What do social media, Netflix, Fortnite, earbuds, and mass shootings have in common? They are all essential aspects in the lives of millennials. Most of the mass shootings in our society have occurred during our lifetimes—and our teachers’ careers. Teachers do what they can to remove students who they feel pose a threat to our environment. Those in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, were successful in removing Nikolas Cruz from the student body. However, they couldn’t stop him from coming back on campus and killing seventeen people with an AR-15 on February 14th. Parkland students were quick to react to this event in a most organized manner. They created the group Never Again MSD. Some students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas have pushed to make their voices heard by attending a nationally televised town hall meeting and speaking out against the NRA and its spokesperson, Dana Loesch. She refused to answer the question posed by Parkland survivor Emma Gonzalez, “Do you believe it should be harder to obtain semi-automatic and fully automatic weapons.” Students also asked Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio about the action they will perform in order to make gun reform changes. In addition, three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School went on the television talk show Ellen to increase awareness of the necessary changes to gun control. Students have been using their voices besides these instances by organizing the National School Walkout Day on March 13th, 2018 and the March on Washington on March 24th. Besides the March on Washington, there are thousands of marches happening across the country and even internationally. On March 13th, during the 17 minutes of the walkout that honored the 17 victims of the MSD shooting, many MHS students walked out of class in order to fight for change. A few students gave speeches including: senior class president Jasmine Fletcher, Olivia and Madison Holliday, Lamont Earnest, and Matilda Phan. Afterward, many students wrote letters to the student body of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and wrote letters to the Duval County Congressman, Mr. John Rutherford. In addition, Mandarin High Students joined many other students from across the nation to March in Wash-
Summer Reading

By: Mr. Scott Price, English Department Chair

Every summer, all Mandarin High students are required to obtain and read at least two books, the titles of which are determined by the particular English class they are taking in the fall. Depending on the class, they have one or two texts that need to be conspicuously completed by the first day of school. English teachers will be administering tests that first week to ascertain just how well the book or books were read. Next to each book below is the page count, though that number may vary depending on the format of the book you buy.

9th Grade Honors
1) Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children Ransom Riggs (Read both) 2) The Fault in Our Stars John Green
3) The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath
5) 10th Grade Standard
6) Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children Ransom Riggs
7) Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Robert Pirsig
8) The Odyssey (translated by Robert Fagles) Homer

9th Grade Pre-AICE
1) Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children Ransom Riggs
2) How to Read Literature Like a Professor Thomas Foster
3) Copper Sun Sharon Draper
4) The Night Circus Erin Morgenstern

10th Grade Honors
5) Outliers: The Story of Success Malcolm Gladwell
6) Lord of the Flies William Golding
7) The Piano Lesson (play) August Wilson
8) And the Mountains Echoed Khaled Hosseini
9) Grendel John Gardner

1st Grade Honors
1) And the Mountains Echoed Khaled Hosseini (Read both) 2) Cry, the Beloved Country Alan Paton
3) The Piano Lesson (play) August Wilson
4) The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath

Letter from the Editor

The most difficult part of the school year occurs during the third and fourth quarters. With the year coming to a close many students are dealing with projects and papers while preparing to face finals as well as AP and AICE exams. Due to the inherent stress and fatigue from this time of the year the third quarter newspaper is perseverence.

This issue discusses perseverance of athletes facing discrimination, perseverance of inventors, perseverance of nations, and the perseverance of Americans. Along with this, the recent events in Parkland are discussed along with the perseverance of the students pushing for change brought about by collective action.

Finally, this paper includes an article that features the movements being made by students from Mandarin to enact change.

Rowan Vanhoof, Editor-in-Chief

Contact Us

Do you have a story and/or photo you want to share? Contact the Journalism Advisor at parktimes@duvalschools.org or stop by the Journalism room (2201A) during lunch, or before or after school. We want your contributions!

The Mandarin Times Staff

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Mrs. Donita Parkinson
Editor in Chief
Rowan Vanhoof

Newspaper Staff

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Editor-in-Chief

Photo Credits: Cady Studios and Mrs. Doni Parkinson, Journalism Adviser

Our Administrators: Dr. Donna Richardson (Principal), Assistant Principals Brian Holloway, Janetta Lucas (Principal’s Designee), Beth Pecarek (and lead Testing Coordinator), and Mary Flynn. This is the team dedicated to ensuring our campus is filled with scholars focusing on the goal of “Measuring Up to Excellence.”

Our Guidance Counselors: Mrs. Diane Dempsey (Department Chair), Mrs. Tanu Seymour, Mrs. Linda Smith, Mrs. Amanda Chamberlain, and Ms. Erin Carroll. For the first quarter, the guidance counselors focused on senior graduation checks, ninth grade promotions, and credit checks for all students. They were also involved in level testing to ensure that students were as evenly distributed as possible among the teachers in such a way to meet every student’s need to earn the credits necessary to make this a successful academic year for all. Each counselor has a specific group of students they are assigned to help out. Mrs. Seymour works with AVID and students with last names beginning with A-C, Mrs. Chamberlain works with Biotech and students with last names beginning with B-D, Ms. Smith works with Medical and students with last names beginning with L-M. Mrs. Dempsey works with ESL and students with last names beginning with N-T. Mrs. Adair works with AICE and students with last names beginning with V-Z. Ms. Carroll assists seniors meet their graduation requirements and assists Assistant Principal Beth Pecarek in the Testing Office.

