

The Wildcat Roar

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Welcome to Rocky Hill!

By Shelby Wilson
Assistant Chief Editor



Mrs. Brazil
Assistant Principal

I had the privilege of interviewing one of our new administrators last week, Mrs. Brazil. Mrs. Brazil loves to travel a lot and meet new people. Her love for travel is rooted in her childhood as a military family. According to the bio on the RHMS website, she began her years as a teacher at William Wirt Middle School in Riverdale as a science teacher. My interview with Mrs. Brazil was fascinating and uplifting, and I can see why she is a leader and role model.

TWR: What or who encouraged you to have a career in education?

MS. BRAZIL: My parents, because they were both educators. My mom was an English teacher and my dad was a history teacher at a college.

TWR: How long have you been an administrator and what's your favorite part of the job?

MS. BRAZIL: This is my first year as an administrator. My favorite part of the job so far is creating relationships with the students and the staff while working with them.

TWR: How did you transition from a teacher to an administrator?

MS. BRAZIL: During my years as a teacher, I was a team leader at my school. As a team leader it gave me a good experience for collaborating to get things done and being a leader. Scientists figure out solutions to problems. As a science teacher I learned how to figure out solutions to problems.

TWR: Who would you consider a hero and why?

MS. BRAZIL: My father. He served in the military and became one of the few black officers. When he was serving he fought off racism and taught me to overcome my fears and obstacles.

TWR: What advice would you give to a student for their success in their middle school career?

MS. BRAZIL: Making

good choices. At this age you can get influenced by peer pressure and other personal things. When you need help you should go tell your parents and if you're not comfortable talking to your parents, you should go talk to a person who is positive and behaves well.

TWR: What's your favorite thing about Rocky Hill so far?

MS. BRAZIL: The staff members are very supportive and helpful! The students are engaging and polite. I have developed relationships with the staff and students very quickly. Some of the parents and the staff members I've met have been welcoming. Both the parents and staff are great role models.

During this interesting interview I learned that hard work, overcoming obstacles, and making good choices are great qualities to have in life and as a middle school administrator.



Mr. Rose
Special Education Teacher

Mr. Rose is a Special Education teacher here at Rocky Hill. He is a MCPS alum who graduated from Sherwood High School in 2003. In 2008, he was hired as a Special Education Paraprofessional. Then in 2009, he received his Masters in Special Education. Only three years later, in 2012, he was hired as a special education teacher at Kennedy High School. Mr. Rose is very passionate about giving students the best education possible. "It is all about them. They are the future. Everything we do as teachers is geared towards their success and to make sure we go the right way in completing that goal," says Mr. Rose. He wants his students to know that he is very approachable. If there is anything that the students ever need to talk about or get off their chest, they can always go to him. He cares about his students and is hoping that they will not be too intimidated to come see him. Mr. Rose thinks that Rocky Hill is a fantastic place to teach and learn. "The teachers, support staff, admin and faculty are really supportive and helpful in any way," he exclaims. Mr. Rose is glad to be a Rocky Hill Wildcat!

By Arpan Barua
Chief Editor



Mr. Ambush
Assistant Principal

This year at Rocky Hill we welcomed not one, but two new assistant principals to our school. One of the new assistant principals is Mr. Ambush, who is the 7th grade administrator. He has an incredibly skilled background, especially in music. He grew up in Fredrick County and attended Fredrick High School. He had a big interest in music, and he pursued it. Mr. Ambush went to the University of Maryland College Park where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in music education. This music degree gave him many great opportunities to travel the world. He traveled with the armed forces and performed for them in various places including Ankara, Istanbul, and Rome. He also served as a church organist and Minister for music in many different local churches in this area. He has also performed at the Washington, D.C. funeral service for legendary boxer Joe Louis, the world heavyweight

champion from 1937-1949. Mr. Ambush loved music so much he made his own jazz quartet! It's called the Allen Ambush Jazz Quartet.

So how did he get into the education field? Well, he also studied Educational Policy and Leadership at The Ohio State University and went on to get a Masters of Science degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from Hood College. Following his interest in music, Mr. Ambush started working in MCPS in 1984 as a choral music teacher at Neelsville Middle School in Germantown. Not only was he a choral teacher at Neelsville, but he also organized choral programs, directed drama productions and programs, and served as the gifted and talented coordinator. He began his career as a principal in 1998 where he became an assistant principal at Neelsville. As an assistant principal, he worked with school improvement teams, developed and coordinated master schedules, and led school-wide testing initiatives. Here at Rocky Hill, we are very lucky to have Mr. Ambush. He has been working in schools for 31 years, and he enjoys supporting the educational vision for young people in a school community. He says working as an educator gives him the opportunity to talk about the value of hard work and goal setting.

So let's all welcome Mr. Ambush here to our Rocky Hill community and hope he has a great time here.



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Editorial Page

We Can Change the World

Shelby Wilson
Assistant Chief Editor

One would think by now that torture, wars, slavery and terrorists would be gone by the 21st century. However, it's not, and something has to change. Our parents did their part by helping our world, and now it's our turn. I'm sure you're saying, "What can we do? Our lives seem pretty terrific in Maryland, so we don't have to do anything." That's not even close to the truth. There are plenty of ways to help our world when it needs it!

Being a role model is one of the several things you can do for this world. One way you can be a role model is by being positive everywhere you go in your lifetime and spreading this mindset with everyone you meet. Being positive gives people hope, and a strong attitude makes people less fortunate think, "You know what? Everything is going to be fine. With these positive people, we will all be at peace with the world soon." Attitudes are contagious and being positive is a strong energy. Young people can come together and make a difference in this world by working together. They can be role models for each other, those less fortunate, and even adults who may be experiencing struggles. In my opinion, young people have more positive energy because they don't have to focus on responsibilities and worries like adults. This drive we have makes

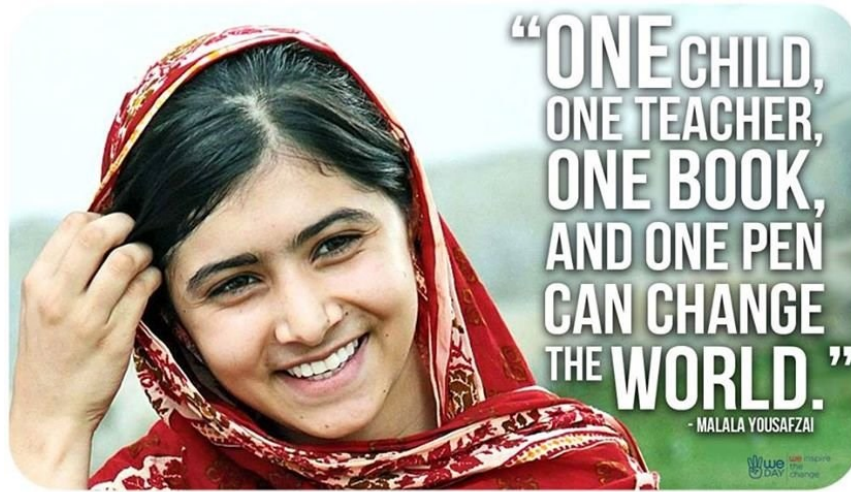


Image from Google Images

it 10 times easier for kids to work together! Let's pull this energy together and make a difference in everyone's lives. When there is good teamwork, especially for the community, it is easier to spread joy, hope, and peace.

Helping people is one thing that everyone knows how to do and there are always opportunities to use this skill. However, many people think that helping people means saving the world or even becoming a famous world leader. Let me tell you this, you don't have to save the world and you don't have to be famous to have the power to help people. Young people, like you and me, can help each other. Hold doors, say thank you, reach out to the new kids in school. If we ex-

pand our kindness each second of our lives, we can reach out and touch the hearts of many different people.

A good education is a very important part of making a difference in this world. Take Martin Luther King Jr., for instance. After he completed college, he spoke words that no one dared to say. Why? Because he learned the art of persuasion in school. He used this talent to help minorities gain rights that ultimately helped the entire country. I bet many of you wonder how he knew all that information. It's probably because he paid attention when his teacher was sharing knowledge. Many kids think that education isn't fun at all. However, education is extremely important and can change

the world. All of us at RHMS still have the opportunity to get a good education. With education we can become teachers, lawyers, doctors, strong business executives, or whatever we want to be to make a difference. WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

You can also make a difference by starting right at home. By cherishing time with your family, you can show others that strong family ties are important. I know sometimes you don't get along with your parents, but think of all you can do if you just appreciate your family. Showing the value of good relationships with the people around you can also show people how to work for the common good.

