

THE BAY CURRENT

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COVID-19: Here's What You Need to Know

In the last few weeks it's been difficult to talk about anything other than Coronavirus. With news sources and social media blasting us with an endless stream of information, it can be difficult to make sense of it all. While the news and statistics are rapidly changing, here's what we at The Bay Current think you should know:

What is the Coronavirus?

According to the World Health Organization, Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe respiratory diseases. A "novel" coronavirus is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. The strain we're dealing with now was named COVID-19 as a shorthand for Corona Virus Disease 2019.

How did COVID-19 originate?

The source of this coronavirus is believed to be a "wet market" in Wuhan, China which sold both dead and live animals including fish and birds. The coronavirus is *zoonotic* which means the virus can transmit from animals to human. Such markets pose a heightened risk of viruses jumping from animals to humans because hygiene standards are difficult to maintain if live animals are being kept and butchered on site. Typically, they are also densely packed. The animal source of the latest outbreak has not yet been identified, but the original host is thought to be bats. Bats were not sold at the Wuhan market but may have infected live chickens or other animals sold there. It is important to remember that while China is likely the source of the outbreak, this is not a Chinese disease and Chinese people are at no greater risk of contracting or passing on the disease.

Who is at risk?

According to the Center For Disease Control, older populations and people with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease, are at the greatest risk of contracting the virus. In children and young adults, the symptoms have been much milder or even asymptomatic, which means there are no symptoms present. A person who is asymptomatic can still be a carrier and pass the virus on to other people.

How many people have been affected?

While the numbers are constantly changing, at the

time of publication the U.S. had around 4400 confirmed cases. Worldwide, there have been around 180,000 affected. An overwhelming majority of those affected have fully recovered.

What should we do to protect ourselves?

The Mayo Clinic recommends that you take the usual precautions for avoiding respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth if your hands aren't clean.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Clean surfaces you often touch.
- Stay home from work, school and public areas if you're sick.

It is not recommend that healthy people wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

Why are events being cancelled?

Here at Bay Academy, Pi Day has been suspended for the first time in seven years. The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade has been shut down for the first time since 1762! This is an effort by officials to create social distancing. The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota describes social distancing as a term applied to certain actions that are taken by Public Health officials to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease. Social distancing measures are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases. Measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings and canceling events.

Should I panic?

NO! While it's always a good idea to contact your health provider if you feel under the weather, "The vast majority of cases are going to be mild, and people are going to recover just like they do from a cold or flu-like illness," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and an infectious diseases doctor.

prepare for the Nutcracker show. Ms. Kasbar, head of the dance department explains, "Because we had the Bay Review right before Nutcracker, we didn't really get really started with Nutcracker until mid-October." That means she only had about a month and a half to prepare for that Nutcracker show. It's hard to believe that in such a short amount of time, Dance Talent is able to put together such an incredible performance. Major credit should be given to Ms. Kasbar and all the Dance Talent students. However rich and colorful Bay Academy winter shows are, each teacher and mentor shared their knowledge, expertise, and hinted at the next steps they want to take for the Spring. With their eyes ever on improvement, Mr. Vernikov, Ms. Comas, and Ms. Kasbar are confident they can make the shows better and better. I, for one, can't wait to see what they do next!

Right, drama students delight the crowd at their winter performance of "The One And Only Santa Claus".

Civics Week: You Matter

By Gabriel Makovoz

Something exciting is happening in the Bay Academy: social studies lessons have seen an abrupt change in topic, student government officials are taking part in the morning announcements, and there's even a cool assembly. What's going on? This temporary change is simply part of the second annual Civics Week!