Athletics Director Brian Rado, Activities Director Daniel Wilcox, Yearbook/Newspaper Adviser Doni Parkinson, Reading Coach Kim Rolfe, Book Manager Paulette Mills, ESOL Para Christina Koontz. In addition to facilitating our athletic program, Coach Rado also sponsors the Student Athletic Leadership Team (SALT), runs our senior aide program, and handles graduation. Coach Wilcox not only teaches social studies, but also sponsors the Leadership team and the senior class, to include the purchase of senior packages. Mrs. Parkinson teaches 12th grade English and is the adviser of both Yearbook and Newspaper, so if you have a story to share, please let her know. Mrs. Rolfe is our steely-eyed Reading Coach responsible for facilitating academic professional development for the faculty. As most of you have already found out, Ms. Mills works in the Media Center managing the distribution of textbooks and student ID’s. Mrs. Koontz is our ESOL paraprofessional responsible for providing the assistance necessary to help students who are English Language Learners.

Dean of Students Rodney Tisdale, Dean’s Admin Assistant Kelly Davis, ISSP for Jessica Tobler, Head of Security Staff Albert Smith, Officer Jeffrey Woods, and Officer Christa Urban. All the team asks is that you show up to school and each class on time, comply with the dress code policy, make the teachers’ learning goals you own in each classroom, and be a positive role model for your fellow peers. Equally important, report behavior that compromises the safety of faculty and students.

Many thanks to our advertisers who have provided the newspaper staff with this opportunity of publishing student work.
Celebration Contributions

Photo Essay of Black History Celebration

By: Sabrina Price, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Diane Brunner

Each year ‘stangs plan out and perform a celebration of the contributions made by African Americans. It’s the time to commend African Americans who have helped make this world equal through their individual successes. This year, participating ‘stangs decided to present African American contributions through the evolution of Black culture during the 20th century—the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. This year the program was facilitated by Mr. Calvin McFarland with the help of Ms. Karen Brown, Mr. Scott Price, Mr. Matthew Goalen, Ms. Daminica Woods, and Ms. Anita Sheik.

Bringing the celebration to an end filled with hope for the future, Anthony Maxwell and Jasmine Fletcher sang Sam Cooke’s “Change is Gonna Come.” Maxwell said, “I participated because whenever there are opportunities when I can enlighten people about our culture, I do.”

“A look behind the scenes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was presented through the biography of his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, portrayed by Madison Holliday. Holliday shared, “I participated in the black history assembly to be a part of a production that would entertain as well as inform my fellow classmates on my history as an African American.”

Promoting the Black Lives Matter movement, Christina Robinson and Lamonte Earnest reinforce the message through their choice of clothing. Earnest said, “I participated because I want to learn about my culture, have fun, and earn community service hours.”

Students who helped demonstrate the trends in fashion through the decades are Deborah Ulsse and Kelvin Jackson. Jackson said, “Black people contributed a lot to society that not too many people know about.”

“Black culture is just as important as any other but we have a certain light and we’ve fought for it,” said Whitney Black History is not just a month, it’s an everyday thing,” said Nehemiah Booze.

“Black History Month is one time a year that black culture can be celebrated without backlash from other cultures,” said Christina Robinson.

“Black History Month is a month we all should honor and admire. It is important because many African Americans sacrificed their lives for our freedom, and I honor and thank them.” said Kylah Burroughs.

“Black History Month is more than a color; it’s how, as a people, we worked harder to overcome adversity against us, and we still work hard to be better people,” said Lamonte Earnest.

“Black History Month is more than a color; it’s how, as a people, we worked harder to overcome adversity against us, and we still work hard to be better people,” said Lamonte Earnest.

From left to right, Ife’Naetti Smith, Re’genae Stewart, and Maya Liverman portrayed the famous American girl group, T.L.C.
When one takes a moment to look around us, one of the most common things seen is an overwhelming amount of violence, death, and destruction making its way into our world, which is at the forefront of all forms of media. This is a given to the people who have been personally affected by these tragedies, as atrocities are fully and sometimes horrifically portrayed and spoken about. Many people do not demonstrate proper respect for those suffering lost or tragically.

As technology has advanced, and likewise the number of tragedies has increased, the media has shifted their focus to highlight mainly negative, terrible events, for their own success. This has led to an extreme impact on the hearts and feelings of many. In her article, What Constant Exposure to Sensational News Is Doing To Our Mental Health, Carolyn Best states, “The researchers noted that over time, exposure to graphic violence can cause a process of either sensitization, in which the individuals becomes more sensitive to emotional distress upon viewing images, or desensitization — a sort of numbing process in which individuals become habituated to what they see — to occur. This numbing effect, which causes the brain to exhibit less of an emotional response to disturbing stimuli, has been observed in those who have lived, or repeatedly exposed to violent video games.”

For the young adults of today, children often seem to be leaning to the insensitivity side of this spectrum. The seeming tendency in these kids, to be unemotional and to be pointed towards the world, even though they have known all their lives, as they have become accustomed to the destruction, in turn, they have come to feel sympathy and for others. According to journalist Stefani Kim, this is because “some people may experience compassion fatigue or burnout due to traumatic stress, becoming less sympathetic to the plight of others over time due to an overabundance of stories of violence and suffering in the media.” With the enormous amount of fake news and don’t believe in the media, it comes as no surprise that young adults and kids are often cruel and unfeeling in their actions towards others who have suffered.

Though there is reason and science behind the insensitivity of kids today, it should not serve as an excuse for the actions that come as a result of the behavior. Sensitivities real and learning issues, and other statistics are unable to give a plausible profile of what the lack of sensitivity is like in the lives of a person, but the trauma of daily occurrences allow for a better understanding of what the insensitivity looks like, and results in.

For example, I have seen insensitivity cut deep into people and into myself in the past year. I found difficulty in comprehending why people who do not understand a situation would interject themselves into a daily life and negative words for that matter. The effects of insensitive comments or a spewing of mean actions of others is often seen as a whole, my actions, and my emotions concerning my own struggle.

