February 2016

Drama Club **Festival**

Step into the mind of a teenage girl in Arlington Catholic Drama Club's Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's Drama Festival show, The Staggering Hearthreak of Jasmine Merriwether on February 8th at the Regent Theatre. Price of admission is

EmmaRose Long

The 40 minute play will also be performed at Brookline High at METG's annual Drama Festival preliminaries on February 27th, along with several other high schools' productions. METG High School Drama Festival is an annual celebration of high school theatre, where high schools from all around the region come together for an all-day play festival. Each school competes with a one-act play. At the end of the day three high schools move onto state semifinals. Arlington Catholic advanced to Semi-Finals in 2010 with the play Super-Heroine Monologues and will be competing again this year for a chance to move on. Come laugh, cry, and experience the melodrama with us!



Ostara by EmmaRose Long was submitted to the Scholastic Art Awards

Shining Light on the New Achievement Center

Gianna Seaver

I interviewed English teacher Mrs. Dever about the development and highlights of Arlington Catholic's new Achievement Center.

Gianna: Whose idea was it to initiate the new Achievement Center?

Mrs. Dever: Well, we started talking about new programs at an English department meeting. We wanted to develop more ways to support students after school. Mrs. Billings mentioned the idea of the Achievement Center to Ms. Butt. Around December of last year, Ms. Butt and I started to meet regularly with guidance and all of the heads of the departments to discuss the idea of the Arlington Catholic Achievement Center. We also worked with an Education Consultant from Arlington High School and visited academic centers at other schools. From there, we started working and brainstorming.

G: What sparked the development of the

Mrs. D: We were starting to realize that sometimes students were interested in topics that weren't talked about in class, and we thought that they might not have any other means of exploring



those interests because of AC's limited electives. We wanted to create a place where students could participate in workshops with professionals, get extra help in certain subjects, and have assistance with organization. The Achievement Center is a way for students to branch out and find ways to do better in their classes.

G: Do you feel like the Achievement Center is having a positive effect on students so far?

Mrs. D: I hope so! I think it's something totally new, so it's going to take a while for students to utilize it to its full potential. A lot of people don't about it yet, and it is definitely something that can help them become more successful in school! Continued on page 2

Arlington Catholic's Cougar Den

Allison O'Connell

Over the summer, Arlington Catholic High School renovated the gymnasium. The AC gym had not been updated since the founding of the school in 1960, over 50 years ago. Many improvements were made during the renovation. The stage, which took up space and gave the gym a smaller feel, was removed. In place of the stage, there are now a set of pop-up bleachers which provide more seating and space. The



Arthur Ingalls, Geskus Phhoto

removal of the stage has given the gym an open feel. Another noticeable difference is that there is a new floor. Because of his great service and loyalty to AC after his untimely passing, the new court was dedicated to Dr. Michael T. Foley, Class of 1968. There are no more dead-spots, and the lighter color finish helps maintain an open feel. The gym renovation is beneficial to the entire AC community, most of all Ms. Cassell and her freshman-sophomore gym classes. This renovation also inspired the reinstatement of the former gym name: "Cougar Den".

AC Participates in "Women of Science" Competition

Emily Guerriero

If you flip through your science or math textbook, it is upon rare occasion that you will find a picture giving credit to a female scientist or mathematician. That's what makes the Women of Science Competition so special. On December 19, 2015, high school girls from around Massachusetts gathered at Bedford High School for the 13th Annual Women of Science Competition. Sponsored by EMD Millipore, Thermo Fisher Scientific, the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Bedford Education Association, and Bedford Public Schools, the program encourages females to engage in the

science and mathematics fields. There are a series of events each year which involve skills in these fields, a lunch when women working in these fields come to speak, and also a final competition which tests a device which was constructed by each team weeks before the competition. Upon completion of each of these events, the points are scored and money prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place.

This year, Arlington Catholic sent seven girls to compete in the competition. These students were Nancy Huang, Valerie O'Loughlin, Fiona Slater, Heidi Santa Cruz, Margaret Gillis, Laura Caron, and Emily Guerriero with Mrs. Towle as the coach. The theme of this year's competition was Queen of the Air, and it was based upon

Ruth Law who was the first American to fly from Chicago to New York in one day. Thus, the final event of the day involved planes which we constructed over the month leading up to December 19. After completing the first three events which involved answering science and math based questions, constructing catapults, and answering trivia questions, we all anxiously gathered in the Bedford High gym where we tested our planes in front of the judges. Although neither of the two Arlington Catholic teams won first or second place in this event, we were very excited about our results. In the end one of the Arlington Catholic teams successfully took ninth place in the competition.



#Dodgeball

First Annual Sophomore Dodgeball Tournament

Angela Tartarini

Friday, November 20th was an exciting day for the sophomores of Arlington Catholic High School. Every homeroom had the chance to play dodgeball against each other in the Cougar Den. Each homeroom had a different team color. Most students loved the game and thought it was a great experience, but some students were complaining that the homeroom colors were not flattering. I interviewed Mia Raso and Victoria Blyth-

Mia told me that she is in homeroom 311 and that her homeroom color was camouflage/green. I then asked her if she thought the game was fun and she "yes, we all had a great time." Mia said the best team was the red team because they played the best and they also won.

Victoria explained to me that she is in homeroom 208, and her color was orange which she hated. She said it was a lot of fun and everyone thought so, too. Victoria thought the best team was her's because they all worked well together and they all wanted to win so that showed dedication towards the game. The dodgeball tournament was exciting and fun for the sophomores. This new tradition was a good way to bring the sophomores together.



Winning homeroom 211

Science Team **Emerges** Victorious

Laura Caron

The AC science team competed in its second meet of the year and came in first place, again. This is the first time in years the team has reached first place two months in a row. Although AC did not reach first place in any of the individual events, it earned a total of 139 points, 3.5 points above Masconomet and 4.5 points above Cape Elizabeth for the meet.

