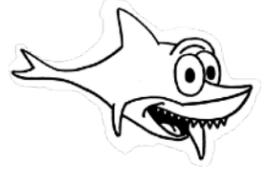




# THE TAG TIMES



## SCHOOL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

By Angel C.

Since May 4<sup>th</sup>, the whole school has had an advisory competition involving recycling of plastic bottles and cans. It was started by Ms. Trujillo's advisory because they felt that the recycling bins weren't used properly and responsibly.



The goal is to encourage students and teachers to think about what they were doing with the bottles and cans that they drink from and do something smart other than just throw them away.

The competition not only benefits the winning advisory, but it also benefits the environment and homeless people around the world. Recycled plastic bottles are used to build houses for homeless people resulting in less trash in places like the Pacific Ocean.

The competition will end June 1<sup>st</sup> and the winning advisory will have an amazing breakfast with Ms. Trujillo's advisory, paid for with the money gathered from the bottles and cans. Any extra money will be given to the food bank, *Open Pantry*, as a way to help our community.

Currently there are two advisories who are battling it out trying to get to the #1 spot. These two advisories are Mr. Campbell (Math teacher) and Mr. Hurst.

Don't forget to bring in as many bottles and cans as possible and you might be able to get ahead of both advisories.



## GRADE 6 ELA GRIT UNIT

By Michelle T.

To encounter obstacles to success means to go through many challenges when you are trying to succeed. You need to fail to succeed in life. What do you tend to do when you encounter obstacles while on the way to success?

In sixth grade we are learning about the idea of "grit." Grit is when we can succeed without just talent.

There are many types of grit. For example, there is Academic Grit, Emotional Grit, Wellness/health Grit, Extracurricular Grit, and Social/Relationship Grit. There are many different types of ways to get through obstacles depending on these types and in different scenarios.



For example, having Academic grit could be you finish your school related task, coming to school every day because you

know you need to, always being positive even though you don't like school. For teachers, this can help the kid with low academic grit. One example is to help them and pay more attention on them then the kids that has high academic grit.

Then there is Emotional grit and Social grit. What if the emotions of your past experiences continued to secretly control your life today? What if these feelings keep you from trusting and working with other people? Lots of us have dealt with emotional pain at some point in our lives and are still carrying this emotional stress with us. Teachers can help the kid with low Emotional grit - kids who's negative emotions and the thoughts and beliefs that go along with them might make them give up more easily. This is something for teachers to be aware of, which is why helping them when they hit obstacles to their goals can be good

When you are trying to have more grit on Health and Wellness, then you must have a long-term goal like eating healthy or going to the gym every day. To do this you must stick with the long-term idea/goal. Also try every day. This also has to do with the Extracurricular grit because once you stick with something for a long time, you need to practice and feel like it is worth your time. Those are some obstacles you go through when you want to succeed. And to succeed you need to have grit and grit can impact your whole life!

Hi there!

My name is BRUCE. I was drawn by one of your classmates in the LINKS program named Adelsis. You'll be seeing a lot more of me since I am the new face of THE TAG TIMES!

See you around!

## WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LIFE?

By Ta'Naya M.

So many people over the years have asked me, "What's it like to be blind?" Well here's your answer, but to truly understand, I'll need to start from the beginning.

So, this bazaar life of mine began from the very young age of one and a half years old. At the age of one, my mom knew something was wrong with my eyes because she said, "They used to glow like a cat's eyes." I know weird right? But it was true because I wasn't born blind or with my eyes glowing. So she took me to *Mass Eye and Ear*.



There they diagnosed me with Retinoblastoma. Retinoblastoma is a cancer that starts in the back of the eye. I had this cancer in my right eye first, then my left. I was in and out of the hospital after that. Having the cancer spread is not good because once the cancer spreads past the optic nerve the original eyes have to be removed and prosthetics has to be put in. This is what happened to me. The good thing is, my eyes were brown like my moms and the prosthetics are brown as well.

Growing up blind was not easy. I got out of the hospital officially in 2007, but I wasn't the same. By the time I was 3 years old, I had already experienced a lot more than other kids my age. Also at this age, a bomb was dropped on me by my mother: "Your prone to more cancer coming back now," she told me. See, that day I was curious about my cancer so she told me that. However, from that day on I've always wondered, does that mean the cancer will come back? But it hasn't yet so I'll fight till that day day comes, if ever!

Now I was already learning to read and write braille. To learn to write braille you need to learn to read it at the same time or it won't make sense. I was learning about braille at Trinity Preschool. They taught me with tennis balls and muffin tins to represent the dots you'll need to read braille. Each letter or number is a certain



shape and number of keys you push down at the same time on a brailier.

A brailier is a large and heavy metal machine that a paper would go into and that braille would come out on. I used a brailier from Preschool to First grade at ELS school. In first grade I met Jimmy another kid who's blind now and Ashley a sighted child. With meeting Jimmy came meeting Miss Sullivan, Jimmy's Para. Also Miss Santana, who was my Para at the time, Miss McNamara, Jimmy and I's mobility teacher, and Miss Racot, the vision teacher who use to help Jimmy and I.



I also began learning how to use a real cane like the red and white ones. Miss Mac taught me how and she is still teaching me today. Before that I was using a rectangular that I pushed in front of me, which was for beginners. The red and white cane looks like a stick and I move it in front of me alternating with my feet.

I moved to Georgia not long after that huge tornado a few years ago. I stayed there from second grade to half of six grade. In all that time I have been bullied by other students because of my disability. The way they'd bully me was by doing things like putting plastic Ketchup packets in my food or trying to walk me into walls. Yes, trying.