My story starts in March 2017.

I am a midlife, Cau- casian girl. I have a loving family, who work hard to maintain my good academically, and am active in my church and with my faith in God; nothing in my life is too big to be inconsequential, crucially I truly could be conscious in my faith, due to the high quality of the faith. But then it was over. This is not the story, and those who who knew him, including myself, were left with the fact, and how to work through the reality that Marcus had attended just another headline plastered across a screen. New reports began reporting to his parent’s house, to their telephone, and he was not to 24 hours after his passing. We were all Bryce and his friends affect the way I feel. How could I understand a situation they do not understand. The months passed, and as the months passed, the remarks seemed to disappear.

Life moved on, and for the most part so did I, although Marcus seemed to always live in the back of my mind. The new school year started, and I was having fun again, enjoying time with my friends, growing 50lbs with my teammates in cross country. That peace was from me one early morning in the fall, right after a morning practice and my friends and I were getting ready for school. I could hear one of them whispering to a couple of the others, looking at me and then looking down at their phone. I asked them what the issue was, and before they could speak I got a text from one of my friends telling me that they needed to talk to me about something. Something about Marcus.

My heart dropped, I knew whatever was on that phone my friends were dealing with was potentially crushing. My friends pulled me aside and explained it to me. Marcus had attended Paxon before this death. This week happened to be the rivalry week between Stanton and Paxon; their “Mad Week,” a competition that is supposed to be friendly, with an overabundance of exaggerated cruelty to the name. In several hours, we were all at the event, it was over. Marcus had been exchanged words, had been exchanged words, had been exchanged words, and often was described as the few people, people who did not even know Marcus, making fun of, calling names, and speaking hurtful words towards what was happening.

I was completely crushed. I had never been prepared for the cruelty of these kids, I could not believe that a human being could say this about another person with seemingly so much concern for their words. The issue became more and more serious, and as people and parents wherever I went, with the kids talked to one another at school and comments on social media.

The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on Valentine’s Day opened the flood gates for more insensitivities, even with the many deaths that occurred as a result of the event. Jokes about the shooter, about the children who were brutally murdered, about the security guard who was present at the shooting, and many more cruel jokes filled social media and people’s conversations rather than the tragedy and the precious lives lost. In just a few days, it felt as though this tragedy had become just another part of the past, another crude joke to be laughed over, another headline to be archived.

There is no denying the fact that insensitivity is rampant among children, enveloping parts of their lives. There is no easy solution, no one way out. As people, we are constantly exposed to horrible, tragic events, therefore it comes as no surprise that often a natural response is to become numb to them, resulting in the disgusting acts of what we have seen have faced.

However, to better our selves and better our world one must look to change this pattern of behavior. Look to sympathize with situations that may not be understood, try to gain an understanding of them without passing judgment first.

There will always be people who will speak a harsh word or negatively about a situation they do not understand. It is typical for people to move forward through such remarks, to shake them off, and to not allow them to affect the situations that I have to face, and I cannot let them affect the way I feel. I know that it is very serious on one part, but together, people can work together to promote understanding and promote compassion. The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on Valentine’s Day opened the flood gates for more insensitivities, even with the many deaths that occurred as a result of the event. Jokes about the shooter, about the children who were brutally murdered, about the security guard who was present at the shooting, and many more cruel jokes filled social media and people’s conversations rather than the tragedy and the precious lives lost. In just a few days, it felt as though this tragedy had become just another part of the past, another crude joke to be laughed over, another headline to be archived.

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Gender Bias

Gender bias is a prejudice pertaining to one gender or the other. Whether it be conscious or unconscious, gender bias is an enormous issue in the world. In many countries, the laws, such as voting and participation in workplace regulations, have been changed in order to help the problem of these offensive categorizations. Despite these changes, some still have not worked to find a solution to this unruly and problematic topic around the world. There are some unfair ways that the different genders are treated. Does it matter if the bias many people have is conscious or unconscious? Men and women are equal and completely equal! And most importantly: how can we help defeat the cruel and harmful stereotypes around the world, in America, and even in your own school?

In many countries, there have been efforts to try and solve the problem of gender bias. In American society, everyday lives, there still is work that needs to be done. It is time for us to take it upon ourselves to rid itself of this problem. In Saudi Arabia, women were not allowed to drive until September 2017. In Egypt and Pakistan, gender discrimination is enforced but female participation is not generally present in these countries. Men don’t even exist. Around the world, women are expected to stay in the kitchen and be good cooks, while men are supposed to go to work and fix problems around the house.

Why may ask, why are these laws in place? What makes a woman seem so dainty that she can’t drive or be in the military, but she is expected to be a housewife? What makes a man seem so special that they must be in the military and they cannot stay home and clean or cook? These are questions no one seems to have the answers to. Simply because they don’t have an answer. Men and women are equal, one is not better than the other. Men are not always stronger, and women are not always better for support. In our country, laws do not hold men and women equal, but the stereotypes do. A stereotype commonly heard about women is that a true woman is dainty and weak. A common stereotype heard about men is that they are supposed to be strong and emotionless. But this is not actually the case. Movies, shows, and even books don’t have these stereotypes.

Gender bias can be found in almost all forms of media. Sophomore Madison Espling shared “I definitely see the most sexism in film and television as well as in every form of media.” Espling went on to explain, “but it’s just so prevalent in film and television and books.” An example of this is in the classic comedy, “I Love Lucy,” it shows the main character, Lucy, cooking, cleaning, and caring for her son as her husband, Ricky, goes to work every day. The show has been a popular watch since it aired, yet it does not portray the truth about gender. Very few media can show how men and women can do the same things. A movie that may come to mind when discussing gender equality is “Miss Congeniality.” Though this movie may help paint a picture for women in a better picture by showing that women are not just beauty pageants and worlds equal, it does not shine light on the fact that men are not always emotionless and brazen. These are just two small examples of how men and women are represented in our country’s most famous shows, movies, and books.

