

TIGER PRINTS

TikTok Goes The Clock

By: Samantha and Ali

After the deadly school shooting in Nashville, many Americans are worried about kids' safety and reinforcement of gun control laws. The U.S. government has, of course, addressed the situation; however they have also been focusing on something completely different. At recent press meetings, congress has taken more initiative towards the banning of the viral social media app, TikTok, than to more pressing matters. So why has this topic risen to the top of our government's agenda?

We all know why TikTok is facing a potential ban. Our government is convinced that the company currently owning TikTok, ByteDance, is receiving data from TikTok users and handing it over to the Chinese government. On March 16th, the government stated that ByteDance has to sell TikTok or will face a potential ban. So, what is wrong with the potential TikTok ban? Well, one reason why US residents are skeptical of this potential ban is since there has been no official statement on how exactly our government will ban TikTok. One popular theory is that TikTok will no longer be available on newly sold products. However, we are left to wonder, does our government even have a plan?

If the government does go through with this ban, hundreds of thousands of TikTok users will lose their jobs. Popular influencers such as Charli D'amelio and Addison Rae could lose the majority of their income. In an NY Times article titled "What if the US bans TikTok,"influencer Hootie Hurley with a 1.1 million following states that TikTok "has put food on our table." In addition to popular influencers losing jobs, the official TikTok website reports to have close to 7,000 US employees who will also be out of jobs with this ban. So, with the banning of TikTok, the government would not only take away pleasure- they would also hurt the economy by taking away jobs from Americans.



Additionally, TikTok not only provides an abundance of careers, it also serves for educational purposes-that's right-TikTok can be educational! In a Good Morning America article, 27 year old Daniel Schmidt tells GMA "Last semester in our multimedia journalism class, it was mandatory that we create a TikTok account and go on campus and create a social media video..." He then adds, "...there's some limitations to the learning process here." One student in a NY Times article said it best: "The government needs to focus its attention and resources on other things that are posing a literal threat to society like gun violence and the hungry that are without home or food throughout our country."

On the other hand, there are many people who think that TikTok is a huge national security concern. The main reason that the government is thinking of banning TikTok is because they are worried about the safety and privacy issues. ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, is collecting information from the over 1 billion people that use it. In a NY Times article, the author writes "ByteDance also admitted that employees, including two based in China, spied on journalists and obtained their IP addresses..."

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TikTok Goes The Clock Continued
By: Samantha and Ali

This helps give a better understanding of the government's reasoning. Also, although TikTok has many perks, (fun dances, trendy styles, world updates, cute animals, true crime, and more) TikTok also has some negative sides too. Some TikTok challenges are out of control, and even dangerous. To name a few, there is the chapstick challenge, the blackout challenge, the angel of death challenge, and the Benadryl challenge. All of these challenges are harmful, and can even be fatal. Another reason why some people are supporting the ban of TikTok is for a much different reason. People want their teens and children to have a screen break. Let's face it, electronic devices are pretty hard to avoid these days. Whether you mean to or not, screens are pretty prominent in our daily lives. It's not necessarily a bad thing, but sometimes a screen break is nice. In an article on the NY Times website, some kids have been going "TikTok Sober," which is when they limit their TikTok time, and some even just stop using it all together!

Overall, the potential ban of the viral social media app TikTok has created a stirring debate-is this really an acceptable problem for our government to be focusing on? There are two sides to every debate: so what do you think? Should TikTok be banned?



School Lunch: Could It Be Improved?
By: Bee

If you're like me, most days you don't enjoy the school lunch. Some days the food can look a little "questionable". From the soggy french fries, to the strange hot dogs, our PVC cafeteria isn't a five star restaurant. And the capriccio pizza going away in elementary school? Massive bummer. So the question is, could it really be improved?

The first thing you need to understand is dietary restrictions. For those of you who don't understand what that means, It's basically food allergies, and other things that don't allow people to eat some foods. A lot of kids are allergic to nuts, soy, dairy, etc... Some kids' throats even get irritated with spicy food or flavors that are too strong, like paprika. So the cafeteria staff need to work around that, even if that means no dairy or switching from peanut butter to sun butter.

