

THE BAY CURRENT

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NIA Is Sew Awesome

by Elissa Dasedemir

For Ms. Teresa, sewing is the thread that connects her to her family. For Bay Academy students, it is a great way to have fun. NIA is hosting sewing, a place where kids get to be creative and learn new skills. The club meets Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after school. According to Aviana Mushayrl, from class 622, "I like how I can create new things and express my feelings. My grandparents sewed and I want to create new things." Ms. Teresa's students create projects like scrunchies, pillows, pajamas, scarves, beach bags, kitchen aprons, pom pom keychains, and pencil cases.

Ms. Teresa learned sewing from her grandmother and had a sewing teacher when she was in elementary school and middle school. She has been sewing since she was nine years old. When she teaches children, she hopes they learn how to practice to use their fingers properly, how to move their hands, eyes, and feet with precision, and that they learn sewing by hand with just a needle, thread and a piece of fabric. Ms. Teresa's favorite project is the leaf pillow because it is new and challenging.

To become a successful sewer you have to familiarize yourself with the machine. You should also be able to use tools, sewing stitches, buttons, and zippers, which you'll learn in the club. You also have to be able to tie a knot. Ms. Teresa is passionate about sewing because she can work with fashion and get creative, and work by hand. Sabelle Fels in class 651 said, "I like how I can make my own stuff. My mom is a fashion designer, so I want to follow her steps." Ain Baloch in class 633 stated, "I like how I can make my own clothes and create new things and appreciate my hard work. Yes, my mom sews and I want to be capable of not relying on others."

If you want to join the sewing club, you can fill out the paper for the NIA clubs and join. Sewing allows you to express yourself through intricate creations, all that require precision, focus, and passion.



Students learn to operate a sewing machine and create patterns in NIA's sewing club.

Kindness Counts

We all know it's cool to be kind, and in an effort to encourage and reward goodwill at Bay Academy, the guidance department has begun an exciting new initiative: The Wall of Kindness. Throughout the school year, teachers and staff who observe students engaging in random acts of kindness will nominate students to participate in this program. Selected students will add their name to our wall of honor in the lobby, plus get to pick a prize on the SCOREboard (Students Count on Respect Everyday).

According to Mr. Gaita, "the hope is that kindness becomes second nature and part of our every day culture here at Bay Academy."

Throughout the holiday season, the Bay community gave back to families in need through our Giving Tree program, in which presents were donated and then gifted to families who need a boost. In addition The Giving Pantry will be ongoing throughout the year, donating food and supplies back to our neighbors.



"I am so proud of our school community for coming together and supporting one another," said Ms. Carlino.

If you are interested in helping out through donations of food or other supplies, please contact Ms. Carlino in the guidance office.

Azra Bulgan, left, and Nodirjon Musinov, right, were rewarded for their acts of kindness.



Bay Academy Elects New Student Government

by Angelina Kobryn

After several weeks of tough campaigning, a new Student Government has been elected by Bay Academy students. Andrew Chow is prepared to lead as 8th grade President with 8th grade Vice President Sophia Gallardo at his side, both ready to address the needs of the student body. The 7th grade Vice President, Ruslan Tiarov, the 6th grade Vice President, Michael Kotsar, and Jocelyn Chiu as the new Secretary, are ready to represent their grades. The student government is run by Social Studies teachers Mr. Lospinuso and Mr. DiVivio. According to Mr. Lospinuso, "The student government is a way for students to understand how democracy works. They choose their leaders to have their voice heard."

Student government officials meet every month to discuss problems and new ideas. The approved issues that are brought up in meetings are expected to be taken into action after weeks of planning and approval by higher-ups.

During December's meeting, Sophia Gallardo, the 8th grade vice president, brought up the need for a bicycle rack for students who take bikes to school. She says a bicycle rack could be an affordable way to protect students' property and an encouraging sign for scholars to help the environment by using bicycles as a means of transportation. "Many kids bring their bikes to school, and it's likely that they might get stolen." Sophia, Ruslan, and Michael also discuss adding new sports teams to Bay Academy, and make plans to address topics such as fundraising for the senior trip.

"Students help with City Harvest food drives, fundraisers like breast cancer awareness and more," says Mr. Lospinuso. The student government strives to fulfill the needs of the student and staff body. When running for Vice President, Ruslan Tiarov wished to "promote better levels of unity and respect among students and staff members" and to "give my peers comfortable conditions of how they want to learn." Andrew Chow also wishes to "figure out what people want." Sophia says that while big changes can't be made overnight, it's important "to give ideas on ways to slowly improve the school."

