

THE BAY CURRENT

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Winter 2018

Bay Elects New Student Government

After a strong period of campaigning in December, Bay Academy students recently elected a new student government. Nikita Rodov, class 853, was voted in as the new school president. Louise Lauriello, class 711, will serve as our new seventh grade vice president. Taking on the role of secretary is Michelle Makovoz from class 633, while Elizabeth Wellington, class 631 will be our new sixth grade vice president.

According to Nikita, "What I felt was that I had to address all the issues in all the grades such as Spirit Days for all. I had to address not only the eighth grade, but the major concerns of the sixth and seventh."

Louise similarly campaigned on the promise of addressing the desires of all students. She hopes to "find ways for the talents to show off," including what she feels are "the talents that don't get an opportunity to show the school what they can do."

Elizabeth is hoping to increase the opportunity for more field trips.

All members of the government feel qualified and ready to take on the responsibility of their new roles. Both Louise and Michelle cite their experience in leadership roles. As our new president, Nikita said, "I'm able to listen to everyone and incorporate all those ideas together into a resolution." All four members look forward to speaking with the student body and hearing the desires and suggestions of their classmates.

Congratulations and good luck to our new student government!



From left: Nikita Rodov, Michelle Makovoz, Elizabeth Wellington and Louise Lauriello

Wonderful Winter Shows

By Veronica Berdechev & Danielle Elterman

During the cold month of December, Bay Academy hosted the annual holiday shows performed by the Dance, Vocal, Winds, Strings and Drama Talents. The shows are conducted by our amazing teachers Ms. Kasbar, Ms. Comas and Mr. Vernikov. Unfortunately for the 8th graders, these will be the last winter shows they will be performing for the Bay Academy.

The first show was Scrooge, performed by our 8th grade Drama Talent. As the students were walking into the auditorium, final preparations were being made. The lights began to darken, the spotlight began to brighten as the red curtains were opened. The costumes were simple but pretty and it helped the story line move along. The students portrayed the characters very well and they all seemed to enjoy being on stage acting.

The next show was the Nutcracker performance by the 7th and 8th grade Dance Talents. There were many dances with different characters



Photo by Michelle Kozinets

and elaborate costumes. Soldiers, Snowflakes, Spanish dancers, and more had very colorful costumes and danced beautifully. This show was challenging for the 8th graders because they were working on the Nutcracker and their high school auditions simultaneously. Dance teacher Ms. Kasbar told us, "They started working on the Nutcracker in October, but they were doing it simultaneously with Bay Review and their solos for high school." One dancer, Brianna K. told us, "I'm so excited to perform because going through the process with all of the Dance Talent girls is so much fun and stressful at the same time. I can't believe that this is the last Nutcracker I will be performing in and I'm going to miss all the amazingly talented girls in Dance Talent."

The final production was the Winter Concert, wonderfully performed by the String, Winds and Vocal Talent. In the band, teachers Mr. Caputo, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Samuelson played along. We enjoyed more staff surprises including beautiful vocal performances by Assistant Principals Mrs. D'Agosta and Mr. O'Neill and teachers Mrs. Afonso and Mr. Kropa. We were even surprised by Santa Claus. Everyone had a great time at this impressive show.



Photo by Tamar Chulukhadze

Science Olympiad Team Ready To Dominate

By Emily Louie

Following a successful 2016-2017, the Science Olympiad team is once again hoping to win big at competition this year. Science Olympiad coach, Dr. Cubbin, said that "The Science Olympiad is on track to be in the top 5 this year. The Science Olympiad is preparing by taking a lot of tests and studying." According to Dr. Cubbin, "We are focusing on more rigorous testing. Students also made binders to create a Kaplan study-like environment."

There are other new components making this year better than the last. There are many improvements such as new equipment and 9th graders returning as student coaches. The Science Olym-

piad team is learning earth and space science, life, personal, and social science, physical science and chemistry, technology and engineering, and inquiry and nature of science. All of these help students later on in life with extraordinary knowledge if they want to pursue a career in science.

The sixth-grade curriculum has some changes this year. Sixth graders will learn the basics of science that they will carry through middle school, high school, and college. More hands-on experiments will also be added letting children experiment and learn while having fun. The 6th grade curriculum helps prepare students for the Olympiad. As stated by Dr. Cubbin, "The curriculum goes hand

in hand because we use the curriculum to build them up for the Science Olympiad."