Then there are the health restrictions. The french fries many people consider soggy are actually the best french fries our school can provide, due to one huge health restriction: they can't fry things in oil! Health restrictions are also the one to blame when it comes to the whole grain goldfish, whole grain pop tarts, and lactose free milk

Even with all these restrictions, the lunch staff are trying their best with what they've got. Even though the food at the school may not be gourmet, they still have pretty good meals considering all the obstacles they need to work around. And the amount of meal options tops many other schools in our area, and all throughout the country! So when you're in the lunch line and you don't see your favorite food, just know that they're trying their best. If the hot lunch doesn't strike your interest, maybe get a salad or sandwich or any of the many options they have in line!

The Willow Project Got The Green Light... Now What?

By Isra





Climate change has put the world in horrible shape! Glaciers are plunging habitats into melted water. Mines are mining out the nature we love. Deforestation is chopping down our world as we know it. But even more than that...the Willow Project.

What is the Willow Project?

ConocoPhillips'. Willow Project is a massive oil drilling project on Alaska's North Slope in the National Petroleum Reserve, which is owned by the government of the USA. The plan is to mine the oil from the area, and then use this oil from the Willow Project to gain profit. However, this supply would take years to reach the market since the project has yet to be constructed.

What Started the WIllow Project?

In 2016, the final year of the Obama administration, ConocoPhillips (the company that sponsored the Willow Project) drilled two oil exploration wells located in Alaska to search for a sufficient oil mining area, and the exploration was successful after finding a mining area that would work exceptionally well. This discovery of the well was named Willow. In 2018, the second year of the Trump administration, he wanted to explore the greater Willow area and discovered three additional oil prospects. This extension would create more oil for our country and also help the companies gain more profit.

What Has the Willow Project Done So Far?

The area where the project is planned should hold up to 600 million barrels of oil and 287 million tons of carbon emissions plus other greenhouse gasses for over 30 years. The article *Willow Oil Drilling in Alaska: Here's What We Know*, states, "The 30-year scheme aims to produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil a day — about 1.5 percent of total US oil production." This could greatly impact arctic wildlife and Native American communities in very negative ways.

How will the Willow Project Impact the World?

The climate and environmental impacts of the Willow Project is huge.

Why the Willow Project is a Bad Idea states, "The Biden administration acknowledges that Willow, if completed, would release an additional 9.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere each year—roughly equivalent to the pollution generated by two million gas-powered cars." But it's not all about the carbon pollution. There are also all the native species. Jeremy Lieb, an Alaska-based senior attorney at environmental law group Earthjustice, said that in addition to the concerns of the fast warming arctic climate, groups are also concerned the project could destroy habitats for native species and change the migration patterns of animals.

Who Supports the Willow Project?

The Willow Project has many more support than people think! The North Slope leaders (Alaska's higher education system), the state of Alaska and national laborers all support the project. *About Half the Public Backs the ConocoPhillips Willow Project in Alaska* states, "Support for Willow rises among older generations, with 60% of baby boomers [the generation that went through World War II and the great depression] backing the project. Among the generations, support for Willow is lowest with Gen Zers (28%), while about 2 in 5 millennials back the development." The article also states that many more Republicans think that the project's positive economic impacts outweigh the project's negative environmental effects. Only 38% of Democrats share this feeling about the project.

New York 2023 MLB Season Preview

By: Sammy

The MLB is finally here! We have been waiting all winter and now it is back in action. This season will be more exciting than ever, with two strong NY teams heading onto the field.

Let's start with the Yankees, led by the AL (American League) home run king, Aaron Judge. The Yankees are expected to get a wildcard spot because they have the record setting Tampa Bay Rays in their division.

This season, though, the Mets are in a very hard NL (National League) East division with the 2021 World Series winner, Atlanta Braves and the 2022 National League winner, the Philadelphia Phillies. The Mets seem like a team that could win the NL East, but with a tough division, they will probably clinch a Wildcard spot. This team, like the Yankees, seems like a team that will go deep into the playoffs.