So you see, there are many ways you can fix not only our community but our whole world. I know this world has been better since slavery and segregation. We've made amazing progress from how we were in the past. However, our world could still use a little help around here. The world leaders that are here today are not going to be here forever, so let's rise up and save our world from violence and destruction, and spread peace and love.

Books or Chrome Books

Lahari Tammara
Writer's Corner Editor

Reading. What are you reading this on right now? The physical copy of the newspaper or online? The evolution of technology has led our generation to believe that we cannot live without our gadgets. You've probably heard parents and grandparents reminisce about 'back then' every time they spotted you on your electronic devices. Adults ramble about how technology is destroying our eyes and brain. If so, then why are our own MCPS adults incorporating laptops into the elementary school curriculum?

I have a younger sister in elementary school, and her entire school is filled with electronics. Every classroom has Chrome Books for every single student. Personally, I worry for the children's eyesight and education. Both classwork and homework are done on the laptops which inevitably leads to glasses. Staring at a brightly lit screen for a long amount of time will strain your eyes, give you dry eye, or cause headaches. The contrast between the screen and your eyes causes your eyes to strain to see the small font. When you constantly stare at a screen, you seldom blink, and because of this, your eyes become very dry and you get splitting headaches. After all of this, do you feel that it is okay for small kids to be



A 4th Grader using a Chromebook

[From Google Images]

on a laptop for more than eight hours?

What is autocorrect? People depend on autocorrect to correct their spelling and grammar mistakes. Kids now have access to autocorrect on their Chrome Books, so what are they learning when the laptop is correcting them? The basics of grammar and spelling are not taught, so they are learning from an early age to rely on the electronic correcting function. Later on in life, when they will be forced to handwrite a paper, they will have no fundamental understanding whatsoever about how to write a cohesive paper. The Chrome Books are ruining both the present and the future of this generation's lives.

The teachers at my sister's school have taken a liking to the social media website called Twitter. They have asked permission to post the students' progress reports online, but I wonder how safe it is to

have these images on the internet. All it takes is one click and the child's life and privacy is out in the open. If the teachers want to keep the parents updated, they can communicate through email and the school website. I question the rationale of posting pictures of students and giving status updates on a fairly popular social media website.

Though there are a lot of negative effects relating to the Chrome Books, there are some positive aspects. Technology helps you learn in different ways. You see a whole new world just outside of your comfort zone. The kids with Chrome Books can now learn and interact with their peers on a new level that is efficient and easy to use.

The age of students who have access to this new technology raises an important question. Should MCPS continue using the Chrome Books with young elementary school children? I feel that this technology would affect children in both positive and negative ways. Since this is a fairly new initiative, MCPS could rethink the idea of elementary school students using Chrome Books.



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Rocky Hill Page

Outdoor Ed At Rocky Hill

By Ronak Tallur
Staff Writer

Outdoor Ed was the best experience of Rocky Hill. There were many fun activities, and when I got back I missed it more than anything. Believe me, the following is fact, not fiction.

Predator Prey is a simulation where you are put into groups of either Carnivore, Herbivore, or Omnivore. You must get your food and water supply at designated stations around the arena. At the same time, there are other species hunting you or being hunted themselves. There is also a doctor that can heal you if you have a disease that can take away all your lives. There is also a boundary patrol that takes your life if you run out-of-bounds. In order to survive, you must have at least one of your four lives, two water consumptions, and two meals of either berries, meat, or both. This requires strategy which makes it the great game of Predator Prey.

In Orienteering, you are let loose in the woods with a group of five kids, a map, and a compass. You have to use angles, degrees, and ori-



Image from Google Images

enteering strategies that will be taught to you in World Studies. Then, using this knowledge, you will try to find large metal poles, called stakes, and collect data from the area. There are fifteen stakes in total and your goal is to use the right orienteering strategies to find as many stakes as possible. This is a tough, yet fun game.

In the other two classes, you will learn how to use teamwork to thwart tough challenges that will certainly test your confidence. In Confidence Course, you must bring a great attitude, or it "ain't gonna be pretty".

The final class is Pond and Stream. You will go to the stream and find biotic and abiotic creatures in the water. You will also test how healthy the stream is. These are four great Outdoor Classes. But stay tuned, because there are many more activities at Outdoor Ed.

From 7:00 to about 10:30 PM, there will be evening activities. On the first day, there will be a campfire, a night hike, and indoor carnival games. During the night hike, you walk with a big group with three or four teachers in the dark with a flash-

light. When that is done, there will be an indoor carnival, where you can compete in several games and activities. The team that scores the most total points will result in winning prizes.

On night number 2, there will be a competition called Cabin Idol where your cabin group comes up with a song or cheer to perform in front of everybody else in your session. The judges will give each group a certain number of points out of 30. There are two winners, a boy team and a girl team, who will win candy. Then, if there is time, you will either play Glow in the Dark Whiffle Ball or Firefly. Finally, if your cabin group has been assigned to participate in the Trust Walk, you will walk in the dark, with nobody to talk to, and no flashlights.

Outdoor Ed was fun, guaranteed. I had the greatest time of my school life, and a great time with my friends, old and new. I also had a blast at Rec. time, on the second day, where I played a sport of my choice and did arts and crafts. Though the fun was exhausting, Outdoor Ed was a blast, in more ways than one!

Editorial and Opinions Cont.

We All Matter!

By Kayleigh Nelson
Staff Writer



Ever been bullied or feel like you have no voice in society? You obviously are not alone, and no one should ever make anyone feel this way. Unfortunately, but we can make this better. It doesn't matter what your race, religion, or gender is. If someone acts as if they are better than everyone else, they have lost their dignity. If you feel as if you have to make someone feel the pain that you're feeling, you are just making your situation worse. Just be kind to others, and you could make that person's day. If someone's mean to you, don't waste your breath on them; they're not worth it.

Words hurt, and they can either make or break a person. Sometimes people feel the need to be rude to others. It is important to understand that bullies themselves have their own personal battles. Having the mindset of someone who

feels the need to hurt others will get nowhere in life. There is help, just ask for it.

Everyone in this world is created equal. Slavery and segregation against African Americans was all just because the color of their skin. Although things have changed, we still have issues over racism. We need to look at people for what they really are inside and not their exterior. If that person is mean their exterior won't look so good. The most important principle in life is the golden rule "Treat others how you would like to be treated." We are all lovely in our own special way, and do not let anyone take away what matters to you most. Speak up because we all matter!

Leos Club at Rocky Hill Makes a Difference

By Katelyn Folmer
Staff Writer



Leos Club Students making a difference

School. When you see that word, do you think of making a difference? Or learning? What about Rocky Hill Middle School? Do you think of making a difference? Even if you said no, there are definitely some activities you need to look into. Rocky Hill has done many things to make a difference: coat drives, food drives, and so much more. Once again the Leo's club has continued to make a difference through the annual coat drive. A coat drive is a large collection of coats from all participating students and staff at Rocky Hill.

"Leo's club is a community service club where students give back to their community," said Mr. Stevenson, the sponsor of the club. As the sponsor, Mr. Stevenson decides on the projects they participate in and who they donate to.

Leo's club held a coat drive from September 22 to October 16. Students in the club brainstorm services that could benefit from the donations. Leo's club isn't just a place to have fun; it's a way of giving. Students involved in Leo's club are the students who want to make a change and need their school community to be involved. Leo's club usually holds a canned food drive in the spring and helps at the Willpower games. I believe Leo's club is like Secret Santa; you never know what service the community will receive as a gift. "Being a part of the Leo's club is like being a part of a small community."

Making a difference is very important in our community. It sticks with the kids even after they leave Rocky Hill. "The school drives helped teach me the value of charity and generosity," says Parthiv Shah, former Rocky Hill student. The fact that the Leo's club has thrived over the years is a testament to the students' commitment to making a difference.



Writer's Corner

I Forgot

By Lahari Tammera
Writer's Corner Editor

My head was pounding as soon as the bright lights clashed with the darkness of my eyelids. The dominant color in the room was a blinding white, making the room seem like a sterile cage. A sobbing woman was wide-eyed as she looked at me in fascination. I couldn't comprehend the reason behind her shaking shoulders and her doll-like glossy eyes. It seemed she wanted to speak to me, but the most she'd done so far was come and tower over my bed. Her tears fell on my arm, startling me. Did I know her?