During this time, spanning from March 2nd-6th, students took part in multiple activities that promote youth activity in their community. These ventures ranged from learning about an individual's rights, to competitions that increase awareness about community engagement. Mr. Tutone explained, "Each social studies teacher was given certain guidelines and a curriculum to follow with each grade comprising of its own civics lesson." Eighth grade, for example, was given the opportunity to receive an in-depth look into different supreme court cases which were vital contributors to our current society. As interesting as these lessons are, the overall purpose of Civics Week is more than to simply inform. "It's also about taking action," Mr. Tutone says. "Even though students are not of the age to vote, they can still have their voices heard and it doesn't have to be in the form of a ballot." Student government and the Bay Current Newspaper are ways kids are able to do just that. As Civics Week comes to a close and the school year goes back to normal, let's be sure to speak out about local problems or school issues that are important to us. That's how society progresses!

Hallmark 4? What's It For?

Every school is dedicated to improvement: improving understanding, improving the future, improving instruction, even improving its technology. Schools often set goals for themselves in order to improve as much as possible. The four "Hallmarks" are all about improvement. Here at Bay Academy, we've identified four literacy features that every successful school should be doing really well, all the time, because reading is everywhere and a part of every subject.

First, schools should have interesting texts that deal with big ideas (Hallmark 1). Next, there should be meaningful discussions about these texts, like Socratic Seminars or debates (Hallmark 2). Thirdly, there should be lots of writing (Hallmark 3). And finally, there should be a focus on vocabulary words that teach useful words that won't just help students in one class, but in other classes and the rest of their lives (Hallmark 4). Using iReady and other types of assessments, our administration identified that Hallmark 4 was the category that our students would benefit the most from teachers focusing on. You'll probably notice more vocabulary words posted around classrooms, perhaps more vocabulary quizzes, and you may even witness lessons that mention Hallmark 4 out loud. It's a good thing!

Winter Shows Stun

By Gabriel Makovoz

While some shows present themselves in a colorful, dramatic manner, others create an extravaganza through a display of beautifully-made music. This year, The Bay Academy's band, chorus, and orchestra has not been disappointing. Their triumphant mix of saxophones, violins, and flutes have been playing their way into our hearts since December. That's not to take anything away from our top-performing actors and dancers who have also settled themselves into their costumes while showing their very best in front of hundreds of eager viewers.

For those who don't know, in the beginning of the year, vocalists, dancers, musicians, and actors of all grades feel the pressure of their first performance building. Performers begin to prepare for their debut in The Bay Review as early as October. Immediately after The Bay Review, dancers have to



To Be Honest...

Opinions are the columnists' own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Bay Current or The Bay Academy.



Australian Wildfire Crisis

Along with the start of the new decade, parts of the world became ablaze with new conflicts and issues. In Australia, conflicts “ablaze” seems a little too literal. The Australian wildfires, which started occurring all the way in August of 2019, escalated dangerously into the natural habitats of residents. The cause of these fires? Global warming and record breaking heat. Not only are people affected by these unexpected outbursts of flames, but the environment and animals that live in it are losing their homes, or even their lives, in the fires. The death toll of these animals continued to rise throughout the year, as over a billion animals perished either directly or indirectly from the fires that scorch Australia.

By Nicole
Kozyreva

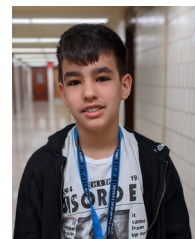
Fire season is not uncommon to Australia, as every year flames are likely to spark. Though these fires occur very often, the severity of this year's flames came as a shock to those who have experienced Australian fire season before. Not only did fires start to pop up earlier than normal, these flames were extremely difficult to fight.

To be honest, global warming and climate change are demonstrated daily around the world with natural disasters like this. It's enough of a growing issue that even some students of Bay Academy joined people from around the world to witness and participate in the Climate Strike of 2019. Efforts like these are being encouraged around the globe in order to, hopefully, curb carbon dioxide and methane gases burning through our ozone layer. These carbon dioxide and methane gases which heat our land, dry our forests, and thaw our polar ice caps are caused directly from careless practices around the world (like transportation, factories, and industrial farms). Here in the United States, we are prone to brutal wildfires, just like Australia. Researchers have found strong correlations between warmer temperatures and large fire years, so there is general consensus that fire occurrence will increase with climate change in our future.