Now let's examine the future of the MLB, and the prospects. The top prospects for the Mets include Francisco Alveraz, who is ranked 1st in the MLB. They also have Kevin Parada ranked 32nd. But it's not just the Mets who have highly ranked prospects. The Yankees have one of the most hyped up prospects in a while: Anthony Volpe, ranked 3rd in the MLB. Yankees fans have been talking about Volpe since he was drafted in 2020.

The off season brings trades, so the Mets and Yankees will surely have some new faces. The Yankees had a decent off season signing star lefty pitcher Carlos Rodon. The Mets off season had a lot of ups and downs. First they signed all star 3rd baseman Carlos Correa but they released him due to a faulty physical. However, they then added All Star pitchers Justin Verlander and Kodai Senga. Either way, both teams have an exciting season prepared for you. Whether you like the Yankees, the Mets, both or even none, one thing is a fact- New York loves its baseball, and it's back in full swing.

The Willow Project Continued

By: Isra

It's Not All Bad Though!

Although there are many detrimental things the Willow Project is doing to the environment, there are some good that is among the bad. The Willow Project is giving 2,500 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs. The Willow Project also dramatically increases the economy of Alaska and America's energy security. The Willow Project will start producing 180,000 barrels a day at its peak. This will allow the USA to no longer have to depend on all international oil to come to America. Overall the economic side of the Willow Projects turns the tide for the arguments in favor of it.

So to conclude, the Willow Project virtually takes life out of the environment while also making America a booming oil business. This controversial project might kill or save America. But after two separate lawsuits and supreme court debate about the Willow Project, the choice is yours. Is the Willow Project a bad idea?



Club Spotlights

The Door To Creativity, Success, and Fun at PVC's InDe Club

By: Avery and Morgan

Imagine Super Mario Brothers, the original game. An old classic, but rarely played, right? So now imagine the games with Croton Characters. Instead of Mario, a bold Mr. Molloy steps up to lead the group into action. And Mr. Plotkin becomes Donkey Kong, throwing tests and rules- but don't worry! Mrs. Kelly steps right in as Princess Peach, saving the day and inviting everyone to her castle. This idea might sound corny, but it's only one prototype. Many more are being designed by PVC's very own InDe club. And if this idea isn't cool enough, just keep reading. Because anything is possible!



The InDe club began in August of 2021. Mr. Molloy shares that, "I like that it's an opportunity... [where] we can go way past school." The objective of the club was to take simple InDe Lab ideas, and to transform them into community projects that would be worthwhile. The goal was a Croton where people would say, "Hey, I need to build something. What about the PVC Inde Club?" The projects so far have been extremely student driven; you walk into the room, and all the materials and resources are available for you to use, for any purpose you want. The hope is that your mind gets flowing, and you're able to expand your ideas beyond the InDe club, turning an idea into a prototype, and a prototype into a real invention. However, the format of the club will soon be changing in an attempt to extend time and raise effectiveness even further.

Next school year, the InDe club is planning to split into three trimesters, each with a unique goal. While these topics are still in development, they might look something like this: one trimester for electricity and robotics, the second trimester for physical building tools and construction, and the final trimester for outdoor innovation, targeting sports and other activities. Whatever trimester interests you most is the one you are encouraged to sign up for- however, limited spots will be open, so be sure to sign up fast!

CROTONHARMON

But despite the evolution of the InDe club, some things will stay the same. For one, the chance to go beyond the limitations of class and take advantage of the materials around the InDe room. The creations that have been made in the two years of the club range from video games, to pizza boxes, and even to catapults! Koll, a fifth grade student who attends InDe club, says, "[The point of InDe club is to] have young, bright minds able to help the world." Koll then showed multiple prototypes of a new pizza box he was designing, which would lessen the amount of shifting pizza does when being shipped. Salvador, a sixth grade attendee, worked on a double sided catapult, as well as numerous other creations that stretched his thinking and inspired others at the club. Both of these students find it easier to work alone, but they enjoy the feedback and freedom that the InDe club provides.