The younger generations of today are starting to change gender biases. In our high school, we are all different. Not every guy in our school is an athletic jock. Not every girl loves make-up and fashion. Each one of us has our own personality with our own likes and interests no matter what people think of them. Espeling says “girls are stereotypically seen as less aggressive but I am fairly aggressive and I’m pretty loud and outspoken which is something that is not typical for girls.” Some students believe that our school does have some gender biases. Students around the school believe the dress code can target women more than men. Junior Kendall Jackson says that she believes “guys can have their short [shorts] with tanks and it is perfectly okay but if a girl shows her shoulders the world might not.”

v.1.2

A Magical Night: 67 Cinderellas

By: Ashlyn Lacey, Staff Writer

Photo Credit: Contributed by the Drama Theatre Members

The evening of April 5th was filled with bustle and excitement as theatre students prepared for their opening night performance of 67 Cinderellas. It was with great pride the performers brought to the stage their production, after long hours of hard work to bring the play to production, after long hours of rehearsals and their efforts paid off. A beautiful and wonderfully executed, with beautiful props, costumes, and backdrops adding to the humor and exciting story displayed. A comedic take on the ridiculousness of marrying a woman one only just met, 67 Cinderellas is a true masterpiece that will assuredly make the audience laugh, but will also leave them with several thoughts on the message behind the performance.

As the Cinderella’s ugly step sisters receive their new grants to wear to the next glass slipper fitting, their mother plans to lock Cinderella away in the basement. In the past all around the world, women were not expected to work or not even have a well-rounded education, now women earn 60% of master degrees, 48% of medical degrees, and 47% of law degrees. At the time that women stayed home, men were expected to work, presently, two million fathers are now staying home daily. We’ve gotten this far but we still have a long road ahead of us. We can all help this time go by a little faster by forgetting any prejudices against either gender. This is of each other as human, not as male or female.

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Perseverance

GENDER BIAS
Perseverance: #NeverAgain

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Student’s Voices Matter

Continued from page 1

Unfortunately, there are some internet users who are spreading lies and misinformation. People are saying that the incident at Parkland was fake and that the survivors are paid actors. A video of Emma Gonzalez tearing up a target was modified to look like she was ripping the constitution in half. This went viral on Facebook along with other false stories involving the high schoolers from Parkland. Some websites even said that David Hogg was not at Marjory Stoneman Douglas when Cruz was firing the AR 15. This is the real fake news in society and involves the people who had to experience a school shooting. They lost their friends and some that are still alive but dealing with injuries and scars they have to live with the rest of their lives. It’s obvious that these false accusations are intended to divert the conversation away from needed gun legislation— if people are talking about the student’s protesting against inadequate gun laws, then they are not talking about the inadequate gun laws.

Students are realizing that their voices matter in influencing the landscape of politics by pushing Governor Rick Scott to sign a new law on March 9th, 2018. With the new Florida law, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Act, long guns can only be purchased by people twenty-one and older, bump stocks are prohibited, and it is easier to remove guns from those that may pose a threat to other’s safety. Also included in the law is more funding for mental health support. However, Congress has made no changes to gun laws at the national level, even after discussing the issue. President Trump has proposed changes to different gun laws which includes what types of guns people can buy. However, Trump did not include changing the legal age of eighteen to twenty-one to buy a gun in the proposed plans.

Congress needs to support students by changing laws that will help to prevent further tragedies. The age to purchase a gun needs to be raised nationally and background checks need to be better enforced. There are also many loopholes that must be dealt with that allow people to legally obtain weapons that would normally be illegal. We need our voices heard and laws that will keep us safe.

In order for our voices to be heard, students have been the ones mainly organizing the marches and rallies across the United States and all over the world. By using the hashtag #MarchForOurLives, students have been expressing themselves and making their voices heard on social media. Senators and the members of Congress are hearing the words of students on Capitol Hill. Students voices matter because the community supports the idea that students’ voices should be heard. Locally, Carol Nixon, a tutor said, “Yes, it is tragic that some lives were cut short, but for those of you who are alive and well, I sincerely hope you will get the best education possible and therefore have great opportunities in your future.” It is scary that the gunman came into a high school and killed seventeen students, but we need to make change happen to prevent school shootings and take all opportunities that we come across to live our lives to the fullest.

We are not bound to accept the world we’re born into. We can change it using the tool of social media and the strength of our voices to convince society and those who govern it to change gun laws in an effort to reduce the opportunities current laws provide to those who would perpetrate mass shootings. Let us not sit back and wait for the adults to make the necessary changes. We need to be responsible ourselves and let others know how strongly we feel about gun violence and the laws that need to be changed in order to reduce it.

Student Survey on School Violence

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer

Between February 24 and March 3rd, 83 students in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade participated in this survey on Survey Monkey.