Now, if we're talking about which country is the worst offender when it comes to carbon dioxide and methane emissions, the answer would probably be China. However, that's only because their population is so high. When it comes to carbon dioxide emissions per person, the average person in the United States is responsible for twice the amount of carbon dioxide emissions as the average person in China. Our planet and our lives are at stake here. It's time to stop pointing fingers at others and take ownership of the role we play.

Many non-profit organizations and people from all over the world have been asking others to kindly donate money to those who lost their homes and to help save the innocent animals whose habitats were stolen from them in Australia. These organizations are still taking donations, so I hope you can donate. However, we should also direct our time and energy toward putting pressure on our friends, family, teachers, and government officials to spread knowledge about how climate change and man-made global warming should be one of the top priorities of the next decade. I'm sick and tired of people on TV telling me that the “jury is still out” on man-made global warming. If we can't trust a consensus of scientists, who can we trust? What happened in Australia could happen right here in our own backyard.

For all you skeptics out there, just think about the worst case scenarios and decide for yourselves. Even if you believe that climate change is a natural and expected part of the Earth's climate cycle, I'd rather be safe than sorry.



Latin For Literacy: Ad Meliora

Many Bay Academy students wonder why we don't study languages like Italian, French, or Spanish. I admit, I've thought about it myself. But, it's important to remember that Bay Academy wouldn't have replaced language classes without reason. In fact, by the end of this article, you might be surprised to find how smart this move might have been!

Now, the big question is, what were the administration's reasons for getting rid of language classes? Mrs. Dalton, one of the school's assistant principals, says, “The skills that were learned in language classes were not providing students skills they needed most.” One of our school's Latin teachers, Ms. Savion, agrees. She says, “I truly believe the Latin for Literacy program given here at Bay Academy is beneficial to the students for many reasons. Over 60% of English words are derived from either Latin or Greek root words.” You will learn many of these words in Latin. She also pointed out, “Every major standardized test given has a huge vocabulary component. What better way to send our students off to High School than with knowledge of Hallmark 4 and great preparation for the SAT!” Overall, Latin for Literacy could arguably be much more useful than foreign language classes.

Latin for Literacy really helps us enrich our understanding of the English language. This could help us become better writers and speakers, which will, in turn, really help us grow as students and intellectuals. Also, it may greatly increase our reading skills, which, of course, helps us with all subjects across the board. And just think about how many students in this school are from other countries (or at least their families are). So, many of us already know second and sometimes even third languages. The language we may be struggling with most could be the one we speak in school every day: English!

Now, you may still wish you were learning French in preparation for that Parisian vacation you always wanted to take. However, Latin for Literacy is an important part of our school, so let's appreciate what we have and give credit where credit is due! Thanks, Latin department!

Bay Back When Floyd Bennett Field

By Tiffany Tan

Most of us might be familiar with Aviator Sports with lots of fun activities such as ice skating, gymnastics, volleyball, and more. The field in the Marine Park neighborhood of southeast Brooklyn in New York City, along the shore of Jamaica Bay, is also used as an events space, regularly hosting a circus among other activities. But did you know Floyd Bennett Field was once an active airport?

The airport originally hosted commercial and general aviation traffic before being used as a naval air station. The airport was named after Floyd Bennett, a noted aviator who piloted the first plane to fly over the North Pole and had visualized an airport at Barren Island before dying in 1928. Floyd Bennett Field was NYC's first municipal airport. The field was a popular site for aviators who were seeking to break records. Twenty-six transatlantic flights started or ended at Floyd Bennett Field between 1931 and 1939. In 1941, the field was given over to the U.S. Navy, serving as a home front during World War II. Though this airbase is no longer an airport anymore, there are



still helicopters that fly in and out of the space. They have also reserved one runway for those who wish to fly their own airplanes as their hobby. While its service as a Navy field officially ended after the Vietnam War, the buildings still serve as a reminder of the field's notable past.

