

THE BAY CURRENT

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College Access For All Is Magic to Seventh Grade

By Michelle Li

The 7th grade recently took a trip to the College of Staten Island (CSI) and many students are wondering, "Why can't I go?" or "Why did I go?" This trip is part of a program called College Access for All (CA4A). NYC Department of Education Chancellor Richard A. Carranza started CA4A to bring awareness to the fact that while high school graduation rates are rising in NYC, college applications are not. In other words, more students are graduating, but fewer students are going on to college. While the 7th grade is mostly focused on high school, the chancellor wants middle school students to begin thinking about beyond that. Bay Academy coordinator Mrs. Vero-Kipp says, "Part of the initiative is to get every 7th grader to visit a college campus. Not many kids have been on campus and the chancellor wanted to change that." This was the first year Bay Academy took part in CA4A. Due to funding limitations, the committee which coordinates CA4A came to the conclusion that only one grade would be able to participate in the program per year. If only one grade could go, who would it be? They chose the 7th grade. Their rationale was that 6th graders are focused on their new middle school while 8th graders are focused on high school.

During their time on CSI's campus, the 7th graders were able to see the Harlem Magic Masters who have been visiting colleges and delivering the CA4A curriculum to schools throughout the city. The Bay Academy committee thought learning from the Harlem Magic Masters would be a fun way to open up students' minds to the

concept of sitting down many times throughout the year to learn about college. As for the event at CSI itself, Mrs. Vero-Kipp says, "I was happy that students got to see what a college gymnasium looked like. Unfortunately, weather and timing didn't allow us to tour the college, so we are trying to get to more colleges to allow us to visit and tour to get a feel of what college life is actually like." The Bay Academy is looking to plan a spring trip to a different college for a tour. Since the weather will be warmer, students will be able to walk around and continue to get the most out of this interesting new program.



Bay Academy staff and 7th graders get treated to a huge amount of fun with the Harlem Magic at College of Staten Island.

Debate Team Caught in the Crossfire

By Jessica Mindel

Bay Academy participated in their first debate tournament of the season on December 1st at InTech Academy in the Bronx. The team competes in a style of debate called Public Forum for teams of two. Upon arriving to the debate, teams are assigned one of two sides on a prepared topic. Because students don't know in advance what side they'll be assigned to, they must create arguments to support both. Competitors start out by stating claims or main points to support their side. The other team does the same. Then there is a crossfire where those two speakers can go back and forth asking each other questions or trying to rebut each other's main arguments. Then, the second speaker on the team performs a rebuttal, in which they disprove the points that the other side has made. There is really no way to prepare for this, which is what makes it so difficult, because you never know what your opposing team will say, so it's important to be on your toes and come prepared. Following a series of crossfires comes the summary, followed by a grand crossfire where all speakers can participate, and lastly comes the final focus, where you tell the judge why you won. The competition consists of three rounds in total.

In the beginner category, where it was everybody's first time competing, two Bay Academy teams placed in the top fifteen of thirty teams, with one team placing in the top five. One speaker from those teams placed top speaker in the individual category.

With only two teams in the novice category, Bay Academy was still able to place in the top fifty teams with over one hundred teams competing. In addition, one individual member from one of those teams placed in the top 30 overall speakers. This was one of the biggest competitions Bay Academy has participated in because it was the first of their competitions in the Urban Debate League. Here, as opposed to other competitions, there were more teams and schools competing, and more rounds to participate in.

Bay Academy also participated at a debate tournament at P.S./I.S. 266 on January 19th. Teams in the novice category placed in the top 40 and individual speakers placed in the top 15. Congratulations to all the teams that competed and worked hard to prepare for the debate.

New Voices Bring New Ideas to Student Council

By Iris Chan & Gabriel Makovoz

This school year, changes have been made to the student council and the response appears to be quite positive. While last year, students voted for a small body of students to represent the entire school, this year each class elected their own representative. Having a representative from every class is increasing productivity for all parties involved. The opinions of students are more likely to reach the ears of the administration, especially in regards to school events. Student council advisor Ms. Romano is in agreement. "In the new student council we have representatives from each class and we are getting much more feedback. We are able to reach more classes through the representatives and get more information regarding fundraisers and school events to each class."

Student council addresses major problems such as dirty cafeterias in an effort to further improve the environment of Bay Academy. In order to make the council as efficient as possible, school advisors decided to make the council open to each class so there will be more representatives from each grade. This has resulted in a greater level of awareness and more people devoted to the success and safety of both the school and its students. However, it wasn't always like this. Back in 2017, Bay Academy administration used to provide student council with only three positions: vice president, president, and secretary.