The student Government is full of inspired people who wish to improve Bay Academy in the ways that they can. Congratulations and great thanks to them for taking up the responsibility of our student body.

STEM Club Grows Science Learners

by Wilson Liu

In response to a growing interest in all things science and technology, The Bay Academy, under the leadership of Ms. Gracey, has created a thrilling new STEM Team. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), integrates these disciplines to study and identify real world applications. The students will use their skills to compete in a variety of city-wide and national competitions. To name just a few, the team will study MIT Scratch Programming, HTML, Python, Robotics/LEGO Education building, Minecraft for Education Build Challenges, Photoshop, and Stock Market Game/Financial Literacy.

The club was created because many students at Bay Academy have expressed a growing interest in STEM topics, particularly in coding and robotics. According to Ms. Gracey, the team is "excited to compete in STEM activities against each other, as well as other students across the city." Students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and math took a rigorous exam to earn a spot on this competitive team, which meets Wednesday afternoons through NIA.

Down the road, Ms. Gracey hopes to compete in the Lego Education Competitions which she describes as "a great way for students to combine coding and engineering skills in order to build and control robots that complete specific challenges." In the meantime, the team continues to strengthen, so watch for great things ahead!



From left to right: Michael Kotsar, 6th grade Vice President, Ruslan Tiarov, 7th grade Vice President, Andrew Chow, 8th grade President, Sophia Gallardo, 8th grade Vice President, and Jocelyn Chow, Secretary

To Be Honest...

Standards For Success

by Alan Kofman

The SHSAT, SAT and the ACT are all standardized admission exams used to gain acceptance into high school and colleges. However, the efficiency of these exams has recently been questioned. Several colleges, including Harvard, the University of California, and the University of Chicago, have made this exam optional, meaning that entry into these colleges is not mandated by your score. While there are, of course, benefits to this decision, such as raising aspiration by making it slightly easier for all students to ascertain a lucrative future, and better recognizing gifted students who cannot be accurately represented by tests, I believe that the drawbacks of this choice do not outweigh the pros.

These standardized tests create a universal grading system that can be enforced nationwide. Other grading systems, whether they are numerical, alphabetical, or pass/fail, are subjective and can differ from subject to topic. But these grading systems are highly subjective and unreliable, while SHSATs, SATs and ACTs are extremely accurate depictions of someone's intellect. The College Board and ACT Inc affirm that standardized testing is a crucial factor in measuring intelligence and readiness. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute says, "At their core, standardized exams are designed to be objective measures. They assess students based on a similar set of questions, are given under nearly identical testing conditions and are graded by a machine or blind reviewer. They are intended to provide an accurate, unfiltered measure of what a student knows." This leads to the impact that with the elimination of SATs, SHSATs, and ACTs, there will be no practically flawless, unbiased system of measurement of IQ and academic performance. These two factors were and still are, after all, the building blocks of education.

Such tests also set a benchmark for future comparison. How can a family know where their child needs to strengthen comprehension if these substantial tests are eradicated? The National Parents Union, which summarizes the parents' overall perspective, indicates that "If I don't have testing data to make sure my child's on the right track, I'm not able to intervene and say there is a problem and my child needs more." These three tests induce a period of improvement, work, and academic advancement. From a statistical perspective, the National Bureau of Economic Research found that upon taking the SAT the second time, students' scores increased by an average of almost 50 points. This incline could only have been produced by the effective and efficient preparation initiated by this test. The NAACP, and the American Association of University Women also agree that the data obtained from these tests prove to be the only consistent evidence indicating a lack of the academic outcome of students as well as ways to advocate fairer treatment for groups of minority, disabled, and low-income children.

As a final reason, the SATs, ACTs, and SHSATs are auguries of successful futures and attendance at prestigious colleges. These standardized tests often foreshadow who will attend Career and Technical Education programs or seek professions requiring particular certificates or degrees. According to both the Center of Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research and the American Institutes for Research, students scoring high on standardized tests at the end of high school typically earned over 10% more annually. The same sources also noted radical correlations between these tests and high employment rates and education success. Therefore, proponents of abolishing SHSATs, ACTs, and SATs do have credible claims to their reasoning. Yet in light of all the provided evidence, and an abundance more, it is clear that these exams are implemented for the benefit of education as a whole. They ensure a successful life in high school and beyond, signifying an improvement in students, and they create a fair and prevalent grading system that is nearly faultless as well as unbiased. Hence, once more, I believe that the existence of such standardized tests has advantages that extend far beyond the harms.

