

# THE BAY CURRENT

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Fall 2017

## Math, Science Departments Evolve

### Radical Robots

By Danielle Elterman & Greg Roitbourd

The robotics program, NXT Robotics, is being used to teach the eighth grade Computer/Math Talent about robots. Students in this class will be building Lego robots and learning to code instructions for the robots they build. This is a program computer teacher Mrs. Pinto has been teaching for 6 years. According to Mrs. Pinto, "The program's aim is to help students advance into a STEM program in high school, maybe a possible career and for the interest of exposing them into a growing industry into technology. Some of the skills that have been taught through other programs also continue in computers. So, it intertwines with things such as coding with Dreamweaver and robotics, and design through art, etc." Aidan Aroubas from 813 commented on how he hopes he can use what he learns from this project in the future. He says "I hope this project will help me with my future job because if I become an architect, which I hope to be, I hope to use the skills I learn."

### Weather Watch

By Amelia Sambone

Thunder and lightning has nothing on The Bay Academy Science department! In just a few months you will be able to tune into the new and improved weather station!

Bay Academy had previously used a weather station, however the old system had become outdated. The new weather station will be installed onto the roof of the school building. Science Talent classes will use the new system to collect weather data. As all students from the science department will be taking part in this program, Dr. Cubbin states "We'll be able to access daily weather and weather trends and weather patterns from around the world. We will be sending our data to a site called globe.gov". From that, the entire school, as well as participating schools around the world, will be able to access our data in real time. If you have ever seen people that have done exit projects with weather pattern charts, that's exactly what the Science Talent will be creating. Dr. Cubbin later adds,



Above, Computer/Math Talent learns about robots and coding through the NXT Robotics program.

"This will be throughout the entire science department, so every science teacher, in reality everybody who has a laptop in the school, can download the software and they can use the software to gather the data." So even you can get involved in the program!

Curious to see how the station works? It's actually very simple. The equipment uses a wifi signal, samples the weather and sends the findings to the computers in our school. For more information about the weather system visit Dr. Cubbin and Ms. Katz as they are certified global instructors.

## Meet Bay's New Staff



### Mr. Tutone, Latin and Geography

Interview by Danielle Elterman

**What new color would you add to a Crayola box and why?**

Pizza color crayon, because why not?

**What are some of your hidden talents?**

I can play the ukulele.

**What is the best vacation you have ever gone on?**

Hawaii. I have visited it twice and it is the best of all 5 theories of geography.

**What is your favorite band/singer?**

Too many to choose.

**What was the best movie you have watched this year?**

Manchester By the Sea



### Mr. Lynch, Social Studies

Interview by Veronica Berdychev

**Do you like sports and if yes what's your favorite sport?**

Rugby. I like the physical aspect of it as well as the culture.

**Have you ever been anywhere outside the USA, and if yes where?**

Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand and Iceland. I was traveling through Europe with my brother.

**What's your favorite movie?**

My favorite movie is Crazy Stupid Love. I've watched it 13 times.

**What is the bravest thing you have done?**

Cave diving in a cave in New Zealand while I was traveling through Europe with my brother.



### Mr. Caputo, Science

Interview by Pauline Dayen

**If you had the power to change anything in the world, what would it be?**

That's a tough question. I would change the amount of discontent there is between different political parties in America and there should be more open dialogue.

**What is something you miss from your childhood?**

I miss being able to come home from school and just play outside, play some basketball, play video games with my friends, stuff like that. Once you get older, you run out of time to do stuff like that.

**What did you want to be when you were younger?**

When I was younger, I wanted to be a vet. I was always interested in science and I always loved animals, so initially I wanted to cure animals. However, I also liked teaching science to kids and people.

**Who were your role models growing up?**

My role model growing up was my older brother. He's 3 years older than me and I always looked up to him and sort of copied everything he did.

**If you were given one superpower for the rest of your life, what would that superpower be?**

It would be teleportation because I have friends all over the world and I would like to see them more.

**If you were given \$1,000,000, but you had to spend it in one day, what would you buy?**

I would buy out as many animal shelters as possible and save all the animals.