December 14, 2001 11:10 AM

The cage keepers—otherwise known as doctors—are here. The lady argued with them because she wanted to stay. They had to physically pull her out of my sterile cage while she was screaming profanities at the stoic cage keepers. In between her harsh words she kept yelling 'Fae', what does that mean? The keepers in the blinding white coats are currently explain to me what happened to me. What happened to me? I feel normal except for the pounding headache ringing in my head. They kept repeating the term 'amnesia'; what does that mean? Are they talking about my headache? Don't they understand—

"Miss, we need you to pay attention. This is crucial for your health to know about your critical condition." I lowered my eyes from the staring contest I'd been having with the man in the back of the room. He stood there, feet shoulder width apart with his hands just resting against the sides of his thighs, looking menacing. I didn't have the courage to address him; he gave me the goose bumps.

"A few weeks earlier you had an accident that damaged the hippocampus, the diencephalon, and the temporal lobes of your brain. Obviously, you've forgotten your memories, but like many other amnesia patients, you remember the entire world. You do not remember anything about yourself, but

you can converse normally. You have a type of amnesia known as retrograde amnesia. Retrograde amnesia is the condition where you lose all your memories from before the accident, but are still able to make new memories. You're now free to leave and check out of the hospital with your parents. You will be coming back every week for two months to track your progress. Just let them know to come to Winchester Hospital." The man from the corner walked towards me as I cowered closer to the wall behind me.

December 14, 2001 1:32 PM

The man had beckoned for me to get up and we got in a vehicle with the screaming woman from earlier. They had a hushed conversation that I couldn't hear, but still strained my ears to try. What is that they are trying to hide from me? The keepers seemed to think I understood all the long words they spewed to me. I feel so pressured to please everyone—I don't want them to be disappointed in me.

December 18, 2001 2:01 PM

I have made some progress. The man and woman explained to me that they are my parents, but I am still confused as to why my father refuses to acknowledge me. I think my mother and I are now friends because she tries so hard to help me. I feel guilty accepting her kindness and love because I don't even remember her. My mother told me that my name is Fae Padalecki. It's such a pretty name, but I am not used to it. Sometimes when my mother calls me, I forget that Fae is my name. She has just called me for dinner, and I finally remember to respond.

December 20, 2001 12:47 AM

No, I can't sleep. I close my eyes, and all I see are the darks of my eyelids. My mother keeps asking me if I can sleep, and I reply with a short yes every time. She has finally left the room, and I have never been more relieved. The dim light coming from the flower lamp on my desk is the only opposing force to my gloomy, dark room.

Every time I close my eyes, I feel as though I am back inside the cage. Only difference is, I know a little bit about myself.

December 21, 2001 9:14 PM

My parents are arguing about me. I can hear them through the vent, as they are in the room right next to me. There is a lump in my throat and no matter what, I can't seem to swallow it.

"Rob, yelling at me isn't going to get you anywhere. Our daughter needs our help, and you avoiding her isn't helping anyone." My mother calmly stated. Her calm state seemed to rile her up even more, as he began to yell louder.

"She is not our daughter, Anne! She is a stranger in our daughter's body, and if you can't see that, then you must be blind!"

I plugged my headphones in, and turned the music up full blast. Why does my father hate me? I have been trying so hard to live up to his expectations, but is it really my fault that I have amnesia?

December 24, 2001 11:57 AM

Today is Christmas Eve, but we don't have a tree. My mother happened to gloss over the fact that we are a family of atheists. I don't complain because Christmas seems too festive for this period of time. I talked to my father for the first time yesterday. I explained to him how he's never going to have his daughter back. I told him to think of me as the new and improved Fae, and that he should at least try to accept me as I am. If he can't accept me the way I am, then that was his loss. I feel that we are okay with each other now. What have I done to not earn his love?

December 25, 2001 4:23 AM

The aspirin made itself aware—moving down my throat at a snail-like pace. It was Christmas morning and I had been startled awake by my haunting nightmare. I could not recall most of the event, but the one thing that scared me the most

was the amount of the dark. Everything around me had been dark—almost like a void that was never ending. I hear steps on the stairs, which one of my parents is it—the one that happens to be my one and only friend or the one who despises me to no end?

"Good morning, Fae. What are you doing up so early?" My father inquired as he made his way into the kitchen. His hair was ruffled and his shirt wrinkled showing the evidence of the long slumber he had.

"Hello father, I had an extremely painful headache so I came down for some aspirin. What are you doing up?"

"I heard you downstairs and I wanted to talk to you." What did he want to talk about? I didn't have to wonder for long—he sat down at the breakfast bar telling me to sit down as well. He started off with the old information of how I wasn't his daughter, but then he took a sudden turn.

"Though, you are not the daughter that I have known for most of my life, I hope to restart things with you and be the supporting father I was meant to be all along." My mouth agape I took in my father, teary eyes and all. As predicted, the conversation ended with tears and hugs.

January 7, 2014 5:00 AM

For the first time, I was awake early for a respectable reason. Today was the first day of my home-school lessons, and though there was no one to impress, I dressed nicely. It has been almost a month since my accident, and my monthly check-up is coming up. I feel that I have improved so much from being the scared girl a month ago. I was excited for the future and all the new—and only—memories to come.

Unbroken

By Anusha Chinthapala
RH Page Editor

She could have been happy. She could have been the same person she was just a few months ago. But now she was just a case, a file. Locked up in an old, musty room. A psychopath, she had heard them say, a person crazy in the head. She got up and walked across the room to the barred window. A trail of ants walked by, carrying bits of food they had found. She lifted a menacing hand and brought it down upon the line, hard. She heard the door swing open. Her head stayed down.

"Haven?" She looked over her shoulder and saw her counselor, Graham waiting by the door.

"Haven, you have a visitor." She looked down and didn't say anything.

"Can I tell them to come in?" She sniffed and walked over to her bed. As she sat down she looked at Graham with pleading eyes.

"Haven, the doctor says that visitors are good for you. Please." She looked at him with a hard stare then waved a hand dismissively.

"Alright, come on in, please." She watched the door as a blonde girl sauntered in. Haven gritted her teeth.

"Thank you!" The girl had a hint of perkiness in her voice. Graham nodded and closed the door. Haven brought her green eyes up to the blue ones in front of her. She clenched her jaw and clutched the chair that she now sat in.

"What do you want?" Haven said through closed teeth. Her forehead started to perspire and the wisps of hair that framed her face now stuck to her forehead. The blonde girl leaned in and narrowed her blue eyes.

"I want my fair share, Haven. You know, the inheritance your

grandmother left you? You owe it to me." Haven closed her eyes. She felt the wind from outside on the back of her head.

"I told you once Bridget and I'll say it again, I don't have the money." Bridget leaned back and crossed one leg over the other. She rested her hand on the back of her chair and stared straight at Haven.

"Okay, take your time. Listen, Haven, I can't wait for you to get out of this junky sanitarium and get you plopped into the county jail. So how about we make a deal. You give me the money and I'll leave you alone. But, until then, you're gonna see a lot more of me." Bridget stood up and started to leave. With one hand on the doorknob, she turned around.

"Be careful, my darling." She gave a smirk and walked out of the

room. Haven slumped down in her chair and looked at the door. As if on demand, Graham walked into the room with a steaming plate of food that might have been lunch.

"Remember Haven, you have your group appointment at 4 so make sure to eat quickly." Haven nodded. She had taken barely two bites of her food by the time 4:00 rolled around. She quietly got up from her chair and entered the conference room, in which the group appointment would be held.

Unbroken

Sports

The Redskins' Name Issue

By Arpan Barua
Chief Editor and
Vikram Josti
Staff Writer

When you hear the name Washington Redskins, what do you think of? Their abysmal lack of offense is one thing, but do you think about the name? Most people think the Washington "Redskin" name is racist because it's referring to the Native Americans as "Red skins" and a lot of people think that's racist. They think that they're offending Native Americans and not being sensitive toward them.

During the NBA Finals, there was advertisement that was shown showing Native Americans talking about how they don't like the Redskin name and how they want it to be removed. People hate it so much, some FOX and CBS commentators refuse to use the name during their broadcast and President Obama even was urging the Redskins organization to change the name because he even thought it was offensive. But Dan Snyder (owner of the Redskins) doesn't want to change it, and most fans don't want the name to change either. They don't want the name to change because the Redskins are apart of NFL History. If the name is gone, all our history will be gone. So the fans don't want their team to be erased! So that's why they don't want to change it.

