

# THE WILDCAT ROAR

Official Newspaper of Rocky Hill Middle School

## Dr. Eldridge's Return

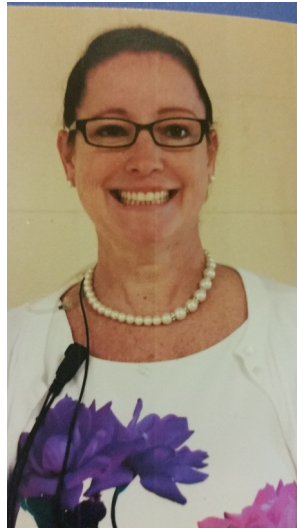
Journalist: Marley Pinsky

As you may know, our beloved principal, Dr. Cynthia Eldridge, has recently been out of school for a period of time. Physical education teacher, Ms. Tippett, took over the role of Assistant Principal during this time. But why, exactly, was Dr. Eldridge gone, and how did she feel leaving and then coming back to Rocky Hill?

The reason for Dr. Eldridge's disappearance is that she was sick in the fall and then needed surgery. She had to have both kidney and gallbladder surgery! Dr. Eldridge is a very busy person who always has a lot going on around the school. She loves everything about her job here at Rocky Hill, so you can imagine how it felt for Dr. Eldridge to take time off of work, especially being the main person in charge. Our principal explains how it was difficult for her to be away from staff and students: "But I have a fantastic leadership team that I trusted to continue to lead our school."

When Dr. Eldridge returned to health, she was very happy to come back to Rocky Hill Middle School. She was especially excited to see all of the academic progress that students had made in November. Some of the events from Rocky Hill that Dr. Eldridge regretted missing most is the fall play Dear Edwina Jr, camping with the principal at Outdoor Ed with the sixth graders, and seeing her much loved students come to school every day.

While Dr. Eldridge was gone, Ms. Tippett did a fantastic job of being our acting Assistant Principal. She would talk to students during lunch, give a "This Day In History" on the announcements (a fresh and fun idea that had not previously been done at Rocky Hill), and she would always talk to people about kindness and compassion. Her focus on being friendly to other students and showing respect to staff members kept this school running smoothly. In order to be an acting Assistant Principal or Vice Principal, a person has to have an administrative certification. Since Ms. Tippett has this certification, she met the requirements to be an acting Assistant Principal and she is the content specialist for physical education and health. It was a benefit to have someone who was familiar with all grade levels instead of someone who only taught a certain grade. Finally, Ms. Tippett since knows most of the students here at Rocky Hill and she would be a familiar face to them and be someone they could trust



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as Assistant Principal. She is energetic, professional yet in a fun and casual way, and truly a kind person.

Dr. Cynthia Eldridge is called Doctor Eldridge for a reason. For her first years of college, she attended the University of Maryland for her undergraduate degree in education. Later, she went to Johns Hopkins University for her Masters degree in special education. Finally, she returned to Maryland for her doctoral degree in education policy and leadership. This year is her twenty second year working with Montgomery County Public Schools. This is also her thirteenth year working in administration and her fourth year as the principal of Rocky Hill.

Dr. Eldridge's first teaching job was fifth grade, which she taught for five years. At the same time taught CPR and first aid for the Red Cross. Her favorite part about her current job is working with our students every day. Dr. Eldridge is sincerely passionate about working with children and other staff members.

Dr. Eldridge was asked about her dream career as a child: What did she want to be when she grew up when she was around our age or younger? Surprisingly, Dr. Eldridge replied that she wanted to be a princess! Our principal explained how there were not a lot of job opportunities for princesses, so she started looking for other ideas for careers. Dr. Eldridge found that she really enjoyed working with children, which she discovered first when she taught swim lessons. Also, several of her teachers back from eighth grade influenced her decision to go into teaching. Her experience as a swim coach and her teachers from eighth grade helped her determine that a career in education was the right choice for her. From there, she worked up to become an administrator and our principal.

Our esteemed administrator has two children back at home who both attend Northwest High School in Germantown. Dr. Eldridge also lives with her husband and two dogs. Both Dr. Eldridge and her husband graduated from Montgomery County Public Schools. The two first met through coaching swimming.

Having children who have been in middle school very recently, Dr. Eldridge has great advice for both students and parents. She reminds students to put in their best effort every day and to try new things during middle school. Her advice to parents is to stay involved with their child's school and their friends, and also to help monitor how their children uses social media.