### Ms. Carlino, Guidance

Interview by Nicholas Gitman

**If you had one wish, what would that wish be and why?**

It would be for the Mets to win the world series because I've been a big Mets fan for my whole life.

**Cats or Dogs?**

I prefer dogs. They're more exciting and I have a 5-year old dog named Eli.

# To Be Honest...



By Malika  
Nasriddinova

To be honest, electronic devices aren't as useful and as beneficial as we think. iPhones, iPads and laptops aren't always our friends and helpers, even though most children and adults think that electronics are essential and have a positive effect on our emotions and behavior. Don't believe me? Here are some examples why you should.

First of all, there is the widespread problem of cyberbullying. For those of you who are wondering why I brought that up and what cyberbullying is, it's bullying through texting and social media. Like all kinds of bullying, no matter how, when, or by who you were bullied, you can be left feeling awful, depressed and useless.

There are also games and apps that fill your brain with absolutely useless stuff. Why are video games bad? According to [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org), "too much video game playing may lead to health problems", like lack of exercise and active play. Sometimes kids get lost in their digital World of War games or whatever they play. When that happens kids forget about their duties, such as doing their homework. Sometimes it can get even worse - my brother once forget to eat, drink and pay a visit to the restroom. Also kids may neglect to interact with their peers because they are deep in their phones. Therefore it all leads to health problems, lack of education, and loneliness. We usually do our everyday activities at the same time as using our electronics. I have to say it's a bad idea. For example, if you cross the street with your face in your phone you risk getting hit by a car. Here is another example, when you are going down the stairs and looking into the screen of your phone you can fall and break some of your bones. I hope that after reading this, you will make your own conclusion and decide whether you should use your phones for a good cause or the bad. For a cause that will benefit you and the people surrounding you, not the opposite.



By Zainab  
Alnadsh

To be honest, TBH is a great new app. As many of you may know, TBH has started to become one of the newest trends...at least in school. TBH is an app for giving anonymous feedback to friends. However, all the feedback is supposed to be positive and uplifting. According to the app, it "should make us feel better about ourselves." I personally like the app, I find it a fun way to boost your confidence and other's as well. So far, I have only gotten good feedback, which is great! But others claim that this app is actually terrible. "Personally, the idea of someone judging you, doesn't sound appealing to me. Especially since someone may read a response and give it a negative connotation," said Greg R. in class 813. I understand how that may be a problem, but the only thing I could say about that is, you have to loosen up. Not everything is supposed to be negative. You have to learn to take compliments without dissing yourself. I find this app a great way to learn to love yourself, and gain recognition for being you! Plus, you can find out what people really think about you!



Left, students and staff participated in National Denim Day to raise money for breast cancer research. Through your generous contributions and the leadership of Mrs. Goldberg, over \$750 will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

## NIA Returns With New Options For All Students

NIA is back with all the best of last year, plus new exciting programs. This comprehensive after-school organization offers a huge range of free activities, five days a week. Students may sign up for as little as one day a week to as many as five days a week. Join clubs such as Hip-Hop, Musical Theatre, Bay Readers, Scrabble and Cheerleading. For academics, NIA offers Homework Help, Science Olympiad, ELA and Math help. Newly added to the line up are Sewing, Robotics, Knitting and Keyboards. With these and so many more choices, there are great options for everyone. For more information and to register to join, pick up a permission slip and activity selection form in the main office. And for more information, visit the NIA office in Room 324.

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

## Letter From the Advisor

We are lucky to live in a city of world class newspapers: The New York Times, The New York Daily News, The Wall Street Journal, plus countless other small weekly publications. I'm partial to the Times with its daily special sections and the only crossword puzzle I'll bother with. Sometimes I'll flip cover to cover. Sometimes I only get as far as the Real Estate section, hypnotized by photos of sprawling Soho lofts I'll never live in, or the strangely captivating medical diagnosis column in the Sunday magazine. It doesn't really matter. It's the feel of the paper, the familiarity, the origami-like art of folding the large pages over on the subway without elbowing someone in the ribs that resonates with me. There's something about reading non-fiction that has an appeal totally different from novels. It's learning about the stories and experiences of people I'll never know and places I'll never travel to that I find irresistible.