Boy, were they shocked when I would turn before it happened or my cane could hit the wall! I can do this because of something similar to echolocation. This is where when you're close to a wall or door or something tall and solid, the noise around you sort of closes in or gets blocked off on the side the wall's on. If there's no noise, then it would feel like something's looming over you. And when there's an open space, you can sort of feel the opening and head that way.

Anyway I was still using a brailier back then, but in sixth grade I started learning how to use an Apex. The apex is a advanced version of the brailier except its sort of part computer, part brailier. Instead, of the vision teachers or paras writing the print underneath the brail. The apex will just print out the work from a printer. It has other cool features, but that's for another time!



I experienced some positive things while living in Georgia too like my first away camp and a program called CVI. At CVI I would learn how to cook and clean, defend myself, arts and piano, exercise, and how to use a computer. CVI has helped me learn how to socialize with people and how to be independent. Also at CVI I met a staff and a student with the same diagnoses as mine.

After Georgia, I moved back to the place I was born: Springfield Massachusetts. Here I continued sixth grade at Chestnut TAG where I was reunited with Jimmy and Ashley and made new friends like Imanni, Jacob, Emily, everyone in my advisory and new students who came later like Dominic, Gwen and others. My new Para and lady that everyone loves is Miss Burnett. I am now in eighth grade and 14 years old. So I can finally explain what's it like to be blind. To find this out, read the following poem:

*People ask me can I see darkness. I tell them I can't because I don't know what darkness is.*

*People ask me do I see black. I tell them I do not see black because I never saw white.*

*Just like I can't see dark, because I never saw light.*

*What I do see is nothing. It's a void of no colors, no race.*

*But could I see in the first place? Yes, I could see before, but no more.*

*Never will I see the sun again. Never will I see my brothers or father or mother again.*

*Never will I see the pretty blue of the sky. Never will I see another bird fly.*

*Never will I see the sunrise or the sunshine. I'll never see the sunset, not the beautiful reds and yellows of the sky when the sun sets again.*

*I'll never see these things because I am blind. I'm blind and leaving my memories behind.*

*The older I get, the more the memories fade, which is why I fret.*

*I don't want to forget. Forget the people that I live with or slept next to for years. Forgetting their faces was one of my biggest fears.*

*And those fears are coming true, I am sorry I do not remember you.*

*For I am blind, and I cannot help but leave those memories behind.*

I know a void of nothingness is hard for you sighted people to see, just like seeing colors is now hard for me. So, don't ask me if I'll ever take the chance to see again because the answer is no. Imagine learning what colors are which and what letters are which over again or for the first time. Can I write print letters? Yes, but only uppercase and certain lowercase ones but not all lowercase like I can with uppercase letters. I know how to write my name in cursive and that's thanks to Miss Eda.

Thank you to every teacher who has helped me expand my knowledge throughout middle school. Thank you, friends who have always been there for me. I'll see you, or more like hear you, around later!

## 6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP: ROPES COURSE

By Josiah J.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Field Trip was an astonishing visit to one of the most amazing places i've ever been to: Adventure Park in Storrs, CT. This was an exciting event because there were a lot of people that had fun. Although I feared the ziplining and pretty much everything else, it was still a fun experience. In this article I am going to write about this field trip and things that happened on it.

Before we left, we all gathered in the school cafeteria and divided into groups. After that we got on the bus for a long bus ride to get there. The ride wasn't bad, in fact there was an unusual silence the made the bus ride very quick, I'd assume that it would be very loud because it was the first and only field trip the 6<sup>th</sup> grade had all year, but boy was I wrong.

When we got there, I had been one of three chosen to carry the lunch bags to the tables, the other two having been Dominic and Vinh. It was really a struggle, but eventually we reached the table where we were ready to start our day with the rest of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

First, we all lined up to use the bathroom, and soon we were ready to start the fun. My group waited until the others put on their harnesses. Soon we put our harnesses on and learned how to climb and zipline and stuff. The harnesses kept people from falling off the courses.

After we finished we were able to go and do the courses which were very scary, I didn't go on any courses because I am afraid of heights, so I went and did the ones 2ft from the ground and those still gave me heart attacks, but I did them. Anyways, I had a way better time watching as people completed the courses because it didn't put my life at risk, so I was fine.

After that, we ate lunch which was somewhat good. It contained Cheezits, a sandwich, fruit and a water. After that, we went on the bus ride and had a way louder time back. It wasn't bad, it was just people talking about the trip to their friends. Anyways, it was a great field trip and I hope it becomes a tradition for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to come!



## 7TH GRADE FIELD TRIP: WHALE WATCH

By Amy Z.

Hi! My name is Amy. I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and I went on the whale watch field trip. Although the bus trip to get to Boston was long, it was worth it.

It was my first time on a boat, so, I was really scared, but it wasn't that bad. We had to take Dramamine if we didn't want to get sea sick. A lot of people puked. I didn't though. I loved going up and down on the waves. It got cold when we were going fast. But it was fun.

At first, we didn't really see any whales, but, after a while we saw a lot of them. One of the highlights was when a whale breached for us. It was cool and a rare sight. We even

saw a mother and its baby. We also saw a lot of whales coming to the surface to breathe.

After a while I was tired, so, I went back into the cabin. I slept for a while. I also ate a little bit. The way home wasn't that interesting. I was playing games on the bus ride home.

Here is a couple other 7<sup>th</sup> grader's experiences on the whale watch:

**Leverett H.** It was very windy, pretty chilly. But, overall very fun.

**Natalie T.** It was really nice and calming. But, until I walked down the halls and saw people puking and dead. (Not literally) The main reason why was because they ate mad junk food and for some of them it didn't work at all. But we saw a lot of rare events. We saw a whale breaching.