The first event was a test on diseases and emergency preparedness. The participants had to study several portions of the Center for Disease Control's website, focusing especially on natural disasters and public health emergencies. The team tied with

Beverly and Pingree for second place, earning a total of 48 points for the

The next event was a pre-build that required students to build a car powered by elastic energy. The car had to travel at least five meters (about fifteen feet) and had to come as close as possible to a certain target speed. Although the team at first struggled to make its rubber band car travel slowly enough to meet the required speed, it was successful on the day of the event and the car made it to the end of the track. This earned it seventh place, for a total of 44 points.

The final event was a chemistry test, in which students had to identify

the three-dimensional structures of molecules from general chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry. After spending several hours studying

molecular structures, the team landed in third place for a total of 47 points. The team's current seasonal total is 285.5 points, leaving it in first place out of twenty-five schools in the league. Andover (last year's victor) and Masconomet are currently tied for second place, each with 273.5 points. Cambridge Ringe and Latin, which ended last year with four more points than AC, is currently in fourth place, twenty-seven points away from first.

Science Team Places 5th!

Laura Caron

Tuesday, January 12th, the AC science team participated in its fourth meet of the year. The meet was held at Masconomet High School in Boxfield. The three events this month were an instant invention and two studying events. Overall, AC landed in 5th place for the meet, which caused the team to fall to second place for the season.

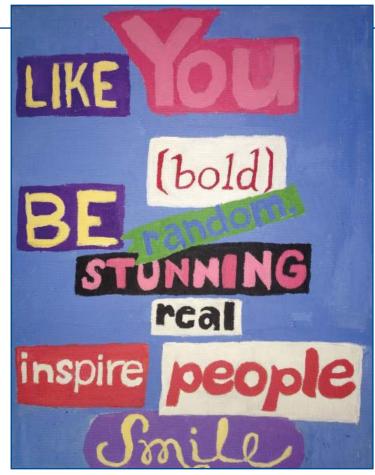
The first event was the instant invention. In this competition, students brought materials to the event, but did not know what they had to build until the event began. They had twenty minutes to build a freestanding structure as close to one meter tall as possible without going over. Although they could use materials such as paper and duct tape, they did not have rulers. The A team finished in 18th place, earning 33 points with a tower at .85 meters The B team landed in 11th place and received 40 points.

The second event focused on nanotechnology and its applications. To prepare for this event, students had to study several websites with information about nanotechnology, including different types of nanoparticles and how they can be used in electronics, medicine, and clothing. At the event, they had to take a test consisting of 48 questions with a word bank. The team finished in second place, earning 49

For the third event, students studied all about space colonies, including proposed structures for space colonies and dangers that colonists might encounter. The test was made up of multiple choice questions. The team landed in 5th place, earning it a score of 46 points.

In total, the team earned 128 points, putting it behind Andover,

Masconomet, Revere, and Pingree for the meet. Overall, the team fell two points behind Andover, and is currently in second place, 7.5 points above Masconomet. Next month's events focus on science in the news, building, and Sir Isaac Newton. The event is scheduled for February 9 in Billerica.



Bold by Amanda McInnis was submitted to the Scholastic Art Awards

Cont. from page 1 - Shining a Light...

G: How can students make the most of this opportunity?

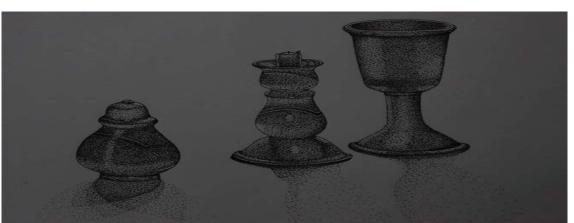
Mrs. D: They can pay attention to the Achievement Center's page on the website and to workshop announcements during homeroom. The workshops are awesome and can give students experiences they can't have everyday in the classroom. Students must also be willing to acknowledge their weaknesses. If they have a weak subject, for example, they can get a tutor and if they don't know how to study, teachers in the Achievement Center can help them come up with a study plan.

G: Are teachers for every subject at the Achievement Center around

Mrs. D: No, that's impossible unfortunately. But on the door, there's a schedule listing the subjects that are available each mod.

G: Do you think enough students are aware of the Achievement Center? Mrs. D: No, they're not because it's so new! We're hoping next year to have all of the freshmen and sophomores tour the Achievement Center at the beginning of the year. I think it will definitely grow by word of mouth, though!

The Arlington Catholic Achievement Center is a free service that provides students of all levels extra help, study skills, and workshops. The AC Achievement Center is located on the third floor in room 313. Go check it out!



Spilled Pepper by Lily MacDonald was submitted to the Scholastic Art Awards





Hockey Players from the East

Jackie Garvey

Joining the AC hockey team for a second year is junior and defenseman Anton Metley, along with new students junior Eugenii (Gino) Chubchik, and sophomore Andrew Copov. I was able to interview the hockey players and ask them a little bit about themselves and the upcoming season.

Jackie: Where in Russia are you from? Anton: I am from Kirov Gino: and we (referring to he and Andrew) are from Far East Russia

J: What Position do you play? Anton: defense Gino & Andrew: forward

in Vladivosak.

J: How old were you when you started to play hockey? Anton: 7 years old Gino: 12 years old Andrew: 8 years old

J: What are you most excited about the upcoming season?

Anton: I am most excited about the road to the Garden just like last year Gino: I am excited to try and win a Super 8 championship for AC Andrew: I am excited to see how many goals I will score

J: Do you have any fears or nervousness for the upcoming season? Anton: not really Gino: no Andrew: Nooooo Apparently that was a stupid question to ask, these boys are very confident this will be a good year.

J: What made you decide to come to Arlington Catholic? All: a great education and good hockey program

J: What do you miss most about Russia?

Anton & Gino: my family

Anton & Gino: my family Andrew: terrific views of the sunset

J: Has Arlington Catholic been a welcoming community and an easy adjustment for you?

Anton: yes, I love all the kids at AC Gino: yes
Andrew: Yeah!!!
J: What is your favorite class?

