The Elmont Phoenix

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THE VERY GREAT GRANDSON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

There's Been a Murder at the Creastley Mansion...

By Jahnia Cunningham



It was so nice that you just had to see it twice! This year's Senior High Drama production of The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes was extraordinary. The performance took place on Friday, November 2, 2018, with an encore performance on Friday, November 16th in support of those injured in the accident this past Halloween.

The play is a dramedy; in a dream sequence, we are introduced to our detective because a woman named Helga, played by Brianna Gardner, needs his help. Sherwood Holmes, played by Matthew Fabien, is called upon to solve a case before it turns bloody. As maid Meg Baker, played by Lisa Fabien, asks Mr. Holmes to take the case, his trusty sidekick Dr. Watson, played by Robert Staple, encourages him to do so for the money and the fame. The play is set at the mansion of Harris Creastley, played by Akinwale Agesin. He is an Anawordies anagram champion and has an upcoming tournament. When Holmes and Watson first arrive at the Creastley mansion, they are greeted by the butler Jason McTorg, played by Olisa Emeagwali. He introduces the dynamic duo to the rest of the house staff, including Dinah Cheery, the cook played by Myrna Jean Michel, the upstairs maid played by Chelsea Edouard, and the downstairs maid played by Ayesha Charles. Also involved in the frenzy are Harris Creastley's family, his sister Hillary, played by Sky Arthur, and his wheelchair bound aunt Amanda, played by Nia Hurt. When Harris Creastley is murdered in another room with everyone present, Sherwood sure does have his work cut out for him.

The first performance was a success. Everyone involved gave it their all, despite any struggles of previous runs through rehearsals. Holmes and Watson, Matthew Fabian and Robert Staple, delivered an amazing performance. The other actors and actresses were just as amazing. Eleventh grade cast member Olisa Emeagwali, who played the hilarious kleptomaniac butler, Jason McTorg, commented that "[he] wished [that] [he] had done [the drama] sooner." The actress behind the desensitized and incredibly blunt Hillary Creastley, junior Sky Arthur, commented that it "was [her] first time doing the senior high drama" and that she does not "regret it at all… the group "made [the experience] very enjoyable." All speculation of the performance's "special guest" were finally debunked when Mr. Dougherty made his debut on stage as Officer Dave. The appearance sparked a lot of cheer from the audience. The crowd consisted of at least one hundred people, all of whom left the performance with smiles on their faces.

The second performance did even better than the first, with the cast and crew being better prepared and more comfortable with their roles. And the turnout was even bigger than before. After seeing the performance for the first time, Stacey Lissade, a senior, stated that she "didn't expect [the performance] to be so funny" and that "everyone in the cast portrayed their character nicely." Positive reviews came from both first-time viewers and second-time viewers of the encore performance. Towards the end of the show it was announced that the play made almost a thousand dollars in sales, when in actuality, the sum was over a thousand dollars. All of the money went towards an important cause - supporting our classmates and their families during their time of need. The illuminating elation and positivity of the night created a sense of unity among all those who embarked on the experience.

The crew and cast members are truly talented. Ms. Lennon and Ms. Martinez have worked hard in order to crank out two memorable performances; they are the real stars. The student director, Jenna Archer, and stage managers, myself and senior Douye Tebepah, were also key leaders in the success of the show. All members of stage crew, especially Mr. Ferraro, deserve a shout out too.









The Elmont Phoenix

ELMONT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Assistant Principal..... Mr. Naraine
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Faculty Adviser: Ms. Martinez

Editors: Jaden Beausejour, Imani Favard, Brianna Gardner, Brianna Munn, Munahil Sultana

Photograper: Josiah Turner

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Principal's Corner

Dear Students,

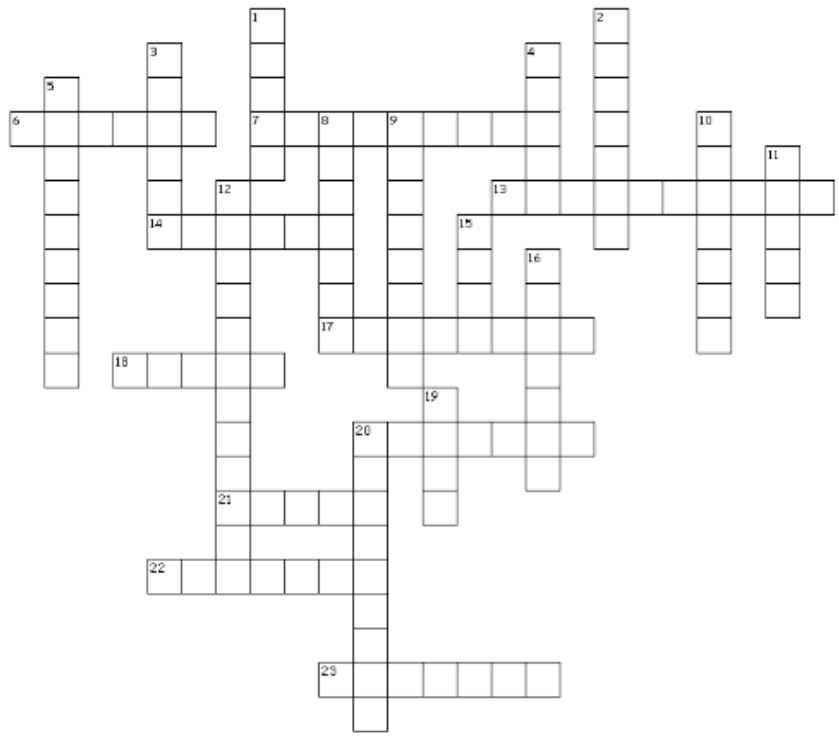
It is the most wonderful time of the year! With a new year fast approaching, many people have already celebrated Hanukkah and many others will be celebrating Christmas or Kwanzaa in the coming weeks. It is a time to gather with family, celebrate the year that has passed, and celebrate peace and light in the world around us. As you take a short break to reflect and celebrate with those you love, I ask that you examine ways that you can improve the world in which you live. As the great Stevie Wonder said, "love's in need of love today." We cannot change the entire world at once, but we can begin by spreading love and holiday cheer one person at a time. Simple gestures of kindness and selflessness can go a long way in changing the way people interact with one another. Even if you can get just one person to think about the way they interact with others because of your actions, the world will be in a better place thanks to you.

This is not the season of receiving material goods. Tis' the season of generating good. As you spend time with family and friends, as well as look forward to 2019, examine the way you spread happiness and joy in the world around you. Reflect, examine, and then go do it. Wishing you love, joy, and happiness over the vacation and as we begin our journey into 2019.