But why are newspapers so important when information is so readily accessible on the internet? Ideally, newspapers are our last unbiased source of information, different than the slants you'll find online like the left leaning Huffington Post or the right leaning Breitbart. We live in a time when your Google searches will produce exactly what you want to see and rarely the other side. Newspapers know nothing about your history.

In the world outside our homes and schools, newspapers act as a voice for government and at the same time, hold government accountable. As John Oliver, political commenter and comedian puts it, "Not having reporters at government meetings is like a teacher leaving her room of seventh graders to supervise themselves." (His words, not mine). But he's correct. An accountable government and a free press are hallmarks of democracy.

You'll find sports, culture and entertainment news nestled in as well. Take a look at your options. Learn what you like. Make it a daily or occasional habit.

Here at Bay Academy, we are so excited to bring you our first issue of The Bay Current. Our reporters, photographers, artists and columnists are working hard to create something relevant and informative. We'd love to hear your opinion and ideas. Stop one of us in the hall or visit me in room 244. And thank you for reading.

Mrs. Samuelson  
Faculty Advisor

## Humans of Bay



Alisa Bizhikian, 654

"I lived in Odessa, Ukraine, before coming to America three months ago." Alisa's parents moved to the United States two years before Alisa to settle in and find work, while she stayed behind with her grandparents. When Alisa joined them and began school at the Bay Academy in September, she could barely speak a word of English. "Were you nervous?", we asked. "Very. I feel a lot better now because I have friends that help me and are always there for me." So far, her favorite new site is the Brooklyn Bridge. We wanted to know something she liked in America that she didn't have back home in the Ukraine. "Everything", she told us. She's sad to have left her friends back home but she said, "I like America because I have more opportunities."

Interview by Victoria Solodkova and Rania Zaki  
Translated from Russian by Maya Burshteyn

# LAB NOTES



## Full Head Transplant Scheduled to Take Place in December 2017

By Aaima Rehman

We all have imagined the future with robot servants and flying cars, but have you imagined full head transplants? It sounds like something right out of a horror movie, right? Italian neurosurgeon, Dr. Sergio Canavero, is planning to do a full head transplant in December 2017. He will be assisted by Chinese surgeon, Dr. Xiaoping Ren.

The first patient to volunteer was a Russian man named Valery Spiridonov who suffers from Werding-Hoffman disease. This disease is a rare, genetic disorder that causes paralysis by breaking down muscle cells and damaging nerve cells which allow us to move. Spiridonov initially volunteered for the surgery because Spiridonov is constricted to a wheelchair and the surgery could give him a new chance at life.

Spiridonov says that he realizes the many risks associated with the experimental surgery. Eventually, Spiridonov decided to back out. He stated, "I feel a weight lifted off my chest. I never had a vain motive to become the first one. I gave two years of my life to this project. I will be glad to see it happening." The new patient is an unnamed man from China.

The experiment is not yet approved but set to take place in China, where the rules and regulations are a bit less strict than those in Europe and the

U.S. Dr. Canavero has successfully tested the experiment on mice and published the details.

Now let's talk about the steps of the experiment. Firstly, the surgeon will need a suitable brain-dead body donor because the surgeon will take the Chinese patient's head and re-attach it to the body. Secondly, they would 'freeze' the patient to slow down the rate of tissue degeneration in the brain giving the surgeons about an hour to work. Then, they would cut off both heads using a blade, definitively splitting the spinal cord of both patients. Then a crane would lift the head to the donor body. The two spinal cords would be 'glued' together with a chemical called PEG or polyethylene glycol. PEG is said to help with the growth of cells.

After the experiment, the patient would be kept in a medically induced coma for three to four weeks. Electrodes attached to the patient will send small electrical pulses that will stimulate the spine. Although Dr. Canavero is very optimistic about the surgery, scientists all around the world disagree. Arthur Caplan, the head of medical ethics states, "It is both rotten scientifically and lousy ethically." Another neuroscientist, Dr. Jerry Silvers, says, "Bad science. This should never happen", regarding the experiment.