Teachers should carry concealed weapons.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0

People should be able to buy assault weapons such as AR-15s.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0

I feel safe on campus.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0

Bump stocks for assault weapons should be illegal.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0

There is enough security on campus to keep me safe.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0

Teachers carrying concealed weapons will reduce school shootings.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0
Our Decision to Join the Fight

Jasmine Fletcher

I joined this fight because asked my self “How am I going to want change and not help move this movement along.” Then I thought of how this event is effecting students and civilians across the nation. Not only the people that were directly effect by the poor gun regulations and loathsome policies that have direct ties to the NRA. But even the other students and civilians as well that has a shadow of fear everyday去 school or public events that at any moment could be the want the common sense decision and the steps for gun regulation and to ensure the feeling of security and well being of students and civilians in the United States. In Dr. King’s words, “And the constant excuses for inaction no longer do, no longer suffice.” That’s why we are here today. This is why I’m fighting because holding your voice and trying to make effects this mass of a people is distasteful especially when the government is suppose to have regulations in place to make sure that just anyone isn’t getting such caliber of a weapon and magazines that have enough bullets to kill almost 50 men. I feel future generations shouldn’t have to feel besieged around teachers that have to carry firearms to try to maintain the safety or feel some type of security. I want more people to be proponent for change because we are as strong as our weakest link.

Olivia Holliday

I joined this fight because I was tired of hearing about yet another senseless shooting that left students dead. As students we can no longer get an education in a country where they can to go school and not look over their shoulder to see if anyone has a gun.

Matilda Phan

“To every student participating in this fight, I urge you, hear each and single voice of your voice is just as important as the next, no less and no more. No less than the students grieving the loss of a friend; no less than the parents grieving the loss of their child; no less than 17 lives lost that will not be gone in vain, because by being here today the students and defenders of students of Stoneman Douglas have set the match in our hands and your very presence allows us to strike it and ignite the fire that we desperately need for change. So I will be brief in saying this: when we will not be easily silenced, we will not re-fuse to be just another mass shooting. I refuse to be forgotten, I refuse to be invisible and I refuse to take high offense to our legacies by trying to calm us down. Be passionate because you are the future, just like we all are, and this is our own history that we have the chance to be a part of. We are the voice of the changing face of progress. Exist loudly. Be fearless. Question everything. We are the voice of a revolution. and we must stand together because we know we will change the world, and I hope you all take a pledge to defend it. Back to the spark set here today will be crucial to an ever-burning flame of a light-er future that we have a right to. We have a right to live, and we will fight for it until our very last breath. But why should we be fighting for something that is sup-posed to be guaranteed to us? The power, love, hu-manity and compassion we are all capable of is incred-ibly unmatched by any politician or threat. So let’s make a difference and let’s make it a big one, because enough is enough. Enough of being too scared to not be silent.”

Message from Oliver Holliday, Madison Holliday, and Matilda Phan

Speeches Presented during the 3/14 Walkout

Jasmine Fletcher

“On February 17th, 2018, I witnessed a truly life-changing experience. I attended a federal legislative session relating to gun violence. Various speakers took the podium to speak on gun control on not taking steps. Should be taken in order to prohibit a tragedy like the Parkland shooting from reoccurring. Speaker after speaker I listened to until one came that truly gave me an emotionally, overbearing experience. The father of Victor Alex Scarchter, 14, speak of what is was like to lose this precious son, right next to his mother. I then listened to the mother of victim Scott Beigel tell her story of what it was like to know that she and her beloved son would never meet again on this Earth, and that she would have to bury him. Both beggars legislators to do something in order for par-
tions to never experience what it is like to bury your child over senseless gun vio-

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Perseverance: #NeverAgain

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Prize Winning History Projects

1st Place Performance: The Rosenhan
The experiment was conducted to test the validity of a diagnosis from a psychologist. Students in the performance group included Janna Goodwin, Sara Saloum, Anton Salvador, Haris Sheikh, and Aaron Sindi.

1st Place Documentary: The Srebrenica Genocide
This occurred in July 1995 during the Bosnian War when 10,000 Muslim males were executed. The group who won the annotated document was Kaylyn Goodwin, Sara Saloum, Anton Salvador, Haris Sheikh, and Aaron Sindi.

1st Place Individual Exhibit: Kerrington Ford's project focused on women suffragettes and their fights for rights equal to men.

1st Place Individual Website: Jaden Koller's project focused on the police raid of Stonewall.

1st Place Individual Exhibit: Rebecca Burstein, Allison Fisher, Marko Namen, and Lejla Cancar.

1st Place Individual Website: Jaden Koller

The History Fair is a way for students to convey their reactions and opinions about a topic. The fair was also a chance for students to show off my passions about what they feel the most passionate about. Students worked very hard on putting together creative presentations to show their peers.

Students around the campus chose a topic from any historic event possible that they felt was the most interesting as well as what they feel the most passion for. All of the students worked very hard in the fair because they got to work with my close friend and show off my passions about the topic I chose.

Many different videos deal-
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App Review: Tizing with Music

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer

Tize is a phenomenal app that can be downloaded on iPhone and iPad for free in an app purchase for the different instruments not included in the sound pack—guitar, saxophone, and drum kit. It creates a breathtaking experience. With an immersive drum kit, keyboard, and recording and importing, the ability to arrange different tracks, and easy note editing and placement, Tize makes music composition easy and enjoyable. There is also a feed and share option if you want to share the tracks that you have created. Tracks that have been created by using other applications can also be added to Tize. The drum kit allows users to simulate a drum kit using an array of buttons that can make a variety of different sounds. This allows for users to make and record unique beats however they want. When the beat is finished another track can be added to the song and edited inde- pendently. With the melody (keyboard) track, differ- ent notes and chords can be recorded on piano keys. The melody track is like having a physical key- board at your fingertips. The user can put effects on piano notes to make it sound more distinct and the genre that the keyboard sounds come from can be changed so the keyboard can sound like Pop and R&B. Tize allows for the melody track to be altered to sound like a bass, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, and many more, which allows for users to make tracks that sound like they were made with actual instruments. With Junior Walker Duke’s experience with the app, he said, “I immediately start- ed using Tize for learning to create beats to songs. My favor- ite feature is how I can use free sounds without worry- ing to worry about paying. I rate it five out of five stars.” After recording a track, another track can be add- ed as well by clicking the bottom right hand corner and selecting what kind of track to be added. These tracks can be ed- ited through the pattern application where notes can be added or removed at particular points in the track. Audio can also be recorded over other tracks allowing us- ers to create more com- plex beats. Imported tracks can be cut to the length that you want it. This allows for the precise editing of the track to for- malize the song the way users want it to be. Soph- omore Caleb Carpenter said, “The app is good for people that love music and gives people the chance to create their own songs. Also, you can share your music on the app and people can listen to it and comment on it. Overall, it is an awesome must download app.” This leads to creating an enjoyable track to listen to by your- self, or even share with others. Tize allows begin- ners to create simple and nice sounding sounds while also allowing more serious users to create complex and professional sounding works. It is defi- nitely worth downloading.