Thus, a competition was created among students willing to contribute their time and energy to the council. Those up to the challenge were required to fill out applications that targeted students with strong leadership skills, academic proficiency, and high recommendations from their teachers. These chosen applicants advertised themselves to the student population by way of posters and the like. In addition, they were obligated to prepare speeches presented to each grade in order to gain votes for the position of their choice.

However, this process has been eliminated in favor of the current system where each class votes for a representative who meets with advisors and other representatives within the grade for monthly meetings. In those monthly meetings, student council members and advisors discuss current issues that affect the school. Representatives talk with students and look for day-to-day problems that students constantly have to deal with. Then, members address the issue with the student council. Ms. Romano said, "I think they're doing a fine job. They are reporting back with issues students have and we are addressing them. If a solution is feasible, we do our best to make it happen. If a solution is not feasible, we do our best to explain why we can't achieve what they're asking for." Overall, this strategy is an efficient way to battle daily Bay Academy issues in the eyes of both students and staff.

Winter Shows Sparkle



Under the direction of Ms. Comas, Ms. Kasbar and Mr. Vernikov, Bay students stunned the crowd with incredible performances in the Winter concert, Nutcracker and drama show. There were even some surprise faculty guest stars!

To Be Honest...

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



Don't Shop, Adopt!

We all love dogs (even if you're a cat person, don't lie). Dogs are members of the family and often our favorite ones. We take them in as guardians and we have to protect them and love them like our own family. Unfortunately, too many dogs all over the world don't know this kind of love. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), victims of the high-volume puppy industry, or puppy mills, are bred for profit and often kept in small, filthy cages. These dogs don't receive any affection, exercise, or proper veterinary care. And when they can no longer produce puppies, they are discarded. But what most people don't know, is that puppy mill dogs are often the ones sold in your local pet shop. According to thepupmillproject.org, "an estimated 167,388 breeding dogs are currently living in licensed commercial facilities for breeding purposes at this very moment. There are an estimated 10,000 puppy mills in the United States (this includes both licensed and unlicensed facilities). According to the Humane Society, 99% of all dogs sold in pet stores come from puppy mills and an estimated 1.5 million dogs go unadopted or are euthanized in shelters every year."

More puppies means more money so breeders maximize space by keeping mother and father dogs tightly contained. They're often kept in rundown outdoor pens, exposed to the elements or living in their own feces for their entire lives. Caged dogs can develop sores from constantly standing on wire flooring and can get cut on the wire's sharp points. The ASPCA states that, "Because the cages are usually stacked vertically, urine and feces rain down onto the dogs below. Dogs of all ages and sizes may be crammed in together, which can lead to stress, aggression and fighting." These dogs aren't taken on walks and they don't get to play with toys or run around. Everything they do, they do in cages.

Dogs, like people, need regular health care. However, health care is expensive, so dogs in these facilities aren't typically cared for by a veterinarian for vaccines, checkups or when they're sick. They aren't groomed and can end up with matted fur and painfully long nails which are typically ignored. Female dogs are treated like puppy-making machines. They are bred at every opportunity, without any rest time between litters, and when they can no longer birth puppies, they're often abandoned or killed. Puppies are cute, and unless you are an expert it can be tough to notice the physical differences between those that have been well cared for and those that have not been. Unfortunately, a lot of serious medical and behavioral problems don't reveal themselves until a puppy matures. According to the ASPCA, "...because quality is not a priority for cruel breeders, they don't bother to remove medically compromised dogs from their breeding stock, resulting in generation after generation of dogs with unchecked hereditary defects. These frequently include heart disease, deafness, bone disorders like hip dysplasia, and blood and respiratory disorders."

So what can we do to help? If one by one, people start to disregard pet stores and start adopting their dogs from shelters, puppy breeders will have no point in breeding puppies and torturing all those dogs. It only takes a few consciencious people to go to a shelter instead of a pet store and hopefully, where they go, the crowd will soon follow. In a promising and perhaps precedent-setting move, California recently passed a new law that bans puppy mills. The revised restrictions that took effect on January 1st of this year will require pet store owners to sell dogs, cats and rabbits from animal shelters, rescue groups or adoption centers. According to the legislation signed by California Governor Jerry Brown, stores could receive fines of \$500 for the sale of an animal that is not a rescue. To be honest, don't shop - adopt!



Homework: To Be Or Not To Be?