Happy New Year, Elmont Memorial High School!

Sincerely,
Mr. Dougherty

Holidays This Time of Year



Across
6. Potato pancakes that families eat during Hanukkah dinner
7. Christian holiday celebrated on December 25
13. Hanukkah celebrates this group's victory over the Greek-Syrian ruler
14. Santa says this
17. Jewish people celebrate this holiday for 8 days
18. Jolly Christmas character who delivers presents
20. Special nine-branched candelabrum for Hanukkah
21. Santa's helpers during Christmas
22. Four-sided top that has a Hebrew letter on each side
23. You leave these out for Santa to eat when he drops off presents

Down
1. Kwanzaa colors are red, green and…
2. Kwanzaa isn't a religious holiday but rather a celebration of this heritage
3. On the door for Christmas
4. Christians celebrate Christmas because of his birth on this day
5. White and red candy
8. The red-nosed reindeer
9. Giant socks filled with little presents
10. Santa come through this part of your home
11. The amount of days people celebrate Kwanzaa for
12. December 24th
15. The most common gift given for Kwanzaa is a...
16. Derived from Swahili and translates to "first fruits of the harvest"
19. White and soft precipitation
20. Kissy Kissy

This crossword puzzle was designed by Angel Olabukin.

EDITORIALS

International Issue: Misogyny in Iraq

By Kaylah Agard

Tara al-Fares was voted one of Iraq's most popular social media stars a day before she was gunned down in Iraq's capital of Baghdad on September 27, 2018. Al-Fares began her journey in 2014 while competing in the Miss Baghdad contest. Photos of the model posted in fashionable wear, exposure of her skin and tattoos, and her use of makeup attracted her millions of followers, which totaled up to 2.8 million. Two months prior to the beauty queen's tragic murder, on July 9 she made a post quoting: "It does not frighten me that object who rejects the existence of God, what really frightens me, is that which kills and slaughters with all faith, to prove the existence of God." Al-Fares was widely appreciated by her fans for speaking out against religious and political leaders, and while many shared her videos and posts, some found her to be un-Islamic and criticised her Western lifestyle. Even after her murder, a national television host referred to her as a "whore."

Two days prior to Al-Fares's murder, human rights activist Suad al-Ali was shot dead in the city of Basra. Speculation surrounding the death of the human rights campaigner who was an organizer of recent protests against power



Photo of Tara al-Fares

cuts and water shortages in the Iraqi city is believed to be a part of a string of attacks on women who challenge Iraq's strict traditions. The deaths of Rafif al-Yasiri and Rasha al-Hassan are believed to be linked as well. Rafif al-Yasiri, labelled as the "Barbie of Iraq," was an Iraqi plastic surgeon and a conductor of national programs that commonly specialized in the medical assistants for women. Her center for her plastic surgery and laser operations was in Baghdad and on August 16, 2018, she died of a supposed drug overdose. Following a week later, Rasha al-Hassan, owner and manager of her Viola Beauty center in Baghdad, was found dead in her home under mysterious circumstances. Both women owned famous and successful beauty centers and had huge fan bases across the region.

EDITORIALS

Iraqi women who stand against Iraq's conservative ways are now in fear of their lives due to these killings. Shimaa Qasim, a former Miss Iraq of 2015 with 3.1 million followers, had received death threats following the murder of Al-Fares. In an emotional Youtube video, Qasim revealed that women are being treated worse than "slaughtered chickens" and she had been told that she would meet the same fate. When speaking with the Rudaw News, an Iraqi media outlet, she stated: "I was threatened with murder. My life was in danger. The killing of this many people scared me. I wasn't comfortable living there anymore. That is why I left Iraq and came to Jordan." And she continued: "During the last few days I was in Baghdad, I didn't dare to even go out of my house. I was scared even at home. What is the difference between a serious threat and frightening someone?" She has since moved to the country of Jordan. Yanar Mohammed, co-founder of Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq, has fled the country as well due to fear. Like many others, she believes the attacks on women are not singular incidents, but in fact connected with one another. She continues her interview with DW News, "The killings have been done against women who reveal their bodies, who reveal their faces, are outspoken about women's rights, women who did not submit to the conventional Islamic ways which the Iraqi government is forcing on the people."

In a male dominated society, women are expected to be silent, passive, and submissive. To defeat these expectations, women reclaim their independence whether that means being outspoken, getting an education, or dressing how they want. Some find this to be disrespectful against Islam's traditions and go to any means to defend the honor. If murder is found to be the only option, some would push for this extreme measure.

Cultural Appropriation

By Christianie Joseph

Nowadays with social media, cultures around the world are being shared. Someone in Sweden could learn about different cultures in Somalia and someone in China can learn about people in South America. With this exchange of culture, people are not very respectful to other cultures, many times ridiculing the culture or claiming it as their own culture. This brings us to the topic of cultural appropriation.

Cultural appropriation is the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect it. It's the misappropriation of elements from a minority culture by people of the dominant culture. Most people who take elements from other cultures never experience the difficulties the people of that culture had to face. For example, for some time, black women were not able to wear their natural hair, braids, or cornrows to work because it was seen as unprofessional and many women were fired because of their culture. But, presently, many white women wear these black hairstyles to be trendy or to copy Kim Kardashian, even though black women have been doing it for years.

These women accredit many of the styles to celebrities without even knowing the historical background behind the style. Even though braids, cornrows, afros, bantu knots, etc. were harshly criticised, many non-black groups started making this hairstyle their own, without any understanding for the history behind black hair. When a white woman does it it is considered "chic," but when a black woman does it it is "ghetto." This is quite different from black people straightening their hair or wearing straight or blonde wigs which many people say is black people appropriating white culture. White culture is the dominant culture; blacks were forced to assimilate to white culture and change their ways to be able to survive in this country. This is the whole reason hair relaxers were created - so that black women could peacefully work without having to worry about their hair. They are called ugly because of their hair and skin tone which is why many black people are bleaching their skin. They have been taught that the European look is what they should think is beautiful.

There is no problem with white people wearing items from different cultures; there is a problem when they ridicule it, claim it as their own, or accredit it to someone else who is not even a part of the culture. If you are going to wear it, know its name and where it comes from. They are called Fulani braids not Bo Derek braids; they are called Bantu knots and, no, they are not a new trend.

DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM
Including Reflections from Mr. Davison

By Sunita Singh

Diversity comes in many forms when it comes to people. Specific to institutions this includes racial diversity, cultural diversity, gender differences, differences in height or weight - virtually anything. But in many cases, the diversity we are discussing is in the form of race because that's what we see all the time. Diversity, by nature, can be a divisive or incisive topic depending on how you look at it. It can create in-group out-group biases, with stereotypes, but that's a very pessimistic and negative view of diversity.

Diversity, at its best, is inclusive. It brings together the best of what the world has to offer and aggregates this collection of ideas to create something that could not have existed before. There has never been a time when understanding classroom diversity has been so crucial. Whether it be cultural diversity, racial diversity, or other differences, every teacher needs to understand and accept these differences.

Classroom diversity means recognizing that all people are unique in their own way. While we understand that most people do hold certain biases on some level, those who can replace these biases with an appreciation and tolerance will, in turn, promote student success. As all classrooms are multicultural, working toward respecting all members of our classroom, school, and the district is simply a necessity. In order to encourage, value, and promote diversity we recommend that teachers take time to learn about their students' various backgrounds, interests, and more. By doing this, you're not only learning more about your students, but you're taking the next step in being able to accept and understand various types of diversity.

Learning how to communicate with students, parents, teachers, and staff gives you a way to approach classroom diversity openly and with fewer bumps in the road. A prime example would be the Renaissance, a time when the spread of ideas allowed for the growth of society. A second example would be the United States of America. America was known as a melting pot where people of all creeds and cultures were welcome, which diversity brings perspective. Diversity brings experiences that individuals of a singular background might have not have been able to imagine. Diversity allows for the combination of the best of us.

Mr. Davison, the English Department chairperson, participated in a cultural proficiency training along with other teachers in the district. This meeting allowed members of our district to reflect on their perceptions on diversity. I had the opportunity to sit with Mr. Davison and reflect on the topic of diversity and how it applies to our district. Here's what he had to say:

Question: What does diversity mean to you?

Mr. Davison: It's a term that can be applied to a number of different aspects of people's identity--for example, racial diversity, diversity in terms of sexual orientation, age, ways of knowing and ways of learning. For instance, some people who learn differently may be treated differently than people who learn the way everyone is expected to learn. When we are a diverse learning community we have people who are representing various kinds of cultures and ways of learning. It's not as simple as black or white.

Question: You've attended a district meeting about diversity. Did your opinion change about diversity after experiencing and hearing others' ideas on diversity?

Mr. Davison: I and a number of educators from the Sewanhaka district attended the Reimagining Education conference at Teachers College - Columbia University this July 2018. The topic was teaching and learning in racially diverse schools. The goal of the program was to "examine the ways race and ethnicity matter and explore how to create an educational setting where all students can learn from each other." Seeing diversity as a strength I think allows the differences in our communities to bring us all up because we can learn from other people. Those who have a different experience than us have something to teach us.

Question: What can diversity in classrooms do for students?

Mr. Davison: Diversity in our classrooms brings opportunities for students to teach each other. Take Elmont as an example; there are people who come from a wide variety of backgrounds that go beyond broad categories of African American, Asian American, or Latin American. People who are described in these terms don't all have the same background. They all have something to bring to the conversation, which allows students to learn from others' experiences.

Question: Are there any challenges as a teacher working in a diverse school?

Mr. Davison: The challenge for me as curriculum supervisor is finding material that represents diversity. One of the things that I took away from the conference is the idea that curriculum should be both a "window" and a "mirror." A window, meaning when we read Shakespeare, we can learn about what life was like in England four hundred years ago. It can be enlightening because some things have changed a lot--for example, the role of women or people's understanding of people from different parts of the world. We can learn a lot by looking through the windows of literature, but then if we don't have mirrors in our literature, we may feel that we are not represented in the curriculum. That's why diversity in terms of the authors we study is important as well.

Question: Do you think diversity brings about the best in Elmont?

Mr. Davison: I think it does. We live in a world that is increasingly global and I think to be citizens of this country, but also citizens of the world, we need to have an understanding of people who have different backgrounds than us. The fact that Elmont has more diversity than a school in the 1950s is a good thing for us as a community because we are learning so much about each other that people couldn't learn back then.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR: MS. BROWN

By Abigail Cange

Ms. Brown is an amazing teacher. I had her for one year and I can honestly say if it wasn't for her I might have never gotten mastery on my Regents. Ms. Brown has helped a lot when I was her student. She has kept me on track and kept me motivated. Mrs. Brown cares for her students and wants them to be the best version of themselves. Thank you, Ms. Brown, for being an amazing teacher. You really do deserve teacher of the year. Congratulations. Continue reading for an in-depth look into this year's Teacher of the Year:

Q: How does it feel to be teacher of the year?
A: It is a great honor and one that I truly feel is a blessing. As special education teachers we are often seen as unsung heroes. We are behind the scenes making little miracles happen. We should be referred to as Elmont's specialists or Elmont miracle workers. The job we do everyday no one can understand unless they walked a mile in our shoes. I feel like this honor I received is acknowledging all of us for the hardwork and miracles that we perform on a daily basis.

Q: When you found out how did you feel?
A: Honestly, I was very emotional and overwhelmed with happiness. More importantly, I felt honored to be chosen amongst a group of great educators. Elmont is a special place because although we all come from different backgrounds and have different experiences, we are all cut from the same fiber. We work hard to accomplish the same goal which is making our students better citizens and great scholars.

Q: How long have you been working here?
A: I have been working at Elmont for fifteen years.

Q: When working here what difficulties did you go through?
A: The most challenging part of working as teacher is being able to juggle the responsibilities of being a mother and a career woman. This task was especially taxing when my children were young and I was trying to be proficient at each job. Being a mother is a full time job in and of itself. You have to exude the same energy and effort that you exhibit at home and at work. Being a teacher, you are wearing so many different hats. A teacher juggles between wearing the roles of being an educator, parent, a counselor, mentor, and a friend.

Q: Are you advisors of any clubs, if so what?
A: I am one of the advisors to the Leading Ladies organization. Mrs Butler, Ms. Cox and I were instrumental in developing this club. Mr Dougherty and the ladies of Elmont saw that there was a need for a platform for girls to be able to express their thoughts and feelings about being a young lady in today's society.

Q: What was your favorite year working here?
A: My favorite school-year has to be 2017-2018! I felt like that year I was put into instrumental positions to lead and I accomplished a lot of pivotal milestones in my career. Such milestones have been helping to form the Leading Ladies of Elmont and being a part of the cultural proficiency team. I feel like I was able to stretch beyond the classroom and have a huge impact amongst the students and my colleagues in the building.