Something I found interesting is that there are a ton of other sports



Image from Google Images

teams that refer to Native Americans yet they don't get slammed like the Redskins do. The Atlanta Braves, Chicago Blackhawks, Cleveland Indians, Golden State Warriors, Kansas City Chiefs, and Florida State Seminoles all reference Native Americans, yet they're left alone.

Some other teams have done some super racist things but nobody really cares. For example, the Atlanta Braves had a mascot named Chief Noc-A-Homa who "lived" in a tepee inside the stadium and dressed up as a Native American during every game, but it was removed not because it was racist but because the guy who was doing it just didn't show up at games. The Chicago Blackhawks have a logo that looks almost the same as the Redskins logo, yet nobody really speaks out about it and they just let it be.

The Cleveland Indians reference Native Americans, not as Native Americans but as Indians. And their mascot? Its name is Chief Wahoo (picture above) and although they've decided to change their logo to just a C, this is still referring to Native Americans, just like the Redskins. Most people guys probably don't know this but the NBA team, the Golden State Warriors used to be called the San Francisco Warriors and their mascot was a Native American "head." They had it removed in 1971. The Kansas City Chiefs also refer to Native Americans and during their games, fans sometimes dress up as Native Americans to support their team and their mascot used to be a Native American. Redskin's fans do the same things. But probably the most racist one of all is the Florida State University Seminoles. The logo on their helmets is a Native American

spear and they also have a tradition of doing the Tomahawk Chop during games, referring it to a "Native American" tradition. But the most controversial thing Florida State does is their mascot, Chief Osceola (a real person who led the Seminole tribe of Florida), where he rides on his horse Renegade, and he throws a flaming spear in the ground before every home game.

All in all, although some traditions have been removed, some are still there. So is it fair that the Washington Redskins get slammed so hard if all these other teams have equally "racist" actions? I mean the Redskins don't go as far as Florida State does with their mascot. So in conclusion, it truly isn't fair that the Redskins get slammed so hard if teams are doing equally as bad things. It's not fair to the Redskin organization, and especially not fair to the fans.



Sports Injuries

By Ms. Katie Odey
Supervising Editor

For a majority of young students who engage in sports, playing sports provides avenues for friendly competitions, sportsmanship, and perhaps a future in the big leagues. We have a culture that idolizes athletes in major leagues sports and some ways consider them role models. Being active is a great way to stay healthy. Injury is almost inevitable when people engage in sports. Head concussions are very common, especially in contact sports like football and wrestling. A head concussion is a serious injury that tends to be overlooked, and since most occur without the loss of consciousness, parents, coaches, and players become complacent about the impact of this injury on the athlete. Experts define a concussion as a type of brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain functions.

Although concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity, one of the biggest culprits is football. It is football season after all, and most avid fans look forward to watching and cheering for their teams. Amidst the tackles, fumbles, and hits, fans seem to focus more on the game rather than on the hits and pain the athletes endure. Last season, Redskins fans watched as Robert Griffin III injured his knee. The question becomes, how are athletes protected from serious injuries?



Image from Google Images

Aggression in sports is not uncommon, and we see this too often in the game of football. "The game is about taking a man down, physically and mentally," said Ray Lewis, the now-retired Baltimore Ravens linebacker. The excitement of watching football games overshadows the aggression that we would not encourage children to learn. As Nate Jackson, a former NFL player puts it, "If bravery is knocking an opposing player so senseless you're most likely causing him brain damage, isn't it time to redefine bravery?"

Nate Jackson sustained a severe head injury during his career in the NFL. As many as 4,500 former athletes have suffered from dementia, depression, or Alzheimer's linked to head injuries. Nate Jackson wrote about his experience in an article pub-

lished on mmqb.si.com. "But it's hard to move on, because here I am writing about brain injuries, putting it all into my mind, giving me twisted thoughts."

Safety is important in every sport, and it is important for players, parents and the athletes to take necessary precautions to avoid serious injuries. Helmets are supposed to prevent head injuries, but there may be a need to improve the helmets used by football players. This issue was brought before the US Congress, and Jeffery Miller, Senior Vice President for Player Health and Safety Policy at the National Football League, testified about the safety of football helmets. Jeff Miller asserted that the game of football has earned a fundamental place in the rhythm of American life, yet helmets for players have not

caught up to what is necessary to protect players. Miller also asserts that near 6 million kids play tackle or flag football in the U.S. Many of these young players go on to play football in college, and some get drafted to the NFL.

As long as kids and professionals play the game of football, there will always be serious injuries like head concussions. As ABC's Jim Avila reports, "A few years ago, the NFL changed regulation for the kickoff—moving it five yards to help reduce concussions." After a concussion left him with only 5 percent of the normal cognitive activity and almost immobilized, Ian Heaton, a senior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Bethesda testified about the importance of safety. "Frankly I would actually encourage the coaches to stress this as much as possible as well as the parents because the coaches and the parents are there to help us learn how to play these sports correctly and if they can emphasize not having to worry about winning to the point where you get hurt then it will trickle down to the players and the players become coaches and then it's the never ending cycle of teaching and making sure that the players know that winning is not the most important thing." Playing any kind of sports with the right safety gears is important to the athletes as well as to the spectators.

Sports (Continued)

NFL ISSUES: Ray Rice

By Ronak Tallur
Staff Writer

On February 15th, 2014, Ray Rice was arrested for domestic violence against his fiancée. A video was posted of Ray Rice engaging in a physical altercation with his fiancée, Janay Palmer. The Ravens issued a statement, saying, "This is a serious matter." The Baltimore Ravens running-back was coming off a career worst season, with 214 carries for 660 yards and 4 touchdowns, averaging on 3.1 yards per rush. Many believed 2014 would be a comeback season for Rice, until he was arrested.

On March 27th, the grand jury indicted Rice on third-degree aggravated assault, with likely jail time of up to three to five years, and a fine of \$15,000. Then, on July 25th, 2014, he was suspended for the first two games of the 2014 NFL season for his actions. His criminal actions were thereafter dropped.

Despite receiving a two game suspension, many fans and media figures disagreed with NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, for only suspending Rice for two games. They insisted on a heavier punishment, claiming that domestic violence is unacceptable, and should be regarded more seriously.

Soon after, Ray Rice appeared on NFL Network, making his first appearance with the media since



Images from Google Images

the assault. He spoke about domestic violence, apologizing for anyone who had to go through it. "My actions that night were totally inexcusable...my actions that night...it wasn't like me." It was reported that Rice was not yet ready to speak out to the media about the situations that occurred that night. This coverage was live at the Baltimore Ravens training camp.

Then, on September 8th, 2014, everything changed for Ray Rice. Additional footage of Rice was released, showing him punching and knocking out his fiancée in the elevator before coming out of the elevator. An hour later, while the truth was still unfolding, the Ravens terminated Rice's contract and he received a six-game suspension. Another domestic violence incident would result

in a lifetime ban from the NFL, even though the full severity is subject to change. This resulted in fans trading in their Ray Rice jerseys in Baltimore for tickets to Ravens games or free pizza.

The aftermath of the events resulted in fans asking NFL commissioner Roger Goodell whether or not he would resign. Finally, on September 19th, he addressed the media, saying, "Unfortunately, over the past several weeks, we have seen all too much of the NFL doing wrong." Later, he apologized, saying that he did not correctly handle the Ray Rice situation. "I got it wrong," he said. In the end, he stated that he was not going to resign.

The Ray Rice incident sparked one of the worst debates about domestic violence in NFL his-

tory. Jay Glazer reported for Fox NFL Sunday that the Ravens were angry at Rice for throwing them into a controversial situation.

Shortly after, it was announced that Rice would appeal the fact that he was suspended twice for the same incident, which is a violation of NFL rules. On September 29th, the NFL and NFLPA agreed to hear Rice's appeal. His appeal would be heard by a neutral arbitrator. This is the first time in NFL history that someone other than commissioner Roger Goodell will hear someone's appeal. While the appeal is being heard, Rice will remain suspended. On October 6th, it was announced that the Ray Rice case would likely be done by the end of October.

Despite a very controversial offseason in the NFL, the NFL is doing all they can to make sure such actions never occur in the NFL again. They are trying to make sure the NFL gains the reputation as not violent, but smart. The NFL hopes that they never get into such a controversy ever again, and they want the players to be a good influence to the rest of the world.