Many students can agree they have a few major problems in common: gossip, bullying, homework, quizzes and tests. While I don't know how to stop students from being mean to one another, I do have an opinion about everything else in that list. From kindergarten through college and beyond, we are raised on the principle of taking tests, acing them, and moving on. I can also bet that some of you have picked up a piece of homework and asked yourself, "Why am I doing this?" Surprisingly, some scientists agree with you! They argue that tests and homework may be harming the development of social skills necessary for students to actually make it in the real world.

A study from 2002 by the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee showed that there is a "direct relationship between time on homework and increased anxiety, depression, anger, and other mood disturbances among students." The study found that homework may be more beneficial for successful students from stable homes. However, for disadvantaged children there is an increase in "frustrating situations that are detrimental to learning." In such cases, homework hurts more than it helps. In addition, "students with learning disabilities often demonstrate behaviours that have a negative effect on the organization, attention, and perseverance necessary to the process of doing homework." Basically, students with special needs have a very hard time doing schoolwork to begin with, so why send them home with the promise of even more frustration to finish their days? In my opinion, homework needs to be minimized, but I'm not alone. Even some teachers believe that homework is unnecessary. In an article from advantage4parents.com (an organization founded by parenting coach/author Kate Raidt and Dr. Patricia Nan Anderson, a Psychologist from Walden University), a teacher states that she "began noticing a shift in behaviors in society. Children's afternoons and evenings were so jammed packed with activities [and/or] parents working late hours, that by the time they got home there was barely enough time for dinner, bath and a decent bedtime." She continued, "At some point I recognized that my assigned homework was making for a stressful home life for many of my students and I wasn't even sure why I was assigning the homework." The evidence against homework certainly seems staggering.

On the contrary, other scientists and even some students state that homework has always been and continues to be beneficial. Studies done by Duke University show that homework "can help students develop good study habits so they are ready to grow as their cognitive capacities mature" and that "homework can foster independent learning and responsible character traits." In other words, homework can have value because, in a way, it forces students to develop positive routines. But I believe this is an incomplete argument, because if it is not set in moderate amounts, it can be harmful.

Some schools around the world are already taking it upon themselves to change traditional homework policies familiar to us here in the United States. Schools in Finland have stopped giving homework nearly altogether and the students actually do better in their studies. Finland has vastly improved in reading, math and science literacy over the past decade in large part because its teachers are trusted to do whatever it takes to turn young lives around. This oftentimes means getting rid of homework altogether for students who have a hard time attending school and completing homework for a number of legitimate reasons. A recent study showed that, "Even without doing homework, 93% of Finnish students graduate from high school compared to 75% in the United States." Students in Finland have better grades and higher rates of graduation despite not having to complete hours of homework a night.

While the benefits of homework certainly exist, there may be another side to the argument that educators in the United States may want to pay attention to. I believe we can reach a middle ground and resolve this issue by using Finland as a model, giving a lot less homework. In the meantime, students like me will remain in limbo, wondering if we'll ever see a conclusion to this decades old debate.

Bay Back When



By Stacy Kalinkina

Many of you have probably heard of or even visited the famous New York Aquarium located off the Coney Island boardwalk here in Brooklyn. Although this aquarium, as it currently stands, is a great tourist attraction, its history is even more fascinating. The aquarium originally opened in Lower Manhattan on December 10, 1896. However, because of construction to the Battery Tunnel and in an effort to revitalize South Brooklyn, it was relocated to the Coney Island Boardwalk on June 6, 1957. Its mission statement is to "save wildlife and wildlands worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature" (Volunteermatch). The aquarium had progressed nicely throughout the years, adding new exhibits all the time, but everything was suddenly threatened when Hurricane Sandy hit on October 22, 2012. According to the NY Times, "[Sandy] ruined the pumps and motors that operate critical life support systems for the fish like oxygenation, filtration and heat." This put "the entire collection of 12,000 fish and marine mammals" at risk. Luckily, the process of repairing the aquarium began shortly thereafter. Now, you can find a new shark exhibit in one of the houses and enjoy watching seals perform tricks outside! The aquarium went from being a top hit of the old days to a place where people can learn, experience, and bask in the dawning of a new age of aquariums, no matter what their interests are!

Humans of Bay



Anna Berezovsky from class 643 is a sixth grade Dance Talent student at Bay Academy who also shines as a competitive figure skater. While Anna has only been skating for five and a half years, she is already making her mark on the U.S. Figure Skating Association circuit in the Juvenile Division.

Anna competes as an individual, practicing with her coach five to six times a week for up to three hours at a time. She's a member of the Aviator Figure Skating Club and most recently performed at the 2018 North Atlantic Regional Competition in Lake Placid.