Club Spotlights: InDe Club Continued
By: Avery and Morgan

So how do we get involved? The InDe club is open to everyone who enjoys InDe-or not- and wants to join an extracurricular activity to spread their creativity with other innovative students. They meet on Mondays from three to four for this year. To get involved next year, be sure to wait for a notification from Mr. Molloy to learn the new schedule of the club. Until then, just pop in, take a seat, and get building! You're sure to have a great time with the crew there, and the things you'll accomplish will astound you.

The InDe club is a great opportunity to build a future for PVC, and Croton itself. It's an amazing group of people who go every Monday to have fun, build, and compete! The environment's lively and fun, the students are hardworking and talented, and the teacher (Mr. Molloy) is helpful and funny. Whatever idea you have, attending the InDe club opens up a large team of critics, assistants, and teammates to assist you in your plans. And hey- maybe you'll even end up in the new Croton Super Mario Bros. Game!





Student Submission
Fun Fact
By: Maeve, 8th Grade

Did you know? The highest temperature ever recorded on earth was 134 degrees fahrenheit! This was measured at Death Valley in California in 1913. The lowest temperature ever recorded was -126 Fahrenheit at Vostok Station in Antarctica.





Anonymously Ask a Teacher Something You Wouldn't Ask to Their Face

By: Avery and Morgan

Question #2: How are student cohorts different as new groups of students come over the years? Have you noticed any patterms or differences the more time goes on?

I've been teaching health at PVC for 17 years...during that time I have witnessed changes in student groups and grade levels. It seems to me that over the last few years students benefit from a lot of physical activity while they learn, as opposed to some years when students are focused while in the traditional style classroom space. I have also noticed some grades have been more willing to practice mindfulness strategies and classroom yoga/meditation. The best part of my role at PVC is seeing the tremendous growth/maturity as students progress through grades 5-8.
-Ms. Butts, Health Teacher

Every year I have taught at PVC, each group has provided new, unique groups of students. Just as I'm sure every student knows themselves to be unique individuals, I have seen groups that interact in all kinds of different ways with their teachers and with each other. I've noticed a few general patterns between years, but I think that has less to do with the students and more to do with my teaching techniques and how I view things like curriculum and behavior in my classroom. I feel like I'm still learning and growing as a teacher and therefore I still feel like some things are new to me, even though I've been at PVC for almost 6 years. I am grateful for all my different students because they have given me experiences as a teacher that have helped me develop my teaching style into what it is today!
-Ms. Carmesino, 8th Grade ELA Teacher



Over the years of teaching at PVC, there have been a couple of notable changes as different grades move through the school. One change that comes to mind is the implementation of personal computers. This has had both a positive and negative impact on students. A major component of this is how students have increased their technological skills. Students now have instant access to information that they may not have had in the past. This has encouraged collaboration between peers because of their ability to easily share and work on projects cooperatively, both at home and in school. However, with these constant stimuli, we have found that sometimes students have a diminished ability to focus or even stay on task. Students tend to lose interest more easily. They tend to want instant gratification and therefore, teaching has become more difficult because students are no longer interested in activities that require sustained attention. Students today are more accepting and knowledgeable about diversity. They understand the importance of inclusivity and advocate more for populations that are underrepresented.
-Mr. Gallagher, 6th Grade Science/SS Teacher

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Anonymously Ask a Teacher Something You Would Never Ask to Their Face Continued

By: Avery and Morgan

So grades have changed in the eleven years of being here. When I first got here, we had a traditional system. The school I was previously at did a number system as opposed to a letter. It was sort of alphanumerical when I got here, and then we moved to standards. And while all of this was happening, the English department at the time had nine different standards on which they were grading which were completely different from the rest of the system... so for students, at least from interviewing them, they oftentimes struggled with what their grades meant. So if I got a B, what does a B mean for what I know, what I can do, and how I can do it? And [what made it confusing] is that in ever class, that B might mean something different.So, for example, in social studies (which is what I teach) a B in September would mean that a student is on track to progressively grow in a way that we see fit.. because if you just walk in and get an A, then that student isn't being challenged enough. As opposed to other class, where maybe a B meant there was a lot of room for improvement, and it was something that was already building off skills from a previous year... Especially coming from 6th grade to 7th grade was what we call a hidden transition. Because the 5th and 6th grade run on an elementary model, while the 7th and 8th graders run on a junior high model. So when you have four to five different teachers in a day, you [suddenly] come to having nine different teachers, with nine different grading systems, and nine different expectations. So for students, it was a big change and not something that everyone saw right away because you're in the same building still.