To people who want to be on the Science Olympiad, Dr. Cubbin needs you. Study hard, and maybe you can be on the team. To everyone who thinks that science isn't cool or important, it is. According to Ms. Herman, "Science is everywhere so embrace it. Even if you don't realize it, science brought us everything."

Do you know what used to stand on the grounds of Bay Academy? Look inside to find out!

Battle of the Books

By Gregory Roitbourd

Every year, the Art Talent and the Creative Writing Talent face each other and the city in the annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking competition. The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation holds this yearly contest in which students across the city compete to create a winning picture book. Last year one of our 6th grade Art Talent students, Elizabeth Abromowitz, was selected as the city-wide winner. Elizabeth, now in 712 said, "It feels nice to finally win an award, since I hadn't won many awards in my Elementary School, unless you can count a raffle ticket. It's so nice to be one of the New York City winners because that's a really big accomplishment." Her win makes her believe we can do anything. Her winning book, *The Life of a Brighton Beach Sparrow*, was about a sparrow that learns about the different people and cultures in his community. In the winter when he could not survive anymore on his own, a girl took him in. However, the sparrow wanted to go back to her real home, Brighton Beach. And he did.

Another previous Ezra Jack Keats Participant, Kamilla A. from 712, wanted to tell us how the process was when writing her book. "It was really stressful because we worked really slowly and we were painting. We had a hard time making it really neat."

While this year's competition is coming to an end, students are encouraged to see their art teacher, Mrs. Bracho or Mrs. Falconieri in the fall to participate in next year's contest.

To Be Honest...

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



By Zainab Alnadesh

Many of us are aware of the unfortunate “Unite the Right” rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia about 5 months ago. White supremacists rallied on the roads of Virginia, in favor of keeping the Robert E. Lee statue that is located in Emancipation Park. For those who don't know, Lee was an American-confederate commander of the Confederate States Army. He was one of the finest officers, however he fought for the south, and declined Abraham Lincoln's offer of commanding the federal forces. In August, the Robert Lee statue was scheduled to be taken down, because of his support of slavery. After the brawl that broke out that day, one question stirred up a controversy: “Should we honor those who fought on behalf of the south during the civil war?” To be honest, I believe we shouldn't honor them. Slavery is such a dark and regretful time for America, when we made the mistake of behaving unjustly to other races. We shouldn't give space to those who fought for oppressing others. Part of moving forward as a nation is preserving and presenting the best we have. And I don't believe this was our best or brightest time in history. “But we should also consider which parts of our history we are most proud of, and most eager to uphold... preserving and carrying on the best of the past—not its worst.” (The New York Times). Not only do I believe that people such as confederate supporters should not be honored or celebrated, but I question whether Christopher Columbus should be as well. We all grew up thinking Columbus was a great man, however parts of his story are troubling. Not only do historians believe that Columbus abused the Native Americans that welcomed and provided for him, he also was not the first to discover America. “Columbus didn't “discover” America — he never set foot in North America. You may also remember that it is believed that Norse explorer Leif Erikson reached Canada perhaps 500 years before Columbus was born, and there are some who believe that Phoenician sailors crossed the Atlantic much earlier than that.” (The Washington Post). I often question if he is worthy of a parade. Should we celebrate him for finding a country that had already been explored? We should encourage future generations to question whether these men and women did good.



By Nicholas Gitman

Ah, spirit days! You know, when the school asks you to wear something for one day. One example of a spirit day the school has recently celebrated was “Ugly Sweater Day.” Ugly Sweater Day is when you- well, it's self-explanatory. I don't need to explain it. But the main point of why I'm writing this is to understand the reason why 8th graders aren't as interested in participating in spirit days as the ambitious 6th graders we used to be at the start of 2016. But could the incoming sixth graders feel the same as the seniors did 2 years ago? So, I embarked on my quest to find the answer to my first question: Why are 6th graders interested in spirit days? To answer that question, I went to the heart of it all: the 6th graders themselves. I went around the tables during the school breakfast. All my results received similar answers. The 6th graders participate more because they find it more fun. I mean, when you have just enrolled in a new school, who wouldn't want to participate in their activities? It's easy: the 6th graders are trying to adjust to their new schools. But the seniors are more adjusted to the school, so there's no more need for participating in the events that were re-occurring for the past 2 years. Could this be the holy grail of what I seek? Unfortunately, I shouldn't get my hopes up too soon, because my quest just took a different turn. I've created a hypothesis, but to prove it, I interviewed some seniors. What I found astonished me: 8th graders aren't really bored of the spirit days, well... not all of them. But instead, claim that they miss the deadlines and the fact that they receive no recognition from it. So, what could the school do to encourage more people to participate in spirit days, primarily seniors. I know, the school does announce it on the morning announcements during the 2nd period beforehand, and sometimes post it on Edline, our school's database for homework. What if the school provided some form of prize for participating. What if, during spirit days, depending on what it is, hand out a sweet or a snack. For example, during Candy Cane Day, which is before Christmas, the school photographers could hand out candy canes. Wouldn't that make the spirit day sweeter? Or maybe during breast cancer awareness day, they could hand out wearable pink ribbons. I think with a little more encouragement, the seniors will find their sense of school spirit again, the same way they were as ambitious 6th graders.