Initially she began skating as a fun activity to do with her friends. However, "Then I realized I liked skating even more than being with my friends. She added, "When I first tried it I was really scared!" While she's not scared anymore, she finds it challenging to try new jumps. "I like jumping and to spin. It's really fun for me." And while dance helps Anna with choreography and movement, she says skating "... feels different than when you're on the ground." "I get nervous when I compete and perform", she says. "But when I do well I'm really happy."

LAB NOTES



The holidays just passed and everyone knows the holidays are famous for special meals, gingerbread houses, Christmas cookies, and much more. Even though you might not care about what makes up the cookie when you are eating it, it's still important to know what goes into your holiday treats and how you can make them at home.

By Jessica Mindel

Like science, your end product in cooking has to be able to be repeated by other bakers. This can be possible by using the exact same ingredients and methods of cooking. An extra egg or not enough bake time can lead to your dish being, well, VERY unappealing.

Some of your favorite treats - marshmallows, meringues, cakes, whipped cream, cookies, and ice cream - are made of foams. There are proteins in the foam that are big molecules, formed of strands of amino acids, all tangled up into shapes that are important to their functions. When we beat the cream or the egg whites to mix it into our batter, the protein unfolds - like a piece of paper. As this happens, these proteins are coming in contact with fats and air in your batter/mixture. Some parts of the protein stay in the mixture as they were, but some of the proteins unfold so they can find their soulmates - the fats and the air. As the air bubbles get beaten, they become smaller and start forming films around themselves made of protein. This allows the batter to hold the bubbles in shape. These are the steps to how whipped cream and whipped egg whites are formed.

Now let's talk about something we all hopefully love: holiday cookies and cakes. Whenever you bake something, you will most likely use flour to help your dough/batter rise or get the texture you want. Flour makes cookies chewy, soft, crispy, etc. In

dry cookie dough, like shortbread, a high proportion of flour to the small amount of liquid in the butter produces a tender, crumbly texture. Cookies that need to hold their shape during baking, like biscotti or pinwheel cookies, also have a high amount of flour. In fluid-batter cookies like brownies, a lower proportion of flour to the amount of liquid or egg results in a cakey or chewy texture, which we all love too.

When making cookies and cake, you will always need something to bring moisture to the cake to help it bake, which in most cases is done by eggs. However people who don't eat dairy or can't eat it usually use flax seeds as a substitute for eggs. Although you will need to use a lot to substitute for one egg, goods made with flax seeds are often chewier and gummier than goods that have eggs in them. The liquid in eggs gives a cookie structure by bonding with the starch and protein in the flour. Egg yolks contain emulsifiers that help to form a thick batter that doesn't separate. An emulsifier helps two items who don't normally get along (fat and water in this case) get along. It is so important in giving your cookie or cake a smooth texture. Batters made with yolks only are rich and luscious, partly due to all the emulsifiers present in the yolks.

Now, lastly, considered to be the most important part of any dessert, the sugar. Not only does sugar taste absolutely great, but it can add texture to your batter. When it meets water molecules, the sugar locks in that moisture and makes your baked good soft and chewy. Sugar can also help make your cake and cookies rise. When you mix up a cake batter and beat sugar into it, the sugar crystals cut into the mixture, creating thousands of tiny air bubbles that lighten the batter. This expands and lift the batter, causing it to rise in the pan, producing a work of art.

So not only is baking a science, but it's the chemical reaction occurring in the ingredients that make your dish mouthwatering. All of these elements are just small parts of a whole that come together and contribute to making your cakes, creams, and cookies masterpieces.

brands are carried and sold at stores like Footlocker and Finish Line, but if you want a truly rare sneaker, try downloading Nike's SNKR app available on iOS and Google Play and don't forget to follow your favorite brands on Twitter for up to the minute insight into pre-releases and pop up shops!



Adidas PrimeKnits, one of several trendy choices spotted in the hallways of Bay Academy.

ASK A SENIOR

Advice from your peers

"I feel like so many of my friends are struggling with depression. Why is that and what can I do to help?"

Your friends may be struggling with these things for a number of reasons. From personal issues at home, to being overwhelmed at school, it could really be anything. For instance, about 20 percent of teens experience symptoms of depression before they reach adulthood. As for what you can do to help, make your best efforts to reach out to them. Your friends may just need someone to talk to, or at least know that one person cares about how they're feeling. Simply being there with an open ear is oftentimes enough. However, don't try to force yourself upon them if they aren't comfortable with talking and resist the temptation to give advice. You don't need to solve their problems, just listen.

Depression impacts the lives of many, but something as simple as being there for someone can really make a difference. If you find yourself struggling with depression, or if you just want to talk, consulting the guidance counselors is always a good idea.