J: What is your favorite class?
Anton: accounting with Mr Zampell
Gino & Andrew: history

J: What is the biggest positive difference between America and Russia? Anton, Gino & Andrew: better opportunities to play hockey here

J: What is the biggest negative difference between America and Russia?

Anton: that Donald Trump might become president
Gino: the food is not as good
Andrew: the math is too easy for

The Cougars are very lucky to have such energetic and outgoing players on their team this year. I am excited to see what will happen this season and I wish them all the best of luck.



Graphite Doc Martins by Brendan Kenny

Sock Drive

Nikko Martins

The Arlington Catholic chapter of the National Honor Society hosted a sock drive. For the school's Christian Service Project, the National Honor Society collected socks for the "Friends of Boston's Homeless". The foundations purpose is to "support solutions-oriented programs with proven track records that help homeless individuals transition from the streets and shelters

to lead stable independent lives in homes of their own." The cold winter months are here, and socks are a life saver! Students and families were encouraged to donate socks. Warm, durable socks are recommended. This drive ended November 11th. Homeroom 201 collected the most pairs of socks and received free donuts!



The Application Process: A Damper on Christmas

Little Shop of oer Horrors Review

Brendan Kenny

The search for the "perfect college" is a daunting one. Whether you're an athlete, a musician, a member of the science team, the fall semester is filled to capacity with deadlines and expectations to meet. By Christmas, early action and decision applications have been sent out while the students bite their nails in nervous anticipation of the outcome. Regardless of the acceptances themselves, finishing and sending out applications is a huge feat; the countless hours of filling out the dreaded Common App, the study halls spent in The Guidance Office and writing supplements has finally (and thankfully) come to a close.

In my case, I applied to mostly art schools, which I know isn't "practical" but if I'm going to yet another four year institute to learn, I'd like to study something I love. No one would dissuade an athlete from accepting a scholarship to play college ball. For me, the application process was especially grueling as a fair amount of my schools did not accept the Common App, so I spent an additional hour each filling them all out. Not really a string of fun Friday nights. That being said, as a student trying to get into art schools, each one of my applications required a work sample or portfolio. This consisted of 12-20 pieces of my "best work" that showcased my skill as well as my position as an artist. This is no easy task when not many people support my passion and tried to tell me to major in English and minor in art. Minoring in art is physically impossible as it sucks up so much time.

As if the process wasn't already exhausting enough, I am extremely protective of my work and will defend it within an inch of its life, so the idea of large groups of extremely qualified admissions people looking at it and critiquing makes me ridiculously uneasy. It also doesn't help my cause that in a school that revolves around sports, I'm doing something almost totally against the grain and looked down upon by my peers. Good luck with that basketball scholarship.

Over thanksgiving, I spent three out five days finishing applications and my portfolio and it had to be three of the most grueling days I've had in quite a while. Post 16 hours of painting, I realized that Christmas was in a little over three weeks and I was the least Christmassy I have ever been. Something about four mental breakdowns in a weekend and the 50 degree weather really had me at a loss for holiday spirit. I can't imagine why.

Where has the anticipation for Christmas gone? For most high school seniors, myself included, an impending college acceptance really puts a damper on the holiday spirit. Personally, sadly I have almost no "Christmas Spirit" and truly, it's not just because of the weather, though that does influence my mood (where are you, snow?).

That being said, the college deadlines most seniors submitted their applications on-December 1st- really affected the "build-up" of the Christmas season. I couldn't even relax over Thanksgiving without that deadline looming over my head. It took a huge emotional toll on me, I couldn't actively enjoy the family time, let alone think about Christmas shopping or the upcoming school vacation because I know for the next month, I'll be waiting nervously for the (hopefully) heavy envelope from my top choice.

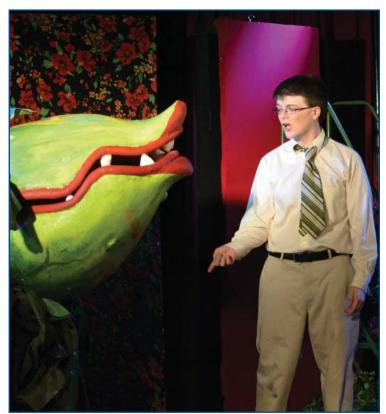
On Christmas, I am positive small talk will not be common, the extended family will skip right to asking the big questions, "Where are you going?", "What are you majoring in?", "Did you get scholarships?" And with those heavy-hitters comes the eye rolls and the accusing, "Art school? Really?" Yes. Really.

Another deciding factor is knowing that this is my last Christmas in high school. I didn't really think about this until I helped Sister Barbara put the bow on the tree in the library, and then it hit me that the next time I'm here during the Christmas season, I will have just finished finals at college and am coming back to visit. It's kind of strange. I never thought I'd be this old and applying to college. One day you believe in Santa and the next, you're an "adult", it's a difficult transition to make. This is the last Christmas spent with the friends that we've been with for four years, the last one before we are thrown out onto the "real world" and expected to know what we're doing. That being said, in a year, we may not have time to spend with the people who have been with us since freshmen orientation, which is pretty scary. Conflicts with school schedules, jobs and family time could prevent us from seeing ken another during the holiday season next year.

In short, applying to college may have been one of the lowest points in my high school career (second only to Bio I freshman year). Once the last application was sent in, a weight was lifted off of my shoulders. As it was for all the seniors that are applying to any college, at this point all we can do is wait. Maybe next week, with a little snow and some Christmas carols, I'll feel "merry and bright" but until then, I'm sorry to report that I'm feeling nothing. Updates to follow.