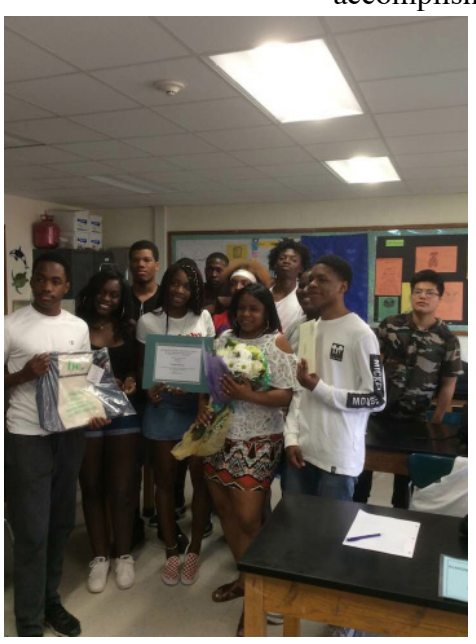
Q: What do you like about your job?
A: I love the fact that I am able to be a part of molding the future. Teaching is a vocation and a special calling. We are called to be active participants in molding the future. We are the game changer and as teachers we should not underestimate the power of this responsibility.

Q: If you were to change something about your job what would it be?
A: If I had a wish to change something about my job, I would ask for a few of Santa's helpers to assist with the paperwork that is involved in teaching.

Q: If you were told five years ago you would be teacher of the year would you believe it?
A: Every year when I watch the teacher of the year video, I use to get a surreal feeling that maybe one day that will be me. To be honest, if I was told five years ago I would be teacher of the year, I would've been in a state of shock. You never think that maybe one day you can be living your dream.

Q: What motivational quote would you give to your students?
A: I have two motivational quotes that I would give to my students. "Don't let anyone deflate your dreams and whatever you put your mind to you can accomplish!" The law of attraction is of the belief that by focusing on positive thoughts you can bring about positive experiences. You can translate that to mean whatever goals you set in your mind you can accomplish.






STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JARELL PIERRE-LOUIS

By Amanda Mitchell

Meet Jarell Pierre Louis! Jarell is one of our Elmont seniors of the class of 2019! Jarell is a sweet, lovable, and self-motivated student here at Elmont. He came from Springfield Queens to Elmont and is one of the greatest students Elmont has ever seen. With a robust GPA of 3.3 and such a remarkable streak of intelligence, Jarell is guaranteed an excellent future ahead. Recently Jarell has been accepted into Mercy College and Adelphi University and the Elmont family is extremely proud of him. Not only is Jarell one of the greatest students to be here with us at Elmont, but he's an extremely talented basketball player. Jarell plays for the Varsity Basketball Team where he plays the position of a power forward. There's no doubt that Jarell is an amazing basketball player, but he's also a young man with a diverse amount of talents other than basketball, such as drawing, painting, and singing. Jarell has taken the time to sit with me and discuss his strong qualities. He also shared plenty of interesting details about basketball journey:

Q: What are some of your strengths and what are some of your weaknesses? How can you improve your skills?
A: My strengths are getting up from rebounds, finishing layups, and playing good defense. I can improve on my handle, my passing ability, and my jump shot.

Q: Name two teammates that you'd like to shoutout. How do they play a positive role on the team?
A: Two teammates I'd like to shoutout are Jaiyetoro and Isiah; they were Junior Varsity captains along with myself. These guys pushed me to a level higher than I could've anticipated in practice and helped me out significantly with my game. Jaiyetoro plays a positive role on the team by grabbing rebounds, as long as executing plays, and setting great screens. Isiah is an excellent ball handler and a great ball passer. He finds gaps in between the defenders and creates great opportunities.



Q: What crucial role do you play on your team here at Elmont?
A: I am a great rebounder and a good shot blocker. Also, when I'm not in the game, the team can count on me to cheer them on and give advice or insight while my teammates are playing on the court.

Q: Do you see yourself having a future in basketball? Do you want to go to college for basketball or have do you have different plans?

Continued on Page 7

WELCOME TO ELMONT

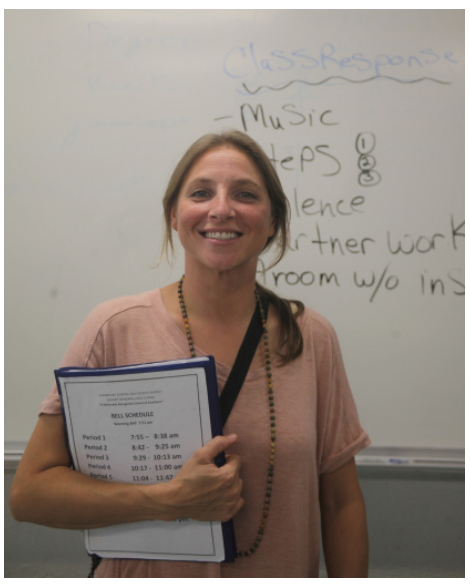
An Introduction to All the New Teachers at Elmont Memorial High School

By Imani Favard
Photographs by Josiah Turner



Mr. Agoro

Mr. Agoro is a fairly new teacher. He has only been teaching for a little less than a year. Previously he taught in another Nassau County public school. Mr. Agoro teaches 8th grade US History. His first impression of Elmont is that it the "school is a supportive place that provides a familial/communal environment." He noticed that the school is full of "energetic and talented" students. He enjoys working with the staff and looks forward to working with them for the "next 30 years plus." Mr. Agoro enjoys being able to teach his students the skills to make "past history relevant to them in today's world view." He also takes his responsibility to "prepare students for success on the next level" very seriously. Mr. Agoro's goal for his students is to prepare them for the 9th grade. He and his students share the goal of "maintaining a GPA above 85%." He also wants as many as his students as possible to get into "advanced classes in the 9th grade." Mr. Agoro sets the goal of "doing [his] job to the best of [his] ability." He wants to give his students "the best version of [himself]" every day. In the years to come, Mr. Agoro hopes to continue to "help as many students as possible be as successful as possible."



Ms. Bloom

Ms. Bloom is our newest special education teacher. She has been in the educational system for 8 years. On her first day at Elmont she admits that she was a bit "overwhelmed by the number of amazing individuals," but now she "love[s] the Special Education department." As a math teacher, she enjoys having the ability to "help the youth learn" not just math, but "compassion." Ms. Bloom loves how teachers can help "mold our future leaders" into individuals who are both "logical and compassionate." The goal she has for her students is to strengthen "their ability to to be independent learners" and to also grow in their "understanding of math." For herself, Ms. Bloom sets the goal of learning at least "15% of all the apps offered by self service." Like any amazing teacher at Elmont Memorial High School, Ms. Bloom sets her goals high and would like to one day be Teacher of the Year.