## FINAL COMMUNITY MEETING

By Lupita G.

Last week at Chestnut TAG we had our last all-school community meeting. We talked about how students have been doing a very good in school and how some students have been working harder than ever to get their grades up. Some students were rewarded because they have grown a lot since the beginning of the year.

One award we gave was the *Math Growth Award*. This student grew so much over the years and got better test after test. The other awards were about how a student kept on trying hard and worked hard to a student that one on of those was a sixth grade named Benni who won the *MAP Improvement Award* and another student Jo won that too.

There was also an award for different reasons, one reason

was the ELA award for a student named Thalia that won an award because she asked her teacher how she can improve her grade and she did learn how write better to .

At the end of the Chestnut TAG meeting we also had a trivia game between the teachers who were questioned about student facts. The teachers were Axtell, Clarke, Malinoski, and Woody.

In this meeting we had a lot of fun because we celebrated how eight graders are going to move along to the next chapter, but it was also about how the principals and teacher were showing their appreciation of students growth.

## SPRING BAND CONCERT

By Louis C.

At Chestnut TAG there were two band concerts this May. On May 17<sup>th</sup>. there was one during the school day and one after school at 6:00 pm. Mostly everyone was there besides one kid in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was a good show at both concerts.

For the first concert during the day, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band, 7<sup>th</sup> grade band, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and a band called "Strings" were in the concert. All bands played 3 different pieces except Strings who played only one piece. The order was Strings, then 7<sup>th</sup> grade Beginner Band, then 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then 7<sup>th</sup> grade, then 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The concert during the day was for TAG students. Every class during sixth period went to it. Every band played very well and the audience was also really good. For the concert after school there were a lot of parents and other students supporting our bands. It was a really good show and performance.



## Why Is Everyone Talking About Fortnite?

By Allen W.

Fortnite is so popular because it is the best free game on any console, so you don't have to buy the game you can just download it. Also, there are two modes you can play with: one is *Save the World* and the other one is *Battle Royal*.

People like it because it beats PUBG because of the building and the shooting. When Fortnite Battle Royal came out people were playing it like it was PUBG, but it is nothing like it because later in the game you can try to knock down peoples' bases and eliminate people to get the victory royal.

You can play with your friends and be a duo or squad. There are more game categories you can play, but it changes every few weeks. People also like it because after that victory royal you and your friends get, you can talk about it the next day in school.



## SANTA FE SCHOOL SHOOTING

By Lupita G.

Last month, a school called Santa Fe High School in Texas was attacked. All the students became victims of another mass school shooting. On Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Santa Fe High School had thought that their day was going to be like any other day, but what they didn't know was that one of their fellow students was going to shoot the school.

It all started at eight in the morning when the student opened fired in an art class and so police were called by multiple students. Ten people were confirmed dead: eight students and two teachers. At this time Dimitrios Pagourtzis is a seventeen-year-old boy that has been taken into custody. People say that Dimitrios showed some signs of violence, but they school did not pay that much attention to the signs. Police soon found the suspect's notebook and computer that confirmed that he was planning to shoot the school. But in his plan it stated that he was about to kill himself.

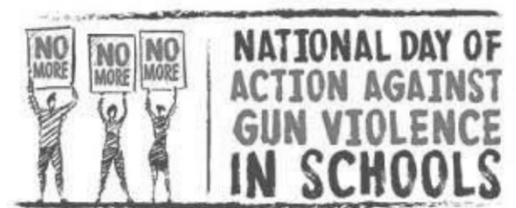
The New York Times reported that he did this because of some bullying in the school by some teacher for him saying that he smells bad. But the suspect kept it to himself. That following week he posted a t-shirt saying I'm born to kill. Which was some sign that nobody payed attention to. Police also say that he has been planning this for a while now because once they found he notebook and computer they looked through it and it had all his plans for the shooting.

## HOW CAN WE PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS ?

By Josiah J.

As you know, there have been several mass shootings in 2018. For example, the Florida shooting, the Texas shooting, and the California shooting to name a few. These are school shooting that happened in 2018, and it keeps on happening.

As this keeps happening, a big question might pop up and that is "How should we prevent mass school shootings?" So, I am going to interview some 6<sup>th</sup> grade children on how they should prevent mass shootings, but first I am going to tell you mine.



In my opinion I think school shootings should be prevented by having at least 2 guards in every school keeping us safe. In our school, unfortunately we only have one, but he is a very good one. His name is Officer Matos, you might know him, and if you do you probably know he is a very good guard and I'd like to give him a huge thanks. Anyways, in my opinion we should have 2 guards in every school to prevent these school shootings from happening. Now here is what some other students think:

**Nevaeh S.** I feel we can prevent school shootings by increasing the security at school and increasing the security checks in school. I believe that if America uses my idea to prevent future mass



*school shootings, the possibilities of there being another shooting is less likely.*

**Christopher B.** *I think that we should prevent future mass shootings by having guards outside and inside schools at all times during the school day. The guards should also be checking all students' backpacks to see if they have any lethal weapons.*

**Bennielyze N.** *I think we can prevent schools shootings by talking to people and not taking the blame for it on the school and just talk to an adult if we are having problems.*

## WOULD YOU FEEL SAFER WITH ARMED GUARDS?

By Azriel K.

I feel safe with armed guards patrolling my school. One reason why I feel safe about that is because I know I can trust them to keep the school safe. I also know that they won't hurt anyone unless they need to. I also feel safe with them because so far, every guard or officer I have met did not seem dangerous and they were very kind.