Mary Bekelian

ACDC has done it again. The Arlington Catholic Drama Club performed the classic "Little Shop of Horrors" from November 19-21, 2015 at the Regent Underground in Arlington Center. The show captured the audience in a terrific way. The entire cast played their roles expertly, and just how the viewers would imagine the cast to be after seeing the film. The star, Audrey II, voiced by Tyler Catino, needs human blood to grow. When the audience heard the "plant" singing "Suppertime," everyone knew to stay away from her before she managed to gobble someone. The show was a terrific tragedy, especially when Seymour, played by Michael Rallo, manipulated others (Audrey, played by Rebekah Kwolek and Mr. Mushnik, played by Brendan Kenny) so he could satisfy Audrey II. The audience was captivated by the performance of ACDC. Everyone, in the show, crew included, worked together to create a masterpiece. They all deserved a bouquet of flowers at the curtain call, because the play was truly inspiring.

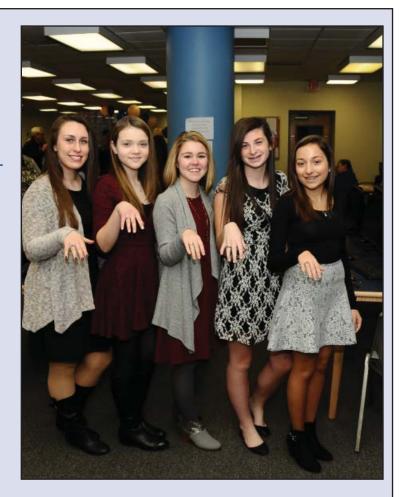


Seymour and Audrey II

Junior Ring

MaryKate Simmons

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015 the Juniors of Arlington Catholic received 2017 Class Rings. Sister Barbara McHugh set up a beautiful ceremony in the library for the Juniors and their parents. The Junior Class Vice President, James Cordero, gave a welcoming speech at the start of the ceremony, and the president of the Junior Class, Jack Bertolami, gave a moving speech at the ceremony about how challenge is accepted in the AC community. The message Jack's speech gave was in response to the school motto "Accept the Challenge". The rest of the Student Senate, Matthew Pigott, Bridget Crane, and JD Biagioni, read the welcoming prayer, intercessions, and the closing prayer while another student, MaryKate Simmons, read the Prayers of the Faithful. After the prayers were read, Ms.



Butt handed out the rings to the Juniors with the assistance of the Senior Class President and Vice President, Julia Hall and Justin Donovan. It was

a special memory for the Juniors that attended, and they will all remember this ceremony and this class when they look at their rings.

Blood Drive

Emily Guerriero

In the words of the Red Cross, "Giving blood can be a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others." This statement was reflected by Arlington Catholic students on Thursday, April 9th. Many students who met the requirements to give blood willingly volunteered to participate in this good cause. The gym was open all day to students who signed up. Many faced anticipation and nerves leading up to the actual donation; nonetheless, these feelings of uneasiness were overshadowed by the life changing act of each individual. From personal experience, the act of donating blood brings a sense of accomplishment as you know that someone in need of a blood transfusion can be saved by the simple deed performed. With the successful turnout this year, the Red Cross hopes that many other students are willing to participate in this do-good cause next year.



Fragments by Matthew Bulger

Freshman Advice

Show everyone

who you are and

talk to people you

normally wouldn't

talk to.

Isabella DePalo

Isabella DePalo

Hello, freshies, it is your first year in high school and the quarters are flying by. You are probably going crazy thinking about many things. Being a junior myself, I have been in your shoes, trembling in the doors on the first day as a fourteen-year-old, daydreaming about high school, but hit with its sour reality. You have heard complaints from the upper grades about you and you are all probably wondering what you are doing wrong. Or, other questions and concerns: What can I do to be noticed more? Where are the common but hidden places located in the school? friends? grades? relationships? parties?... the list goes on. In this article, you will find all the wisdom that I have gleaned from my teenage reality - plus all the additional hilarious and scary stuff my friends and I discovered. In one article, everything you wish your older sibling or mom

had told you about navigating the high school halls! Here is a cheat sheet on how to survive your post middle-school years. Through the decades there has always been the phenomenon that upperclassmen hate freshmen- displayed repeatedly in shows, movies and books. Let's get a few things straight: We will not call you "Fresh-

meat" and push you into lockers. We will not intentionally knock your books down as you are rushing to class. We will not 'swirly' you, none of that. Will we tease you, and tell you to "Move!" in the halls? Yes, yes we will. Think of us as the annoying older siblings of the school. I have asked a few people what should be discussed in this article, the same issues kept coming up. First annoyance is- move in the halls! Please do not stop dead in your tracks and make the flowing line of students bump into each other. It is amazing how many times a day people have to yell, "move freshman!" (or, just give a snarky look and complain to their friends in the next class.) We do not intend to sound mean, but this is a problem. Just keep walking! If you need to stop then move to the side of the hall! It makes us all late for class when you do not. Secondly, stop yelling when you see your friends. You just saw them last week, It is 7:10 in the morning, on a Monday and you are squealing.... enough.

Now, some tips and advice. "What can I do to be noticed more?" Isn't this a question we all ask no matter what the situation is? Honestly, just being yourself is the key. That means coming out of your shell. Trust me I know it's hard. Show everyone who you are and talk to people you normally wouldn't talk to. It took me a long time to figure it out and it made my school days a lot better.

Every newcomer to the school has a hard time finding a few places that are very commonly heard over daily announcements. Here is a list of places at AC.