-Mr. Streany, 7th Grade US History



Chomp, Chomp, Chomp: Take A Bite Of The Vegan/Vegetarian Debate

By: Susanna

You might be wondering, is becoming a vegan and vegetarian a good idea? This topic has been discussed for years, and has never had a final answer. I am here to get one. The main difference between vegans and vegetarians is that vegans cannot eat any animal based products but vegetarians can eat everything but meat. So what's the problem with this decision? Let's talk about the benefits of being vegan. Being vegan or vegetarian means that you do not eat meat or other animal-based products. So, many vegans turn to plant based meat, which produces less greenhouse gasses compared to normal meat. Did you know that when you are eating a burger you are destroying the Amazon rainforest? Almost 70% of the Amazons deforestation can be attributed to cattle ranching, which is domesticating cows for human use. Joseph Poore, a teacher at the University of Oxford, explains that, "Changing your diet to avoid animal products reduces your emissions for a typical global consumer by 28 percent, land use by 75% and water pollution by around 60%." This shows that cattle ranching has a deep impact on the health of the rainforest. And being vegan or vegetarian can help lessen the damage.

In 2010, a little over 1% of Americans claimed that they were vegans, but now, 13 years later, 3% of people in the U.S. are following a vegan diet. There has to be a reason why so many people are turning to a no animal product diet. One of the reasons why so many U.S. citizens are vegan is, it can also be good for your own personal health. About 37.3 million people in the US have diabetes, so becoming a vegan could be an improvement to their diet.

But, being a vegan isn't easy. The diet is strict and arduous. If you do choose to become a vegan or vegetarian,there are a few things you'll need to prepare for before switching your diet plan. By being vegetarian, you are cutting out your main source of important vitamins and nutrients. Instead, you need to receive them in a different way. Let's talk about B12, a vitamin mostly found in meats. The reason for this is most slaughterhouses feed their livestock this supplement. So the question is how do vegans get their B12? You can always take vitamins, but many people prefer getting it naturally. Some foods have B12,other than meat or animal made products,such as specific cereals, Nori seaweed, etc. As you can see, some vegan products do have B12, but it is a hassle to get and is not as easy as just getting it from meat.

Another con of being vegan is they lose their primary source of Omega 3s. Omega 3s are fatty acids. Now you might be wondering what fatty acids are? Fatty acids are "The two main types of fatty acids are saturated fat and unsaturated fat. Unsaturated fat further breaks down into polyunsaturated fat and monounsaturated fat. These are terms you commonly see on nutrition labels." as said by my.clevelandclinic.org. Fatty acids help your body function as they should. You can mainly get your fatty acids from fish. Another way of getting Omega 3s is eating walnuts, flaxseeds, chia seeds, hemp seeds, edamame, seaweed, and algae. However, you do not get nearly as much as you would from eating fish.

Becoming a vegan, in my opinion, does not hurt the planet. If you choose to become vegan, you will need to be aware of what you are eating, and if you are getting all the vital vitamins, nutrients, and proteins that you need to function. If you choose to be a vegan, you can help the environment and yourself. Many people feel different about veganism. I think veganism can be a good choice but you have to be aware of what you are eating and how it affects you.

Ukraine and Syria: Both Suffering Countries, One More Heard

By: Leo

The Ukraine-Russia war is, no doubt, horrible. Ukrainians are suffering a lot, rushing out of their country, escaping danger and leaving loved ones behind. They had to endure the cold, stay away from the Russian army and try to find a place to carry on with life.

And yet there's another devastating war that's been going on without notice: the Syrian Civil war. A war that has been killing, dividing, and ruining the country for 12 years. The country is divided in quarters, the government killing their own people, and it is, overall, a country full of misery and bloodshed. Syrians are suffering a lot also, and they have to use every penny to flee the country, find jobs and find a place to start over.