Another reason why I feel safe with guards patrolling my schools is because I know a guard and officer's job is to make sure people are safe and as long as I know that and as long as they do their job I'm okay with them. Everyone has their own opinions though and that's alright. Like you might not feel comfortable or safe with guards patrolling the school or you might feel safe.

## A \$37 Million Fire?!

By Jayla M.

Ahh, a nice day for bringing out the fireworks and having fun with friends... until you start a FIRE THAT COSTS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS! This is the exact thing that happened to a fifteen- year old boy.

How Did This Happen?

On September 2, 2017, a teen threw lit fireworks into a canyon. And at the bottom of this canyon, was where a forest was located. The fire was spreading for 75 square miles There were some hikers that got injured or trapped in the fire while hiking. This costed a fortune (as you can probably imagine).

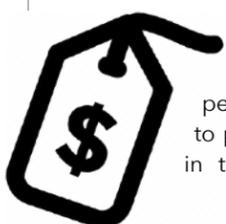


How Much Damage Was Caused

Like I previously stated, the fire spread for 75 square miles. This forest fire was caused by two little fireworks, but sometimes a little is a lot. Anyway, this fire destroyed buildings, homes, and lives. The fire burned popular tourist attractions located in the wilderness. He also had to write over 150 apology notes!

Consequences

Based on the title, you can already guess what the first punishment is. However, the other punishments are not AS bad. First, he needs to comply, complete probation, and on top of that, he must commit no crimes. After doing this for TEN YEARS his payments would be lifted (by the way, he would be 25 by this time). Also, he got so much anger from so many people, that the authorities need to protect him! What would you do in this situation? In my opinion I



agree that these should be the consequences. However, I'd rather do community service than pay 37 million dollars (the actual price was \$36,618,330.24!).

What Was His Point Of View?

The teen claims to have thrown one firework and it exploded whilst in the air, and then he threw a second one that ignited plants when it hit the ground. He also pleaded guilty in February. It also caused a highway to be evacuated and shutdown.

Websites: [www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com), [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)

# Deadly Volcano in Hawaii

By Cameran B.

The Hawaii eruption was a tragic moment for everyone that lived in Hawaii. Everyone had to evacuate their houses. They probably didn't have time to grab meds if they needed it because the ballistic magma was coming quickly. It burned everything that was in its path. After the eruption, the island turned into one huge igneous rock floating in the ocean. Since the island was practically a rock, there was no life or shelter. Everyone must have been devastated because they had to leave their homeland and everything that they owned on the island. Some people might have died because of the eruption. They could have either gotten killed because their house fell on top of them or they burned cause of the lava.

## Top 4 Deadliest Volcanoes of All Time

By Mayno P.

In this article as you guys now I am going to talk about the five deadliest volcanic eruptions in the world. The first on I am going to talk about is the eruption on mount Pelee in 1902 in the Caribbean. The impact nearly killed 30,000 people which is a pretty big number but wait to see some others. As well as destroying the city St. Pierre, then after a few seconds a cloud of gas appeared and was around 3,000 ° F and the ocean was in a heat were it can boil that is a really bad eruption because there was no escape.

The next volcanic disaster is Krakatoa which was in Indonesia in 1883. The average amount to people who died in this horror was 36,000 humans. When it exploded it was the power of 200 TNT. After a few other things the volcano made a tsunami that was nearly 100 feet tall. And the cloud reached up to 15 miles up and affected the temperature of space close to earth.

The next one is mount Tambora in 1815 in Indonesia. The number of lives that got lost was 90,000 people. Some say that it almost blowup the top. It was way power full then the last one. The clouds raised up to 25

miles up. This made the earth snow of June which was then called "the year without a summer."

The next and most powerful of all is Lika 1783 in the country Iceland. The impact cause millions of deaths. In the video it only said, "about (got info from a video) several millions of deaths" The eruption was the longest it was 8 months and the gas clouds got up to 10 miles up. And created a toxic chemical that I saw that went all around the world. A lot of people got lost in ships because of the toxic gaze. And the coldest winter for North America.

# WHAT MONTH IS THIS?

## NATIONAL OCEANS MONTH

By Ella S.

This month, Our president Donald J. Trump and former president Brock Obama has decided it's National Oceans Month to celebrate our oceans and their resources. During June, people across America will be finding ways to help our oceans and the animals\plants living in them. The ocean effects the weather and climate everywhere. The oceans cover 71% of the Earth and it is very important to keep pollutant out of them. A few things to do to help is recycle and use less energy. If you recycle it will reduce the amount of trash in the ocean. The amount of environmental damage in the U.S costs around 13 billion dollars. Some animals in the ocean are endangered due to pollutant.



Something you could do is pick up trash that you see where ever you go. Try not to waste water. For example, when you are brushing your teeth, don't leave the water on when you're in the middle of brushing your teeth.

Some beach safety: If you go to the beach, look for flags with color that is either green, yellow or red. Green means calm currants. Yellow means rough currants. Red means dangerous currants. Be aware of crabs and jellyfish when walking along the shore because they can harm you. This June, try your best to help our oceans and all animals living in them.

## NATIONAL GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

By Bennie N.

National great outdoors month once started out as a week when president Clinton was around in 1998. But over the years it grew under trump and Obama and the other presidents. One of many reasons why we go outside it is because then we people can explore the outside and encourage each other to take risks and get a healthy life style. You can have lots of fun with your family and to learn about the great outdoors. To celebrate the great outdoors month just simply go outside and enjoy the nature.