- Main Office, Development Office, Guidance Office, Mr. Biagioni, Ms. Butt, Mr. Barrett: So many names for the same area, confusing isn't it? They all are located on the second floor- or the first floor if you enter through the back door- hmmmm... no wonder it's confusing! If you enter the front of the school and go up the stairs, the main office is the glass doorway straight ahead. If you go in there and take a right, that's where you will find Mr. Biagioni and Ms. Butt. The Guidance Office is on the right when you first walk up the stairs. You'll see Mrs. Lally at the front desk and she will direct you to which counselor you
- Campus Ministry: Sister Barbara's office is the hub of Campus Ministry. She is located in the L's (Yes, those bottom floor halls are called the "L"s!) across from Mr. Wilcox's classroom. You should really know where her office is because it's in a Freshman hallway.
- The Chapel: In the gym hallwayfirst room on the left.
- Mr. Graceffa's Office: Next to the

Chapel

Next, friends and popularity: I am sure you have seen the post everyone laughs at on Instagram that shows the evolution of how friends decrease up to senior year. Well, it's true. As freshmen you will have many friends. It will be a great time, but after that you will start to notice who your real friends are. Yes, you will still see the other acquaintances around and you will still talk, but they will not be your' go tos' anymore. It may sound confusing now, but it will all make sense as the months and years progress. I started AC with two friends and I made a lot more once I settled in. Our lunch tables were overflowing. Sophomore year, I lost a good amount of them. We had a full table still, but I really only cared about a few there. Now, junior year, I have a handful of friends. No, I am not saying I have no social

life, I am saying you just figure out who is there for you and who is not. It changes, but in a beneficial way. Another thought every student had running through their minds when they entered high school; parties and cliques. Some of us go to the high school parties, some of us do not. Whether you do or do not, it does not define who you are, especially in a social aspect.

Our culture needs to stop basing school life off of movies because hosting or attending a party does not make you a 'cool kid.' So, if you feel uncomfortable with parties, don't feel bad. You are not a loser; do what makes you happy. That sentence right there is one to carry with you for all four years and onto college, making yourself comfortable is the best thing for you.

Relationships with a capital 'R:' Love is great. We all love, love. We all have that cute boy/girl crush. Sometimes everything just falls right into place like a jigsaw puzzle. Congratulations if it does, but just remember if things don't work out- it is only high school. There is plenty more time to come, there is no reason to think negatively, really.

Teachers, grades, and studying; So, yeah high school is the awkward time in life we're forced to go through because we are not children, but we are not yet adults. Our grades seem to define our future career and what we want to do in college, It is a lot of stress and a lot of studying. As freshmen, you guys like to joke around and fail a class or get Ds here and there. Trust me I know most of you do it for at least one quarter. You might be thinking, "Oh high school is so much fun! Who cares what we do?" Well, we all were there. Then sophomore year came and we realized how truly stupid that train of thought was. Every junior I asked admitted to not trying as much as they should have as a freshman. We all strongly advise you to take your first year of high school seriously. If you learn how to study now and to stay focused, it will help you tremendously down the road. Do not 'slack' freshman year because sophomore year will hit you right in the face! Then junior and senior year it gets even worse! Form study groups. get a tutor, make friends with teachers, do whatever will provide you with the most help academically. Some of you will say "Oh this teacher doesn't like me. They fail me on purpose!" ... study! A teacher will not throw points at you if you do not try, or worse, if you purposely fail. It's not that they don't like you. They do not like that you are not trying in their class! So you are wasting their time and your

Final words of advice to carry you through all four years of high school- make yourself proud. Make whoever keeps you motivated proud and stay happy. There is a whole lot of stress and a plate of nothing but work, so do your best and you will be the best!

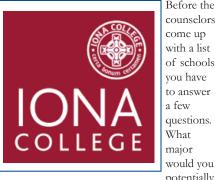


College Trip

Manhattan College, Iona College, & St. John's University Review

Jackie Garvey

In the winter of junior year, each guidance counselor individually talks to their junior students about which colleges they should look at.



counselors come up with a list of schools, vou have to answer a few questions. What major would you potentially

study? What size school? Where would you like the school to be? So, my list was made up of schools that have an elementary education major, a small to medium sized school, and in a city. One city that I was told to look at was New York. Over April vacation of my junior year, I took a road trip and visited 3 colleges in New York. The list I was given had about 5 or 6 schools from New York on it, so before I took my trip I went to my favorite website, The College Board, and narrowed down my choices. The three schools I decided to tour were Iona College, Manhattan College, and St. John's University.

Day one of the trip, I had an 11 am tour at Iona College. I loved Iona. Iona is a Catholic college of about 3,000 students, and it is in the town of New

Rochelle, which is just a 20 minute train ride from New York City. One of the things I liked most about Iona is that it has division 1 athletics. I want to go to a college where I can attend sports events and be part of a community. I was very impressed by the athletic building, its facilities, and all of the buildings on campus. I liked the town of New Rochelle, and I would feel safe being there. With two tours left on the trip, I was already sold on Iona.

After the Iona tour, I made a quick drive from New Rochelle to the Bronx. It was like two different worlds. Manhattan College is right in the middle of the Bronx, but it nestled on a hill and enclosed with fences, so you don't even know you're in the middle of the city. We checked into Manhattan, and while we waited for our tour we sat in a common area and waited. Manhattan was very similar to Iona. It is also a Catholic college, has about the same amount of students, and also had Division 1

athletics. However, I just didn't like Manhattan as much I didn't get the same sense I got from Iona. day, we took a road trip to Queens

to see St



John's University. St. John's was quite different from Iona and Manhattan. St John's has about 15,000 students, and is very diverse. When we took the tour, there were 6 tour guides and each one was from a different country. Something that surprised me was that their Elementary education school was in Long Island, so I felt like there was no point of me to tour the campus in Queens.

Since last April, I have toured several other schools, and Iona is still my top choice. However, if you are looking for a large diverse school, St John's is a good choice, or a small school with Division 1 athletics, Manhattan or Iona could be an option. It is all about what you are interested in.