Humans of Bay



By Candice Chen

Maria Rudnik's entire life has been dedicated to music. You may recognize her from the winter show, where she dazzled audiences with her brilliant piano accompaniment. It's a special honor since over the years, only a select few students have had the honor of playing piano during the winter concert. But, just like every great artist, she had to start somewhere, and her music teacher mother probably had a lot to do with her early successes, starting Maria with lessons when she was just 3 or 4. Maria balances school and music gracefully, finding time to practice 4-5 hours a week in order to perfect her technique while keeping very high grades. Maria plays both the clarinet and piano for competitions. For her concert competitions, she's placed 2nd four times and placed 1st twice. In addition, she's won 2nd and 3rd place for the Rondo Young Artist Vanguard Competition, and won 4th place in the New York Music Teacher Association concert. She plays clarinet for the Bay Academy band and piano at home. Maria isn't all about music though. She plays soccer 6 hours a week and works extremely hard for her team, The Dynamics. What does she like most about creating music? “The satisfaction of all the notes and hours of practice coming together to make something beautiful.”

LAB NOTES



Xenobots: They're Alive!

By Yana Burmich

What if there was a way to clean up "all of the pollution?" What if there was a way to decompose non-biodegradable material and waste? Well, there is, and it became possible merely a few weeks ago. The answer? Living robots. The phrase itself is a contradiction. How can a robot, a piece of code and materials, be living? The truth is, it can't. But, living robots are called "living" because they are literally made up of living cells.

Living robots are truly amazing. Scientists from Tufts University, the University of Vermont, and the Wyss Institute at Harvard developed them and chose to call them xenobots. Xenobots are made from frog cells that can be programmed. Living robots are considered robots because, in technicality, they are not fully living, do not have a conscience, and are programmable. The reason they can be programmed is due to the fact that they are a cross between frog heart and stem cells. This allows each cell to contract and expand, which, in return, creates movement. According to Joshua Bongard, who co-led the new research, "they're neither a traditional robot, nor a known species of animal. It's a new class of artifact: a living, programmable organism." So, what's the purpose of these strange organisms? For starters, the researchers wanted to create a robot that could be programmed to repair itself. The

ultimate solution was living cells since because, as anyone who has ever scraped their knee can attest to, living cells multiply and repair themselves. However, after these "creatures" came into existence, researchers noticed that they were able to intake toxic chemicals and materials, break them down, die, and decompose. Microplastics don't really decompose in nature. However, after the xenobots eat them, when the xenobots die, they decompose just fine along with everything they've digested. A recent LiveScience's article suggested that xenobot uses "might include targeting toxic spills or radioactive contamination, collecting marine microplastics or even excavating plaque from human arteries."

All in all, living robots are a major breakthrough in science. They allow for new organisms to exist which are programmable like robots, yet incredibly useful. They could open up the door to many new opportunities and solutions for the many problems that affect our world.



Self-healing xenobots, developed from living frog cells.

pull over 14,000 pounds and has comfortable seating for six. There's even more additional storage under the second row of seats. On top of all that, there's a 17-inch touchscreen with gorgeous user interface and the signature autopilot option available if you're willing to shell out \$7,000 extra. It also has live video streaming to see exactly what's going on behind the car and the sides and a mind-blowing, high-quality marble interior trim.

All in all, the new Cyber Truck from Tesla has an amazing new outlook on trucks and has outstanding features unlike any before. Unfortunately it's somewhat overshadowed by the cost of it all. At about \$80,000 when all is said and done, the Cyber Truck may be good for very wealthy, but not for the general public. Fun to look at, not to buy.