DC and Maryland Sports

By Dylan Maeda
Sports Editor

It's a great time to be a fan of Maryland sports. Most of our teams doing great in their league and getting even better. Whether it's basketball, soccer, hockey, etc. you will find a Maryland team among the best. We'll forget about football for now.

Let's start with baseball, we have two teams that made it to the playoffs. In DC, the Nationals had the best record in the National League, along with being 9th in runs and 8th in on-bases. Denard Span led the team with a batting average of .302 while Adam LaRoche had the most home runs with 26 and RBI's with 92. They easily escaped the Wild Card game and played the Giants in the first round of the playoffs.

The other team in Maryland, the Orioles also had a great year finishing with the best record in the American league. Designated Hitter, Nelson Cruz led the American League with 40 home runs. The combined pitching team of Wei-Yin Chen and Chris Tillman surprised the leagues with an exceptional performance this year. A



Images from Google Images

major reason why the Orioles are so good is because they are flat-out one of the best hitting teams in the league, if not the best. They led the league with 211 home runs, there's no way a team that hits that many home runs can't be good. Fans have Nelson Cruz and Adam Jones to thank for this achievement.

With two great baseball teams in our state comes rivalry, and the ultimate question: Which team is better? Both are the top of their division and they are both among the top ten best teams in the league. Are state has been divided, some people wear red, white, and blue and others wear orange. No matter which team you root for, I think everyone would be happy if the championship round featured our two great teams.

As far as basketball goes in Maryland, it's definitely on the rise. Last season the Wizards 4th place in the Eastern Conference with a record of 44 wins and 38 losses. I was amid the crying fans the previous year when they finished the season with a pathetic record of 29-53. Fans should be happy with the drastic improvement of the team with John Wall and Bradley Beal leading the team to the playoffs. A big improvement to this team has been their low post players, in specific Marcin Gortat who averaged 13 points and 9.5 rebounds. The wizards will be giving him more minutes this year because of his success last season.

This offseason has been kind to the Wizards as they acquired Paul Pierce and DeJuan Blair. There are some bold predictions for the

Washington Wizards this season. As Jonathan Munshaw, a Featured Columnist for the Bleachers Report states, "... there's plenty more to look forward to as the 2014-15 NBA season goes on." Most Wizards fans are looking forward to a repeat of the last season. Clearly they have a chance to make this season as a statement after John Wall led the Wizard to a successful season. One of Munshaw's bold prediction for the Wizards in the playoffs.

According to Manshaw, "Making the playoffs is expected for the Wizards this season given all of the talent on the roster, even with all the injuries, but there's still some unknowns about the season." We will be watching and looking forward to a great season. The Redskins are struggling at this point. The Nationals gave fans a lot to cheer about. Either way, DC and Maryland are very proud of their sports teams.



Life on The Hill

Welcome to Rocky Hill

By Anusha Chinthapale
RH Page Editor



Ms. Olsen
6th Grade English Teacher

Ms. Olsen lives in Clarksburg with her husband and her two sons who are 8 and 10 years old. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, running, reading, cooking (and eating!) all types of food, and traveling to new places. This is her 18th year teaching. Ms. Olsen has worked in schools in three different states and taught grades 3-8. She has been with MCPS since 2000. This is her first year at Rocky Hill Middle School, where she is teaching 6th and 7th grade English. Ms. Olsen is very excited to be a Wildcat and is looking forward to a great year!



Ms. Arcé
7th and 8th Grade Counselor

Ms. Arcé is one of the 7th and 8th grade counselors at Rocky Hill. This is her fourth year as a counselor in MCPS and her first year as a middle school counselor. She was an elementary school counselor at Pine Crest Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD and is very excited to be here. Believe it or not, Ms. Arcé was a student here at Rocky Hill from 1996-1999. "It is truly an honor to be working amongst some of my favorite middle school teachers who inspired me to do great things in my future while I was here," says Ms. Arcé. She also went to Damascus High School from 1999-2003. After high school, she attended Montgomery College, then

Frostburg State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, and a Master of Education Degree in School Counseling. She is looking forward to getting to know the school and to a fantastic 2014-2015 school year!



Mrs. Surathu
Spanish Teacher

Mrs. Surathu graduated from MCPS and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She studied abroad in Mexico and Spain and has traveled to Puerto Rico and Guatemala. She has taught Spanish 1, 2, and 3H. She also taught Reading and English in the past. She is excited to be here at Rocky Hill and is looking forward to share new experiences with the staff and students!



Ms. Conley
TV Studio Teacher

Ms. Conley is the Television Production and Lights, Camera, Media Literacy! teacher. She enjoys teaching the courses that let students' creativity shine. She has been teaching for 25 years in MCPS. Ms. Conley has taught at the elementary and middle school levels. She has lived in Montgomery County all her life and graduated from Poolesville Jr./Sr. High school. Her hobbies include gardening, watching movies and listening to music. She enjoys spending time with her family, most of whom live nearby. She has 4 Italian Greyhound dogs and 1 cat.

Staff of the Month

By: Lahari Tamera
Writer's Corner Editor



Mr. Cosby
RHMS Security

How long have you been a security guard?

"For eleven years."

What job(s) did you occupy before this?

"I worked for US Customs Service for twenty years—I was actually in the United States data center for US Customs Service. I did data processing for them which was the computer side of it—your land borders and airports. In case we had any problems, we had a small window of time to fix any problems that occurred during the night because most of the traffic comes through in the morning. At night, there was limited traffic, hardly any flights are going out, hardly any people coming through the airport. That's the reason they gave us a window of time during the night to implement whatever we were implementing, and so on."

What do you think about the kids at

Rocky Hill?

"I love the kids at Rocky Hill. If you can tell, I am very friendly with you guys. I have a knack for connecting with kids—I've raised four of my own, I have three grand kids. I coach youth football, I've been coaching that for twenty years, so I kind of know where you guys are. I kind of know what they like about a person, and I don't come at you yelling, "You need to do this! You better do this!" Everyone has the opportunity to experience life. You could be an evil person, but later on in life you could change. I can give you a foundation of how you should be, but it's up to you to decide what type of person you want to be. So, that's my approach towards you guys, and I do love working with you guys. Being around you guys—you keep me young."

What do you like most about Rocky Hill?

"I like the administration, I've come from other schools where administration didn't support you. I think we have a diverse type of atmosphere between the students and the faculty. You've got to understand that the schools that I used to work at are really bad. To experience that type of atmosphere and to come to a place like this, it's almost like heaven—it's like Beverly Hills. That's how I feel about that, this school is really nice."

Give us a description of your schooling years.

"I had an opportunity to go to college, I was an athlete. The problem I think I had was family. I had a father that wasn't in the home, so I didn't have a support that maybe some of you might have. I was good with my hands, I took up a trade, and I became an electrician. I did electrical work for a while, but I then got into computers. I got with a computer company and I worked my way up through the company. I then started working for US Customs service. If you didn't have the

college education, you would work your way up through a company and then have hands on experience. Verses coming out of college and not having the hands on experience. Basically, during my upbringing we didn't have the college idea, we needed to do some type of trade. My trade of data processing isn't in existence anymore which shows how the times are changing."

What is your favorite grade in RH and why?

"I would say sixth graders because they're new to the school and middle school is a big spectacle to them. They're very innocent and easy to control—in a positive way."

How do you want the people of RH to know you?

"That I'm fair to everyone and partial and I want them to learn a few things from me. I want them to get a sense about other people because when I was younger, I had no male figure to 'teach me the ways of life'. I want to help them go in the direction they want to by guiding them towards the right things. I try to push them in the correct direction. I feel that I am an overall good person."

What are your hobbies and interests?

"I coach boy's football and we are on the verge of a championship at the moment. I also really happen to enjoy collecting cars. I used to have a 300 ZX Nissan that I sold for \$2,000 because I wanted to get it off my hands fast."

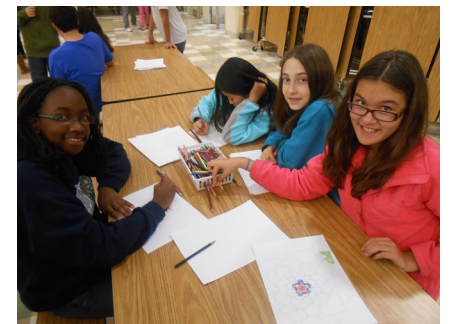
What other schools have you worked for?