Students of the 1st & 2nd Quarter



Freshman
Patrick Brown



Sophomore Taleah Pierre-Louis



Junior Spencer Burton



Senior Emily Guerriero



Freshman Rachel Yore



Sophomore Jack Thorpe



Junior Bridget Flaherty



Senior Valerie O'Loughlin

2nd Quarter Honor Roll First Honors

Nicole Angelakis
John Biagioni
Michaela Bialock
Ivana Bonetti
Elena Bonetti
Patrick Browne
Spencer Burton
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Second Honors

Hannah Amaral Nicole Amato Constantinos Angelakis Bradley Appo Catherine Arena Katherine Aristizabal Alexa Arsenault Michael Balboni Kathryn Baldwin Alexandra Ball Mariana Ball Brandon Beaubrun Mary Bekelian John Bertolami, Jr. Paige Brazina Melony Breese Forcier Shawn Brown Michael Burke Veronica Burke Angela Caggiano Robert Cain Haley Campbell Jillian Casey Jessica Cavanaugh Andrew Chan Julia Condon James Cordero Kristen Correia Mary Cortes Carrigan Dall Quyen Dao

Victoria DeFabritiis

Ciara Devereaux Juliana Dolan Samantha Donahue Zhuo Jun Duan Kennedy Dyer Ryan Farkhondehpour Cara Favuzza Eileen Flynn Zachary Frankel Marie Gaffney Chandler Garcia Cameron Geary Shayna Gnewuch Allison Greenough Joseph Greenwood Hanwen Gu Yanzi Guo Julia Hart Montana Hurstak JunHa Hwang Courtney Ingersoll Adam Jamal Jongwoo Jin Julia Joseph Alexandra Kay Aidan Kay Catriona Keane Erin Kelley Erica Kenney Sungjun Kim Samantha Klein

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Who To Vote For?

With several Republican candidates and at least four Democratic candidates, how is anyone who doesn't have all day to catch up on the political news supposed to know who to vote for? Isidewith.com might just have a way to help you.

Laura Caron

Isidewith.com is a website dedicated to helping people understand and express their political views. It features many polls about specific issues from taxes to criminal justice reform. But arguably the most useful quiz on the site is the presidential candidate quiz, which asks a series of questions about different policy issues and then matches you to a presidential candidate. I decided to try out the site for myself, since I didn't believe that a website could accurately analyze who I agreed with most. At first, I expected it to be like any other personality quiz on the Internet that would ask me about my favorite song and somehow come up with some nonsensical results based on that. Instead, what I found was a comprehensive, surprisingly accurate, incredibly detailed report on my views and how they matched those of the candidates.

The quiz takes about 20-30 minutes to complete and consists of 64 questions about different issues. Each question has a simple yes or no answer, as well as a dropdown that allows you to pick a more detailed choice (the "no, but..." and "yes, if..." answers). Each question can be ranked by its importance, ranging from least to most, so that your candidate matches what matters to you. Don't know an answer? Just click "learn more" to get a quick rundown on the issue and the sides (accurately described without reference to party, to avoid bias) and a link to a poll with public answers and opinions on the topic.

The algorithms will then develop a detailed report on who you agree with for president. Don't believe the results? (Don't worry, I didn't at first either.) You can then press "compare answers" to see why or how exactly you agree with this person. Each question and each answer is analyzed individually and compared with a specific quote or action the candidate has taken, complete with sources. You can also see who you agreed with on particular areas (social, healthcare, etc.).

Had enough information about your own results? There's still more. There's a chart that places you on the political spectrum from left to right and libertarian to authoritarian. There's also a graph that shows how your answers stack up for each candidate in each area.

Even if you can't vote yet, this site is worth your time. It never hurts to be informed on political issues, and you can see how voters in the country agree with you. Maybe share your results on Facebook and start a mini Internet war – who knows? Have fun with it, and maybe it will actually help you choose your candidate in November 2016.

Opinion Response

When Online Shaming Spirals Out of Control

Karmen Lu

Ron Jonson shocks his audience with the monstrous reality of social media shaming by providing two real life examples: pop science writer Jonah Lehrer and PR woman Justine Sacco. Jonson describes how Twitter began as "a beautiful naivety" in which "voiceless people realized that they had a voice and it was powerful and eloquent." People could speak up against injustice and "get" those "who misused their privilege." However, what people thought was a fight for social justice soon became "a stage for constant artificial dramas where everyone's either a magnificent hero or a sickening villain." After Lehrer had "been caught plagiarizing and faking quotes," he became "drenched in shame and regret." After Sacco tweeted an acerbic joke and boarded a flight, "Twitter took control of her life and dismantled it piece by piece." From losing themselves and their jobs, to suffering from depression, anxiety, insomnia and suicidal thoughts, real people became victims of a "surveillance society." Moving his audience to sympathy for Lehrer and Sacco, Jonson wants to establish that these victims were not "fine." He wants his listeners to realize that the lives of these victims have "been torn to shreds . . . by nice people like us." "Our desire to be seen to be compassionate is what led us to commit this profoundly un-compassionate act," and we should be disgusted by the fact that we ever



found the destruction of lives entertaining

Jonson put me in the shoes of both victims, and made me realize that social media platforms really are "mutual approval machines." People may have tweeted in a unison of outrage because it felt good to be a part of a community that shared the same idea: Sacco is a racist monster. Likes, comments, and reposts are how we interact on the internet, and it really does feel good when other people agree with me. In fact,

interactions through these platforms often convince me of ideas and reinforce my own beliefs. For example, if I get positive feedback on a photo of myself, I feel a boost of self-confidence. If my comment receives thumbs up, people agree with me. It is sad that good intent can result in the "annihilation" of others. Therefore, I agree with Jonson's belief that online shaming could result in fear of disapproval and a return to being voiceless.

The Website Every Book Lover Should Know About

Laura Caron

Ever wondered why you can stream movies, TV shows, and thousands of other things from your couch, but you have to go to a library or a store to obtain books? Or maybe you've wondered why Amazon's Kindle Unlimited, a type of Netflix for books, costs nearly \$100 per year, and Audible, a streaming service for audiobooks, costs much more. But now you can get thousands of books and audiobooks for free on your computer, phone, or tablet.

It may sound too good to be true, but Overdrive is no hoax. (And, yes, it is legal.) All you need to get started is a library card from your local library and an email to create an account online. Once you create an account on the Overdrive website, you can sign in on all of your devices and start downloading books and audiobooks from your library. (One library not enough? You can always add another library, assuming you have an active library card.)