The Wildcat Roar is extremely appreciative of Dr. Eldridge taking time off of her busy schedule to meet with us and answer our questions. She is very polite, professional, and kind to her students and staff. Rocky Hill is glad that our principal is happy, healthy, and back at school. Welcome back, Dr. Eldridge!



## **RHMS Student Government Association Winter Dance**

Friday, February 17, 2017

Time: 3:00 – 4:25 PM

Cost: \$5.00 (Cash or check made payable to "RHMS".)

Refreshments will be available for purchase during the dance (\$1 sodas/ chips).

SGA sponsor Mr. Conley will collect a completed and signed permission slip and your \$5 payment in the main hallway the mornings of Feb. 13 – 16th.

Students are expected to maintain Rocky Hill PRIDE behaviors that shows respect for self, others and the school building.

Appropriate dress is required as per RHMS Dress code.

If expectations are not met, students may be removed from the dance and they may lose the privilege of attending future dances at Rocky Hill.

Students cannot attend if they are academically ineligible from the 2nd marking period.

# Activities on the Hill and Sports

## Art Extravaganza

Journalist: Malini Raghu

*Art Alert!* The much awaited Art Extravaganza is heading our way. I bet you all have been to many art shows, but this one will be a very unique and unforgettable event. Imagine being in a breathtaking room filled with eye-catching pieces of art in a variety of shapes and sizes. It could be anything made from objects of our day to day life, like twigs, pieces of metal, paper products and even pixelated images made in photoshop, and all created by your fellow wildcat friends and classmates.

The art show will start on March 6th and end on March 10 and all this fun will be held at our media center. There will also be a special evening reception from 5pm to 7pm which students can attend with family and friends. This spectacular event will be organized under the strong guidance of many teachers; Ms. Kielek with Digital Art, Mr. Perrone with Traditional Art, Ms. Conley with Lights, Camera and Literacy, Mr. Smith with Tech and Design and Ms. Kong with Musical Keyboarding.

I was able to sit with Mr. Perrone and listen to his thoughts and plans for the event. I had a few queries and he had wonderful responses

Malini: Mr Perrone, could you kindly share what you hope to achieve from the upcoming event of Art Extravaganza?

Mr Perrone: The purpose of the arts extravaganza is to showcase Rocky Hill students creativity and problem solving. The final stage of any Art, Technology, Music and Cinematography is to display, use, listen and view. The Arts Extravaganza is a perfect venue for all Arts classes to showcase what students learn and create. We want the Arts Extravaganza to allow all of the Rocky Hill Community to enjoy the talents of RHMS Arts Students.

M: Can you give 3 reasons why a friend of mine should attend the art show.

Mr. P: The first reason is to come and celebrate the success of Rocky Hill's Arts Students. Their commitment to finishing quality work is not an easy feat. Secondly, By attending, you get a chance to see all types of talents by viewing work and projects form Digital Art, Technology and programming, Musical Compositions, Lights Camera Literacy, and Art. Finally, if you have never been to one of the art shows your are in for a surprise. It is in the media center and last year it displayed more than 600 works from the Arts students.

At the reception, after school, students and parents can enjoy a light snack and a refreshment as they meander around the show. You will be amazed of, not only the talent of Rocky Hill students, but all the different media they have used to create their final work and projects.

As the days pass by, March 8th will be a day I will really be looking forward to. I hope to see you all there!



## Dallas Cowboys- The Best Team Ever?

Journalist: Desiree Smith

The Dallas Cowboys have been doing really well this season. At the time of this article they have the best record of this season. On Thanksgiving the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Redskins with a score of Redskins 26 and Cowboys 31. Then the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Redskins again with a score of Redskins 23 and Cowboys 27. Ezekiel Elliott is on fire this season. While this being his first year playing for the Dallas Cowboys he has made it to one of the best players on the team. It is also our quarterback Dak Prescott's first year playing for the Dallas Cowboys. He is one of the best quarterbacks the Dallas Cowboys have ever had. Let's go Cowboys!