What's Hot Tesla Cybertruck

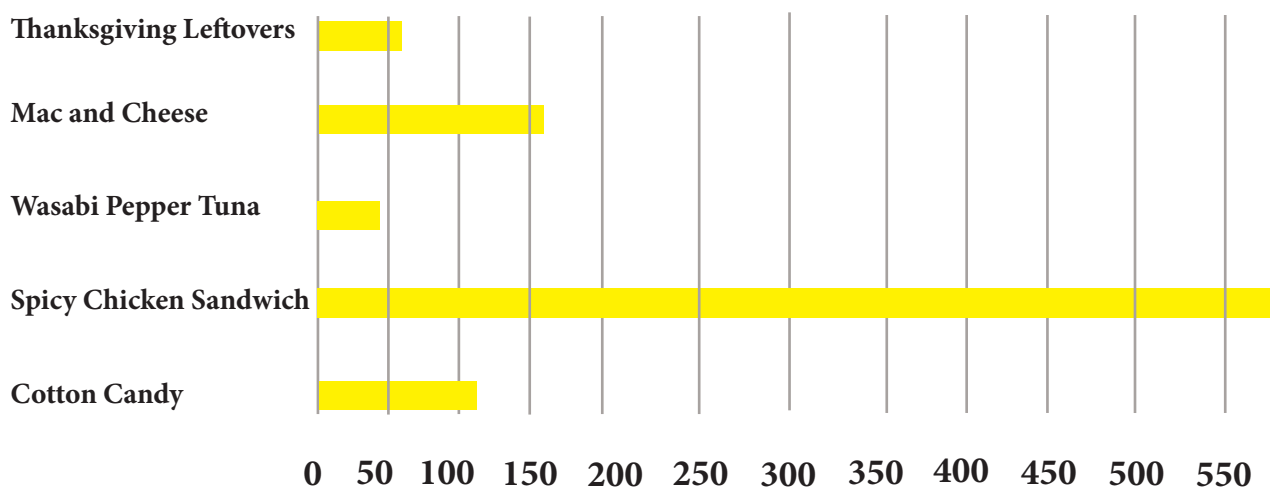
By Ethan Lyubronetsky

This winter, electric car company Tesla and its CEO Elon Musk announced the new, out-of-this-world Cybertruck unlike anything seen before (outside of sci-fi movies). It has taken the internet by storm, trending around the world.

The design of the Cyber Truck is massively different from every other car on the market today. The car has an extremely outlandish design which makes it look like something out of a cartoon. It is created from the same nearly indestructible materials SpaceX uses to make rockets. The material is known as steel alloy metal which can withstand anything from a baseball bat to a 9-millimeter gun with no scratches. The truck also has a massive storage capacity, able to easily carry up to 3,500 pounds of payload, adjustable air compression and 100 cubic feet of exterior lockable storage. It can

We asked 1111 students:

What Should Be The Next Flavor of Doritos?



ASK A FRIEND

Advice from your peers

My friends are toxic. Should I continue to spend time with them?

Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we don't know if we belong with our friend group, or we don't like who we hang out with. This can happen. They can be family friends forced upon you or school friends who seem nice at first, but over time become a different person who you can barely recognize. But, how do you get out of an unhealthy friendship?

Well, it's not the best idea just to yell, "You're a terrible person so we're not friends anymore!" at them and walk away. Take things slow. Talk to them about the behaviors which have been bothering you. Honestly, some people need the feedback and could be acting differently for some other underlying reason.

But, if talking it out doesn't work and you want to stop being friends with someone, I wouldn't recommend ignoring their calls or texts altogether because that just kicks the problem down the road. You're eventually going to have to deal with it. Tell them that it's not working for you and that you'd prefer to separate for a while. That temporary separation, in all likelihood, will turn into something more permanent on its own. In the meantime, think about ways you can meet new friends, such as through sports or after school clubs.