BAY BACK WHEN



The Hendrick I. Lott House in Marine Park, Brooklyn

A Stop on Freedom's Trail

by Alan Kofman

Tucked in the southernmost reaches of Brooklyn, the Hendrick I. Lott House still stands as an icon of freedom and history. The house was founded in 1719 by Johannes Lott - he purchased a slot of farmland within the present-day Flatlands. Their successful farm quickly established a reputable name for the family. More than 70 years later, Hendrick I. Lott rebuilt the house using English and Dutch architectural features. Their farm spanned over 200 acres during the 19th century, and as time passed, the family gained abolitionist (anti-slavery) perspectives. Long before the Civil War, the family had freed their slaves, fully aware that their income might suffer.

During archaeological perusal, the house was discovered to hold two secret areas. One is speculated to be a previous stop on the Underground Railroad - a network of safe houses escaped slaves used on their flight to freedom. Unfortunately, Henry Lott perished in 1840 and never saw the abolishment of slavery. In the year 1923, Jennie Lott Suydam purchased the estate, and her daughters resided there until the 1980's. It has not been occupied by a descendant of Johannes Lott since. Yet his dream, his dream of a flourishing farm, his belief in the rising city of Brooklyn, was continued, through the days of Hendrick I. Lott, through the treachery of the Civil War, and through this very day. For the Hendrick I. Lott legacy, the home has always and still does represent not the past, not what is gone, but the future.

The Buzz About the Bee



by Lina Guven

On November 14, 2022, the school spelling bee was held at Bay Academy. After a tense back and forth, Sydney Avila from class 821 was crowned the winner, after she successfully out-spelled her competition. Sydney was triumphant over all 48 other students with the word "mediation" to secure first place. Earlier in November, every Latin class held a class competition to determine the winner and runner up, with the winner advancing to the final school round. Second place class winners were on standby to replace any class representatives who couldn't compete.

The spelling bee was coordinated by Mrs. Goldberg and the Latin for Writing staff. According to Mrs. Goldberg, the reason we have a school spelling bee "is to inspire the exploration of words." Something the students will learn is to "have a greater, bolder and better understanding of words!"

Mrs. Goldberg stressed the importance of a school spelling bee as "an honor and challenging task that will improve our knowledge. It impacts our lives because it adds to your academics and awards a prestigious title." Sydney, along with the first runner up, Dylan Jen from class 731 and the second runner up, Christina Antonyan from class 832, will move on to the District 20/21 spelling bee, to compete with all district-wide winners. This competition will take place on January 12th at P.S. 69 in Brooklyn.

Sydney was able to practice by looking over a packet of potential words. As an avid reader, the winning word, "mediation" was a word Sydney easily recognized. Her mom aided her in studying, making the process drastically simpler. Sydney felt confident, knowing she had a good chance at winning, and as she had been on stages multiple times previously, she was able to compete without nerves.

The spelling bee shows that with a persistent attitude and a mind always looking for challenges, anything can be achieved. Whether it be simply perusing a packet of words, winning the class spelling bee, or ending up victorious over 50 classes, always believe in yourself. Good luck to our champions as they move on to their next round!

Scan the QR code to connect to Bay Academy's website. Find dates, news and events happening now!



LAB NOTES



Friends Fur-Ever

by Hailey Li

Have you ever wondered how pets recognize humans? Whether it is the demon hound your neighbor owns that barks at whoever passes by or the cat at the railroad station that escapes every time you try to pet him? Well, science now has an answer - and a surprising one at that.

Most people probably know that pets do not have the same sensory features as humans do. Sure, yes, they do indeed have ears, eyes, a mouth, and a nose, but they function much differently than humans do. For example, a dog's sense of sight is much better than the human species. This is because dogs have rod-dominated retinas of the eye, which is good for vision under dim light. Not only that, the dog has a thin reflective layer covering the eyes called a tapetum lucidum, which magnifies incoming light. However, dogs have limited vision when it comes to humans seeing distinguished details. This is due to the fact dogs do not have a great amount of visual acuity. Dogs can also only see a limited variety of colors compared to human eyesight.