In my opinion I think that celebrating great outdoors day could be fun for all. I think even if you don't have a park close to where you live I think just go on a walk with the family. But the most important part is to have in any way you want. June is just to have fun and get time to spend either your family one way or another. It really doesn't matter. Just get outside and be one with the wilderness. Remember just have fun and wear lots of sunblock.

## LGBTQ+ MONTH

By Gabby I.

LGBTQ+, most of you who are reading this probably don't even know what it stands for right? Well I'll tell you it stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi sexual, Transgender, and Queer.

There are many different events for people who classify as LGBTQ+. Like in October of 1994 they officially made a LGBT History Month (USA). And in February of 2005 they made a LGBT History Month (UK). Also, on October 11,1988 they made National Coming Out Day. But then it came up to every June. Yep you guessed it LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Why is it June? When was it started? I know questions your all asking well there is answers. One website said this "The month of **June** was chosen for LGBTQ+ Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of **June** 1969. As a result, many pride events are held during this month to recognize the impact LGBTQ+ people have had in the world."

Everyone is different in many ways and we even have a support group ran by Ms.Woody

## FATHERS' DAY

By Thalia W.

Have you ever wanted to buy your dad a gift other than his birthday or on Christmas? Then Father's Day would be the perfect time to do that. Father's Day is always the third Sunday in

June, this is a day where fathers can be particularly honored by their children, especially with using cards or gifts. There are many things you can do to make your fathers, Father Day enjoyable. Here are five things that you can do to make your Father's Day pleasant for your father.

One thing you can do is eliminate his pressure, like don't try to go all out and make it the "perfect day". Because obviously your dad seeing you hassle to make it a perfect day would give him stress. So, the one thing you can do is just let him relax on Father's Day.

Another thing you can do is spend time with your dad. Enjoy some time with him as a relative too. Since it's too easy to get distracted by doing shores or taking a quick walk to stores you can just take your dad as well and ask questions about how he's doing.

You can also just focus on him. For example, don't plan out everything you're going to do that based on what you think he likes or what you like. Let your father plan out what he wants to do, let him pick out what gifts he wants and if he wants a card or not.

Something else you can do which is the easiest one is to just appreciate him for how hard he works. Write him a poem on how much you love him, write a thank you card and list all the wonderful things he's done to support you, and you can even make a short video of you and your family appreciating all the good things he does to your family.

And finally, you can make your dad a big dinner, so he can feel appreciated. By making a big dinner and spending probably hours of cooking your father will feel really honored. He will feel appreciated because parents seem to really enjoy when their children spend hours trying to make them happy knowing their children could have been doing homework, playing video games, watching television, or playing on their phones or other electronics. Those are all the things that you can do for your father to feel appreciated on Father's Day.

## STUDENT OPINIONS

### TOO DISTRACTED BY TECHNOLOGY?

By Daniela R.

Are you getting distracted by technology? What do you think? Most people think students are learning less because they are getting distracted by technology. However, some people think that students are not getting distracted by technology. "The New York Times" states, "There is a widespread belief among teachers that students' constant use of digital technology is hampering their attention spans and ability to persevere in the face of challenging tasks, according to two surveys of teachers being released on Thursday." This is calming that students are getting distracted by technology.

However, "Connected Principles" states "Students report regularly that what engages them most in



learning is doing projects employing technology, far more than listening to lectures. (this is clear in the High School Survey of Student Engagement, HSSSE). Clearly this is how young professionals (physicians, lawyers, engineers, academics, managers) spend their time: using computers to gather information, communicate and collaborate with others, and publish and post their answers, to tackle meaningful problems.". This claims that they think students are not getting distracted by technology, and that technology helps the students out.

I personally think that technology does distracted us students. However, I do think it helps us to. I say this because some students are on their phone is the middle of class playing games, or texting. However, I feel like technology helps us out in many ways. One reason I think this is because when we must do a work sheet, or an essay, music helps us out. Or when we get stuck in a math problem a calculator helps us out. Another way technology helps us out is if were stuck on a word we don't know, we can search it up. This concludes that I'm on both sides of this situation.



### SHOULD PARENTS LET THEIR KIDS PLAY FOOTBALL?

By Jomairys

From 1888 to today football has always seemed like a fun and rough sport to play. It was a great way to get kids and adults to get outside and play. But this game can get very dangerous very fast for kids and adults.



But first, I'm going to be writing about why kids should be able to play football. Number one, I think kids should play football because it's a good way to exercise and good for a kid to get off electronics, stay in shape and at the same time have fun playing this sport. Number two, another reason why kids should play football is because it can also help a kid learn and experience what teamwork looks like. And it can also build trust with the child's teammates by playing this sport. And my last reason why I think kids should play football is because kids can get a scholarship for a collage or the child might be the next NFL player. Okay, now that I gave reasons why you should play football I'm now going to give reasons why kids shouldn't.

The most common injury that a kid can get from playing football is a knee injury, even though you might fracture or break your bones located in the knee area, this can also lead to possibly snapping your ligaments apart. Which can then dislocate or damage your tissue which can also lead to your bones taking a longer time to grow back or possibly not growing back at all. The 2nd most common injury that can happen while playing football is having a concussion. And at first concussions are not as life threatening as let's say breaking a bone for example, but honestly, you'd be surprised at what type of concussions you can get while playing football.

Like for one you can get brain damage. And this is the third most common injury you can get, and this is a very bad injury because you can get a heat stroke and possibly die from getting it.

And finally, by reading this opinion writing I think that kids should play football, but I think they should be super careful and smart about every move.

## SHOULD WE HAVE A LONGER SCHOOL YEAR?

By Niesha G.