Bay Back When



The Futurity at Sheepshead Bay Race Track, 1890's
www.westland.net

Sheepshead Bay On Track

by Pauline Dayen

Do you ever wonder what Sheepshead Bay was like before Bay Academy was created? What took place on the land that our school stands on?

Sheepshead Bay was once a very popular tourist attraction. In the 1880's, it became home to a horse racing track. Sheepshead Bay Race Track was an American Thoroughbred horse racing facility opened from 1884 to 1910. The racetrack was built by a group of prominent businessmen from the New York City area who formed the Coney Island Jockey Club in 1879.

Horse Racing history in Sheepshead Bay was brief since the sport was banned in New York in 1911. Despite the track's life being short, it contributed greatly to horse racing history. It held many races including the suburban Handicap and Futurity races before they were moved to Belmont in Queens.

After 1911, Sheepshead Bay started featuring auto racing and air shows. Several auto races were held from October 1915, through September 1919, including the Astor Cup Race and the Harkness Trophy Race. The Sheepshead Bay Speedway Corporation ran into financial difficulties following the death of its majority shareholder Harry Harkness in January 1919. The property was sold in 1923 for residential real estate development.

No trace of the racetrack can be found today. Now, like many once raging things, it rests.

No Shave November

By Danielle Elterman

Did you notice our male teachers growing beards in November? The teachers were participating in something called No Shave November. During the month, males grow out beards and mustaches to raise awareness of prostate cancer. Money was donated to the No Shave November organization with the money going to cancer research so that scientists can find a cure. 100% of our male teachers participated, including Mr. Perry who made this his fourth year participating. He said he enjoys doing this because he saves time not shaving each morning for the month of November.

For more information, visit www.no-shave.org



Above, Mr. Auriti and Dr. Cubbin show off their scruff.

Humans of Bay

Kirill has been performing at the Bay Academy for 3 years but he has been dancing for his whole life. “I just figured out I had a passion for it when a studio opened down my block. I didn't really want to go at first. But then my mom forced me, I went, and then I tried it and actually liked it.” Kirill practices dance four hours a day at the dance studio, Dance Passion, attending this studio for the past four years. Ballroom dance being his main skill, he has also seized ballet and contemporary to strive to get into LaGuardia High School, feeling this will help his ballroom career.

We asked “Being a male, being in the classes with Athletic Talent, do you feel pressure?” “Why do I have to care about everybody else?” he said. Ultimately, Kirill's motivation comes from within. He strives hard to win and maintain a reputation for first place. “I may not win first place but that's where I'm aimed. First Place.”

Interviewed by Amelia Sambone



LAB NOTES

Things That Are Possible On Other Planets But Impossible On Earth

By Aaima Rehman

We've all thought of all the bizarre things that could be somewhere in the universe; aliens that can read minds, monsters that wouldn't even appear in your worst nightmares. Even though aliens and monsters haven't been discovered (yet), scientists have found many things that you probably haven't even thought of.

1. Gas becoming metal.

Saturn and Jupiter have such enormous amounts of pressure in the atmosphere that the atmosphere can make Metallic Hydrogen, which is basically hydrogen that has all the properties of a metal. Scientists are trying to duplicate the substance because of potentially useful properties.

2. Flying.

Although flying is possible on Earth with the use of an airplane or helicopter, on Saturn's moon, Titan, the atmospheric pressures and gravitational force is so low that you could theoretically jump once and start flying.