Most may think that dogs recognize humans with their eyesight, which makes sense, right? Well, that prediction is not quite right. Dogs actually lean more towards the sense of smell rather than picking up subtle details in their surrounding environment. First, dogs don't recognize you only by your face, they create a mental mapping image of non-facial body clues, acoustic or chemical signs, and key physical characteristics. A dog's sense of smell is much more advanced when compared to the limited abilities of its eyesight. That's all their ancestors relied on 130,000 years ago. Maybe that's why your dog is so attached to your shoe since it has the strongest scent of your odor on them.

Great, we now know how your dog buddy recognizes you as their owner, and not some random guy named Greg on the street. But one may wonder why I mentioned that dogs don't recognize humans by their faces. Well, it's because they don't find our faces particularly pleasant to look at.

You indeed read that right! Dogs don't enjoy looking at human faces the way we may enjoy seeing them ourselves. A research study by Attila Andics shows that dogs are perfectly capable of recognizing human faces, it's just that the mental activity of a dog shows that the reaction of one seeing the back of your head is no different than seeing the expression on your face. Don't take this for offense, dogs are simply just not built with the same facial framework.

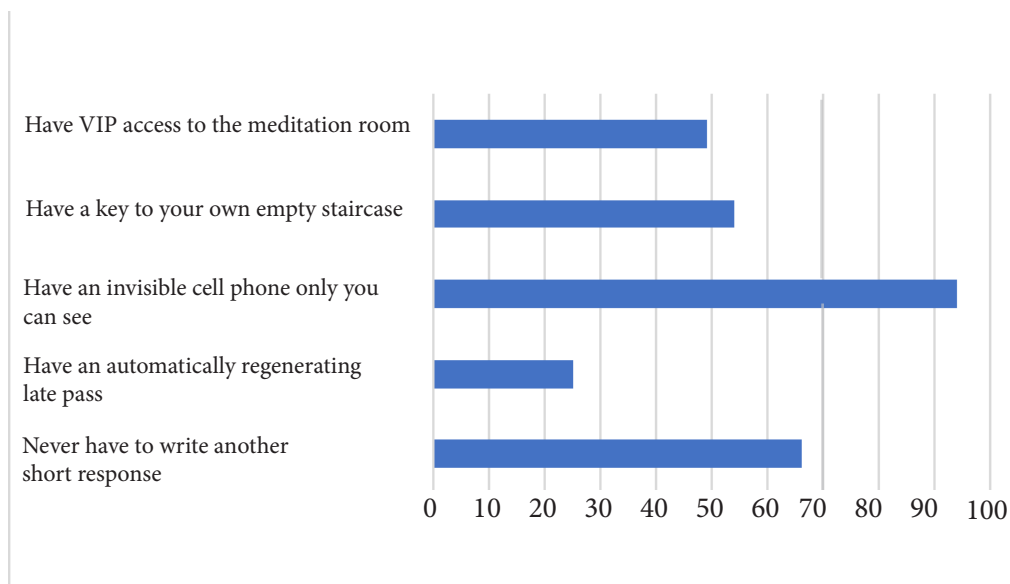
So, feel reassured that your dog won't mistake you for a Greg, and that your companion really does love you just like you love them. Science says that both dogs and people have something special in common, a chemical called dopamine. Dopamine is that warm, happy feeling that your body lets out when your brain feels satisfied. So technically, both you and your dog are reacting to one another with lots of dopamine, or genuine love. What a win-win!



Fun fact: A primary school in Phuma Changthang, Tibet, is thought to be the highest school in the world. It is also the closest of its kind to the sky. At 5,373 metres above sea level, it is 200 metres higher than the base camp of Mount Qomolangma, the world's highest mountain, known as Mount Everest in the West.

THE POLL

290 Bay Academy students answered, "Would You Rather..." Here are the results:



A Word of Advice

I'm nervous about attending high school without my friends. What should I do?

Although high school, in many aspects, may seem like an often frightening new segment of your life, it also gives you new opportunities and friends. You must always keep an optimistic attitude when embarking to new places. It may be true that you will go to high school without some of your friends - yet it is also highly possible that you will reunite with older ones, or even encounter some of your current ones. Even more importantly, you will make new friends, and it is often your high school acquaintances that you will keep in touch with for the rest of your life. Try joining clubs, extracurricular activities, or teams, and you will ensure that you are not losing friends, but gaining them.