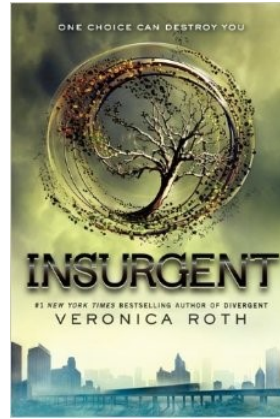
### Insurgent Book vs. Movie

Journalist: Jashreen Lucman

We read books and watch movies as a way to entertain ourselves. Some movies are based on books and best selling novels, though occasionally, movie directors tend to leave out bits and pieces from the book. The book "Insurgent," by Veronica Roth, was originally made into a book on May 1st 2012. The movie, directed by Robert Schwentke, soon followed on March 21st 2014.

This story takes place in the city of Chicago, which is surrounded by a wall. It is based off of five factions: Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), Erudite (the intelligent), Candor (the honest) and the Abnegation (the selfless). The Abnegation are the leaders of this city. In the movie, the lead actors are portrayed by Shailene Woodley (Tris) and Theo James (Tobias). Other key characters are Kate Winslet (Jeanine Matthews), Ansel Elgort (Tris sister Caleb), and Miles Triller (Peter). The story is about how Tris and Tobias (also known as "Four") and their attempt to save the city of Chicago from Jeanine Matthews, leader of Erudite, who was determined to overthrow Abnegation.

One of the most notable difference between the book and the movie is the discrepancy of facts. In the movie, there was a box containing a message about what's outside the wall. Jeanine Matthews tested Divergents with all five factions to open the box. The book did not mentioned anything about a box containing a message on what was outside the wall. Instead, it described a secret message, and in order to access the message, they would need someone who is very familiar with the computer system of Erudite. Jeanine Matthews knew what was inscribed in this message the entire time. In the movie, it also appears that Tris is a divergent mixed with all five factions, but in the book she is only a divergent mixed with Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite. The ending of the book and movie are also different in terms of Jeanine's manner of death. Other information discrepancies between the book and the movie would be how the train circles around the city and never stops according to the book, while in the movie, the train stops at the Amity faction to load goods.



Another variation between the book and the movie would be the characters. In the movie, there were a number of important characters missing from the book. The characters appeared in the movie, but were not formally introduced and didn't have a big role, as they had in the book. Characters such as Lynn, Marlene, Zake, Fernando, and Cara were not mentioned in the movie. There were also some missing scenes from the book in order to make the film shorter. One of the scenes they left out was when all the Dauntless wend back to the Dauntless Headquarters to chose new leaders. They also added some scenes to replace some details from the book and make the film more interesting, such as the part when Tris had a dream in which she was speaking to Tobias' mom, Evelyn. In the dream, when she turned around to look at Tobias, he was replaced by a dead man.

No matter how much readers would love to see their favorite characters and novels brought to life, filmmakers and producers are faced with certain constraints making it difficult for them to create a movie strictly following the details of the book. Budget, script-writing, and casting are some of the reasons why movies are different from the novels.



## Activities on the Hill

### What is happening in room 173 and what's a *MEGA DESK*?

There's a bit of a mystery occurring in room 173. All the great detectives were contacted to come and investigate- Geronimo Stilton, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Cousteau. The room is currently occupied by Ms. Smetanick (Science teacher and resident guru) who said a few months ago boxes began appearing in there. First it was just a few, then it began to grow- more and more. Until the boxes nearly filled the room.

When the RHMS Pride newspaper staff began investigating it seemed that no one seemed to know why the boxes were being constructed in there. We asked the room's owner Ms. Smetanick but she said, "Sorry, I just work here." We asked the front office and they said, "We were told they needed to be in there". We asked our administrators, security, custodians even Coach Tip but no one had an answer?

We have photos of an individual working but have hidden his face for confidentiality reasons.



Images of the boxes in Room 173. The person's identity has been hidden.

Some say it looks like a castle. Others call it a fort. To appease the student body they are offering free viewings before school. Please do not enter the room without permission as there are some safety concerns with the integrity of the structure.

Room 173 is also home to the ***MEGA DESK!*** This enormous and spectacular structure is unlike anything that has ever been in existence in MCPS. Often times there is theme music playing as Ms. Smetanick works at the ***MEGA DESK!*** This enormous structure is actually a complex combination of three different desks.

Just another reason why life at Rocky Hill is so spectacular.

### ***Candygrams are coming!***

The week of Feb. 13th– 16th the Rocky Hill Student Government Association will be selling

Candygrams in the main hallway.