Both Syrians and Ukrainians have it tough right now. But in about one and a half years, the US alone has donated more than $30 billion to help Ukraine. However, in the entire 12 years of the Syrian Civil war, the US has only donated $808 million.

And when you have a war in your country, most people flee that country to have a better start somewhere else. Since January 2022, the US has allowed more than 271,000 Ukrainian refugees to enter the country. But, in almost 12 years, about only 4,550 Syrian refugees have been admitted into the US, out of 6.8 million Syrians stuck in war trying to get out of their country to a better place .

These statistics show that the US is supporting Ukraine drastically more than Syria. Some believe the main reason for this is because of skin color. We are sending all these aids to help people in Ukraine find a new place to stay; last year, all the news was covering the Ukraine-Russia war. But the majority of people haven't even heard of the Syrian Civil War.



News reporters are saying how Ukrainians are "civilized" and "they look like us." On France's BFMTV, journalist Phillipe Corbe said, "We're not talking here about Syrians fleeing the bombing of the Syrian regime backed by Putin. We're talking about Europeans leaving in cars that look like ours to save their lives." So many reporters like Phillipe Corbe are saying, "Because Ukrainians are white, because they are Europeans, they get more aid than other countries that aren't white and European."

But there are more wars than just the Syrian Civil war that have been barely noticed, like the Myanmar Civil War, the Yemen War, the DRC War and so many more that have gone right past people without a second glance. It is important that we provide support to countries in need, and shine a light on those who are suffering in Syria, and in other countries.

Editorial
By: Avery and Maeve

Hello readers! I hope you enjoyed this issue of the newspaper. Recently, it has come to light that a tremendous amount of classified documents have been released to the public. This made me think about another huge debate that has been going on for years. Should the government be able to decrypt information?

Your information on the internet is protected by encryption. Encryption is the process of transferring information into a code- a code that isn't fully readable, but the government still has access too. You can think of it as cloaking that scrambles up all your information into unreadable numbers. Allowing the government to access a backdoor key would help catch many criminals. But at what cost?

If the government could decrypt information, you can say goodbye to privacy. Decrypting information is the process of reversing encryption. It would mean that the government can turn our coded information back into data, which would allow all officials to have access to all our information. Anything from your favorite TikTok video to your bank password would be open to your government. Suddenly, shady government officials would be able to see everything you have ever done on the computer, as well as where you are, and what you are doing. In our opinion, nobody should have access to that kind of power.

On the other hand, the general public could become a great deal safer by trusting the government with our data. Criminals would be caught in the act of selling things illegally or planning assassinations. We could eliminate all crime that has been recorded online. The internet has infinite possibilities, and for criminals, it might be a hidden portal to undercover crimes. However, once the government decrypts our information, they'll see all those crimes, and the evidence that

But backdoor keys won't stop all of our problems. Even once companies hand over backdoor keys to give the government access to our information, footsteps can always be covered up. Confident criminals can erase all their data. By then, all that's happening is that the public is being stripped of their privacy. Nothing can truly be deleted. With the world moving online, this gives the government power to see anything from at least 339 million different perspectives. Furthermore, citizens never agreed to this, making it a violation of user rights.

The government isn't only gaining power through backdoor keys- there's plenty of other ways they're getting into our lives. But are they in the right? Be sure to check out our government related articles (TikTok Goes the Clock by Ali and Sam, Ukraine and Syria: Both Suffering Countries, One More Heard by Leo, and The Willow Project Gets the Green Light: Now What? by Isra) and see what other issues are getting the spotlight in Tiger Prints. Decryption is a huge decision the government can make, but that's not all. Governments are a tricky group- one that brings up lots of controversy, empowerment, and also, eventually, organization. But that's for you to decide- be sure to read all of our government related articles, and more, and decide your opinion on a variety of important topics. If you want to submit something about your opinion on the government's actions (or something about any of our other articles, or something totally different) be sure to visit our form here to share your ideas. Thanks for reading!

Best regards, Editors Avery and Maeve

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