3. Having multiple shadows.

We only have one shadow because the Earth revolves only around one sun. However, there are other planets that revolve around more than one sun like the planet Kepler-16b. If you were to stand outside on a sunny day on Kepler-16b, you'd theoretically have two shadows.

4. Ice 7.

This is a type of ice that is not found on Earth but can be found on planets covered in water such as GJ1214-b. The ice isn't cold or slippery and it is always at a solid state. You can find the ice about 100 kilometers under the planet's surface, but keep in mind that those 100 kilometers are all ocean. That's crazy compared to the average 11 kilometers of ocean on Earth.

5. Raining rocks.

On the planet COROT-7b, it rains rocks instead of water. This happens because one side of the planet is around 2,600°C and the other side is 177°C. On the hotter side, the surface evaporates and forms rock 'clouds' which then are pushed to the colder side by extremely strong winds. On the cooler side, the clouds begin to condense and it starts to rain rocks. It's basically like precipitation, but much more hardcore.

6. Winds traveling faster than sound.

The planet HD189773-b's atmosphere is made entirely of silicate particles unlike our atmosphere which is made of numerous gases. The winds on the planet can reach up to 5,400 mph which is almost 7 times the speed of sound. If you don't think that's anything, the planet also rains shredded glass sideways and a storm from that planet would take about 6 hours to go completely around the Earth's equator.

This list just goes on to show us how incredible and versatile our universe is. There are so many phenomena happening in the universe right as you're reading this article and that really makes you think about our place in the universe. In reality, we're just a speck of dust compared to our entire universe.

ASK A SENIOR

Advice from your peers

"I'm struggling with eating and stress. I find that I under eat and over eat. I don't feel hunger or fullness. What should I do?"

It's important to remember that you are in Middle School and are at the age where your body and hormones begin to change and may affect your appetite. In addition, for many people, mood affects their appetite. Sometimes kids our age feel sad or depressed at times, and although it is not necessarily clinical depression it does happen and could play a large role in your desire to eat. It would always be best with issues pertaining to your body and health to talk to your parents or your doctor to see if there are any medical issues.

The most important thing you need to know is that you are not alone. As cliché and corny as that may sound, it is true. According to the National Eating Disorder Association, 20 million women and 10 million men in America will have an eating disorder at some point in their lives including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, and other non-specified conditions. These numbers are especially high during adolescence when symptoms commonly first begin. There will always be someone you will be able to talk to and someone who will care about you.

In this case, it is very important to talk to your parents or another trusted adult about this. Although it may not always seem like it, they are your biggest supporters and allies. You may need to seek medical attention and will benefit from a support system by your side.

If you are having trouble reaching out, there are hotlines for people of all ages who are having trouble approaching others to express their emotions. Bay Academy also has a wonderful support system beginning with our guidance counselors, Mr. Caiati and Ms. Carlino in room 128.

At this age, I myself being your age, I can tell you that I know you are under a huge amount of stress and pressure to be your best self. But just remember, you are beautiful, you are strong and you do not need to change yourself because *you* is all you ever need to be.

Best of luck,
T.G.

If you think you might be experiencing the symptoms of an eating disorder or you just want to talk, here are some suggestions for help:

Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention Hotline:

1-800-931-2237

Youth Crisis Hotline:

1-800-448-4663

Bay Academy Guidance Counselors: Room 128

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 128.

Scan the QR code to connect to Edline.

Find assignments, dates, news and events happening now at Bay Academy.



What's Hot

By Kaylee Ann Rivera

Over-sized Sweaters

It's winter! Time to pull out your big, comfy sweaters. It's that time of year when the hot chocolate comes around and you find that almost everyone is wearing over-sized sweaters. You can find them in all different colors and prints and pair them with almost everything. And this is a trend for girls and boys too. Many guys at Bay are rocking them. You can find affordable styles at Forever 21, H&M and Top Shop to look cozy and cool.