Cost is \$.1.00



# Winners in the 2016-2017 Young Writers of America Student Poetry Contest

## *My Show*

Nyla Harvey

I sometimes feel as if life is like a bunch of TV shows.

I pick up my remote and turn the TV on.

*Click click - I watch.*

I see many, many kids in Africa dying of hunger.

*Click click - I watch.*

I see, people lose their lives because of texting and driving.

*Click click - I watch.*

I see sick children stuck in hospitals wishing they could escape their current reality... The gloomy gray walls of their hospital room.

*Click click - I watch.*

Another argument between the Republicans and the Democrats. (UGGH!!)

Sometimes I wish I could control the world.

I'm maturing, so I know I really can't-but sometimes I just wish.

I can't bear to watch anymore what this world has become.

*Click click - I turn the tv off.*

I look around the room and see pictures of my family and friends,

and there it is...

Peace, acceptance, love, happiness and optimism.

There is hope for our world, believe it or not.

After flipping through all these shows, my life is the best show.

It's our world, but my life - and my show.

## *Erasing the Line*

Marley Pinsky

I see the world

Through a different pair of eyes

Than some ignorant men who look at the world

And only see

Themselves

They always discuss people of different colors, origins, beliefs

But are we, the people of "normal" standards

Really that different from them?

In reality, sometimes our world is unjust:

Take one step out of the line

Drawn centuries ago

And your name is replaced by hateful words

But people can't control where they step

For one cannot control the color of one's skin

Or which God one believes in

Or whom one loves

I see the world

Full of peace, diversity, opportunity, possibility

This pair of eyes sees the future

Feels empowered, encouraged

Hears people of different colors, origins, cultures

Shouting, protesting

I see that we can be the generation

Who erases the line.

# Winners in the 2016-2017 Young Writers of America Student Poetry Contest

## *"How I See the World"*

Elora Paul-Martin

I see the world as chaos

A constant stream of

Color

Voices

Movement

I see the world as order

Everybody where they need to be

Right place

Right time

I see the world as diverse

People of all

Races

Ages

Genders

Mingling together

I see the world as united

All of us

Joined together

No matter what

Race

Age

Opinion

Seeing the world however we please

## *The World As I See it*

Spencer Goldberg

The world is a blank canvas, everyone a different brush, painting with the colors we choose to.

Some choose to shade and hide their true colors, others tint them and show them bright.

Some choose just to show their true colors, neither shading or tinting.

Many inspired people chose to paint lots, yet many more choose to paint little.

I choose to paint lots, and to never shade or tint my true colors.

## Teachers in Action

### Homestretch Club Q&A

Interviewed by: Emily Tran

Are your grades failing? Do you need help with school or homework? If so, join Homestretch club. Even if you're not failing in terms of your grades, everyone is welcome. Do you want to find out more about the Homestretch Club? Keep on reading if you want to find out more.

**Emily:** Why is the club called the Homestretch club?

**Ms. Grimsley:** "Like baseball. Homestretch is the final part of a game. Homestretch club is saying it is the final time to fix your grades."

**E:** What do you hope to accomplish with this club?

**Ms. G:** "I hope that the kids will get better grades, and be happy with what they see on their report card."

**E:** Why did you want to be a teacher involved in a club?

**Ms. G:** "I wanted to have more time to help students."

**E:** What is your favorite thing about the Homestretch Club?

**Ms. G:** "I enjoy seeing students improving on their current grade. I also like how the Homestretch club feels welcoming to all students."

### Rocky Hill's Help

Journalist: Alyssa Bass

Rocky Hill Middle School has a love for helping others in the community. One of our clubs here at RHMS focuses on just that. That club is The Leo Club! They have sponsored many of the wonderful drives and activities that we have participated in to make a difference. To tell us a little more about of this club and their fantastic organizations is Mr.Stevenson, sponsor of The Leo Club.



**Alyssa:** How long have you sponsored this club?

**Mr.Stevenson:** I have been in this role four years.

**A:** Who are some stand-out members in the club?

**Mr.S:** 3 of the stand-out members are Melissa Yan, president of The Leo Club, Sydney Chan, who has been in my club every year, and Christine Love, who has also been in The Leo Club since 6th grade.

**A:** What are some of the events that this club has organized in the past?

**Mr.S:** Previously, we have hosted a coat drive, a food drive, Teens for Jeans, the color run, relay for life, a luggage drive for Montgomery County veterans, and Kennel Kare.