So is longer school good or bad. Well there is bad benefits and good benefits like vacations you still have the weekends off, but you have long vacations. Like the 8-week vacation that runs through Thanksgiving then through all of December then it still goes on about two thirds of January. Some year-round schools have half off summer vacation all of summer vacation or no summer vacation.

Remembering

So, when you have a year-round school you remember more of what you've learned in the past grade because of your summer break like in a traditional school you have about 60 days of summer vacation but in year-round schools can have about 30 days max

Interviews

The question is do you rather be in a year-round school or be in a traditional school. From Amor J. and his answer, " A year-round school" and why," because we would have more vacations. Now here is what Jayla M., A regular school," and why, " Because the breaks aren't too soon or to late what I mean is that there spaced to have a break and a cool down.

What I think

Personally, I think that Year-round schools are better, the reason why is because it's a balanced out and you remember more of what you've did, and it can benefit when you have the first week school or the first month and you have more vacations. You've had just read my amazing article about year-round school hopefully I've changed you mind about year-round schools.

## SHOULD STUDENTS GRADE TEACHERS?

By Destiny A.

Now, everyone who is reading this drop your phone and read what I have to say because this is important. Okay, maybe it's not that important but whatever. To be fair here grading teachers isn't the best thing. Let me explain, so first if us students could grade our teachers then we would honestly just complain. Don't say it isn't true because it is. For our favorite teacher we will call them great say don't fire them and call it a day. When it come to a teacher that mainly everyone doesn't like then we will write, this teacher sucks get rid of them they give too much work they are mean, and they gave me an F (F for failure because that what we are I guess).

That's exactly what most of the students would write and come on if you get an F just work harder it's not that hard to keep your grades up. Now I'm being real with you all here I understand if you're getting a bad grade. What really sucks the most is that you can't blame your teachers right, no, just me, okay then well homework does grind my gear's, so I understand. I get it if a teacher really is the worst and isn't good or great at their job, but we should just leave that to the principles. So, to cut short what I'm trying to say is that I think that students shouldn't be able to grade their teachers

## DO BYSTANDERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION?

By Ianas G.

Today I am talking about " Do Bystanders Have a Responsibility To Intervene When There Is Trouble.

Bystanders are the people that stand around not offering any help to a person is need of help. Mostly those people are the ones who should be helping because If a person is getting bullied why would you be a bystander and just sit and watch. So, when bystanders are watching the act they need to intervene because a kid could be getting hurt and they should step in to help.

Also, what if someone was to be cold and hungry laying on the floor some people would be just walking past the person and maybe a person would help but what I say is that all people should help. Plus, what if someone was robbing a store or a bank what you could do is let someone know or call the police. Some ideas to help a person instead of sitting there like a statue is how you could get the nearest teacher, or step in and tell the person to back off.

Here are some things people think that we should step in and help those in trouble. But, some people think maybe I should get involved in this because I don't want to get into trouble. What I think is that we should all put an end to bystanding.

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD COMMERCIAL?

By Fernando B.

What people think about commercials and what makes them good?

People think that Making a good commercial should bring people's attention. People also say it must have great content for people. Other people think that making a good commercial should be funny and not sad for people. If it is sad for people, then they wouldn't watch it and would not get that much attention. Another type of commercial that people like is horror commercials because it is interesting, and it makes them feel scared. People like commercials that say the truth and not lie because they wouldn't want to get scammed by other people and lose money for something that is not worth it.

What I think Makes a good commercial?

I think that making a good commercial should be funny and not boring. Another thing that I think makes a good commercial is something that is not sad for people to watch. Making a good commercial should be interesting for people. And, good commercials should be scary for people to watch because they are scary and interesting, and some might be funny.

## SHOULD CELEBRITY PRIVATE LIVES BE OFF-LIMITS?

By Nevaeh S.

In my opinion I think that the lives of famous people should be off limits when they are with family or doing something private with their husband or wife. I believe this because I feel that if famous people want privacy when they are at a private place or when they are with family. I know this because the article says, " News broke last week that paparazzi photographs of Kate Middleton, wife of Britain's Prince William, had been taken while she sunbathed topless at a private villa in France. The photos, which appeared in tabloids in France, Ireland and Italy, appear to have been taken with a long lens camera." This quote shows that someone is very brave and bold and is taking pictures of famous people topless while they were spending alone time trying to get away from the camera for a little while and the princess clearly felt violated because someone wanted to expose her body for the world to see.

If I was put into Kate's shoes I would feel embarrassed and I would not want to show my face in public again until it was all cleared up. If I was Kate I would be really upset to the point where I would press charges once I found out who took the picture. I feel like people these days are so crazy for money, views and popularity. I have a question for you to answer. What would you have done if you were put in Kate's shoes?

Another student disagrees with me. Gabby I. thinks that celebrity's lives shouldn't be restricted. Here is what she said, " I don't think celebrity's lives should be restricted because if they didn't want photos like this one taken they should be more careful. But what we all seem to forget is they are just regular human beings just like us they just have a lot of money or did something like sing."

**Source:** <https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/17/should-the-private-lives-of-famous-people-be-off-limits/>

## SHOULD STUDENT IDS HAVE TRACKING DEVICES?

By Amor J.

First of all why are we even thinking about putting tracking devices in student's ID cards., I think more than half of the students would not like tracking devices in their IDs. The reason I said this is because there is a wall, a famous wall it's called the Great Wall of China, so that wall blocks students personal life from there school life, but if you but a tracking device that breaks the wall, to little pieces.

Kids these days care about their privacy and they usually like to keep their school life and home life completely apart. Also, kids might think it's creepy, especially the older ones, since they are more mature than the younger students, most might call it stalking, and find it very uncomfortable. You are probably like it's just tracking, what if I take my tag off, but what if you forget to take it off. Think about this the tracker or administer knows everywhere you went and were you are now!