"I can't find motivation to do my homework. I want to do it, I really do, but I just can't sit down and get it done. What should I do?"

I'm guilty of this as well. Although homework may seem like the last thing you would want to do, just know it's pretty important towards your grades as well as building responsibility. In terms of getting it done, try setting small and specific goals for yourself. For example, you could do your homework in small increments so that you could take breaks and still get things done. And by setting small goals, you could easily achieve each one which will eventually lead to a pile of finished homework.

Try viewing your homework in a different way. Formulate a method in which your homework becomes more manageable. Replace negative thoughts with positive ones. Think about how relieved you'll be once your homework is done and stick with it! Good luck!

If you have a question for our advice columnists, leave your question in our drop-boxes, outside room 244 or the second floor student bathrooms. 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.



Students show their school spirit by participating in Twin Day.

What's Hot

By Milana Cevikce

Let's talk about shoes. I've noticed a huge increase in Huaraches, Yeezys, PrimeKnits, and FlyKnits around the school. What makes them particularly trendy is that they're constantly being redesigned into pricier, limited editions. These shoes often come from household names like Nike and Adidas. Their "stylish" designation seems to be due to scarce availability and high price tags. I always hear adults saying, "You get what you pay for!" But, with Yeezys ranging from \$200 to \$20,000, you're literally paying for the same exact shoe, only with a unique, artistic design. That's not to knock those who can afford to buy them because they certainly look cool. These expensive

Have a comment, question or lead on a great story? Visit The Bay Current office in room 244 to share your ideas.

We asked 1244 students:

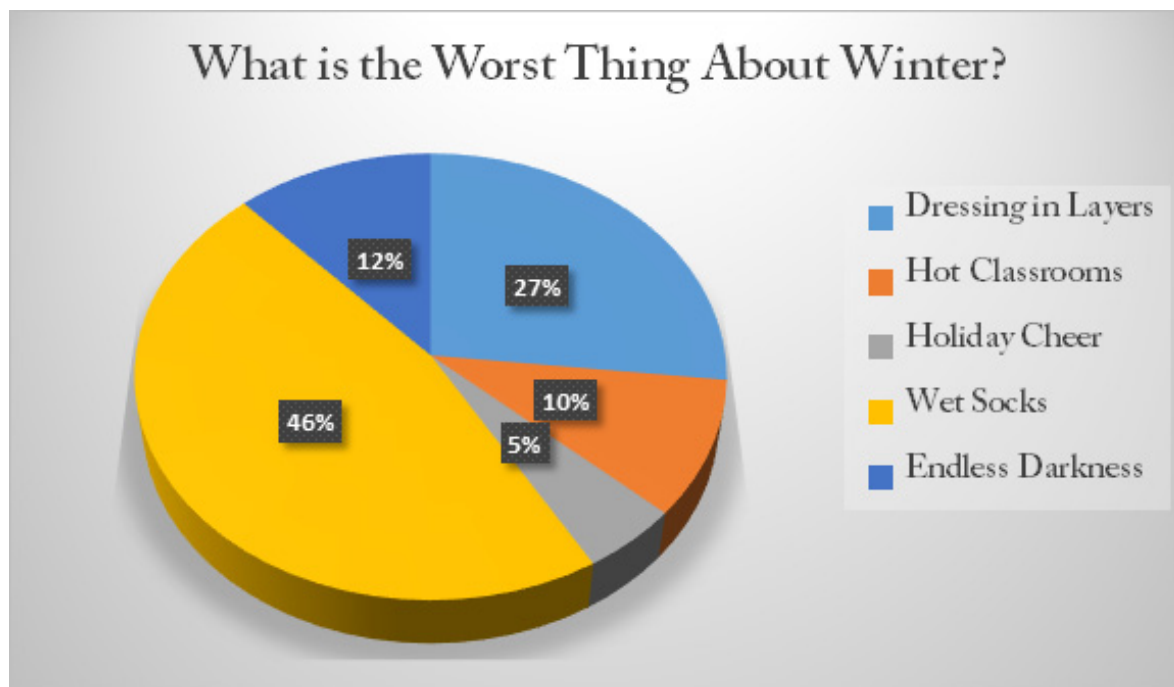


Photo by Melanie Yin, Catrina Wang

School Spelling Bee top three from left to right, Yeva Kalish, Noah Marcovich and Vivienne Kors. Noah will go on to represent our school at the city-wide spelling bee in March. Congratulations to all of our contestants!