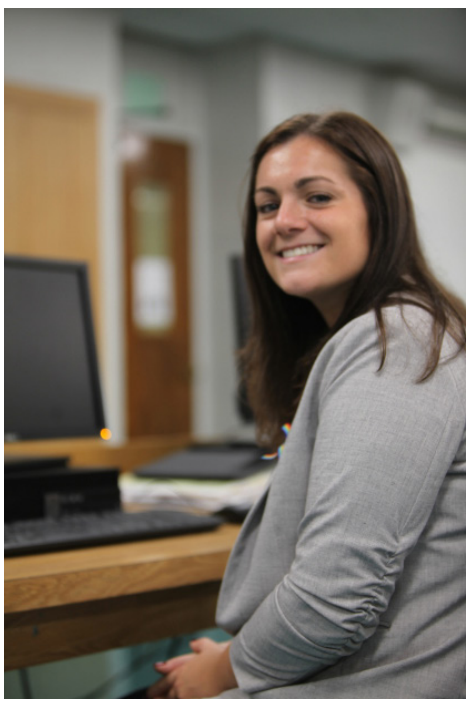
Mr. Donovan

Mr. Donovan teaches criminal justice and history to juniors and seniors. He is a "local kid from Levittown, New York." He went to Hofstra University and began working in the "First T Program," where he began to work with "3,000 students from the [ages] 7 to 18 years." Mr. Donovan loves how "every class is different." He loves how his "seniors love to debate and are actively engaged." He finds the ability to "see how different students react" to be truly awesome. He enjoys having the experience "teaching such wonderful students helping them apply their knowledge to real life situations." Mr. Donovan loves the atmosphere here at Elmont and has a special connection to the school due to his "family history" here. He loves "every minute being here." Mr. Donovan hopes to be teacher here for many more years to come.



Ms. Freire

Ms. Freire is one of our newest teachers here at Elmont. Ms. Freire was attracted to this field because she wanted to "teach every student despite disabilities." She finds it very important to "reach every learner." Prior to teaching here, Ms. Freire taught in Philadelphia. The school she taught in "didn't have enough desks for the students." So, out of the kindness of her heart, she "bought more desks and other resources that would assist [the students] when working." Ms. Freire even got the students snacks "just to keep them awake" in class. As a teacher, Ms. Feire enjoys seeing her students "grow over time" in both the classroom and in society. She finds the whole experience "humbling." Ms. Feire teaches "5 periods a day and even stays till 5:00PM" to coach the Junior High Dance Team. As she puts it: "I basically live here!" Ms. Freire sees a bright future ahead of Elmont. She finds the iPad initiative "great" and thinks that it helps students "become more involved in society."



Ms. Keenan

Ms. Keenan is one of the newest teachers in the Business Department, although she started working here last year. Teaching has always been a passion of Ms. Keenan's. She got into the industry because of her love for children. Ms. Keenan finds it to be a "true blessing" to "just be in the classroom every day." The best part of her job is "working with students," she says. She find that students "always put a smile on her face." Ms. Keenan "feels like something great is about to happen" whenever she enters a classroom. In addition to teaching business classes, Ms. Keenan also works with the Future Business Leaders of America students after school. Ms. Keenan has the goal of "preparing [her students] for a society that depends heavily on marketing and the economy." She finds it wonderful that most of her students are planning to go to college and "have shown a lot of interest in the topics in class." Ms. Keenan considers it an honor to "help such students reach their full potential" and she hopes to continue to do this for many more years to come.



Mr. Nappi

Mr. Nappi has been a teacher for 10 years. He teaches business classes here at Elmont, including entertainment marketing, sports marketing, entrepreneurship and 8th grade computer essentials. Mr. Nappi loves the "great responsibility" he has as an educator to "make a difference in another individual's life." He also enjoys the teaching process while also trying to make the "experience positive and enjoyable" for his students. From the beginning, Mr. Nappi was very "impressed by the kindness" he received from both the faculty and students. He could sense the "welcoming atmosphere of the school" and the ability it " has that makes you feel at home." His goal for his students is recognize and understand the opportunities that education provides to better themselves and to not view "education as a forced part of their life." Mr. Nappi sets the goal to "continue to improve as an educator" and to adopt to [his] new surroundings." Looking to the future, Mr. Nappi would like to be an active "member of this community for years to come."

Unforunately, new teachers Mr. Gordon (Science), Mr. McConnell (ENL), Ms. Rolleri (ENL), and Mr. Teemsa (Business), were unable to be reached for an interview. Look for information about these new-to-Elmont educators in the next issue! And be sure to welcome any new faces you see in the hallways this year.



YOUR FIRST STEPS TO BECOMING A FILMMAKER

The Production Phase

By Wesaun S. Palmer

Definitions to know:

- **Shot list:** a list of the visuals necessary for your film
- **Narrative**: a traditional storyline film
- **Experimental**: can include storyline but uses unique camera angles and other elements of film such as visual and audio to convey a message in a powerful, striking way
- **Rough cut**: a incomplete version of your film to be shown to those assisting you to give you tips on how to improve as you continue with the film

Last issue, I discussed with you the basics of the pre-production phase of filmmaking. You learned how to develop characters, you got a QR code to last year's films and an article on tips to making a quality short film, and you learned about how to create a treatment which helps you and anyone you share it with to understand and stay true to the core message of your film. If you missed this brief article and would like to read it, please check out the library to get an extra copy of the last issue. Today, I will give you some basic production notes to keep in mind when you begin shooting your film, as well as give you some of my own beginner filmmaker mistakes.

When you begin your film, the first thing to remember is the reasons why you are making this film and what you are trying to say with your film. The easiest way to do this is to look back at your treatment, or your outline of specific details that are supposed to be in your film, and that you might need to explain to someone else if you have actors or if you are making a documentary film and choose to conduct interviews. If you are filming a documentary, begin with questions that align with your message so the answers you receive from the people you interview can be connected as the overall message of your film. Make sure the people you are choosing to interview can produce insightful answers and have knowledge on the topic that you are making the documentary on. If you are filming a narrative or experimental film, start off by knowing what it is you want to shoot to portray your message.