Great Food & Atmosphere

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Restaurant Review Columnist and Editor-in-Chief

Photo Credit: Rowan Vanhoof’s family member

Don Juan’s Restaurant offers authentic Mexican cuisine. The food is classic and delicious but what really stands out is the service.

When I went to Don Juan’s with my family I decided to order what I thought would be the most repre- sentative of the restaurant, which was a burrito, but I didn’t want the regular alteration. Before the food came out we were greeted with chips and salsa as an appetizer. The chips were like most restaurants and the salsa was absolutely fantastic. I enjoyed the salsa but I still wish that they did those who do not like cilantro will not like the salsa. My enchilada was delicious, like most of the food it was a traditional beef enchilada. The sauce goes for my taco as well as the rice and beans that came on the side. All of it was quite good in a classic sense.

The burrito on the other hand was world. Like everything previously mentioned, the burrito was a classic that is true to its Mexican origin. In America, burritos are typically flour tortillas filled with Mexican style rice and beans, some sort of meat, and a variety of assorted vegetables and sauces. Authentic burritos are not like that. Their burrito was not a monster filled with beef and covered in the sauce usually found on an enchilada. The burrito was good but as someone who is used to the American and fu- sion style of burritos found at other restaurants I was surprised when our food was brought to our table.

As I men- tioned before, the food was good but it was nothing crazy. One com- plaint I have is the pricing on this food. Most special meals that were the same combinations ranged from $15 to $10. It is possible that there are such things as better than the dinner combina- tion that I had, and I simply or- dered one of the less extravagant food but if it is on the same level as the food I ordered, it may be a bit expensive.

My family didn’t have to wait for our table because we arrived a bit early around 5:30 but for the rest of the night the line was out the door. We had a booth close to the en- trance that didn’t fit the entire group that we had so we had to use an extra table provided by the staff. With eight people in our party our food was out relatively quickly. As we ate the line for a table continued to grow and it got to the point that some of the people waiting began to give use dirty looks. Despite the restaurant being slammed, we faced no issue with the orders being messed up and everything came out rather quickly.

What really stood out to me at Don Juan’s was the service. I have never received better service at a restaurant in my life. Our waiters and waitresses treated us like family and the cook even came out to de- liver some of our food. No matter what was asked of them our waiters always responded graciously and quickly and even though the place was being slammed, we faced no issue with the orders being messed up and everything came out rather quickly.

If you enjoy killer collabs, Arianna Grande brings them to- gether: The Weekend, Mac Miller, Ed Sheeran, Nathan Sykes, John Legend, and Meghan Trainor. These voices compliment each other magically and provides a very relaxing vid- eo well worth adding to your playlist.

Grande seems to prefer an upbeat tune accompanied by lyrics that are usually about hap- py times caused by healthy sup- portive relationships, and who doesn’t enjoy hearing a joyful kind of music? For example, her killer collab with The Weeknd in “Love Me Harder” demonstrates how much their voices support each other. The same can be said of her collab with Mac Miller in the song, “The Way.” However, she can hold her own when she sings on her own as well. She can also dance and her on stage performances are proof that she has a strong stage presence.

Her voice is soft but strong, feminine but feisty, and her vid- eos performances project the same qualities. She obviously loves to glam it up in her well constructed and sophisticated videos, just as she obviously loves to strip down and show skin while dancing during her live stage performances.

Her comfort level on the stage results from a lifetime of performing in front of audienc- es—both live and televised. In other words, she is as entertain- ing to watch as she is to listen to. With her voice in the sound- track of this year’s favorite films, Don Juan’s has had an enormously successful year, and no doubt increased her fame to a wid- er age range. This wider audi- ence is likely to continue to follow her career because her lyrics are clean, her dancing is profes- sional, her voice is clear, and the message in her music relates to positive relationships—who doesn’t want to hear that in this day and age of discontent. Arianna Grande is young, refreshing, and doesn’t mind sharing the spotlight with voices that compliment her own, prov- ing that a little bit of selflessness never hurt anyone listening.
Game Review: Fortnite

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Chief Editor

After a lackluster launch, Fortnite developer Epic Games made their Battle Royale game mode free so that they could reach as many players as possible. Roughly six months after Battle Royale was made free, Fortnite has one of the largest player bases ever. With over 40 million players and an upwards of 2 million players playing at any given time, Fortnite’s success is indubitable.

Fortnite’s success lies in the nature of a battle royale game; Fortnite is fun to watch which resulted in massive success on video streaming platforms like Youtube and Twitch. The gameplay undulates from excitement in the early game during the looting phase to a slower mid-game where some fighting occurs to the quick and exciting battles at the end of the match. The excitement of the initial drop where players have to use whatever they can find to fight off those who dropped around them grabs viewers’ attention.