Others have also gone on to criticize the aftermath of the experiment as well. People have pointed out if the extremely untried surgery fails, the heart and lungs could have gone to other people in need of more certain surgeries. One thing is for certain though, if the surgery fails or succeeds, it will be a huge advancement in the medical world. Other scientists can try to repeat the

Give them a try to spice up your style and bring your wardrobe to the next level.



## What's Hot

By Kaylee Ann Rivera

### Ripped Jeans

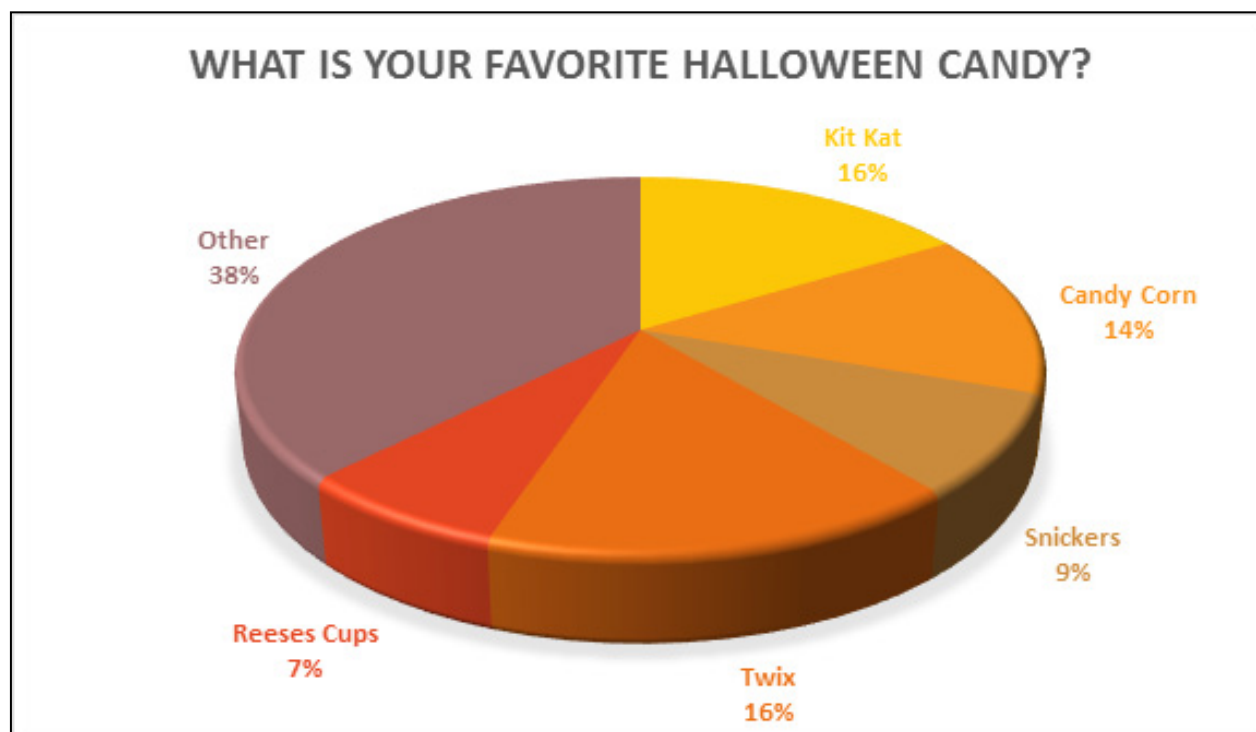
Are your legs feeling cold? If so then you're probably wearing ripped jeans. Ripped jeans are very fashionable and almost everyone is wearing them. You can wear this style with tank tops, short sleeves, long sleeves, hoodies, anything! They come in all different colors though I'd recommend black, blue, peach and navy. Fortunately, there are tons of affordable options. You can find stylish versions at stores like Forever 21, American Eagle, JC Penny and many others. I think that these jeans are very cute and can elevate your outfits. Not only can girls wear them, but guys are rocking ripped jeans too.

### Man Buns

Guys are crazy for man buns. We're seeing people of all different ages try this style. I think it's funny and entertaining to see man buns, but I feel that this is a trend that won't be around for long. Many guys have already gone for different styles or grew their hair out. We're finding that this trend has two opinions: pro-man bun or anti-man bun, but everyone has an opinion. Which are you?