**A:** : Are there any events that you have planned for this upcoming year?

**Mr.S:** Yes. One event that The Leo Club has planned is Pennies for Peace. Pennies for Peace is a service-learning program for Kindergarten through 12th grade. Over the last 20 years, seven million pennies have been donated to education in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. Pennies for Peace can make a difference in the lives of children - especially girls - pursuing an education in impoverished areas of Central Asia. Hopefully everyone will get excited for Pennies for Peace on National Day of Service - January 16.

*We appreciate all that The Leo Club does for us, our school, and our community.*



Artwork by: Lilah Ashery



### The National Junior Honor Society

Journalists: Ronak Tallur and Marley Pinsky

You may have heard of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), but what is it? Who can be in the NJHS? Who is the adviser of NJHS? And what do NJHS members do?

The National Junior Honor Society is an elite group of bright young students who maintain a 3.85 Grade Point Average, take part in a variety of extracurricular activities, and are leaders both in school and in the community. While only 7th and 8th grade are eligible to be members in NJHS, all students are invited to donate to NJHS and take part in their community activities.

If 7th and 8th grade students earn the required grade point average at the end of the first quarter, they are invited to an information meeting. After the meeting, they can choose to fill out an application of entry to NJHS. Here they can write about their leadership skills, community service experience, citizenship, and scholarship. Following submission, members of the faculty review the applications and choose students who meet the required standards to join NJHS. There is no set number of students who can participate in the National Junior Honor Society, for the number of students varies from year to year. This year, the top ten percent of the people who provided information were invited to be in the NJHS.

New members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on December 14th. There, the 2016-17 NJHS Officers delivered statements regarding the work of NJHS. The NJHS Officers, the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, were elected by NJHS Members in late October. This year, NJHS President will be Ronak Tallur, while the Vice President is Kabir Wadhawa. Rohit Patel was elected NJHS Secretary and Saahas Mehta will be NJHS Treasurer.

This year, the adviser of NJHS is Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith is the humorous, warm-hearted tech and design teacher here at Rocky Hill Middle School. His favorite thing about teaching tech and design is that he and his classes get to work with “some really cool technology,” as he describes. Mr. Smith’s wife is a media specialist at Gaithersburg Middle School. He also has a son and daughter. His son, who ran cross country, graduated from Clarksburg High School last year, while his daughter who plays field hockey and lacrosse is currently a junior at Clarksburg. While Mr. Smith was in high school, his dream was to go into banking and start a career in finance. In college, however, he began to realize that he enjoyed teaching more. His advice for students in middle school? “Study hard and never give up.” Mr. Smith states: “Perseverance is important; never give up.”

In 1988, Mr. Smith started teaching elementary school. He worked there for seven years but after that, worked at the central office for Montgomery County Technology. Supported by the statewide grant, he worked on very special projects until returning to middle school for the last five years. Mr. Smith’s favorite part about the National Junior Honor Society is getting to be around a good group of kids: “I get to work with an amazing group of students. These students have shown themselves academically, they are proven leaders, and they’re really all around good people.”

NJHS takes part in a variety of community service activities. This year, NJHS will once again take part in Relay For Life, which is currently scheduled for May 20th at Clarksburg High School. At Relay For Life, the members will raise money for cancer research. NJHS took part in Relay For Life last year and has done so for many years. Along with their participation in Relay For Life, NJHS will donate candy for troops in February and for Earth Day in April, the NJHS plans to “beautify” Rocky Hill.

So, NJHS kicks off another year of community service. For years, the group has undertaken a variety of activities to help people both at school and across the community. This year, NJHS hopes they can raise more money and help more people than ever before!





### Board Game Bonanza

Journalist: Shreya Barua

*What to do when your bored?  
Play board games with Mrs. Rye!*

Mrs. Rye is an energetic sixth grade English teacher. She loves to play board games so she made a club out of it!

**Shreya:** Why did you want to coach Board Game Club?

**Mrs. Rye:** It's really rewarding to see my students outside class. I get to know my students better. Lastly I just love seeing the students relaxed.