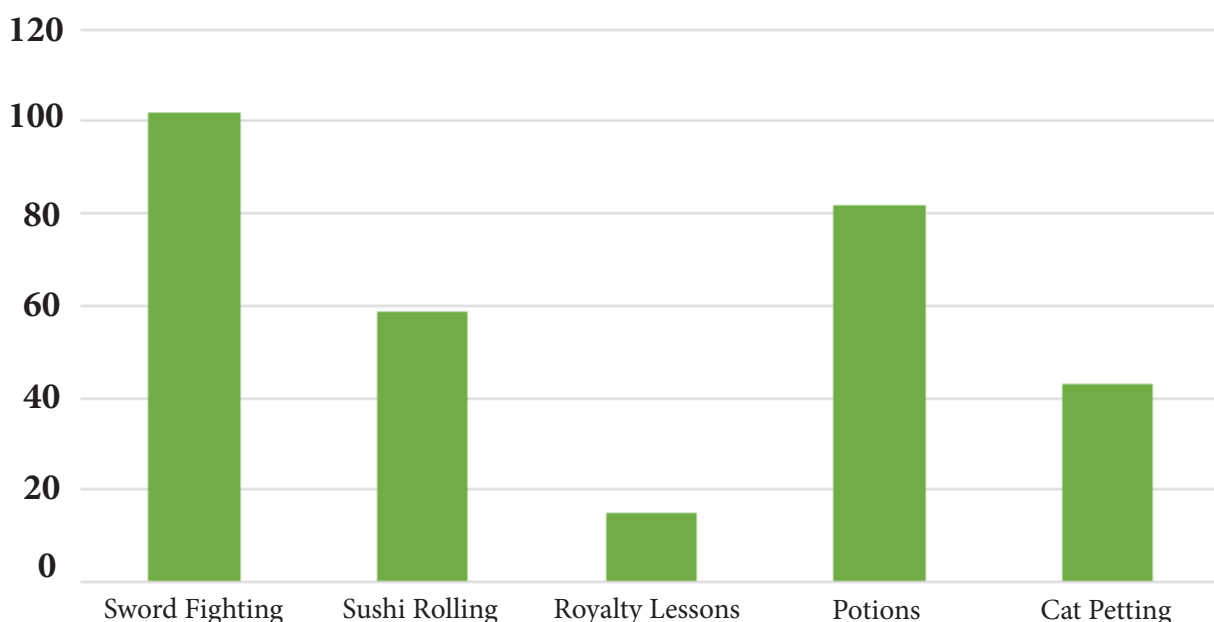
Yeezys and Vans

Hey, boys! Ever heard of Yeezys? Though Yeezys have been out for a while, every so often they come out with a new style. The latest was the Yeezy Boost 350V2 Beluga 2.0. At over \$300, they're not for everyone. Luckily, we're also seeing tons of guys and girls walking around in a fresh pair of Vans. Vans are classic and clean and much cheaper at around \$50. Both the Yeezys and Vans go great with anything from jeans to sweats.

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

We asked 301 students:

What class would you add to your school schedule?



Me and Earl and The Dying Girl

By Jesse Andrews

Reviewed by Amelia Sambone

Greg Gaines is the last master of high school espionage, able to disappear at will into any social environment. He has only one "friend" or coworker, Earl, and together they spend their time making movies, their own incomprehensible versions of Coppola and Herzog cult classics. Until Greg's mother forces him to rekindle his childhood friendship with Rachel. Rachel has been diagnosed with leukemia - cue extreme adolescent awkwardness - but a parental decree has been issued and must be obeyed. When Rachel stops treatment, Greg and Earl decide the thing to do is to make a film for her, which turns into the Worst Film Ever Made and becomes a turning point in each of their lives. And all at once Greg must abandon invisibility and stand in the spotlight.

This story is super quirky, fun, and crazy with a hint of sadness. Just a tiiiiiny smidge of sadness. You know what's coming. It's also really nice to have a story about a guy who's just trying to get along with everyone and is basically forced by his mom to go hang out with a girl that used to be his friend once upon a time. It added a bit of awkwardness to it. This story has the perfect cast of characters and with interesting stories and funny personalities, there is a lot to love. My favorite parts are the times where our protagonist in this story Greg, maps out a conversation for you in a script format. When you see a script scene written something funny may happen. Every single part that involved Earl was perfect especially when you see the always funny interactions between Greg and Earl. One thing that captured my attention is the fact that this book is written in second person. The entire time the narrator is

acknowledging the fact that he is writing a book, and is talking to his audience. It's a good refresher from other first person and third person narratives. This book is an independent standout. If you like comedy this is the book for you.

Between Shades Of Gray By Ruta Sepetys

Reviewed by Pauline Dayen

Ruta Sepetys wrote a novel that took place during the time that Joseph Stalin was ruling Russia. Between Shades of Gray tells the story of a teen girl named Lina whose family is dragged from their home in Lithuania all the way to Siberia. Her father is separated from the rest of the family and through her drawings, Lina hides clues of her location and tries to contact her father. The protagonist must survive prison camps, starvation, sickness, abusive authorities, and so much more. Ruta Sepetys tells a part of history that should be told through a story of love and survival. This is a great book for someone who enjoys historical fiction and strong heroines. This novel is filled with cliff hangers and moments readers will never expect. I really enjoyed reading it.