One way you can do this is by thinking about the scenes that you want in the film and making a shot list. You can choose to draw out a quick sketch of how you would want the scene to look with some brief notes underneath or you can write out what you would like to see in each scene. This will help you know or remember what you want to do when you get on location or as you do this film by yourself. It is important to know how you want your film to look so that actually shooting it will be much more fluid. Make a list for yourself of what props you might want, if any, for this film. This is good so that when you get ready to film, you have a handy checklist for yourself. Forgetting props can be an unnecessary setback to your filmmaking that you definitely want to avoid. Lastly, make sure that you keep yourself within the timing that you want for your film so that you get all your scenes done by your deadline. Things can come up, especially when filming with other people or just being imperfect yourself, and planning enough helps you to be sure that you are prepared.

Some beginner mistakes from my first film, which you can view on the QR code from the last issue, were that I had problems with audio and consistency in visuals. Both are so important when it comes to a film because a film is a visual story. When your visuals are not on point, whether they are shaky and that is not for an artistic purpose, or they are too bright, blurry, or dark… it can interrupt the viewer's ability to connect with the message that you are trying to send or cause them to tune out of your film because they can't understand. Make sure that your film is composed correctly and that the visuals look as nice as you can manage and that the audio is clear and understandable. Make sure that there is no audio that is unrelated to your film, such as laughing, sneezing, door slamming, something dropping, et cetera. If you are working with other people, always be open to other ideas. Don't fall in love with your idea so much that you are not willing to allow it to be improved or changed. Your finished film is usually almost entirely different from the film you planned and that is not a bad thing. Be open to change and newness. When it comes to production, always plan. Always allow yourself enough time to complete everything and be open to constructive criticism from people that you can trust. Consider showing an incomplete part of your film to a trusted person or set of persons as your film progresses or show someone when you are done even if it is unedited and imperfect. That way if there are any problems that you might want to improve or expand upon in your film, then you can improve it before the film is submitted to the festival or you upload it on YouTube. Next issue, I will be back with post-production notes when you finish your film and are ready to put on some finishing touches. I wish you the best of luck.

Scan this code to enter your proposal for the Elmont Film Festival!

THE (RELATIVELY) NEW GIRL IN TOWN

Meet Natalie Persaud

By Abi Omotade

Usually, when one thinks of a new student coming to a new school, especially a high school, for the most part it does not fair well for them. A new environment, new people, wondering if you'll befriend anyone, wondering how you'll get through this new phase in your life. Some may find it daunting, but others, like Natalie Persaud, are able to not only adjust to a new setting, but flourish and become appreciative of where they are now. So I am pleased to present to you Elmont's finest to the student body, Natalie Persaud. She first entered Elmont as a ninth grader.

Q: How has your experience in Elmont been so far?

A: My experience at Elmont Memorial has been exceptional. Growing up I've always been to different schools in different states, but I've never witnessed a school as spectacular as Elmont. Everyone at Elmont Memorial High School is very welcoming and very open to knowing you are as a person. The teachers at Elmont do their very best to help every single student succeed in life. I've never witnessed such an amazing group of adults who are willing to put their best foot first to help students achieve their goals and become who they want to be and who they were meant to be.

Q: Do you feel that it was more difficult to adjust to this new school environment as an incoming junior? Why or why not?

A: It was much easier to adjust as a sophomore than it was to adjust as a junior because as a sophomore, you have less worries and there isn't as much pressure on you to start planning your college future, where as a junior, we must



think about the colleges that we want to go to and think about how we can better ourselves as juniors and make our senior year worthwhile, easy, and enjoyable. They say high school is the best years of our lives and as students; we're just there to prove that high school is the best years of anyone's lives.

Q: What activities did you join this year or do you wish to join? Do you think Elmont should add any more clubs or other extracurricular activities?

A: I wish I had joined Key Club and Model UN because they seem like really cool clubs. You get to meet different people everywhere and you get to put your ideas and creativity into things and express yourself more. Elmont Memorial High School has an excellent variety of clubs and activities that any student can join and become a member of.

Q: Have the rest of the student body been welcoming to your arrival?

A: In my very own opinion, my student body of juniors are outstanding and luminous. They really show character and make days at Elmont more extravagant than anything else. Even though we joke around at times, we always get our tasks done. I'm glad to call myself the Class of 2020 along with all of the other amazing juniors.

Q: What do you wish to accomplish by attending Elmont?

A: The accomplishment I aim to achieve at Elmont is to be known as a friend that everyone has and as a student who always puts her all into her work. I want to achieve my goals of becoming the future me and to make myself proud. My goals and accomplishments are still in the progress of happening, but no matter what comes my way, I will achieve it.

Such touching and remarkable responses! Let this encourage you to always have an open mind when meeting new people and to change your perspective of the negative stigma associated with new people arriving at a new school. On behalf of the entire school, we are pleased to meet you, Natalie, and we welcome you with open arms.

When asking Natalie what career she wished to pursue, Natalie wants to become a veterinarian, due to her love for animals and the enjoyment she feels when working with animals.



WILDFIRES

Why They Happen and What Causes Them

By Jaden Beausejour

Ever since the beginning of the fall, the state of California has been enduring the destructive effects of wildfires. While we can't do much to stop them, The Elmont Phoenix wanted to dig deeper into why they happen and what causes them.

So what exactly is a wildfire? Wildfires are unexpected fires that occur in areas of combustible land in nature. There are many different classifications of wildfires, including a brush fire, bushfire, desert fire, forest fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, vegetation fire, and veld fire. They tend to happen in dry areas where there is not much water or where there hasn't been rainfall in a while. The most common cause for wildfires in the United States is the careless disposal of cigarettes. In a dry forest, leaving a cigarette on the ground is probably the worst thing you can do. Another main cause is people not putting out their campfires when camping in the woods. The fires become uncontained and then they spread and before you know it, there's a forest fire. Sounds kind of crazy to think that such a little thing like being careless could cause such destruction.

Now what makes California so susceptible to wildfires? Well, in 2018 alone, California has had a total of 58 wildfires, 3 of which are not completely contained. These wildfires were primarily caused by a lack of rainfall in the area and the ongoing droughts that have kept the area dry for an extensive period of time. In the midst of a severe drought, the smallest spark can transform into a destructive fire. Environment also plays a large factor in how deadly a wildfire can be. If started in a lush forest full of trees and other flammable vegetation, it will not take long for the fire to spread and cause damage in a large area. All of these factors, unfortunately, apply to California which is the reason why the state suffers from so many fires.

While there is not much we can do to prevent wildfires, since in the end they are natural disasters, there are certain things that humans can do to decrease the chances of them happening. Some of these things include: carefully discarding cigarettes, putting out campfires, not being careless with matches, and using precaution when lighting fireworks. These are things that humans do not do often which sometimes leads to wildfires.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

What Is It and Why Do We Use It?