**S:** How long have you been in this role?

**Mrs. R:** Two years.

**S:** What is your favorite thing about this role?

**Mrs. R:** I get to play lots of games and I love the enthusiastic kids.

**S:** Who are some stand-out players on the club?

**Mrs. R:** Oscar Chen is an enthusiastic kid and is great at connect four player.

**S:** What is your favorite thing about this club?

**Mrs. Rye:** I'm a big kid and I love to play games. I like to see students relax and have fun at school. It makes me happy to see kids playing together. Mostly our no electronics rule. I like to see kids engaging in the games and talking to each other.

So if you are ever bored just come on Wednesday and play board games with Mrs. Rye and lots of other students!



### Keeping It Green

Journalist: Alyssa Bass

At Rocky Hill, we have so many fantastic clubs. I am going to highlight the club that makes our school beautiful and has the greenest thumb: The Green Team! Ms.Evans took time from her hectic schedule to answer some questions for The Wildcat Roar:

**TWR:** Why did you want to sponsor a club?

**Ms.Evans:** I chose to run the science club because I love science and I want to give students an opportunity to explore science in many different ways.

**TWR:** How long have you done this role?

**Ms.E:** I believe, for 5 years or so throughout my twenty-one years of teaching at Rocky Hill Middle School.

**TWR:** What is your favorite thing about this role?

**Ms.E:** Getting to work with children that I don't normally teach and being able to explore more science out of the classroom.

**TWR:** What is your favorite thing about this club?

**Ms.E:** All the excited children who love science!

Thank you, Ms.Evans for answering our questions and informing us about your wonderful club. She is getting children so excited about science. RHMS is lucky to have such a caring science teacher.

## Mrs. Grimsley Is Nuts About The Students At RHMS

Journalist: Emily Tran

Getting into the new school year with new memories and new teachers, let us take a sneak peak into the work and personal life of one of many newest addition to Rocky Hill Middle School, Mrs. Grimley. As a series of up close and personal questions, you will be learning more and more about Mrs. Grimsley.

**Emily:** What is your background in education?

**Ms. Grimsley:** “I have taught for ten years including this year. I started at out at Lakeland Elementary School teaching fourth grade for three years. I then taught second grade at Laytonville Elementary for four years. At Laytonville Elementary I also taught Kindergarten and Fourth grade both one year. Now I am at Rocky Hill Middle School

**E:** How long have you have been teaching?

**Ms. G:** “I have been teaching for a total of 10 years including this year.”

**E:** What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

**Ms. G:** “One of many things that I love about being teacher is seeing my students grow not only academically, but personally too. “

**E:** Do you have any advice for the students at Rocky Hill?

**Ms. G:** “Always ask questions even though they are dumb.” Another piece of advice is, “Be kind to one another to make the world a better place; you are the future.”

*Fun fact:* “ I have two daughters, ages 2 and 1”

*Fun fact:* “ I get up at five a.m to workout before school.”

*Fun fact:* “ I love peanut butter.”



Writers of <i>The Wildcat Roar</i>			
<u>Chief Editor</u>		<u>Teachers</u>	
Ronak Tallur		Mr. Kevin Conley	
		Ms. Ashley April	
<u>Journalists</u>			
Nick Fantle	Shreya Barua	Alyssa Bass	Malini Raghu
Emily Tran	Marley Pinsky	Jashreen Lucman	



### “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them”

Journalist: Alyssa Bass

The movie “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” surprised fans by giving them an entrance to the wizarding world through a new character’s eyes: Newt Scamander. This movie, being originally based off of the Fantastic Beasts textbook in the Harry Potter series and later sold in stores written by J.K. Rowling (under the false name Newt Scamander), follows British wizard who travels to New York City with a briefcase of beasts. Being set before the Harry Potter films, Voldemort is not the main problem in the wizarding world. Their problem is Gellert Grindelwald. Grindelwald was mentioned only a few times in the Harry Potter series. In *The Philosopher’s Stone*, Grindelwald is mentioned on the Albus Dumbledore chocolate frog card that Harry receives on the Hogwarts Express. The card states, “Considered by many the greatest wizard of modern times, Dumbledore is particularly famous for his defeat of the Dark Wizard Grindelwald in 1945, for the discovery of the twelve uses of dragon’s blood, and his work on alchemy with his partner, Nicolas Flamel. Professor Dumbledore enjoys chamber music and ten-pin bowling.” Grindelwald makes an appearance again in Harry’s visions in *The Deathly Hallows*. So, overall this spin-off keeps the audience on their toes with the differences and connections between the Harry Potter series and *Fantastic Beasts*.