It still, however, might not be easy to let go of those you know so dearly. Perhaps you will not physically see them every single day, but with the ever growing social media platforms, you can still easily contact them as frequently as you wish, through phone calling, messaging, and so on. High School can seem dreary if you are not accompanied by your friends, but you always have those you can confide in, and your pre-college experience will almost certainly prove to be invaluable, educational, and fun.

Advice by Alan Kofman

I'm shy but wish I were more outgoing. How can I learn to be more comfortable meeting people and participating in class?

There are many ways to be confident, but let's talk about the ways that relate to school. One way you can become comfortable with meeting people and participating in class is by joining clubs or activities that you are interested in. There you can talk to people with the same interests and likings as you, and make more bonds and friendships with similar-minded peers. This relates to participation as when you make friends your comfort zone is open to more people and if you feel you can share with your friends, it may give you the confidence that your opinion matters and that it wouldn't hurt to share with your class.

Another way you can overcome shyness is by studying. But what does studying have to do with not being shy? Well most shy people are afraid of failing or what people might think of them which means if you study you'll feel more confident and get good grades. That confidence should in turn give you the faith that you'll be well regarded in your answers.

Trust that when you open up, the people around you will be happy that you did!

Advice by Shifa Adeel

by Abigail Estrin

What's Hot?

Most teens like baggy clothing such as baggy jeans and sweat suits, as well as crop tops (my personal favorite), leggings, socks with yeezy slides, crocs, pajama pants and hoodies, and last but not least Nike or Jordan sneakers.

How about matching with friends?

What if you all wear matching pajama pants with crop tops, a hoodie on top and end the look off with a pair of Nike sneakers. This outfit is both cute and can be affordable. Many lower budget options are available at places like Target and Amazon.

Where did these looks come from?

Crop tops- The history of crop tops began in the early 70's when bodybuilders cut off the bottom of their shirts to get around gym dress codes that prevented men from training without shirts.

Leggings- Since the late 19th century, soldiers of various nations, especially infantry, often wore leggings to protect their lower leg, to keep dirt, sand, and mud from entering their shoes, and to provide a measure of ankle support.

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton

Reviewed by Alan Kofman

After a succession of popular books, Michael Crichton's Jurassic Park still holds a place as one of the most acclaimed and well-written books of all time. At the end of the 19th century, the prevalence of biotechnological science has grown larger. With this new form of genetics, the eccentric yet wealthy John Hammond seeks and accomplishes his goal of cloning dinosaurs to create something the world has never seen before: an amusement park featuring exterminated animals. Its name was Jurassic Park. But after inviting chaos mathematician Ian Malcolm, botanist Ellie Sattler, and paleontologist Alan Grant, Hammond and his select team of personnel discover that "Life finds a way."

Dennis Nedry, the computer programmer, betrayed Hammond and agreed to deliver dinosaur embryos to a rival genetic company. To do so, he lifts the park's security on the dinosaurs, and chaos begins.

The book features a multitude of stunning, suspenseful action sequences, some with the acclaimed and harrowing Tyrannosaurus Rex, the poisonous dilophosaurus, and the

cunning, brooding velociraptors. The characters are explicitly developed, and the reader can easily see their motivations, desires, strengths, and weaknesses. Dialogue in this novel is always direct and meaningful, and not a single sentence is wasted but instead used in either progressing the intense rising action, the thrilling climax, or the fulfilling resolution. From the moment of the hair-raising prologue, the book's plot never ceases to be on the edge of disaster, and at many times, has calamity at its fingertips.

Not only does Jurassic Park finish with a brilliant ending, but the falling action, as well as the epilogue, are also used to construct a continuation of the series. It is practically impossible to tear away from the captivating and exhilarating pages of the book that will never fail to allure. Consequently, Jurassic Park, in all possible aspects, is a stunningly written, realistic technological thriller that dwells deep into the byproducts of misused science and will leave you craving more.

I Know Your Secret by Daphne Benedis-Grab

Reviewed by Shifa Adeel

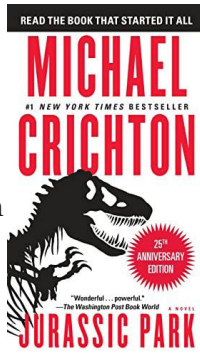
I Know Your Secret is a book about four seventh graders, Gemma, Ally, Todd and Owen. One day, they all unexpectedly receive a message which states that an unknown person knows their secret and is willing to reveal it to the pub-

lic. Though they all find out each other's secrets, they aren't going to let it out to the public. At the end of the book, we don't find out the identity of the mysterious messenger which makes the book fun to read.