Let's be real. There's no way to get through life without hurting other people's feelings, but you deserve to get through middle school without other people weighing you down.

Izabella Naloy

I often find myself overwhelmed by stress. When that happens, what should I do?

It's alright to stress because we all do it sometimes, but it's bad to overstress. Here are some ways you can manage it., according to our Guidance Counselor Ms. Carlino. The first method is called the Grounding Technique, in which you look around you and focus on 5 things you can see, 4 things you can feel, 3 things you can hear, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste. Another method is called Box Breathing, during which you inhale slowly for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds, exhale slowly for 4 seconds, and hold for 4 seconds. This technique is even used by the Navy S.E.A.L.S!

While these are two great strategies, the same coping skills don't work for all. You should still try out other new ways to de-stress that works best for you. To solve the problem from the beginning, you should remember that some things are simply out of our control. But when we can control them, the best way to prevent overwhelming stress in the first place is to be as prepared as possible. Study early and consistently for your exams, talk to your teachers for advice with your school work, and find family or friends that can serve as a sounding board. And remember that everyone feels this way sometimes!

Cathy Xie

If you have a question for our advice columnists, leave your question in Mrs. Samuelson's or Mr. Charchalis' mailbox in the main office. And always talk with a trusted adult if you need serious and immediate help or advice. Our guidance counselors are a great place to start. See Mr. Caiati or Ms. Carlino in room 118.

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



REVIEWS IN THE NEWS Books To Check Out

Maus, by Art Spiegelman
Reviewed by Ryan Naloy

Maus is not the usual comic. It won't make you laugh. It won't make you happy. Instead, it's a tale of horror, taking place in one of the worst moments of human history: the Holocaust. Maus, a tale of woe and sorrow, is comprised of two books, "My Father Bleeds History", and "And Here My Troubles Began." The books are written by Art Spiegelman, who writes the story from the perspective of his dad, Vladek Spiegelman, who describes his times in the Holocaust. Being a Jewish survivor, Vladek had a lot of terrible memories for his son to hear. Maus tells you about Vladek's difficulties with detailed drawings and moving dialogue. This is where Art Spiegelman uses his art and a little bit of satire: Vladek and the Jews are represented by mice, and the Germans by cats. Representing the Jews as mice and the Nazis with cats show how Jews were terribly hunted and trapped by the Nazis, or in Maus by cats. Through the two books, Art Spiegelman shares his dad's story about how his once abundant life was ripped apart by the Nazis. He and the Jews were treated like

slaves, starved and beaten by the Nazis. If you want to read about a real survivor's story of the near-impossible journey through the Holocaust, then read these two books of sadness, and see how evil the world can be.

Shadow, Bright and Burning, by Jessica Cluess
Reviewed by Rowan Walters

When witchcraft is banned and punishable by death, who wouldn't be nervous around a sorcerer? Such are the thoughts of Henrietta Howel, a teacher at a school being examined for magic, and a girl with the mystic power to create fire. However, when her friend is in danger, she accidentally shows her power to the world. The sorcerer is shocked to encounter the first female sorcerer in decades, and whisks her off to Victorian London, where she must work to prove and protect herself.

Shadow Bright and Burning is the first book in the Kingdom on Fire trilogy by Jessica Cluess, a perfectly woven tale of adventure, mystery, and magic. Through courage, ambition, and wit, watch Henrietta outsmart her enemies, as well as her

friends. With enough drama to outmatch a Kardashian and destruction enough to impress any horror fan, Shadow Bright and Burning can be enjoyed by anyone who picks it up.