Newt Scamander travels to NYC, where they have their own wizarding school called Ilvermorny. This means that they also have a different government system. When Newt arrives, he meets Mary Lou Barebone, a No-Maj (Non-Magical Person), who is the head of the New Salem Philanthropic Society, which claims that wizards and witches are real and should be feared. As they are talking, a Niffler escapes from Newt’s briefcase. Nifflers are attracted to shiny objects and store all that they find in their pouches like a kangaroo. While attempting to catch his Niffler, Newt stumbles across another No-Maj, Jacob Kowalski, cannery worker and baker, and they accidentally switch briefcases. Soon after, Newt is arrested by demoted Auror, Tina Goldstein, for being an unregistered wizard and having an unregistered wand. She takes Newt to the Magical Congress of the United States of America (MACUSA) headquarters, hoping that this will get her back her formal position. However, the briefcase that Newt shows her only contains baked good, as it is Jacob’s. For this, he is released.

Newt finds Jacob’s apartment so he can regain his briefcase. But, at Jacob’s apartment, several beasts escape, destroy the building, and one bites Jacob. After Tina and Newt find Jacob and the briefcase, Tina takes them to her apartment to be monitored by Queenie, her Legilimens sister. Being a Legilimens means that you can read minds, so Queenie can also watch their thoughts. Jacob and Queenie are mutually attracted but the law states that no American wizards may interact with No-Majs. Newt takes Jacob inside of his magically-expandable briefcase where they encounter a contained Obscurus, a dark, destructive parasite that can develop inside magically gifted children if they suppress their magic. We later find out that there is an Obscurus inside Credence, Mary Lou’s adopted son. Newt extracted his Obscurus from a young girl, whom he loved, that died very young, as many children with an Obscurus do, Leta Lestrange. The name “Lestrange” may ring a bell, as Leta was the grandmother-in-law of Bellatrix Lestrange, Wife of The Dark Lord, mother of Delphini Lestrange, and the one responsible for the torture of Neville Longbottom’s parents before she was killed by Molly Weasley during *The Battle of Hogwarts* in *The Deathly Hallows*. Leta was one of the original Death Eaters that encouraged Voldemort to become evil, as he is in the Harry Potter films.

Newt and Jacob set out to find the missing creatures but, after re-capturing two of the three missing beasts they re-enter the briefcase, which Tina takes to MACUSA. They are arrested because officials believe that one of Newt's creatures was responsible for the killing of Senator Henry Shaw Jr. MACUSA decides to destroy the case and obliterate Jacob. By doing this they would be erasing all of Jacob's memories, as Hermione did to her parents in *The Deathly Hallows* so she could hunt Horcruxes with Ron and Harry and they could kill Voldemort. Director of Magical Security Percival Graves accuses Newt of working with Grindelwald, who at this time is infamous and extremely dark. Newt and Tina are sentenced to death but Queenie and Jacob rescue them and they all hunt down the last of the creatures.

Meanwhile, Percival approaches Credence and offers to free him from his abusive mother. But in exchange, he wants Credence to find the Obscurus, because Percival doesn't know that Credence has an Obscurus. Credence finds a wand under his adopted sister, Modesty's, bed. Mary Lou assumes that it is Credence's but Modesty admits that it's hers. When she is about to be punished, the Obscurus is released and kills everyone around except Credence and Modesty. Graves arrives and dismisses Credence as being a Squib (No-Maj of magic ancestry), and refuses to teach him magic. Credence finally reveals that he is hosting an Obscurus, having lived longer than any other host due to the intensity of his magical abilities. Credence unleashes the Obscurus upon NYC.

Newt finds Credence hiding out in a subway tunnel, but he is attacked by Percival Graves. Tina arrives to calm Credence, as she knows him, but at the same time, Graves tries to convince Credence to listen to him. Then, as Credence starts to settle into his human form, Picquery and the Aurors arrive. Seraphina Picquery, president of MACUSA, decides that Credence is to be executed to protect their magical society. The Aurors disintegrate him but, a tiny fragment of the Obscurus escapes. Graves admits that he released the Obscurus to reveal the magic community to the No-Majs, and complains that MACUSA protects the No-Majs more than themselves. After being downcast by Newt's thunderbird, he is revealed to actually be Grindelwald in disguise and taken into custody by MACUSA Aurors. What's so cool about this is that Thunderbird is one of the magic houses at Ilvermorny School of Magic. The 4 houses consist of Thunderbird: represents the soul and favors adventure, Wampus: represents the body and favors warriors, Pukwudgie: represents the heart and favors healers, and lastly Horned Serpent: represents the mind and favors scholars.

