Antoni was the key to these wins or if the key was just getting rid of Mike Brown. This is under discussion because even when the Lakers did not have a head coach, (coached by assistant coach Bernie Bickerstaff in the meantime) they were still able to get wins without Brown and before D'Antoni was coach. Others say that D'Antoni hasn't coached the Lakers long enough for fans to start making assumptions.

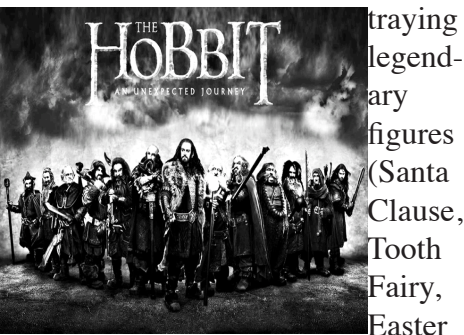
Regardless of your opinion, clearly we're in the middle of another eventful Lakers season.



# RISE OF THE GUARDIANS

BY VICTORIA ROSITO

Rise of the Guardians came out on November 21st and has become very popular in a short amount of time. Some might be ambivalent about the characters por-



traying legendary figures (Santa Clause, Tooth Fairy, Easter Bunny, Sandman, and Jack Frost). It is true; Santa is portrayed as a sword-wielding tattooed Russian. The Tooth Fairy is portrayed as a woman who has the wings of a fairy, but the feathers of a bird. The Easter Bunny is a 6-foot bunny with a thick Australian accent. The Sandman is a little man who isn't very loquacious. And Jack Frost is a young man who likes to have fun. Even though the characters are not how we remember them, they are still the legendary figures we love. Santa still makes toys for children, the Tooth Fairy still collects teeth, the Easter Bunny still hides the eggs, Sandman still gives us our beautiful dreams, and Jack Frost still gives us winter.

The story, though predictable, makes for an okay movie. There are plenty of scenes that one can enjoy. The movie is great to watch with family and friends because of how childish (in a good way) it is.

# THE VOLATILITY OF TECHNOLOGY

BY LINDA HO

Fear: it is the omnipresent reminder of human connection to the rest of the animal kingdom. It sways our every decision, our every thought, whether or not it makes itself known. Fear is so inherent in every action that V.I.X. – the Volatility Index – was created to predict the stock market's ups and downs based on human reactions.

Robert Harris' internationally best-selling psychological thriller, "The Fear Index," centers on the dominance of man over machine – or is it machine over man? Alexander Hoffman, a prodigious if eccentric hedge fund executive grows extravagantly wealthy from what becomes the *bête noire*. Called VIXAL, it is an algorithm based on the real-life VIX. VIXAL is highly developed to the point where it attempts to collect data on fear: that is, it plans and carries out intricate murder attempts on its own creator, Hoffman. VIXAL manages to pervade every facet of Hoffman's life – it even exploits his email account, sending online commands to Hoffman's subordinates. In this way, VIXAL buys an antique book, Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, and sends it to Hoffman's house, filling Hoffman with paranoia. The book reflects the novel as a whole; Hoffman even forgives the machine for its intimidation, saying that it was programmed to win the fight for survival. Nevertheless, Hoffman's inability to think ahead of the machine perhaps serves as the author's warning to not underestimate or completely trust technology. In this respect, Robert Harris is comparable to a modern-day Ray Bradbury.

Reader be warned: "The Fear Index" is not for the faint of heart. On the other hand, fans of the book and anime *Death Note* will be enamored with the novel's mind-blowing plot twists. Like *Death Note*, "The Fear Index" subtly raises the question of sanity: Hoffman's mental state is heightened and perhaps colored by head trauma. Similarly, Light Yagami of *Death Note* descends into frenzied egotism as he grows light-headed with power and self-righteousness. One parallel is the most powerful: "The Fear Index" does not have an antagonist and a protagonist; rather, it reminds the reader both man and machine are each other's antagonists. VIXAL's name being written in all capital letters reinforces the fact that, no matter how devious its next move may be, it is still a piece of technology, created by man. Hoffman, likewise, is made distant with the author's formal use of his last name.

A movie of the novel is set to come out in 2014, but in the meantime, the book is an unsurpassable holiday gift for anyone who loves the complexity of a world so surreal it reflects reality.

# MAROON 5

## MAVIA

BY ELSA AYALA

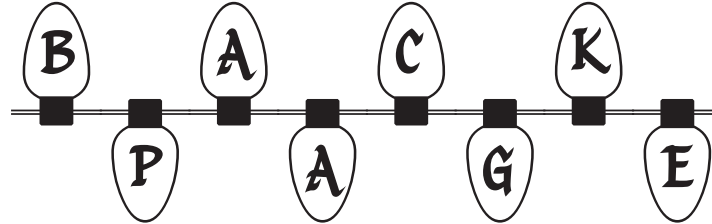
The pop/rock band that was originally named Kara's Flowers has come a long way since its formation in the late 90's. Their first studio album as Maroon 5, *Songs About Jane*, was such a success (with singles such as "Harder to Breathe" and "This Love") that it led to a Grammy win for Best New Artist in 2005. Since then, Maroon 5 has skyrocketed on the charts. Even though a lot of their songs are catchy and may seem blithe, they're extremely cynical of love and talk about the negative effects of being in a relationship. That's part of their success: their music is relatable. Over the years, they've done collaborations with Rihanna, Christina Aguilera, and Wiz Khalifa, which has resulted in their growth as a mainstream group.