"I have worked for E. Brooke Lee MS, Roberto Clemente MS, and—obviously—Rocky Hill MS."

Images from PRIDAPOLOOZA



How about those popsicles?



Time to draw



Let's pose for a photo!



Making Rubber Bracelets

Special Features

Why Need Technology When You Have Pen and Paper

By Aleysha Varghese
Staff Writer



At the rate that technology is progressing, I think humans will be replaced by technology! There are so many different kinds of technology coming out like the iWatch, new laptops, fancy phones, etc. All these devices are beneficial to student's academic learning, and almost everyone has some sort of device in their house. There are now teachers who can stay at home, but still show up at school through a computer screen. In some schools, exchange foreign students can use electronic translators to help them communicate with others. There are so many different ways which technology can be beneficial, but let's focus on a computer or specifically, at one point was a new form of technology, a laptop!

The laptop was a new invention at one point; to a lot of people having a laptop then was as important as having an iPhone 6 these days. The first official, well known laptop came out in the early 1970's, which is about 43 years ago. A laptop can be very useful, imag-

ine you having to lug around a huge computer to a meeting or any other formal gatherings!

Teachers these days give out online links by referring to topics that you need help understanding. However, due to a recent experiment conducted by researchers from Psychological Science program; they figured out when students learn from technology (specifically laptops) it interferes with their lecture materials. Students from Princeton watched educational videos on their laptop and were asked to take a quiz. Then students were asked to write out the facts they saw in the text, and take a quiz. The average students scored better by writing long handed.

To see if this was accurate, an experiment was conducted with Rocky Hill Middle School students. We asked students to read two lines on the computer and recite it; then we asked students to write two different, but similar sentences and asked them to recite it. The experiment was not

only conducted on Rocky Hill students but also on Rocky Hill staff.

The results were accurate, 3/4ths of the people who were asked to do the experiment could not memorize the online sentence, however were able to say the written lines fluently. This shows that the experiment conducted at Princeton was accurate.

However, using technology can also be very useful. For example, there are now books which you can read electronically such as the Kindle. The world is so advanced in technology newborn kids are around online books and gaming systems more than paper books and board games. "A Book," by Lane Smith, expresses how the new generation has no idea what a proper book is. You can do everyday things with the help of technology such as checking the weather, getting online references, reading the newspaper, typing up reports, etc. But, is our world using electronics too much?

The 2005 PEW Research Center's internet study reported that

87% of teens in the United States use the internet and 51% of teens go online daily. The study also reported that of those who use the internet, 89% send or read e-mail, 81% play games online, 69% conduct homework and 43% buy things online. "It's getting more complicated to measure how much screen time kids are getting," notes Lisa Guernsey, author of *Into the Minds of Babes*, a book about children's use of electronic media.

Clearly this evidence states that our world is depending on the use of technology. Even though technology is increasing rapidly with new ideas to help us, there are many cons to these great inventions. For example, obesity and visual problems are a major effect of "overusing" technology. Not only this, neurological problems may occur to the human body and can be very straining for students.

Want better grades? Want a healthier body? Well, go back to dictionaries, go back to paper newspapers, and go back to a world where you are not in front of a computer screen 24/7.

Celebrities

Kaleigh Nelson
Staff Writer

Most celebrities in today's society wear expensive designer outfits because of how they are perceived. When they show up on the red carpet, questions about what they are wearing are personified as "who" they are wearing. They would mention names of famous fashion designers like Valentino, Versace, Prada or Jimmy Choo. It is interesting how fashion gurus scrutinize the outfits of the rich and famous. People in the music industry are not exceptions when it comes to dressing in designer cloths. Some of the common trends are clothing are revealing. Ironically such outfits make these celebrities stand out. Entertainers in the music industry "dress for success." Most of them become very successful because their fashion in some ways help them to sell their music. Sadly, their true is hidden from their audience since all the focus is usually on their outfit. We have some rather outrageous outfits on some entertainers. Sometimes when you are in the music industry you have to do things that you do not want to do in order for you to stay on top. However, this can have a damaging effect on the artist and their integrity. This damage can be especially troubling when celebrities are being followed around by cameras and rumors begin to swirl about their personal lives.

Celebrities are often not seen for how they look and not for what they really are in life. The problem is that their fans do not know who they really are. Since we envy those celebrities with their "perfect" lives, we take pleasure in their downfall. "If I can't have a perfect life then I don't

BE YOUR OWN CELEBRITY

want you to have one either!" Aesop's fable about the fox and the grapes speaks to unbearable desire, first of all, but also to envy, and this is also huge problem. For example, if I started off as a young singer and I got more popular as I got older, people will expect me to dress and act different from when I was younger. What if I don't? Then most people would not buy my music, and that is ridiculous to me.

Some celebrities that were popular back in the day are not as famous now. They dress in revealing outfits to appeal to their audience. This is why some fans say that they miss the way celebrities were when they were younger, and I feel the same. An artist might feel pressure to be someone they are not just to satisfy the audience. This is not a life I want to live. People need to realize that celebrities are people too, and they have a life outside of the music industry.

We live in a society where celebrities are judged based on the way they look. To the rest of us, they are very attractive, and their lives and careers are perfect or very close. With so much emphasis on how beautiful and handsome, people do care about their true personalities. It is important to note that not all celebrities are inappropriate. Some entertainers in the music industry have had a positive impact on their fans, especially kids who idolize them want to be like them in some ways. Most of the kids at our school like Ariana Grande.

Is Music Getting out of Control?

By Katelyn Folmer
Staff Writer



Language is essential in the human race. We were taught a language, whether it was English, Spanish, French, or any other language when we were babies. People have started to utilize language in a derogatory manners to hurt others. Language is meant to be used for communication, not harm.

Artists have introduced inappropriate language in their music. Generally, music has impacted people in a positive way throughout the centuries. People have always loved music, and some music is powerful enough to change certain people's perspectives. Think of the classics in the old days: Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and many others. Has music totally gotten out of control? Nowadays most music has either swear words, and inappropriate dancing or clothing. If the word explicit is labelled on a song, or music video, it means that there are inappropriate things in those songs that are not suitable for all viewers.

Imagine you have a talent in singing or dancing, or maybe you already do! Would you sing or dance inappropriately just to make more money? The majority of us probably won't. However, many music stars today are saying yes to this life-changing question. To support them though, parental-advisory.com says, "Often, the artist in question will have written lyrics or chosen images to depict personal experience or a story they wish to tell and it is important that industry respects an artist's right of free expression." **Based on that quote, the music industry has to respect the artist's right to free expression. But, they don't have to respect their concerts...**

Take Miley Cyrus for example. When we were young, we probably thought of her as really cool Hannah Montana. Now, the majority of us probably think of her as someone who does things I cannot say in this article. Her songs are explicit and what she does in most of her concerts is unacceptable.

Bombhiphop.com states, "Major record labels sign only what they hope will sell, jumping on the latest trend and flooding the market with sound-alikes." But then that brings up the question... If music labels are 'jumping on the latest trend' is the latest trend swears words? Bombhiphop.com also states, "The record industry is a 14 billion business." How do they get the money off of this? Edx.org states, "Three things are clear about today's music industry: The consumption of music is expanding at the greatest rate in history and from the most portals ever imagined, the cost of producing music is decreasing, and the number of artists creating and seeking to expose their work and develop careers through the Internet has increased dramatically." The music industry is very complicated. In conclusion, artists have chosen to bring inappropriate language, such as swear words, into today's music. The music industry is a very complicated business, making 14 billion dollars, but planting the seed of inappropriate language is unacceptable.

Current Issues

Ebola is Not a Joke!

By Lahari Tammera,
Sophia Oprecio, and Sakshi Narula
Writer's Corner Editor and Staff
Writers

Ebola virus disease (EVD), Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF) or simply Ebola is a deadly disease which caused millions of people to lose their lives from ages 15 and higher. This disease is very contagious and it will harm anyone who is in its way.

Ebola made its first appearance in 1976, in Sudan and Zaire. Ebola's first outbreak infected over 284 with a mortality rate of 53%. A few months past, the second Ebola outbreak emerged from, Yambuku Zaire. Ever since then more than 4,000 people have died. Despite everything that has been going on, many scientists have been fighting hard to find a cure to this madness.