Overdrive allows libraries to purchase copies of online books and audiobooks, which library card holders can then take out online. This means that you can take out thousands of eBooks and audiobooks, but you don't have to go the library. Even late fees are eliminated, because the books are automatically sent back to the library when your lending period of two weeks has expired. Although there can be waiting lists for some of the more popular books (the library only purchases a certain numbers of copies), you can join the waiting list or request

that more copies be added.

Arguably the most useful feature of Overdrive is its syncing capability. When you sign in on multiple devices, your progress in a book or audiobook is synced across all devices, so that you can read a book on your iPad at school and continue on your phone on the bus.

Overall, Overdrive is a great resource for books and audiobooks, allowing you to read more for less cost. Although you will still have to go to a library to pick up paper books, you can download eBooks on the app at home or on the go. It is a must-have for any book-lover (or student – books you might need for class, including City of the Beasts, Things Fall Apart, The Road, and The Hunger Games, are available in the Boston Public Library system).

How to Register To Vote

Quentin Pasquarello

Voting is one of the most patriotic things you can do as an American citizen. It is our constitutional right to vote. With the upcoming Presidential election, many Arlington Catholic students will find that they are eligible to vote for the first time. To register to vote in Massachu-

setts, you have to meet four requirements: be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age on or before the next election, thanks to the 26th Amendment, be a resident of Massachusetts, and finally, you can not currently be incarcerated. If you meet these stipulations, then you can register to vote. There are three ways you can register: in person, by mail, or online. To register online, all you need is a signature on file with the DMV and a Mass ID. You then fill out

an online voter registration application at www. sec.state.ma.us/ovr/, and that's it! If you do not qualify to register to vote online, or if you would prefer to register by mail, you can print and fill out a Voter Registration Form and send it in. If you would like to register in person, you may do so at any local election office; all you need is a completed voter registration form. Your vote is your voice and your voice should be heard.

The Pope's Groundbreaking Visit

Gianna Seaver

On September 27, Pope Francis visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he proved once again that he is not a traditional Pope. While there, Francis went to the city's largest jail and talked to specifically chosen prisoners one-on-one, offering them messages of hope and redemption. He told them, "I am here as

a pastor, but above all as a brother." I found this interesting because Catholics usually look down upon sinners, but instead, Pope Francis lifted their spirits and tried to include them in society. He wanted the prisoners to know that they, too, can be forgiven by God if they repent. The prisoners seemed to enjoy the experience and were inspired to "pray more" and to "have a clean slate"

Pope Francis also had private meetings with sexual assault victims, discussing ways for them

to be healed by the Holy Spirit. I believe that he is addressing very important issues in our society. His actions continue to surprise me, and the way he connects with people all over the world is inspiring. He humbly puts himself on our level, and his genuine desire to help those in need shines through to the public.

How to: Take Notes

Greg Cali

Taking notes is something that is very difficult for the average high school student to accomplish. There is nothing fun or exciting about taking notes, which makes it almost impossible to pay attention when a teacher is talking or writing on the board.

The first and most important step to taking notes is to have a specific binder or notebook for each class. I, personally, like to use a note-

book with a pocket in the front to keep everything for each class in one place. Mixing subjects between notebooks or binders is going to cause you to lose notes and make everything more difficult for you. If you have everything in one place, it will be very helpful when it comes time to do homework or study for tests and quizzes.

The second tip is to not write every single word. Just write the basics without unnecessary words, so you don't fall behind the teacher. One thing I find very hard is to balance taking notes with listening to what the teacher is saying. For example, in my math class I need to write down all the example problems, but while I am copying them down the teacher is explaining more and more information that I am missing out on. The only tip I have for this problem is to find what works for you. If you learn better from listening, focus more on what your teacher is saying, and then look through your textbook after to figure out how to do the work if you have

We, students, understand that it is necessary for teachers to give us notes that may not always be the most exciting, but teachers need to find a balance between notes and other class



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Lunch Inflation

Bridget Flaherty

The 2015-2016 school year brought numerous changes to Arlington Catholic. The dress code is stricter, Homework Club meets on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays, every single teacher moved to a new classroom (maybe not every single teacher, but it sure feels like it), and the lunch prices have been raised. I repeat: the lunch prices have been raised. Go ahead - stamp your feet, growl in frustration, moan,

groan, complain to your friends, let it all out. Bagels, pizza, cheeseburgers, salads will all cost you more than two dollars. Talk about breaking the bank! Don't expect to be in the black and buy a bagel everyday. You can't have your cake and eat it, too.

Lunch prices have increased dramatically in the past year. The price of a plain bagel has changed from \$1.25 last year to \$1.50 this year, with cream cheese costing an extra fifty cents both years. If a student were to buy a plain bagel every school day out of the one hundred and eighty day school year, they would be

spending an additional forty-five dollars that they could have pocketed if the bagels were still \$1.25. If this student also bought cream cheese, they would spend \$360.00 this year opposed to the \$270 they would have spent last year. That is a difference of \$90. This slight change in price only twenty-five cents extra – ends up costing the customers a significant amount of cash. The elevated prices affect all of the other items offered on the lunch menu, including pizza. The cost of a slice of cheese pizza was raised from \$1.75 to \$2.50. I could do the math again to prove the influential effects of the seventy-five

cent increase, but I think you get the point. There are many possibilities as to why the cafeteria staff raised the prices of the lunch items, but one thing is for sure - regardless of the steady amount of students sliding into the line at lunchtime or the usual, crowded mass of people snatching bagels during homeroom, people are not happy about the increased prices in the Arlington Catholic cafeteria, and they will continue to complain until...well...I'm not sure what will happen, but if the pattern continues, we will find ourselves having to fork over even more quarters for bagels next year.

Does Santa Discriminate?