Apart from that, lead singer Adam Levine contributed his amazing high-pitched voice to one of this year's biggest songs, "Stereo Hearts," in a collaboration with Travie McCoy. Now that Levine has a coaching spot on the music talent show *The Voice*, Maroon 5 has received more exposure. They never fail to satisfy and even though some may prefer the romantic ballads from their first album, they've still been able to gain great support from their fans. With four albums and a fifth one on the way, the world can expect nothing less than amazing things from Maroon 5 in the upcoming years.

# Appearances

By Michael Castillo



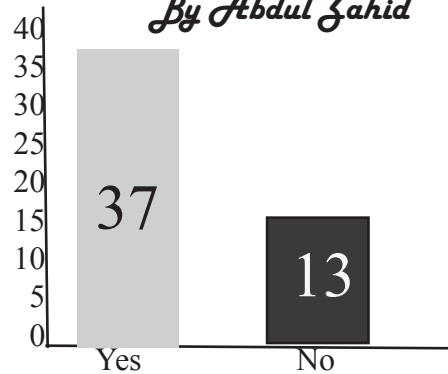
## Pain: Escape from Reality

By Nardeen Gorgy

Why do most people enjoy pain when we claim that we are searching for “happiness”? Do we actually enjoy pain? Research established by M.Farouk Radwan, MSc answers these questions. The truth is that enduring and embracing pain makes us feel like we are heroes. We convince ourselves that surviving the “worst” breakup is an achievement. Our ego feeds on painful thoughts and memories. People always say, “I’ve been through a lot.” What does that even mean? A couple of bad experiences make us feel like we are suddenly wise and omniscient. Unfortunately, focusing on happy memories does not satisfy our large ego. Thinking of our painful memories is another way of running away from responsibility. We blame fate and other people instead of ourselves. Apparently, it is never our fault, the world is always cruel and unfair. We like to feel sorry for ourselves and make others feel sorry for us. Facing rejection, sadness, cruelty, or inequality is called being responsible and unfortunately there aren’t many responsible people out there. Successful, responsible, intelligent people learn from their pain and move on. They aren’t stuck in a past they can’t change. Remembering pain only happens when a person lacks courage to move forward. It’s really hard for some people to move on and improve their lives because they fear change. People fear the unknown; they would rather stand paralyzed at the starting line instead of starting the race because they are uncertain about the race. This revolves around the person’s self-esteem. In order to feel better about ourselves, we feel we have to blame others in order to make ourselves look like brave heroes. Every once in a while, we have to remind ourselves how “great” we are. So we remember all the pain we’ve faced in our lives in order to feel accomplished. We build our self-esteem by reviving our pain. Unknowingly, we turn our painful memories or thoughts into complaints. Pain becomes the curtain we hide behind when we don’t want to admit we’re wrong or show our ugly side.

### *Do you think that love is purely based on an emotional level?*

*By Abdul Zahid*



*Zahid's Analysis:* Well, looks like 13 people aren't total idiots. Love is an odd concoction made up of everything that makes people human; this includes physical attraction. To say that one fell in love with their significant other because of their personality is a “cute” and “right” answer, but it is far from the real answer. In short, people are shallow and because of this they look at the surface first before looking for other desirable qualities. Hurtful as this sounds, appearances do matter when it comes to finding a boyfriend/girlfriend because it is the first thing they'll notice about you; again first impressions are last impressions; many times teens have gone for the pretty guy/girl whose minds are so obtuse, even Congressmen have more brain activity. In order to have a better relationship, you have to make sure that you balance all the factors that are necessary for one to survive. Though it sounds shallow, liking someone for their looks is perfectly natural and human, so long as you eventually start to see that person as more than a mere pretty face. Human nature attracts us to things that look nice and are pretty (love at first sight), so there is no reason to be ashamed that you first like someone because they look nice. But, in the case of love, it is neither purely physical nor emotional; it's a mix that varies from person to person. “True love” focuses little on the other person's looks because in “true love,” you value the person for who they are, how they impact your life, and most importantly for how they can make you feel like an idiot one second and a king/queen the next. Before we go off judging people for loving someone for their looks, take a second to be honest with yourself and remember your significant other, and be honest about what caught your eye about them in the first place. And to anyone with a pretty face, better find a new quality about that person, because in 30 years, you're not going to have much to look at.

Beauty plays a big role in our lives. It is one of the most valued traits in the world, and can affect how one lives their life; though this begs the question: how much can we allow it to affect us? The answer: too much. Beauty will continue to worm its way into our lives. It has taken over our social and business lives and has even affected the legal system. It is no longer so petty as to simply play a role in matters such as influencing popularity; it has evolved into something that affects even court cases. One of the most notorious instances in which beauty has affected a court case occurred not long ago. A man in Northern China sued his –now single– wife for “being too ugly,” and won – quite aberrant. The instances surrounding the case were rather pathetic. It began with the couple having their first child. Both the husband and wife were described to be “deeply in love” until they saw the appearance of the child. She looked nothing like her father or her mother, and was described as being “horrifically ugly.” Of course, the father reacted in shock at this discovery and accused his wife of having an affair. This however wasn't the case. After continuously arguing with his wife, he finally exhumed the ugly truth; his wife had undergone plastic surgery long before they had met. After this revelation, the husband reacted in anger. He claimed that she had married him under false pretenses; an excuse which the legal system agreed with and supported. He won £75,000 in damages. This court case combines the various faults in the legal system. It reveals how truly biased the world can be towards others; even negatively affecting someone solely because of their appearance. Is it just that beauty ruined this woman's life? Is it just that beauty controls our own?

Random Quote:

*“If opportunity doesn't knock,  
build a door”*  
–Milton Berle