I know some people might think it is a good idea. The reason some people might think it's a good idea to have tracking devices in ID's because you can never lose it., all you must do is ask the teacher to track it. Also, no one can ever steal your ID, and if they do you could just track them. I think the people who don't mind having a tracking in their ID's, don't mind the teachers and principals knowing where they are, no offense, to you people who don't mind their teachers knowing where they are. But I think the schools will have a rule to only use the tracking devices in school.

Well, I'm not sure where I stand in all of this. I 100 percent do not like the tracking, it kind of freaks me out, but I understand why people might like the tracking devices, like you can't ever lose it, that's awesome, I lose almost everything. I also think it won't teach students how to be responsible. Those my thoughts and I'm going to end the article now.

## SHOULD GRAFFITI BE CONSIDERED ART?

By Josh Z.

Do you think that Graffiti should be considered art. If you do, then I'm going to ask you some questions about it and tell you my opinion. I said yes graffiti should be considered art because right now in the world people are vandalizing things and the cops only take it as them doing what they want when they want.

What Is Graffiti?

If you don't know what graffiti is then I will tell you in this paragraph. Graffiti is the art that you see on the side of buildings or on the side of the road. Also, graffiti or vandalism is something that you should not do when you get angry at something. Last if you are still confused about what graffiti is here is a short description, "It's something you should not do."

My opinion about Graffiti.

One reason that graffiti should be considered art is that some people that do it have no other ways to express their feelings, so they do it in art. Another reason that graffiti should be considered art is that the people that do it finish their sentence saying things like, "I know what I like." Or other things like, "I know it when I see it." For a very long time saying something that tells you the same thing. Another thing about graffiti is some people think that certain pictures of graffiti inspired kids to do art and become a better artist. Others think that graffiti is just an easy way to look for trouble. The last way that I think that graffiti should be considered art is because it could also be another way for people to express their thoughts or to show you something that would inspire you to do art.

Why Graffiti shouldn't be art. (Other opinion's)

In this paragraph I'm going to tell you why graffiti should not be considered art. One reason that graffiti should not be considered art is graffiti is another word for vandalism. Also, vandalizing things that you don't own is against the law. For vandalizing another person's property will give you at most a 3 to 5-year jail sentence. The next reason that graffiti shouldn't be considered art is some things that people do in vandalism is very inappropriate. It also gives children bad thoughts of stuff they should not know. The last reason that graffiti shouldn't be considered art is that it is another way of using your anger on things that are not yours.

## DO PEOPLE COMPLAIN TOO MUCH?

By Elizabeth P.

I think I would be better to have less complaining from other people in my life for a variety of reasons. Most of the time, when people complain around me, it has to do with small, unimportant things like how teachers send out their homework or how my parents complain over their jobs. Honestly, I complain sometimes, but I keep it to myself at least. I believe the reason that people do not take matters into their own hands is the possibility that they cannot change the situation completely, so they just moan and complain over things they cannot change. I think people complain more than they should. I think I complain most about being hungry or HW/chores. I would love to have less complaining in my life because then I wouldn't get annoyed with myself or feel like I'm annoying others with my complaining. It is not that complaining is bad, it's just that many people whine about idiotic things, or complain about the same general topic over and over. When I hear people complain at school it is always about small thing like boys, or she did this, and this person took this of mine. People always complain about how people are in their business when that person is the one that told the other person that. In my perspective I think that there should be less complaining over small things and keeping them to themselves.

## DO GOOGLE GLASSES VIOLATE PRIVACY?

By Milad

What are google glasses? Google glasses are a pair of eyeglasses; it shows you a small screen that hangs just out of your direct line of vision and brings up your e-mail, calls and other notifications. There are different ways to operate Glass. You can use voice commands for Glass by adding the phrase "Okay, Glass" to the start of whatever you tell it to do launch an app, take a picture, start a call, etc.

Why don't people like Google's glasses? A lot of people think that \$1,500 plus tax is too expansive of a price for a pair of glasses. People don't like the idea of someone spying on them

with the glasses. Another reason why people don't like google glasses is because the ability of the device to record video and take pictures is the reason why people go against it.

Why people like Google's glasses? The main reason why people like Google's glasses is because it has all these cool things you can do.

In my opinion I think that I agree with the people that don't like Google's glasses because you can call, text, watch, etc. on your phones there is no reason for you to wear a headset. I also don't like the idea of people knowing all your information.

What do you think about Google's glasses?

## CREATIVE COLUMN

### BLOODY SHOWER

By Samantha J.

Lillian just texted me to come to the bathroom quick and it is weird. She said she was ready for something when she had said she was going to the bathroom. I was confused because everyone was whispering where I could hear they said the surprise wasn't till later. So, I ran upstairs and into the bathroom. She was dead and there was someone right above her looking down. I ran but they came after me. There was a knife in their hand and I started to scream. My friends ran up but looked around and saw that Lillian and Elliana were both dead they looked at me and ran away. I screamed and screamed for them to come back but they never did. I looked and saw the face of my ex and he looked like he was in pain. I started to cry he looked confused but that only made me cry harder. He couldn't see that he had dropped the knife and it had fallen into my hamstring. Only when he saw it did he call an ambulance and run away. Now I try not to make friends.

### THE BOARD

By Amerie W.

Running through the woods panting. Scars on her leg every breathe she took could be her last. She paused. This wasn't were she was before. like ever teenager you want out hang out with your friends, and sometimes you do some dumb thing.