By Christianie Joseph



The main purpose of Daylight Saving Time is to make better use of daylight. By moving clocks forward, people take advantage of the extra daylight rather than wasting energy on lighting. We change our clocks during the summer months to move an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening.

This is all because the days start to get longer as Earth moves from the winter season to spring and summer, with the longest day of the year on the Summer Solstice. During the summer, Earth, which revolves around its axis at an angle, is tilted directly toward the sun. There is more sunlight as a result which is why we move our clocks forward to use that extra daylight.

Regions furthest away from the equator and closer to the poles get the most benefit from the Daylight Saving Time clock change because there is a more dramatic change in sunlight throughout the season. The closer you live to the North or South Pole, the longer the period of daylight in the summer. If you live near the equator, day and night are nearly the same length. But in other places on Earth, there is much more daylight in the summer than in the winter. Daylight Saving Time is usually not helpful in the tropics, and countries near the equator. They generally do not change their clocks. Different countries have different change dates. This year, the United States had Daylight Saving Time end on Sunday, November 4, 2018, which meant that we pushed the clocks back that day and got an extra hour of sleep.

Fewer than 40 percent of the world's countries observe Daylight Saving Time. China, India, and Japan do not use daylight saving while most countries in Europe and and North America do. However, those who do, take advantage of the natural daylight in the evenings.

POETS CORNER

(DON'T) SAY MY NAME

By Neto Ifebi

Why is my name in your mouth?
Is it as sweet as the honey you eat?
Is it as smooth as the marble floor you walk upon?

Do you love me so much that you can't let my name go?
Do you hate me so much that you just crave the bitterness in saying my name?
Why must you have my name in your mouth?

My name must be funny.
A funny frosting with a tasteful meaning.
And a flame so hot that you'd wish you were on fire when you say my name.
My name would put a DC song to shame.

You keep saying my name like it's going to love you back.
You keep saying my name like it's going to give you the attention you so desperately seek when saying my name.

You say my name like the pain you sing in a song.
You say my name like the hate you feel when no one was listening from the start.
You say my name like the whine when you don't have something you want – my name.

Why my name is in your mouth, I don't know.
But, by the way you do so often, I almost like how you say my name.

WHY WE THINK

By Angel Olubakin

We come
We go
We walk
We fly
We pass
We fail
We love
We hate
These things makes us who we are
These things define the way people see us
As we continue to live
We get more detached than ever
As we continue to feel
we get more desperate than ever
How will anyone know how to just come or just go
Or just walk or just fly
Or just pass and never fail
Or we can love and never hate
Don't put too much thought into it
Don't think that no one will care
Just do
We live life to the fullest and hope it turns out as we want
We come where we go
We walk where we fly
We pass when we fail
We love when we hate
We do as we think
Just do

Continued from Page 4

A: I indeed do see myself having a future in college and yes I do plan on playing in college.

Q: Who is the most influential and positive person that supports you when it comes to basketball?

A: The most influential person that supports me when it comes to playing basketball is my brother. He tells me his expectations on how I should be playing and gives advice on how I can improve.

Q: Do recall any special moments that you've shared with your team?

A: I remember when I got moved up from JV to Varsity practice for the first time. I received help and assistance from my teammates on how to do a particular drill. This moment was special because it demonstrates how we worked with each other on how to improve.

Q: What do you expect to achieve this season?

A: I expect to go very far this season. I believe we will become conference champions and dominate in the playoffs. This year's team is an exceptional group of talented student athletes.

Q: What is your mindset before every game?

A: My mindset before each game is to focus on the goal of the getting the ball into the bucket the most efficient way possible and to not get intimidated by the any other team that is present.



Well, do you believe me now? Didn't I tell you Jarell is amazing? There's no doubt that Jarell will succeed in the future with his basketball career. From all of us here at Elmont, we support Jarell in choosing the best college that he can attend so he can reach his greatest potential! Thank you for the exclusive, Jarell, and we look forward to seeing you excel throughout the basketball season!

PRE-PROM CELEBRATIONS

Senior Dinner - Not a Drag When You Bring the Swag

By Mikelley Baptiste



Senior Dinner, held at Jericho Terrace on November 8, 2018, was as many nights are… one to remember. But, was it worth remembering?

All the Seniors of the 2019 graduating class were dressed and ready to slay in their own way. That was a beautiful moment. We all got to see each other in a way that we don't often get to. We all have different expressions and interpretations of classy and they were beautifully unique.

Now, let's get down to business. This entire event was really orchestrated by the Class of 2019 advisor, Ms. Tracy Smith. Let me tell you, she puts a lot of effort into everything she does for the Class of 2019. The setting was very enchanting. The moment you stepped into Jericho Terrace you got a feel for the classy ambience. Every detail from the bathrooms (which were photo shoot perfect) to the table settings, courtesy of Ms. Smith and Mr. Casano, were enchanting.

Ms. Smith openly shared what she experienced in the planning stages of Senior Dinner: "The preparation for the senior dinner was extremely easy. Since it was at a venue most of the work was done for us. We did want the room to look beautiful for 2019, so Casano and I bought stuff to create centerpieces. We arrived an hour before the dinner began and set all centerpieces for each of the tables. Also before the day of the dinner, we asked various seniors what food they would like to have at the dinner. I spoke to the catering manager and explained the kinds of food the students were looking to have and was happily surprised when he was able to offer various ethnic foods for the dinner." This is just the tip of the iceberg concerning Ms. Smith. She will spare no expense to make sure we have a good time.

Sometimes there may be a hiccup in a plan, but it's great when everything works out in the end. Ms. Smith was glad to share her own experience with this: "The craziest part of the whole dinner was the ticket sales. With two days off [from school] the week of the dinner and the waiting until the day of [to buy tickets] was a little stressful. The day before the dinner we had only sold 34 tickets and ended up selling 182 at the end of the next day."

Cocktail hour was a great time to greet friends and share a laugh as we sipped on virgin pina coladas and mingled. If you were feeling a bit peckish you could always go to the full set table of hor d'oeuvres and pique your taste buds.

Dinner was surprising. Some dishes were better than others; the menu was diverse. I personally favored the flavor of the chicken. You know how sometimes all the seasoning is only on the outside? Well this time it was on the inside and the outside. Hallelujah! However, in my opinion there's always room for improvement.

Drinks of course were never ending from special blends to soda or just plain water; for the last song you just got down to, the servers had you covered.