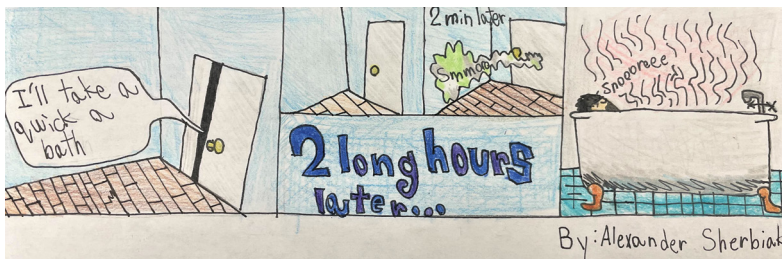
One reason I recommend this book is it is suspenseful. When I first read the book, in the first few chapters, the problems were already unveiled and we see everyone's perspective of the problem. Also, we don't know the secrets and who knows how bad each can be? For example, during Adventure Day (when the students are free to explore the school), the blackmailer instructed all four of them to head to the janitor's office, find a bag and deliver it to a locker without getting caught. Even though the bag has dirty laundry, who knows what it could've been? Because they were risking getting expelled for their secret, it implies that the secret must be embarrassing.

Another reason I recommend this book is because it shows that people can be very different from what they look like on the outside.

As we dig deeper we find that although Ally is a smart and kind person, her secret makes her insides cry. In conclusion, this book will definitely produce enjoyment, and make you want to read more.

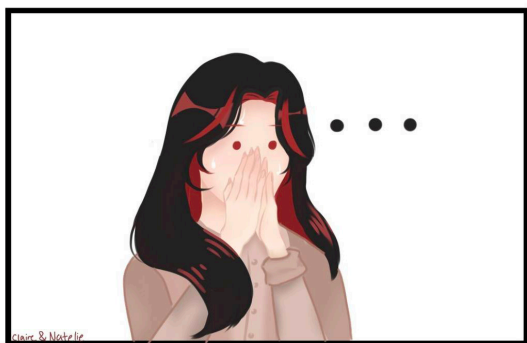


DRAWN TOGETHER



by Alexander Sherbiak

When you're in bed ready to sleep and you remember you had homework.



by Claire Yang and Natelie Liu

EYELINER SHOULD BE EASY...



by Suey Nip

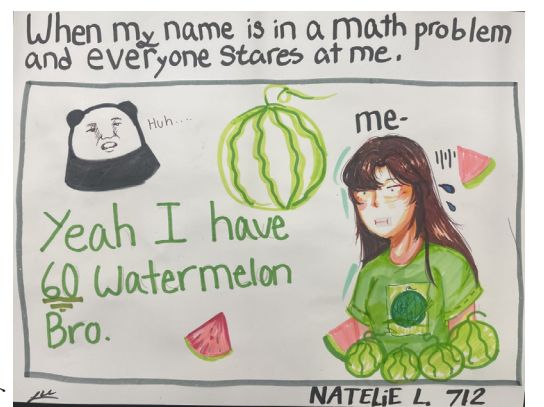
... oh well



by Angelina Genov



by Sagdiana Kuliyeva



by Natelie Liu

I'M BORED...

Located at the waterfront in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, Industry City is a hidden gem during the bitterness of winter. Not only does this complex of buildings feature a variety of stores, including Saks OFF 5TH, Costco, and West Elm, there is a multiplicity of small eateries and shops surrounding the central courtyard. The courtyard, in addition to the stores, restaurants, and a hot chocolate shack, has an ice-skating rink with skates and other essentials available for rent. In the midst of the cold months, Industry City has proven to be an endless hub of enthusiasm and fun. Tickets to ice skating can be purchased online or on site. What else is going on?

-Play the **Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery** game on a PC or Mac!

www.harrypotterhogwartsmystery.com/

-Download the **Whiteboard Widget Messaging** for a new way of communication with friends!

whiteboard.amplesftwr.com/

-Visit the diverse **Brooklyn Botanic Garden!** www.bbg.org/

-Check out **Enola Holmes** and its sequel, mystery movies starring Stranger Things' Millie Bobby Brown, now on Netflix.

Photo by Alan Kofman and Justin Tong



Eighth grade Drama Talent students perform "The One And Only Santa Claus" under the direction of Ms. Comas.