MACUSA fears that their secret world was exposed as Grindelwald wanted, but Newt releases his Thunderbird once again to disperse a poultice as rainfall over NYC to erase their memories of the magic world as the wizards repair destruction. Queenie kisses Jacob goodbye as the rain washes over him and erases his memories of the wizards and also of her. Newt departs for Europe, but promises to return and visit Tina when his book is finished; *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. And while that would have made a great ending, there is more. Newt leaves Jacob a case of silver Occamy eggshells to fund his bakery. Jacob's bakery ends up being a huge success, the marvelous shapes of his breads and pastries were unknowingly inspired by Newt's beasts. Queenie visits the bakery and Jacob notices her which brings a huge smile to his face.

This movie gave the audience a chance to experience something new and exciting in a different wizarding world than we are used to. It also tells us of some of the beasts that are in Newt's book but never in the original series. By introducing MACUSA, J.K. Rowling showed us the past of the beloved author of one of the greatest textbooks of all time, one that Harry, Ron, and of course Hermione all read in their first year at Hogwarts; *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

## President Trump Plans in Office

Chief Editor: Ronak Tallur

On January 20th, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. While the nation is virtually split on his plans as President, let us take a look at Trump's major plans for the United States.

### *Constitutional Amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress*

Basically, this means that there will be a limit on how long Senators and House of Representatives members can serve. Currently, they can run for an unlimited number of terms, much unlike a President, who can only serve for a maximum of two terms. Donald Trump has said that he will propose a term limit on members of Congress. Currently, some senators and members of the House have served for several terms. John McCain, the US Senator from Arizona, has served for three decades. Paul Ryan, currently Speaker of the House, has been a member of the House of Representatives from Wisconsin since 1999.

### *Begin removing more than 2 million criminal illegal immigrants from US*

Just about everyone has heard what Donald Trump said as a candidate regarding illegal immigrants. It is clear that Trump intends to remove illegal immigrants from the country, but a mass deportation like this will take a lot to pull off. Deporting criminal illegal immigrants will also take a lot of work, but Trump intends to get this done as President of the United States. However, it is not clear how much of this plan Trump still stands by; Trump said he planned to build a wall on the Southern Border and have Mexico pay for it. Now, he wants Congress to pay for it.

### *Withdraw from Trans-Pacific Partnership*

As candidate for President, Donald Trump spoke about withdrawing from several programs, including the North American Free Trade Agreement. He also spoke out against several other trade agreements that the US was involved in because the nation was being "stiffed" in business dealings. Donald Trump said he wanted to identify and eliminate all foreign trade abuses that negatively impacted American workers.

### *Select a replacement for Supreme Court*

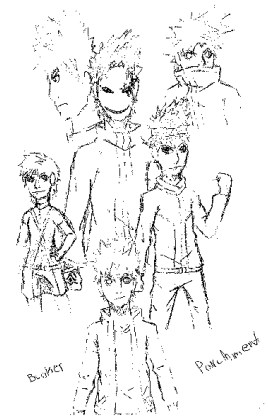
After the passing away of Judge Antonin Scalia in February 2016, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland for the succession of Justice Scalia. However, the Senate failed to act on the nomination and it expired on January 3rd. Trump intends to nominate a Republican into the justice system and with the House and Senate both going Republican in 2016, as well as the White House, it is very likely Trump's nomination becomes the next Justice, replacing Scalia.

### *Healthcare and National Security*

Donald Trump also spoke about repealing and replacing Obamacare, which appears on its way to taking place. He also said he wanted to suspend immigration from countries deeply affected by terrorism. Donald Trump wants to restore the National Security Act by eliminating the defense sequester and expanding military spending. He wants to take a stand against cyber-attacks.

For eight years, President Barack Obama has sat in the Oval Office, making decisions that affect the course of this nation. Now, the torch will be passed to Donald Trump. While many are gloomy about this transition, we hope that Donald Trump can veer the nation on the right track; we hope his actions will secure a bright future for the country.

Artwork by: Kaylee Cox



Artwork by: Booker Parchment