On September 30th, 2014 the United States was stricken with the news that a first ever American citizen had the deadly case of Ebola. It all started when Thomas Eric Duncan visited Monrovia Liberia. After seeing a lady collapsed to the ground, in attempt to save her, Duncan drove her to the nearest treatment ward, thinking she was just having a miscarriage. On September 19th, 2014, Duncan went to the Monrovia airport, and according to the airport officials Duncan lied about not having any

contact with the disease. Duncan carried on with his day and boarded the airport headed to Brussels, not knowing that he was carrying the deadly disease with him. After Duncan landed in Brussels, he boarded United Airlines flight 951 that was headed to Washington Dulles Airport. From there he boarded United Airlines flight 822 to Dallas, Texas in Fort Worth.

On September 24th 2014 Thomas Eric Duncan had started showing some symptoms of the Ebola virus. The symptoms that Thomas had were chills, the fever, and he had to use the bathroom often. He went to the emergency room of Texas Presbyterian Health Hospital late September 25th. Thomas returned back to his apartment after being released with antibiotics early on September 26th. On September 28th the ambulance

returned Thomas back to the hospital because Thomas started to feel worse. On October 8th 2014 Thomas Eric Duncan passed away.

Ebola has some symptoms which include muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal {stomach} pain, unexplained hemorrhage {bleeding or bruising}. There are not that many symptoms but people are still concerned on getting these symptoms and Ebola.

There are several ways people can get Ebola. People can get Ebola by becoming in contact with skin, blood, or body fluids with an animal or person.

People can always prevent any disease. People can prevent Ebola by washing their hands frequently or use a alcohol based hand sanitizer, avoiding contact with blood and body fluids of any person particular-



Image from Google Images

ly any person that is sick, not touching any person that has died from Ebola, and not handling any items that had come in contact with any person's blood or body fluids. Also people can prevent Ebola by avoiding hospitals in West Africa where Ebola patients are being treated. So if people follow these preventions then they won't get Ebola.

There is a drawn line for jokes. I understand that many of us think that there is no wrong for saying this, but it isn't funny. A lot of us have noticed the jokes about having Ebola—whether you say it or you laugh at it. There are people out there dying because of this disease and here you are with good food, great health, and life laughing at them. I want you to take a minute and just realize that here you are, breathing and reading. Death is not something to make skits on and claim you have. Please stop thinking that Ebola is a joke. It is not a joke and everyone needs to take a moment to understand that.

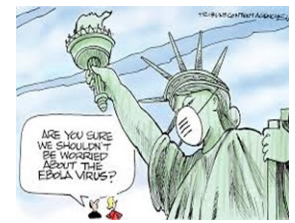


Image from Google Images

Adrian Peterson: Another NFL Saga

By Apan Barua
Chief Editor
With Contribution from
Ms. Odey

Have you ever beaten up a 4 year old with a tree branch? Probably not. But if you ask Adrian Peterson this he'll tell you he has. Is this what the NFL has come to? Adrian Peterson was a big role model, and a lot of people looked up to him and felt bad for him when his two year-old son died following an alleged abuse by Joseph Robert Patterson. But how can we consider Adrian Peterson a role model when he beats up his own 4 year old son with a tree branch? Reports have said he beat up his son in the legs, arms, back, etc. It really is as horrible as it sounds. But should we really take this for granted? Well, he's a celebrity, but he is also a human being like all the rest of us. I'm pretty sure there is events like this going on all around the country, and the world. Just because he is a celebrity it doesn't mean that we should pay that much more attention to him. Again, he's also a human being just like every single one of us. All he is doing is just disciplining his child.

Many other athletes have spoken out about this issue. Charles Barkley, Jared Booker, and Tony Dungy have said that it's how they were raised, so it's nothing new. But, hitting a little kid to the point where he's putting his hands up for self-defense should not be acceptable un-

der any circumstance. The police had interviewed Peterson's child after the incident and he had said that "Daddy has a whooping room" where Peterson would discipline his child using whips. Again, something that's absolutely terrible, but it's the way he raises his child and we all have to respect it. And you have to admit he did the right thing by going to the police HIMSELF and turned himself in, instead of keeping it secret until someone like the police find out. He knew what he did was wrong. But is it? There are 2 big sides to this issue.

A lot of people are against people treating kids like this, and some are saying that it's okay. And I can see both sides of the issue. I agree with the side that says this is not how you treat a kid because it really isn't how you should treat a kid. If I were a parent, no matter how mad I am I wouldn't treat my

kid like how Adrian Peterson treated his kid. I also see how people are okay with Adrian Peterson. We all have different ways of doing things and in this case Adrian Peterson had a very different method of parenting. But the thing I found most interesting is how we were making such a big deal about how Adrian Peterson, superstar running back was doing this. How about all the other people who do this? I'm pretty sure that there are a ton more families doing this, but we focus on Adrian Peterson just because he's a celebrity.

Our perspective of celebrities has become something incredible. We treat them as gods and it's like they can't do anything wrong when in reality they make plenty of mistakes, like Adrian Peterson. They're humans just like EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US, and we, as in society, has a really hard time in

believing that. So to conclude, what Adrian Peterson did was wrong. He even knew that. But all he was doing was trying to punish his son, and it's happened to everyone. So what he was doing is wrong, but he just made a mistake, just like everyone in the world.

In a recent reported posted by NBC Sports' Mark Florio asserted that Peterson's future in the NFL is still murky since there don't seem to be any possible trade him. He continues to be suspended with pay pending his resolution of his legal issues. Clearly the image of this star running back has been tarnished, therefore even if he is acquitted, the fact that he disciplined his son in what most people regard as an aggressive manner will linger on. According to Florio, "Any team trading for him simply would have secured the privilege of paying Peterson \$691,117.64 per week to let him not play." Some may question this decision, but we need to realize that this is the business aspect of the NFL.

It is fair to wonder if Peterson is singled out because of his celebrity status. It is certain that his actions have done an indelible damage to his career and perhaps to his reputation. "It's easy to forget about Peterson because he's not playing and hundreds of other guys are. But Peterson's career likely isn't close to being over. If it's over in Minnesota, who knows where it will continue?" The NFL has to figure this out and hopefully learn from this.



Adrian Peterson
Minnesota Vikings Running Back

Image from Google Images

Today's Technology

How Technology Has Shaped our Lives

By Arunima Arun and
Aakriti Mahajan
Tech Editors

What if all our technology was taken away forever? Technology this generation has turned into one of our daily needs. In our era, the common technologies include phones, computers, television etc. Technology has shaped human life by making it easier to do things.

Let's dig back into the past where technology wasn't considered as necessary. Back in the day the typewriter was used in a convenient way for reading information. Before the typewriter was invented there was no quick way of writing or printing messages. With the invention of the typewriter, the painstaking process of handwriting messages was replaced with simply using a type of keyboard to produce letters. Now, with computers and improved keyboards, typing couldn't be easier! One of the biggest changes in technology is portability of electronic gadgets/ devices. The world's first computer used to be the size of a classroom. According to a BBC article computers had "really big monitors which could only display black and white, and most computers had less storage space than a

modern mobile phone!" Imagine carrying that around everywhere you go! How about carrying a brick phone instead of a slim and portable mobile phone?

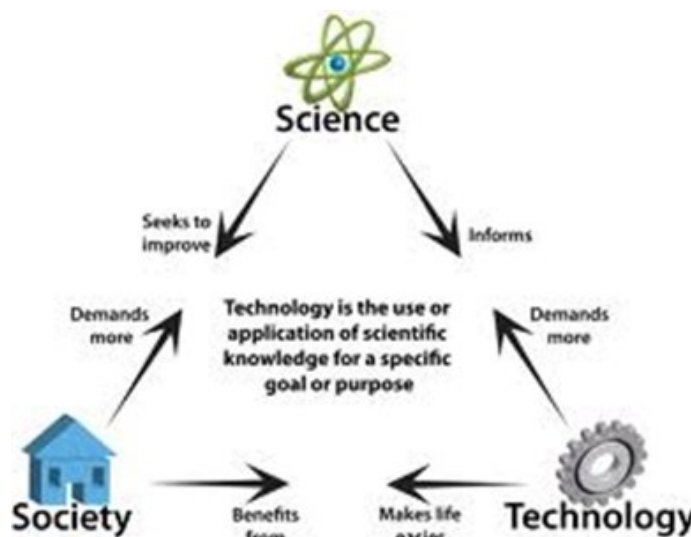
You probably get agitated when your internet connection is down. The internet is continuing to evolve at an even greater scale. The internet has various uses especially for schoolwork. Before computers and internet access, students couldn't google homework answers on the internet, watch educational videos, or save essay drafts as word documents. You probably don't

remember the times when people used to rely on paper based maps to find places instead of GPS'. Although its nice not getting lost as often, it would be fun to get lost once in a while! Now reading news is much more efficient because of online newspapers to provide us daily news and breaking news updates. The TV is another great example of how technology has changed throughout the ages. As we have heard, in the past TV's used to be small and have very low resolution resulting in bad picture quality. Now larger and with HD options,

TV is a popular pastime for everyone. According to a NYU article "The typical American spends (depending on the survey and the time of year) from two-and-a-half to almost five hours a day watching television."