### New Brand to Look Out For: Super Dry

## We asked 294 students:



## ASK A SENIOR

Advice from your peers

*"How do I confront my parents in difficult situations? I'm worried they won't accept me or will be disappointed in me."*

I brought your question to the guidance office to get an expert point of view. Ms. Carlino suggested approaching your parents in a way that is most comfortable for you. For some, they might feel better writing out their concerns in the form of a letter or a message. That's because sometimes your parents or people in general, like to interrupt in the middle of a conversation before the person speaking has gotten all of their thoughts out. So now that you've written a letter, all you have to do is give it to them and they can read it on their own. For some kids, especially when discussing scarier topics, it also allows them to be in control of how the conversation starts. It's also very important to look at your relationship with your parents. If it's a good one and the conversation is just hard, approach them when they're in a good mood. Make sure both of you are in the proper headspace to be able to have a serious conversation.

Okay, so let's say the situation does not go according to plan. Personally, I think the most important thing is for the parents or the person you're talking to, to simply be able to adapt. As said by Ms. Carlino, it really depends on the relationship with your parents. If you have a good relationship and it's just not something that you have similar views on, they should be able to move past it and will find a way to support you and love you. No one is perfect and you and your parents will always have something to disagree on. The most important thing is to still respect one another despite your differences.

Best of luck,  
T.G.

*"I have been here for a year, and I'm in 7th grade, but I still feel left out and alone. I only have one friend, but still I like to make new friends. Plus, no one even wants to talk to me. What do I do?"*

Hey! Try joining one of our NIA after school clubs and meet people with similar interests as you. Maybe even try joining a sports team outside of school. Some of the best friends are made when you aim towards the same goals with both your heads in the game. Most importantly don't be scared to approach people first! Just because it may seem that they don't want to talk to you, doesn't mean they don't. You'll never know if you never try, right? Try making small talk here and there and just put yourself out there more. A good tip is to talk less and listen more. People love talking about themselves and listening to them will make you a more desirable friend. That said, you shouldn't be friends with anyone just for the sake of having friends. Choose them carefully, even if it takes more time. In the end though, just remember that sometimes having one really good friend beats having a hundred 'acquaintances'.

Good luck :),  
V.V.

If you have a question for our advice columnists, leave your question in our drop-boxes, outside room 244 or in the cafeteria during your lunch period. 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.

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# REVIEWS IN THE NEWS Books To Check Out

## The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatly Snyder

Reviewed by Gregory Roitbourd

Melanie Ross, a 6th grader thought her new neighbor, April Hall would be a mature, independent woman from Hollywood. But when they met together and talked, they found out they had something super special in common... They loved studying Egypt. When they decide to invent The Egypt Game, their group of 2 soon becomes 6. Join them through this wondrous journey through Egypt as the 6 friends experience a thrill-ride exploring the beauties of Egypt. They dress up, perform ceremonies, and do this all outside of the "A-Z Antiques and Curio Shop." But when someone is murdered, the group realizes there's something strange going on around the neighborhood. What's happening to Egypt? It's a wonderful, mysterious, and imaginative plot that will pull you in like it did to me.

## Alex & Eliza by Melissa De La Cruz

Reviewed by Amelia Sambone

It's 1777, and the servants are rushing to prepare for the biggest social event: The Schuyler's Grand Ball! Descended from two of the oldest and most notable bloodlines in New York, the Schuylers are proud to be a part of their founding fathers. They're even more proud of their daughters, Angelica with a sharp wit, Peggy with her ravishing looks, and Eliza whose charm will rival that of her other sisters, although she would rather be aiding colonists than dressing up for a silly ball. Still she is excited to find out that Alexander Hamilton, a mysterious and the right-hand man to General George Washington, will be there. When Alex and Eliza meet on that fateful night, their epic love story began.