After watching the beginning of the match viewers become invested while watching the mid-game where streamers can interact with their viewers more and usually want to watch till the end. On top of the excitement of each match, the high skill cap allows for skilled players to make much more impressive plays that most viewers could only dream of which leads them watching even more.

As a result of the careful balancing of Fortnite, it is a very easy game to get into as a casual player and a rewarding and entertaining game to get into as a more serious player. This has led Fortnite to be one of the most popular games right now. With the immense support for serious players, a more competitive e-sports scene is forming that is creating even more growth and popularity for Fortnite.

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Perseverance

Perseverance is the ability to continue in a course of action, despite any obstacles, difficulties, or other factors that may discourage you. As students, we are constantly persevering to overcome obstacles that we face every day. Perseverance not only builds upon who you are as a person, but it allows you to concentrate on your goals, and it increases your self-worth. Perseverance can occur at the individual, national, or international level. Thomas Edison said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Edison was correct, as he persevered while developing the lightbulb. This is just one of the many examples of perseverance that have brought many to success.

Our nations have struggled to overcome obstacles that require perseverance to overcome. One example is the demonstration of perseverance in North and South Korea’s decision to combine with one another to participate in the Olympic Games. While the divide in North and South Korea has been a longstanding one, this action has been one that has shown perseverance. The Korean team stood neither for the North Korean anthem nor the South Korean anthem. Instead, they all stood for the traditional folk song “Arirang.” This demonstrates the unity between the two countries, despite their divide.

Our country has been having its own issues that require perseverance to overcome. We are working to pass a bill, the government was shut down for 3 full days. This caused many government officials to walk out of office, which decreases the quality of life for many Americans to decline. Our country has had to persevere through these problems and continue as a nation to overcome this government shutdown. The government shutdown was something that had a major impact on many Americans. The government shutdown led to federal workers being idled, offices being closed, and funding for all activities being disrupted. In a time of desperation like this, it takes the nation as a whole to overcome these problems. This is what requires perseverance to surpass moments like these in our lives.

Perseverance is something that is required to be an athlete. Many athletes in our school would agree that sports called us all. From the tough condition to the long seasons, perseverance is an aspect that is much-needed. Despite the times when you may feel like you have failed, whether it be losing a game or a race, these hardships can only make you stronger. Whether you’re an Olympic athlete, or a high school runner, they both share something in common: it is essential to persevere for both sports and overcoming their struggles. One example of this has been demonstrated through Jesse Owens.

A famous track and field athlete named Jesse Owens once said, “We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.” Jesse Owens was considered the best track and field athlete at the 1936 Olympics after winning four gold medals. Owens also held a long jump world record for 25 years. When representing the United States in the Olympic games, Adolf Hitler had criticized America for allowing African American athletes to participate in the games. While Nazi Germany was scoring America from the outside for allowing African Americans to participate in the games, Owens was receiving backlash from his own country. Owens said, “I had to go to the back door. I couldn’t live where I wanted. I wasn’t invited to shake hands with Hitler, but I wasn’t invited to the White House to shake hands with the president, either.” This shows the mistreatment of African Americans during this period that Owens had to overcome. Despite the internal and external persecution that Owens faced, he continued to persevere, later to be known as one of the greatest track and field athletes in American history. Owens wasn’t recognized until 1976, in white he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Students are constantly striving to reach their goals. Between school work, sports, clubs, homework, and jobs, students have many things to balance daily. This is where perseverance comes in. In order to attain our goals, we as students must persevere through our problems and struggles. Sophomore, Isabel Thomas, said, “With school, you really have to use perseverance because you need the drive to do your work and push through it.” Most of the time, we will fail while pursuing our goals. It is the times that we do attain these goals that feel special to us, as we pass the barriers that once defeated us. Perseverance is having the tenacity to keep working and pushing toward one goal no matter how many times one is faced with failure.

To succeed academically requires great perseverance.
Tomás and Gaston relaxing with the family in the evening.

The day dawned and I could not believe that it was possible to wake up Tomás, Gaston, and I at five o’clock in the morning. We had made the night before and had no idea at the time that the next two weeks would be like meeting foreign students. Most of the packaged foods we have in America are not used to the massive grocery stores we have in America. As Friday arrived, I thought that the common thought was to take them on a tour of the United States. I was nervous, but I had to excuse myself from school to take my friends to the airport to take them home, after dinner, Tomás and Gaston played and sang for us. It was beautiful. I had grown accustomed to Tomás and Gaston always being by my side. They truly were like brothers to me. My own biological brother is fifteen years older than me, and because of that I had been like an only child for most of my life. Gaston and Tomás not only expressed brotherly affection towards me, but also teased me and made me laugh. They were like the friend who would jokingly say to me, “That hurts me, you know that you are doing that.”

As Friday night approached, I was ready to show Tomás and Gaston what American teenagers do on the weekends. I had invited a bunch of friends to come over that night to play ping pong and eat pizza. My friends and I had completed head to head to see who would get to play either Tomás or Gaston. One of my friends, whom we assumed was the best ping pong player, challenged Tomás. Tomás won with a score of twenty-one to zero. I had never seen a ping pong player lose a game in my life. No one else challenged Tomás, and he played every Easter Sunday morning.

Gaston and Tomás continued to surprise me with such hidden talents during their stay with us. My room is right next to the bathroom. So, when Tomás would take his nightly showers, I could hear him sing. I discovered that Tomás had a hidden talent during his stay with us. They would sing “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran every night. I asked him about it in the morning. During my first period class. My first period class happened to be guitar. He and Gaston both grabbed guitars off the shelf and much to my surprise played many popular American songs like it was nothing. That night at home, after dinner, Tomás and Gaston played and sang for us. It was beautiful.