Now what all teens seem to do is stay on their phones and message away. This can be helpful for quick replies but reduces face-to-face communication. Don't you miss gossiping with your friends without technology getting in the way of conversations? How about oral communication instead of social networking? Wouldn't it be interesting to rely on other people for news, rather than our gadgets for a change, like the olden days? Users of electronic devices are getting so addicted to technology that nearly forty percent of them use devices in the bathroom (according to a google study)!

Is this going too far? Are we forgetting how to lead a simple life with less technology? Although technology is a convenient way for getting work done faster, we should also remember to use it in moderation. You will be surprised at the many fun things there are in life rather than sitting on the couch texting on your phone!



From Google Images

Good or Bad Apple

By Sakshi Narula, Sophia Opreco,
and Mahi Ganatra
Editor and Staff Writers



Image from Google Images

Apple's new line of products has caused great commotion around the world as all tech geeks worldwide wait in line, desperate to hold one of the most innovative pieces of technology in their hands. CEO Tim Cook presented to the world on September 9th, 2014, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 plus.

You might be wondering, "What's so different about the iPhone 6 (and 6 Plus)?" Well, unlike the iPhone 5, the iPhone 6 is bigger in size, yet also thinner. Also, the resolution of the iPhone 6 has improved to 1334x750. The iPhone 6 Plus has an even better resolution of 1920x1080! The iPhone 6 and 6 Plus feature a 64-bit architecture, its

new A8 chip, and its M8 motion processor. The iPhone 6 is designed to have greater battery life, and unlike the iPhone 5, the iPhone 6 is stronger and more efficient. All these features make the iPhone 6 almost seem like magic!

But, all magic does come with a price. With their highest price at \$399 (128GB). That's not all, what strikes a lot of people is iPhone 6 Plus's overly massive size. Many struggle to have it stuffed in their pocket even holding it is tiresome. The iPhone 6 Plus is "far from durable" – as stated from *Geek.com*.

MCPS Strategic Technology Plan

By Ms. Katie Odey
Supervising Editor

Montgomery County Public Schools has taken bold steps to implement the latest technology innovation in schools across the county. In many MCPS classrooms, whiteboards have been replaced with Promethean Boards. The July 10, 2014 Press Release reiterated the MCPS bold initiatives in technology. "Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is beginning a multiyear effort to provide all students with access to mobile computers and a cloud-based learning platform that will enhance creativity and collaboration in the classroom." Teachers and students in schools across the county are using technology in various ways to enhance learning.

The outline of the MCPS technology initiatives are documented and posted on its website. "The MCPS 2014-2016 Strategic Technology Plan outlines the multiyear strategies and actions required to achieve the plan's single focus of inspiring and reimagining learning in a digital age. This technology plan aligns with and supports the superintendent's and Board of Education's mission, vision, core values, and commitment to ensuring that all students achieve at the highest levels."

The other important piece is bringing teachers into the new age of technology. Some teachers would need proper training to use the new



Photo from MCPS Website

technology effectively.

The Plan's vision states that "ALL students are empowered and prepared to participate as full citizens in a dynamic global society in which they create, achieve, engage, contribute, and flourish in meaningful communities through universal access to people, information, and ideas." With the ever evolving technology, it is important to prepare students for the future.

The overall goal is that "All learners will participate in technology-enriched learning communities that inspire intellectual curiosity and prepare them with the knowledge and skills to excel in college and chosen careers in an evolving digital age." Most parents, educators and students would commend the school system for launching us into the digital age and providing us the tools we need. With the fast evolving technology, it makes me wonder what our schools and classrooms would look like twenty years from now.

Entertainment

Google Knows All

By Zoe Tishaev
Staff Writer



In the future, you won't need to search the store for your favorite style. As soon as the camera recognizes your face, the workers will immediately know what you are looking for. Why? Because they already know who you are, what you like, and how much money you have in your pocket to spend. What is behind all this, and how do you protect your information? The answer may be something you have already grown attached to, and that is Google.

Google is watching your every move, using a simple mechanism called "cookies" (not the chocolate-chip kind). Cookies are basically little bits of info sent from your computer to whatever website you are on. Have you ever had an advertisement pop up that is advertising something you had recently looked at? Those are cookies at work. "Several weeks ago, I bought some exercise videos online. Then I noticed that whenever I did an Internet search about anything, an ad for that same video package and other similar workout videos kept popping up. It was spooky." writes Michelle Singletary, a columnist at the Washington Post. This may seem convenient at first, but this is the same technology that is feeding Google information. Companies feed Google this information in exchange for info that tells them how many people visit their website, (Ex: Tar-

get gets info showing how many people on the "Blue Dell Computer" item, and how many people bought it). This way, Google can quickly realize your interests in products and what you buy in stores.

Since Google has access to Facebook, Twitter, and other photo-sharing websites, Google knows your name and what you look like. Using all this information, Google practically knows everything. For some reason people are very eager to give away their information out to websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Imagine if someone were to hack into Google; all your information would go spilling into that person's ams. They would literally be able to come up to you and say where you were going that night, your full name, and when your birthday is.

Google can also find out where you live by tracing your IP address. IP stands for Internet Protocol. "Internet Protocol: a communications protocol for computers connected to a network, especially the Intern-

et, specifying the format for addresses and units of transmitted data." Is the definition for IP at dictionary.com. Basically, an IP is the individual number of your internet. Google can use this individual number and trace it to find out where you live.

Of course, there are ways to avoid Google finding out who you are, or at least throw them off your scent.

Don't use google.com. Instead, use startpage.com. It is a search engine that first encrypts your IP address, and THEN sends it off to Google, which keeps your IP address safe.

Don't use Chrome. There are plenty of other web browsers that don't watch you (or at least, not as much). Examples are Firefox and Sea monkey.

Try not to use YouTube. Now, this may be tough to do. For most people, YouTube is a necessity. But, there are alternatives to YouTube such

as dailymotion.com

Try not to have any personal emails sent to your gmail, and instead get a Yahoo or Outlook. "Microsoft should stop attacking competitors (Google), and simply tell people how good Outlook.com is because it really does have great features," says Roland Waddilove, a PC Advisor at <http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/>

Stay away from social media websites in general. Although they are tempting, they are one of the great food-sources Google feeds off for your information.

Delete your cookies from time to time. The instructions differ from browser to browser, but essentially you need to go to the "Tools" menu in your browser, go to "Delete browsing history", make sure "Cookies" are checked and press "OK".

Follow these simple steps and maybe, just *maybe* your info won't go spilling all over the internet.



From Google Images

Popular Fandoms

By Zoe Tishaev
Staff Writer



Images from Google Images

Everyone or at least most people belongs to one fandom or another, because everyone is a fan of SOMETHING.

First of all: What is a fandom? A fandom is a group of people who share the same interest, such as a TV show or a video game. Fandoms are a great way to make new friends. Sharing common interests with your friends shows a boost in friendship.

Now you may wonder, "What fandom can I join?" One thing for sure, everyone can join a fandom. Some popular fandoms include (but are not limited to): Bronies/Pegasisters

(fans of the show "My Little Pony"), Whovians (fans of the show "Doctor Who"), Potterheads (fans of the book series "Harry Potter"), Sherlockians (fans of Sherlock Homes), and more.

Pretty much EVERYTHING you can be a fan of has its own community, merchandise, and forums. So, ask about fandoms! Find out if anyone in your grade shares the same interests as you. Who knows? You might end up making some friends!

Have Fun Playing Sudoku

	3			1	7	
6			8			2
		1		4	5	
	7			2		4
2				9		6
	4		3			1
		5		3	4	
1				6		5
	2		1			3

	5			7		2
	3			8		4
			1		3	
6			2	5		4
		4			9	
9			3	8		1
			7	4		
	4			6		5
	1			5		7

Created by Anusha Chinthalapale