First I must say that this book is NOT fan fiction to the musical Hamilton. If you are interested in the American Revolution and the time period, this is a book for you! Even though it is a love story it goes into details of the war itself (seeing Alexander Hamilton as a soldier and Eliza as a nurse aid). This book has many aspects and charms to the plot. The story portrays the characters, these historical figures like no other. I enjoyed all of the interactions between Alex & Eliza, they all ended with some type of witty remark with a comical feel to their conversation. Eliza is the main focus in the story - it is mostly based around her view and ideas. My favorite part has to have been the Schuyler's Ball where the destined couple meet. This part not only develops the characters but starts off the story, where you really get to know Alex and Eliza. From Eliza almost wearing the worst gown she owns, to Alexander threatening to sleep in the barn if he can't dance with Eliza. With humor, wittiness, and charming characters, this book is the perfect mix!

## Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass

Reviewed by Victoria Solodkova

The story starts off with Jeremy Fink receiving a mysterious box, dated years ago. He soon finds out it contains the answer to the meaning of life and was left to Jeremy by his deceased father. Jeremy who doesn't like straying from his neighborhood, and Lizzy, his best friend, travel throughout New York City to search for the four keys needed to open the box. They meet new and fascinating people but they struggle to find the keys in time for Jeremy's 13th birthday, the day his dad intended for the box to be opened.

In the end will they find the keys in time for

Jeremy's birthday, and what will be in the box?

With its captivating plot and interesting story line this book is a great choice. Even though it may be an easy read it's compelling nonetheless. So if you're looking for a light and engaging read go ahead and read *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*.

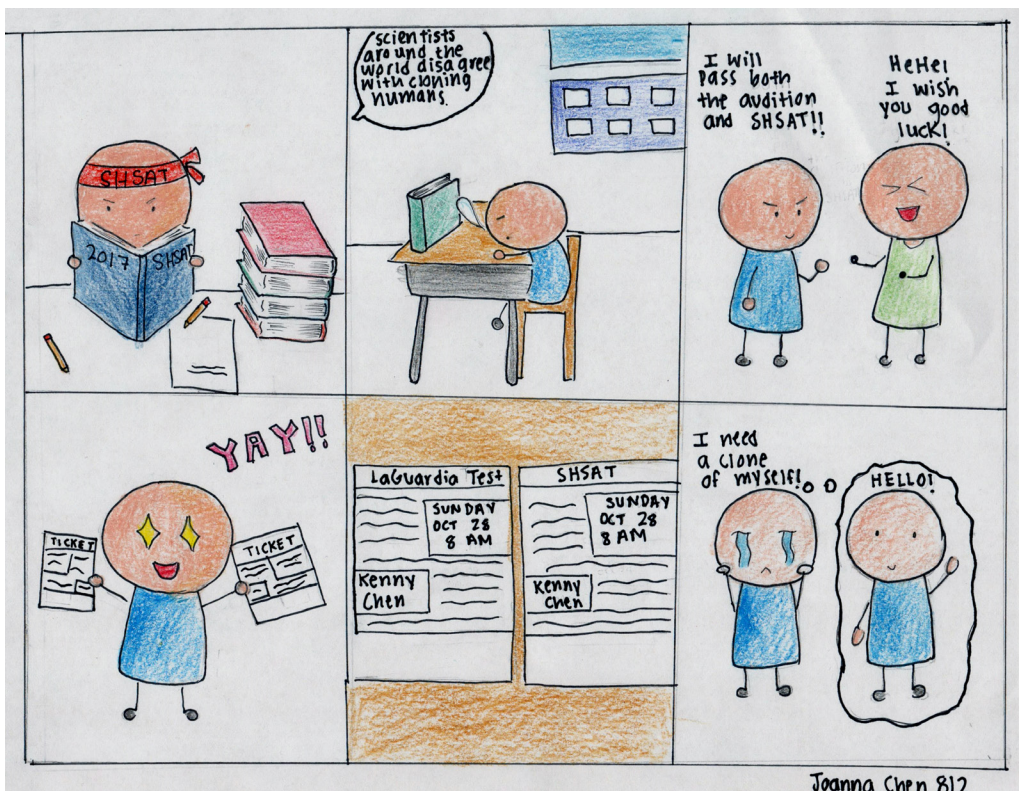
## Train I Ride By Paul Mosier

Reviewed by Elizabeth Sullivan

*Train I Ride* was released January 24th, 2017; it was Paul Mosier's debut novel. We never really learn the main character Rydr's actual name in the novel because it's a nickname that she gave herself. Rydr's mother has died from a drug overdose so she's sent to live with her grandmother whose death follows two years later. Rydr goes to live with a great uncle that she's never met in Chicago forcing her to board an Amtrak train with a chaperone, Dorothea. Along her train ride to Chicago, Rydr begins to accept the deaths of her close family and rediscover herself.