Argentine exchange students from left to right: Tomás Calvo Frantz, Nazi Friz, Svia Martinez, Abiri Tabarez (coordinator), Balti Sartenias, Santi Lamos, and (seated in front) Gaston Segasti.
She’s a Bonfire High School Sweetheart

By: Adrianna Torres, Contributor
Photo Credit: Family Member

Pageant life isn’t for the faint of heart. It takes talent, practice, and confidence. Senior Madison Williams became eligible to participate in the county’s annual Miss High School Sweetheart pageant held on November 12, 2017, at Wolfson High School because she earned the title of First Runner-Up in the 2018 Miss Mandarin Pageant. She decided to participate in this pageant because the winner and her court are awarded scholarship money. The competition hosted nineteen young ladies from across the county. To prepare for the pageant, contestants attended four weekly gatherings designed to provide them with opportunities to get to know each other and practice the overall format of the pageant, as well as the opening group dance routine. Williams found this time to be enjoyable because she met the students who’d participated in their school’s pageants, and made new friends and formed friendships.

On the day of the pageant, Williams said, “I was nervous, yet excited to get the opportunity.” She added that she was “fairly new to pageants, so my main focus wasn’t to win.” The event was intense for all of the contestants and was broken into six stages: opening dance, on-stage question, casual wear, individual talent, evening gown, and the crowning ceremony. The two titles up for grabs were Best Overall and Most Talented. The opening group dance number was to the music of Meghan Trainor’s “I’m a Lady.” “The opening act was the best part, because I was not judged, so I was able to be myself,” said Williams.

The next segment in the pageant was on-stage questions to the contestants, designed to have them demonstrate their ability to provide thoughtful responses to questions they are not provided beforehand. Williams shared that her question was, “Why do you believe community service is important in today’s society?” Her response was, “Community service benefits others and yourself. It helps your city while giving you the feeling of self-accomplishment. You can make a difference in one hour can help many others and change lives.”

With the pressure of the question segment behind her and filled with confidence in her response, Williams then participated in the casual wear segment with her usual spunk. She enjoyed this segment because it gave her an opportunity to “show off my personal style.”

During the talent segment that followed, Williams performed a dance to Jason Mraz’s inspirational song, “I Won’t Give Up.” She explained, “I chose this dance because I felt connected to it, and I felt I could express my emotion, while still having fun!” Madison has been dancing since the age of three, so she had no trouble learning, practicing, and performing her chosen talent.

In the evening gown segment, Williams wore a floor length black gown with an inverted v-neck. During this segment, contestants presented a ‘princess’ of their choice. Williams chose her boyfriend’s eight year old sister, Isabella Murray. Williams shared that the experience has inspired Isabella to participate in pageants in the future.

The evening closed with the crowning ceremony. Everyone filled Madison’s body and the pressure of the competition kicked in. The crowd fell into silence with a steady drumroll emanating from the heart of the contestants and the audience. When the announcer proclaimed that “third place goes to Madison Williams,” she shared, “My heart dropped; I was very happy with my result; I worked hard, and it showed.” She walked away with $300 in scholarship money. All in all, it was an experience she’s proud of for being able to show her confidence on stage and represent her school as a winning participant in this pageant.

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The Band Presents it’s Prism Concert

By: Mrs. Kelly Davis, Contributor
Photo Credit: Band Parents

The band has been very busy during the second semester.

In January, nineteen band members earned a chair in the All District Honor Band. They had three rehearsals and a concert at Atlantic Coast High School. These students auditioned along with high school students from all of Duval and Nassau Counties to earn a seat in this prestigious band. Students participating included Gwendolyn Gonzalez-Montero, Katherine Lee, Tiffany Black, Sarah Curry, Julienna Key, Jessica Mabry, Ruben Godlaman, Kellen Edwards, Claire Thompson, Julia Winston, Cassandra Bailey, Brandon Magyar, Justin Marcotte, Eya Sluder, Daniel Daughtery, Evan Heeg, Jacques Guillame, Emilio Valenzuela, and Katherine Kartoglu.

On February 16th and 17th, band members participated in District Solo and Ensemble. Our students brought home 101 Superior Medals—the most superior awards of all the schools in our district.

On March 2nd, both concert ensembles (Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble) participated in the District Music Performance Assessment. Both ensembles earned Straight Superiors!! This is the highest score they can earn! Our Wind Ensemble advanced to State! State MPA performance was held on April 21 where they received Straight Excellents.

On the evening of May 4th, band members enjoyed their last performance of the year—the Prism Concert. It featured our Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Drumline, Colorguard, many small ensembles & soloists, the Mandarin Middle School Band, and the Mustang Marching band.

The band also held its annual Silent Auction. Mrs. Paolino’s students helped facilitate the auction by providing the lights and sound. Auditions for next year’s band have already begun.

Drum Majors and the Drum Corps

Band members replaced their uniforms with beach wear to ensure their last performance of the year was filled with color entertainment.

Madison Williams, 3rd Runner Up in the County’s Miss High School Sweetheart Pageant with her boyfriend, Senior Kevin Lemin
Four." As this soccer season made it to the State Final year," Pappadis said, "we played for. That was the largest crowd that he has kick in front of the he was able to score a penal-

With his athletics, he has been a part of Varsity Soccer as the Mid Fielder for four years, Cross Country for two years, and Track and Field for four years. In Track and Field, he runs the 1600m, 800m, 4x400, and 4x800. Pappadis’ soccer career started “basically since [he] could walk.” He explained that his greatest soccer high-

Senior Nolan Lepkoske was chosen by Jax Sports Radio as the 1010XL Student Athlete of the Week due to his academics, athletics, community service, and extracurricular activities. Lepkoske has main-

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