Isabella DePalo

December is the time of year when every little kid's eyes sparkle with joy and excitement anticipating Santa's arrival. The only day they willingly wake up at the crack of dawn to rush to their Christmas tree shredding wrapping paper to see what the big man has gotten them is Christmas. One kid saying "Wow, cool a PS4!" But, another kid saying "Awesome! A coloring book!". Now, you're asking yourself, why does it matter what either of those children received? Well, unfortunately not all children are born into money. Some parents go out and buy thousands of dollars worth of gifts for their kids. I'm sure all moms and dads would love to do that, but they financially can't afford it. A woman on Facebook started a post about how parents should make the pricey gifts from them and the small ones from Santa. This is so that children who aren't as fortunate can get just as excited to share what they got. No one is saying not to shower your children with the gifts they deserve, go right ahead! Just think of the math! Seeing them open gifts Christmas morning is a great feeling, I know it is! I adore seeing my

sister do it. They get so excited about what's from Santa, but what if it were from you? What do you think they're thinking? They are thinking how cool of a mom you are. How would you feel? Wouldn't you love a huge hug from them

because of what YOU got them? If Saint Nick got it for them, they aren't hugging anyone, they're tilting their head in the air and saying thank you. Or, some kids just go on to the next present.

The question is: Why

does Santa get all the credit for presents? When the children go back to school, they are obviously going to brag about what they received and some have asked Santa for the same things.

Have you ever thought of the kid still at his desk, ashamed to admit what he got from Santa? Thinking, "Okay, T] got a hoverboard, but all I got was chocolate coins and crayons." This subject has been floating around Facebook



Credited to Nelo Gu aren't saying you can't.

Why can't you buy the kids what they want but say it's from you?

As a kid who grew up with financial struggles, I understand why this controversy

arose. When I was little, my mother used the foundation called Globe Santa. Parents submit the number of children they have and their ages, then people send what they figure the kids would enjoy. I obviously didn't know about it until my Santa beliefs faded away. Did it get me expensive things? No, of course not. Strangers aren't going to spend hundreds on a child they never met. But, I was thankful to receive the gifts that I did. When I went back to school, several of my friends recieved what I had asked for, and it made my seven-year-old self think, "Was I a bad girl?" Now, I know I wasn't, but I would have loved to know that back then. When my mother and I heard about this topic she told me that she got goosebumps because she had never thought of it and really hopes that parents saying the expensive gifts are from them and the small but good things are from

Christmas has come and gone, but next year, when you label your gifts, please think about who the present is truly from. Perhaps the kids could become more comfortable with one another and confident with themselves. They can bond and exchange stories about how cool Santa is and about how they both got the best skateboard. Happy New Year to all!



We Have Lift Off!



We are proud to announce the release of our newly redesigned website. Immediately you will notice streamlined menus, simple navigation and quick access to the information you need, anytime, anywhere. By providing an improved destination for our community, we hope you will use this site as a resource hub as well as a place for learning, sharing and interaction.

Three things you'll love about the new website right now:

- Homepage at a glance, see upcoming events, recent news and quick links to get to where you want to go with one click.
- Fresh Content the most current information about our school from A to Z admissions, alumni, arts, afterschool activities, fundraising, sports and more!
- Calendar click and preview listings with easy to read dates and details.

Start exploring:

- Learn about our upcoming programs and activities
- Connect with faculty and staff
- Discover Tools to help your current student; apply to be a new student; or connect with friends from the past
- Read fun facts about AC

If you would take a brief moment to share your thoughts we'd appreciate hearing how the experience is for you and how we can continue to improve it. Email mbouleyeckel@achs.net. Thank you!

AC Exceeds Fundraising Goal!



Arthur Ingalls, Geskus Photo

The Unleash the Spirit Campaign, which officially closed November 15, has raised over \$130,000.

The gym at Arlington Catholic High School is the center of so much of the vibrant activity in our community. The condition of the space is of the utmost importance to our athletic program, physical education program, and the many groups in the community who use the gym.

This summer, a new court was installed (to replace the original from 1959) and many improvements were made to modernize the entire gymnasium space, including: all new padding around the Court, a new Cougar Den, all new paint, refurbished stands, additional stands added, four new basketball backboards, an electric winch to raise and lower the backboard, all new chairs and tables for events, all new

wiring and updates to the ceiling fan.

In a moving ceremony in September, the renovated court was dedicated to memorialize Dr. Michael T. Foley '68, who tirelessly supported Arlington Catholic

Any questions can be directed to Lee-Ann Pepicelli-Murray '93, Director of Development,lpepicelli@achs.net.

20th Annual

Quiz Night

Saturday, March 19th

Presenting

Music by DJ Mr. Ed & New Quizmaster Ms. Maggie Taverna

Time: 6pm - 11pm (Game begins at 7pm)

• Cash Bar and Raffles • Bring Your Own Food

Tickets can be purchased individually or as a group

www.achs.net/quiznight to register! Limited Number of Tables Available!



Friday, May 6 at 6:30 pm (Drawing at 7:30 pm)

in the AC Gym

Cost: \$100 per ticket - Only 300 tickets sold www.achs.net/\$10k for tickets!

FIRST PRIZE: \$10,000

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,500

THIRD PRIZE: \$1,000



Please join us to celebrate Arlington Catholic High School's

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

and

Quarter Century Sociey Induction Ceremony

Saturday, April 9, 2016 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm cocktail hour 7:00 pm dinner

> Montvale Plaza Stoneham, Massachusetts

Quarter Century Society

John DeLorenzo Kathleen Grugan Mary Catherine MacGilivray Mary O'Connor Jane Seminara

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Daniel Keating '90 Stephanie Martin '96 Stephanie Nugent '03 The 1993 Football Super Bowl Championship Team

Hall of Fame

John Carroll '64 Peter Agnes '68 Michael Pallotta '81 Lisa (Hickey) Simmons '96

ARTS HALL OF FAME

Donna (Lavalle) Rockwell '89 Rachel Bertone '03



THE SPIRIT DONOR LIST UNLEASH An Athletic Renovation Campaign

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These names will be printed on the permanently displayed plaque in the gym, if you would like your name changed, please contact Lee-Ann in the development office at lpepicellia, achs.net or 781-646-5101 by March 1st!