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

By C.S. Lewis

Reviewed by Victoria Solodkova

An old classic, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe transports you into another world. Published in 1949, this book has been whisking people into the land of Narnia for over 65 years. In this tale, four siblings from London are sent away

because of the war. The youngest of the children, Lucy, finds herself in the back of a wardrobe while playing hide and seek. But there is no back to the wardrobe and Lucy finds herself in the land of Narnia. Soon after, all four children find themselves in Narnia's eternal winter, under the spell of the White Witch. They embark on the journey to save Narnia and restore it to its rightful ruler, Aslan.

The book is a wonderful piece of writing. Author C.S. Lewis will immerse you into Narnia and you won't want to stop reading. Readers will see the courage of the main characters as good fights evil. The first of three books featuring Lucy, Edmond, Susan and Peter, you'll be sure to want to read the rest of the series.

Red Queen By Victoria Aveyard

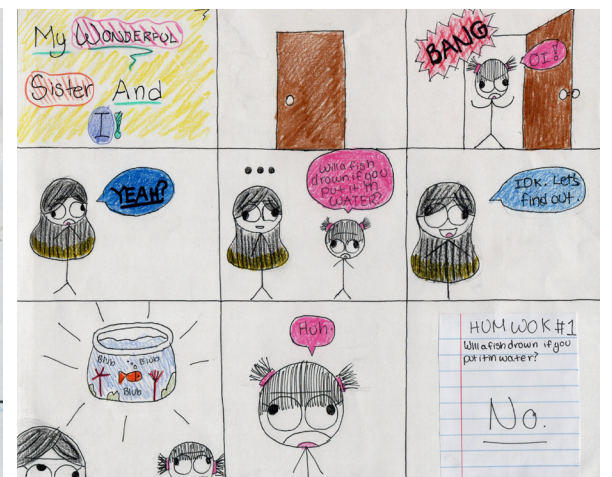
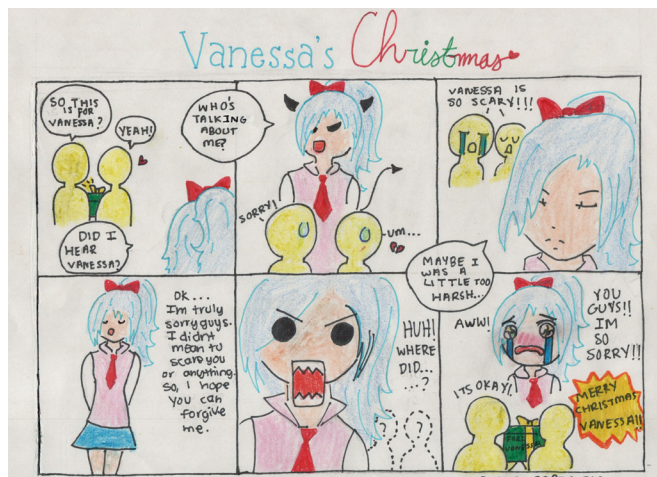
Reviewed by Gregory Roitbourd

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood: red and silver. The silvers are whom her family treats like gods because of their "abilities." Mare has fast hands and pick-pocketing expertise to help her family survive. However, when her friend is taken away to serve in the army, she tries everything to get him back. After an invitation to serve at the royal palace, she discovers she has powers of her own... but she has red blood.

The King hides this "impossibility" by pushing Mare farther into the silver world. But as she is pushed, she risks her new position in the Scarlet Guard - a red rebellion.

This is an amazing book that changes your view on "friendship" and identity. The author does a great job making the characters realistic. "Anyone Can Betray Anyone."

DRAWN TOGETHER



How To: Build a Snowman



Top left: Izzah Amir
 Top right: Joanna Chen
 Middle left: Sultan Zafar
 Middle right: Dayna Chen
 Bottom left: Tiffany Lu
 Bottom right: Hai Lin Liang

I'M BORED...

Check out Ted Talks, a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. The website links to a nearly endless choice of videos on a huge number of fascinating topics. We promise you'll find something riveting to occupy your time. Visit: www.ted.com