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

Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut
Reviewed by Iris Chan

Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut is an advanced read but extremely rewarding. It's a satirical American classic that discusses war, politics, racism, pollution, and success in an indescribably quirky and humorous manner. This begins with the aging and fairly unsuccessful writer, Kilgore Trout who meets a fan in the Midwest who thinks his fictional pieces are truthful. Readers are forced to confront the painful reality of society--in order to stay sane you must see through the shallow standards that have been imposed for generations. Perspective should not be influenced merely because something is pleasing to the eye or ear, and although the events in the novel are fiction they have an uncanny resemblance to many that are occurring at present. This is one of Vonnegut's greatest works because of its entertaining yet cautionary nature.

A Court of Thorns and Roses By Sarah J Maas
Reviewed by Erica Indman

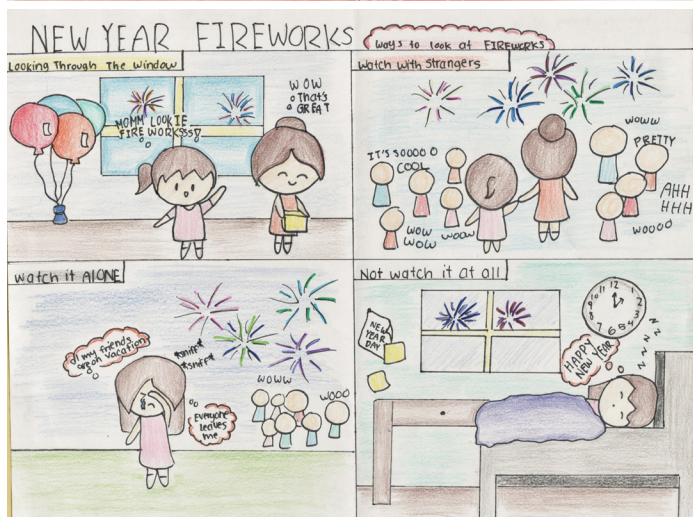
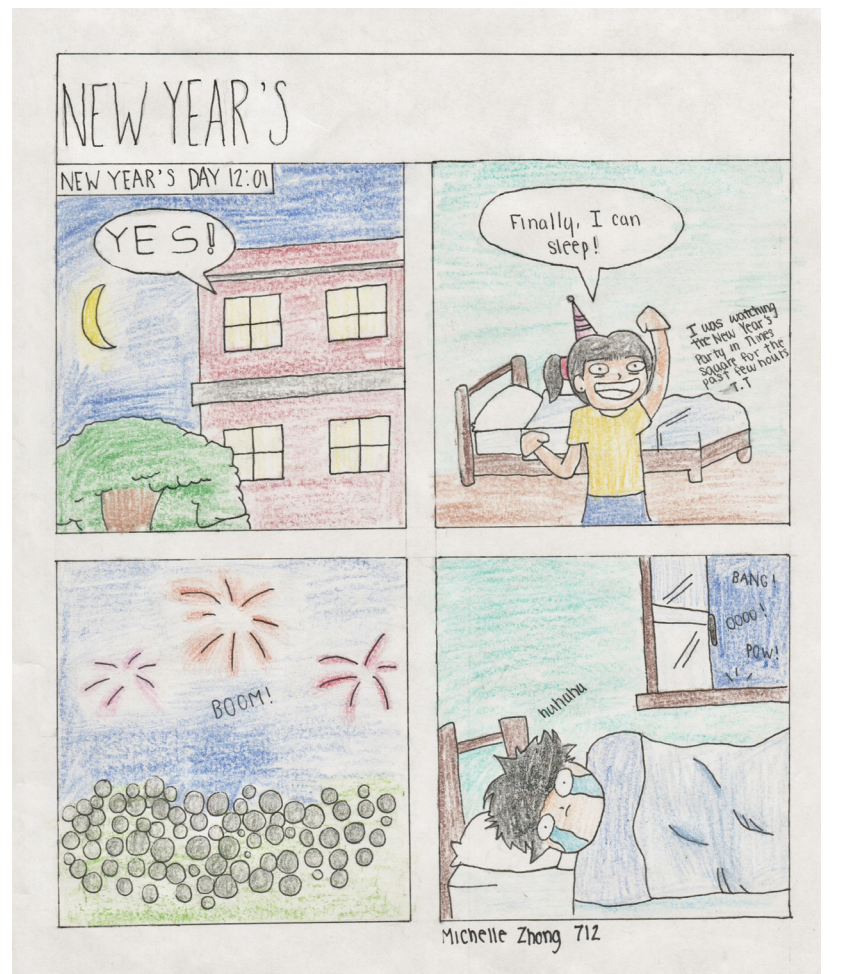
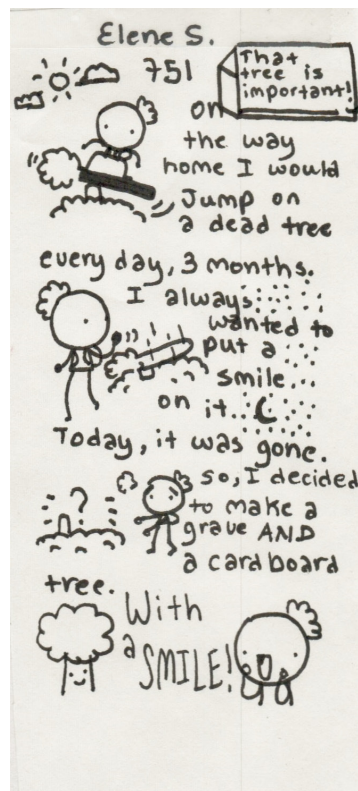
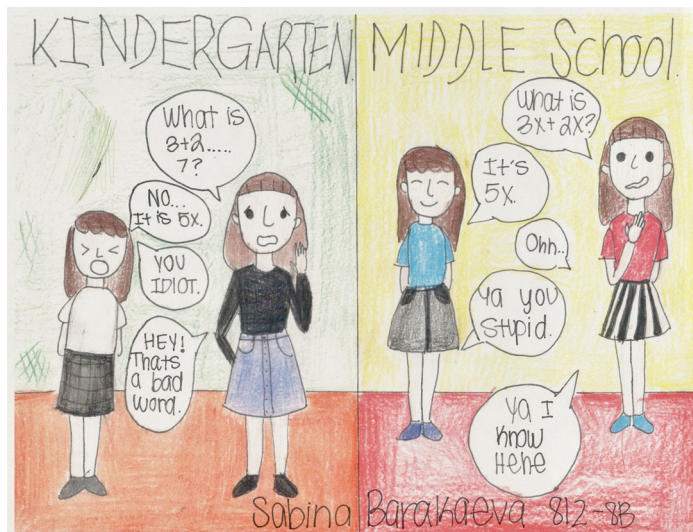
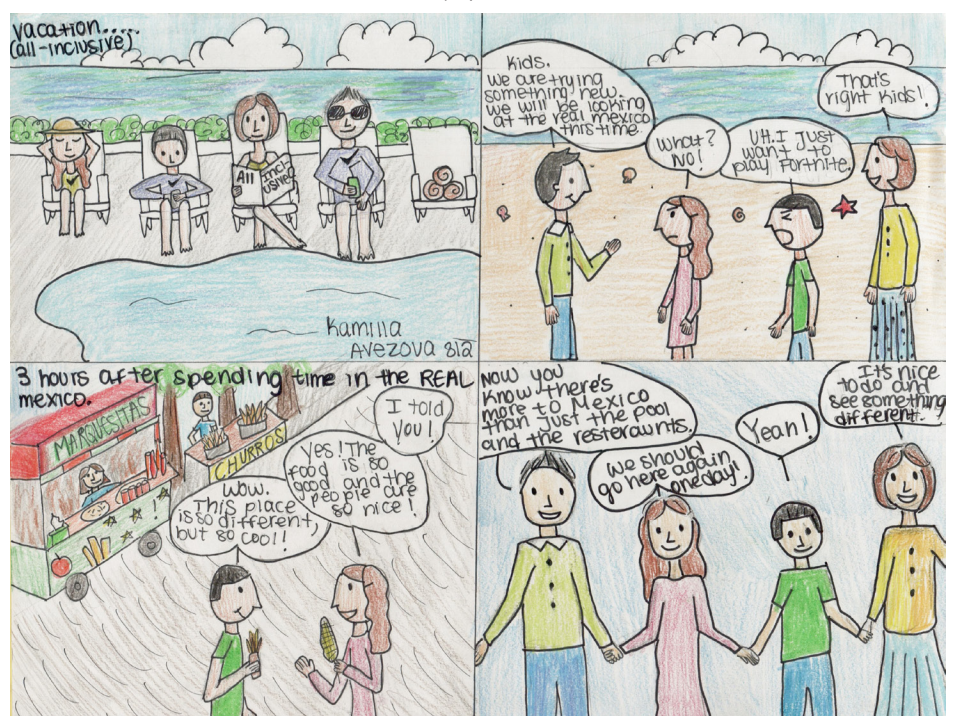
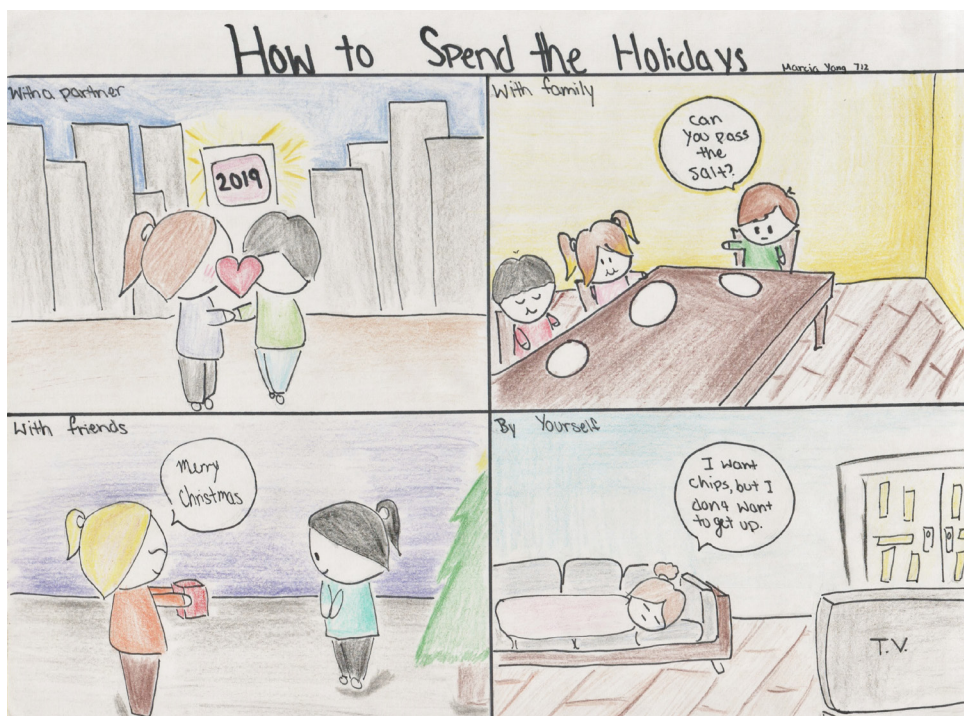
A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J Maas is an action packed fantasy book---with a romantic subplot. Love and hate, war and politics, magic and intrigue, this book has it all. It follows the story of Feyre Archeron, the youngest of 3 sisters. They live along the wall separating human and fae lands, after accidentally killing a fae in the forest, Feyre is dragged over the wall into Prythian by the rugged and brooding Tamlin. She took a life and now she must spend the rest of hers in Tamlin's court. But winning his heart will soon become the least of her worries as danger brews in Prythian. This book will draw you into the world of the fae. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys thrills, action, and shocking plot twists.