My librarian recommended the book to me. I enjoyed the book because it gives people an insight into a topic that isn't widely discussed. Although death is a common thing we don't discuss drug overdose deaths and how they affect people. In 2016 alone 64,070 people died from a drug overdose. Most children don't know what it would be like to lose someone to drugs or even have an idea of how much it impacts a person's life. Rydr's journey through the book is inspiring because she overcomes the deaths of her close family and learns self-love. Most middle school & high school students tend to struggle with self-love which makes it even more inspiring that Rydr learns to respect herself through the unexpected community of people on the train. I would recommend this book to people that enjoy a well written and developed plot line, along with characters that overcome challenging obstacles.

# DRAWN TOGETHER



Joanna Chen

Joanna Chen 812



Tiffany Lu

## One Last Question For...

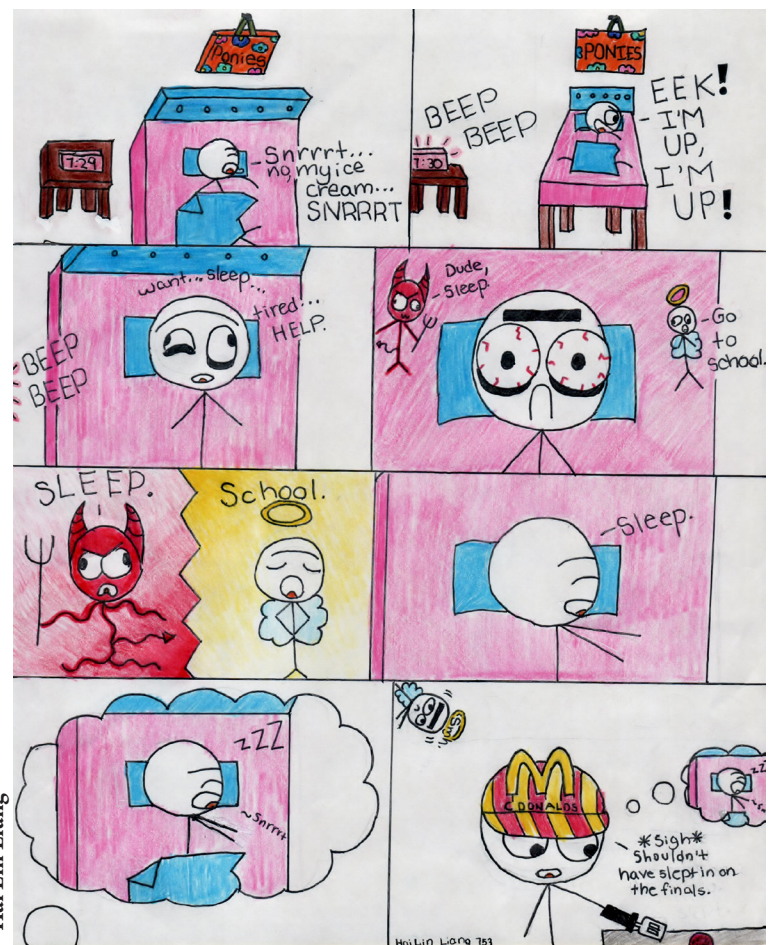
Mr. Ian, Head Cook

What was your worst cooking disaster?

"I undercooked sliders and kids brought them back, and they were ice cold. It was embarrassing."



Photographers: Michelle Kozinets, Richard Romanychev, Sasha Simovonik, Kimberly Saco, Tamar Chul, Danielle Elterman, Gregory Roitbourd



Hai Lin Liang

Hai Lin Liang 783



Sultan Zafar

Sultan Zafar 812