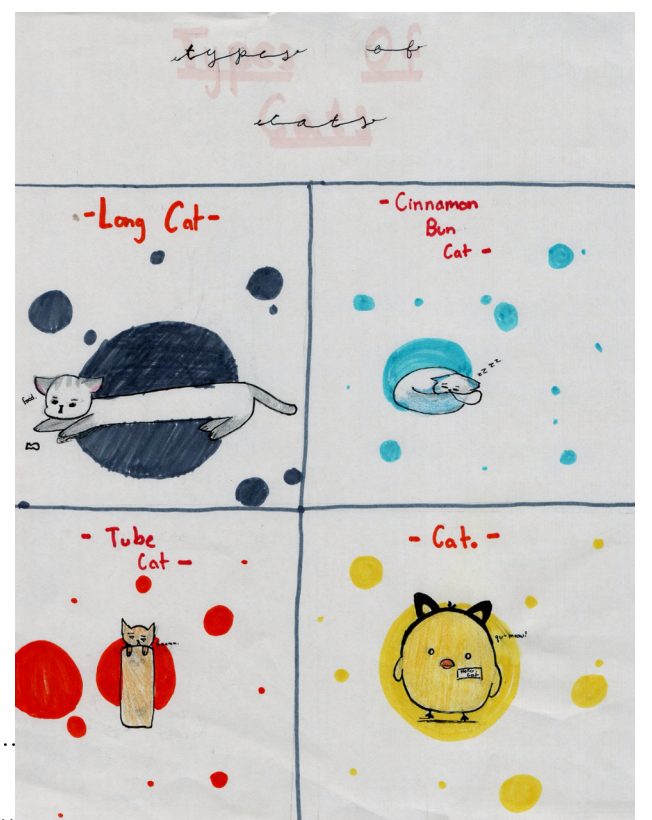
Brooklyn Bridge: A Novel, by Karen Hesse
Reviewed by Mrs. Falcionari

During the Summer of 1903 in Brooklyn, New York, Joseph Michtom lives with his Russian Jewish immigrant parents, his sister Emily and his brother Benjamin. Narrated by Joseph, this novel is inspired by facts surrounding the actual invention of the "teddy bear" by the Michtom family. Family loyalty, the dilemmas of adolescence, learning of the hardships of his relatives that suffered in Russia and their dream of success in America, are pivotal during that summer for Joseph. Visiting the brand new amusement park and experiencing the excitement of Coney Island at the turn of the century is a big dream for Joseph, who lives on the total opposite side of Brooklyn. A parallel story depicting the lives of homeless children that lived under the Brooklyn Bridge is interspersed throughout the novel. Multiple genres of adventure, romance, comedy, family drama, local history and a ghost story are interwoven in this superbly written historical fiction novel written by Newbery Medalist Karen Hesse.

DRAWN TOGETHER



LIKE TO ARGUE? INTERESTED IN WORLD ISSUES? CONSIDER JOINING THE DEBATE TEAM! FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION, SEE MR. TUTONE UPON OUR RETURN TO SCHOOL! LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



WHAT WE'RE EATING by Gabriel Makovoz

Near The Bay:

Soup 'N Burger's classy selection of NYC-based food makes it the hottest trend for teen interaction. The restaurant on Emmon's Avenue is a unique mix of fast food and great service in order to bring their customers the best experience.

Across the street from Bay Academy, **The Bay Cafe** is prominent for its wide array of homemade goods that can range from a kosher lunch to a quick gluten-free breakfast. Its funky and colorful interior makes the Bay Cafe an entertaining stay.

Far From Home:

Located on Old Fulton Street, Juliana's Pizza is the second version of the renowned Grimaldi's Pizza, established by pizza legend Patsy Grimaldi. The restaurant uses the original coal-burning oven- a rarity in the pizza business. As a result, customers are able to taste an old fashioned twist to the modern pizza style.

In the heart of Hudson St, Ninja New York Restaurant stays true to its name by resembling a 17th century ninja headquarters, providing New Yorkers with a full-on Japanese experience. Every staff member is dressed as a ninja and warns you to be prepared for jump scares that might occur any second. Each customer receives their own room where they can order Japan's finest food ranging from a signature meal called Katana to a type of sushi cuisine called Dragon Roll.