Cypher was a teenage girl. 15 to be exact. It was the day that every girl was hoping for in her life. A sweet 16. Her mom Tina, let her go on her own with her friends and sleep over since it was a Friday. After going with her friends she went to the mall with them. She started to wonder off on her own. Then there is was a Ouija board. It was so old lying there in the store. It had no price on it and no owner, so she took it. "where did you get that from" Alyssa asked. " oh, in that store over there" she exclaimed pointing to the store that she just saw. "where" Courtney asked. "Over there." She stopped."never mind" she said and they all kept walking. They were going to go to Courtney's house, but they already had everything set up at Alyssa's house and it was closer. A few hours later, after they had gotten settle down, that's when she said it. "you guys want talk to some spirit's", cypher exclaimed." Uh I'm not so sure" Courtney said with ease. "yeah sure "Alyssa said with excitement. As cypher too out the box she blew all the dust away and a dust cloud formed. "you are running through the woods" a whisper passed her ear. "did you hear

that?" She gasped. "hear what" asked Alyssa. "nothing" She mumbled. "come on let just play" asked Courtney. Four hours later after playing the game the girls we asleep. Then cypher woke from her sleep to get a glass of milk. She then heard little squeaks in the cabinet. She went to go and check what she found was no mouse but a demon who heard there calls. There the demon whispered "uoyay akemay unfay ofay emay, ownay iay hallsay akemay unfay foay ouyay". She thought she was hallucinating but it was real. With all the fear in her head, the demon grew stronger and faster. The demon was still slower than cypher but not stronger. As she fell and tripped, she gained more and more scars appeared. She never ran this fast in her life so she was loosing her breath. She didn't stop to think. But what about her mom, or her friend? Running through the woods panting. Scars on her leg every breathe she took could be her last. She paused. "OWNAY UOYAY ALLSHAY IEDAY"! The demon whisper. There she laid on the ground.

## A REAL DREAM

By Maria R.

I HATE HORROR MOVIES. I don't even know how my best friend Mena got me to watch Annabelle. When she came over for a sleep over. Most of my friends are like it's not scary or I can watch it in the dark. Not me I'm the person you don't want to watch anything that has scary in it. By the time we finished with movie Mena was knocked out, but I was too scared to come out of the sheets. Eventually I got enough courage to get off my bed and turn off the TV. The moment I turned off the light a weird sound was coming from downstairs. I thought it was my imagination, so I ignored it and went to bed.

"TWINK!", the sound got louder, every time I was about to fall asleep. Eventually I got up, that's when the sound stopped. I lay down very slowly back on my pillow. "HOONNK". That sound woke me up completely. I decided to go downstairs to check the noise out, that's when I started shaking. I noticed that no one was getting up, so it must have been my imagination.

I slowly open the kitchen door, then I saw...nothing. The kitchen looked like it looks every day. Intell I turned on the light. There.Was.Blood.EVERYWHERE! It looked like someone splashed red paint everywhere. I let out a scream, but no one came. Maybe no one heard me, so I screamed louder. "AAAAAaHHHHHHhHHHH". I felt no movement. Then the strangest thing was happening, my body was moving on its own, like someone was possessing me. Then I started getting a cup of milk. Except I couldn't taste anything. I put the cup away and turned to the door.

Then I froze. My eyes were staring the palest feet ever. My head was slowly looking up. There I saw a face, the face you would never want to see. Its eye balls were entirely black. Its skin was moving, and it had the color like a bride's beautiful dress, but it wasn't beautiful it was hideous. It opened its mouth which was full of stitches and yelled at me. It screamed at me like it knew what I was thinking. It lifted this heavy looking hammer and smashed it on my head.

That's when I woke up. I sighed and got up from bed. Mena was already up. I guess he was in the bathroom because I heard a flush in my bathroom. I was relieved it was a dream. "AAAAAHHHHHHHH". " PPIIISSSHHHH". I quickly got up and ran to the bathroom. I opened the bathroom door and yelled " are you ok?". That's when I saw the same thing I saw in the Kitchen in my dream. Blood all over, and the bathtub full of blood, and body parts.

## CREEPY FEELING

By Chris B.

It was a normal day well I thought it was until that thing scared the hell out of me this is how it went. One dark night I was watching a movie i looked out the window there was a clown standing across the street I looked away then a few minutes after I saw that the person wasn't there at all. After that I kept watching my movie Another few minutes after I thought I saw a clown the same one that was in the movie IT I told myself I'm just seeing thing right now or I just need to get some sleep. So, I tried to sleep, and I did then I hear a loud bang on the front door, I go to the front door and try to see what it was, but I thought to myself why those people would try to prank me at this time at night. So, Open the door and I see a clown with a standing on the other side of the street it started running towards me and ... TBC

# TATTOOS OF TAG

Whether or not you've noticed, these tattoos have been in front of you all year! See if you can identify these tattoos and the TAG staff members who have them. They are all visible most days.



### Hello TAG Families,

This summer TAG scholars will need to complete "30 Days of Writing" to help them practice and maintain their writing skills. The "30 Day of Writing" assignment requires scholars to read a short piece of writing or view an image, then reflect by answering a series of questions. All scholars were given the assignment packet and a notebook in which to complete their written reflections. Scholars also signed a check-out list confirming that they received all necessary materials for the summer assignment. Before leaving school, all scholar did a practice lesson on how to complete this assignment. This way there should be little confusion over the summer. If any questions or concerns do come up, please reach out to the English department via email.

If your scholar loses their packet, there will be a limited supply of extras in the main office.

Enjoy summer vacation!

**Chestnut TAG ELA Department**