The School of Good and Evil by Soman Chainan
Reviewed by Victoria Solodkov

In Gavaldon, a town of avid fairy tale readers, two children are kidnapped by unknown forces every four years. Sophie dreams of being whisked away into the woods and join the school of good to live out a happily ever after fairytale. Sophie seems like the perfect candidate with her pink dresses, glass slippers, and dedication to going out of her way to do good deeds. Agatha, on the other hand, seems like the perfect candidate for the school of evil. She lives in a graveyard, has a sulky attitude, has a wicked pet cat, and dislikes nearly everyone. When the unseen force comes to sweep away two children everything seems to go as expected when Sophie and Agatha are kidnapped. But then Sophie is dropped off in the school of evil and Agatha in the school of good.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoyed J.K.Rowling's Harry Potter series. Like Harry Potter, we are swept into a magical world that we would like to believe is real. This five-part series is very enthralling and has a complex intertwining storyline. It is a highly descriptive book and throughout Chainani's writing, there are aspects that resemble Lemony Snicket's and Roald Dahl's writing. In all, I enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

DRAWN TOGETHER



Top left: Marcia Yang. Top right: Kamilla Avezova
Middle left, Sabina Barakaeva.
Above: Elene Shalamberidzo.
Right: Michelle Zhong
Bottom left: Gabriella Zheng

WHAT WE'RE PLAYING...

ON MOBILE... *Dragon Ball Legend* is a fighting card game that enables players to interact while contributing in head to head combat with their favorite Dragon Ball Z characters.

ON XBOX ONE... *Halo 5: Guardian* is a bracing mashup of new weaponry and teamwork skills that teaches players about the Halo legend and its many mysteries.

ON PLAYSTATION, XBOX ONE, NINTENDO SWITCH, ANDROID, IOS, AND MICROSOFT WINDOWS... *NBA 2K19* uses prominent players such as Kyrie Irving to fabricate a competitive environment that teaches gamers about different signature moves while enjoying interactive gaming.

By Gabriel Makovoz