This of course brings me to the staff. They were well adjusted, polite, and respectful which is always the standard when you go to an establishment like Jericho Terrace. It's also important that your mannerisms fit your popping outfit to pull everything together.

The highlight of a party, however, is always the music and nine times out of ten the DJ did not do right by us. Yours truly requested a type of song FOUR times and my request was not heeded. Many of my friends faced the same trying ordeal. On the other hand, dessert is always a highlight. An ice cream bar is a great way to end the night.

Senior Dinner is what you as an individual make of it. If you wanted to focus on the negative, you focused on the negative. But, if you truly wanted a night to remember, you made an effort. One tip I have for those of you who will be going to events like this in the future: friends ALWAYS make the night better. From making you laugh to dancing with you and having good conversation, you're never afraid to be yourself with your true friends. As always, anything and everything is always what you make it!









HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING GUIDE

Great Gifts for the People You Care About

By Bernadine Baptiste

Hello Elmont, and Happy Holidays! There are so many wonderful holidays coming up - Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc.! One of the largest struggles each year for any holiday is obvious - what do I get for him/her? This could be your mom, dad, siblings, friends, significant others, or maybe even your boss! Well, if you want some great holiday gift ideas for different people of all ages keep reading! I'll break it down for you:

MOM

Moms are amazing people. They birth us, take care of us, and nurture us. Come the holidays, it's time to give back (although you should appreciate your beautiful moms every day). Here are some gift ideas for the wonderful woman in your life:

Perfume - If I know moms well (and I do), a good gift is perfume. A sweet smelling aroma to brighten your mom's day would be sure to make her happy. Be sure that if you go for this option, you want the perfume to be gentle on the nose; nothing too strong because there is nothing worse than too strong perfume.

Jewelry - Jewelry is a staple in almost every woman's life. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, etc.. Think of a personalized necklace, maybe one with your mom's initials - the possibilities are endless!

Card - A good card never goes wrong with your mom. Tell her about how much she means to you, make it special and really draw emotion. Pair it with her favorite sweet, add some decorative tissue and a bag and you are good to go!

DAD

Dads are special people; they have their own roles in life. The tough love, support, and encouragement for their children. Here are some gifts to say thank you to your dads:

Neck Tie - If your dad is anything like mine, then he is well educated in the versatile neck tie. This is a good gift because there are so many out there... thousands of different tie patterns to choose from, so you are guaranteed to find one your dad doesn't have!

Cologne - This has the same effect on dads as it does on moms; dads love a good smelling versatile cologne that they can wear any time of the week. Be sure that before buying a cologne for your father, you know what he likes and the aromas he's into.

Pen - This may seem like a mediocre gift, but there is no shame in giving your dad a pen - it could say something nice on it, have multiple uses as well as colors, and it would be much appreciated.

SISTER (younger)

These gifts are generally for girls ages 4-11. Little sisters can be described in many words, but one I can think of is simply adorable. While they can be annoying at times, we love our little siblings.

Puzzles - If your little sister is anything like mine, then she likes to play with puzzles and make up a picture. These are great generally inexpensive gifts that can keep your little sister entertained.

Playdoh - This is popular among little siblings because it's fun to create different objects with the material.

Drawing board -This is a great gift if your sister is an artist. A reusable drawing board is a good idea because it will last a long time and allow your sibling to express themselves.

SISTER (older)

These gifts are generally for girls ages 12-18 years old. Older sisters have many good qualities; usually they provide good advice and they are encouraging towards their other siblings. Like younger sisters, they can be trying, but they always come back to a good attitude (eventually).

Makeup - This is one of the top gift ideas if you have an older sister. The great thing about makeup is that there are thousands of different brands to choose from with varying price points, and so many different types of makeup out there. You could buy eyeshadow palettes, foundation, concealer, contour bronzer, highlighter, eyeliner, mascara, the list is literally endless. Some good brands that are inexpensive are e.l.f., Ulta Beauty, L.A. Girl, and Urban Decay. If you are going for more pricey brands, try Anastasia Beverly Hills, M.A.C. Cosmetics, and my personal favorite, Tarte.

Phone cases - This is a good gift because almost every teenage girl has a phone; there are so many themes of phone cases to choose from - and they are inexpensive - which makes a great gift.

Clothes - This is a great gift, especially for the winter/holidays. A nice sweater is never a bad thing, just make sure you have your sibling's size right.

BROTHER (younger)

These gifts are good for the little brothers (ages 5-12).

Toy car - This is a good gift because it doesn't go out of style; a little boy will always appreciate a good toy car.

Game cards - This might still be a good gift, but you have to be sure that you know your sibling. When I was younger, kids would always collect game cards, so try it out! Your little brother might like them.

Legos - This gift is perfect for the little builder in your life; I used to love creating buildings, cars, anything with Legos, as most children do.

Remote controlled plane, car, etc - This is a great gift because there are so many varying remote controlled toys nowadays - varying in prices as well.

BROTHER (older)

These gifts are good for brothers ages 12-18+. Some gift ideas will fit better for younger or older boys, depending on the gift.

Wallet - This gift is perfect (usually for older boys) because an older brother who probably has a job and is making steady money needs a place to keep it! There are many options for wallets to choose from, so it's a great gift to consider if he doesn't already have one. (This gift also works great for girls, of course, just make sure it's a purse-like wallet that women usually use, like a cross-body bag).

Money - If you have an older brother/sibling, you might know the feeling of them just wanting money around the holidays to buy their essentials! You can write a nice card and slide some cash into it, or maybe give them a gift card to their favorite place.

Headphones/earbuds -This is a good gift for anyone, but it finds its place here. Headphones are great for on-the-go listening to music and focusing on a task. Making sure the pair you buy is in good shape is important. Headphones/earbuds vary in price and quality.

Clothes - This is a versatile gift for people of all ages; a new pair of pajamas or even socks is also a great gift.

FRIENDS

The people who we can count on for support and encouragement. Here are some gifts to say thank you to your amigos.

Friendship necklaces -While bracelets might seem cheesy, good quality friendship necklaces are sure to please a close group of friends. Just choose a pretty chain with a beautiful charm for all your friends and you are set.

Stationary kit - This gift is great for the organized friend; a kit complete with a notebook, pens, etc. is a good idea for the friend who loves to jot things down.

T-shirts/Sweaters - This is good for boys or girls. Getting your friends fashionable sweaters for the winter months is a cozy way to say happy holidays.

Board games - This could be a gift that brings people together. Giving this gift to your friends might encourage them to spend some time and catch up - you could give the gift of a board game and game night!

Hopefully this gift guide helped you choose the gifts you will give this year. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

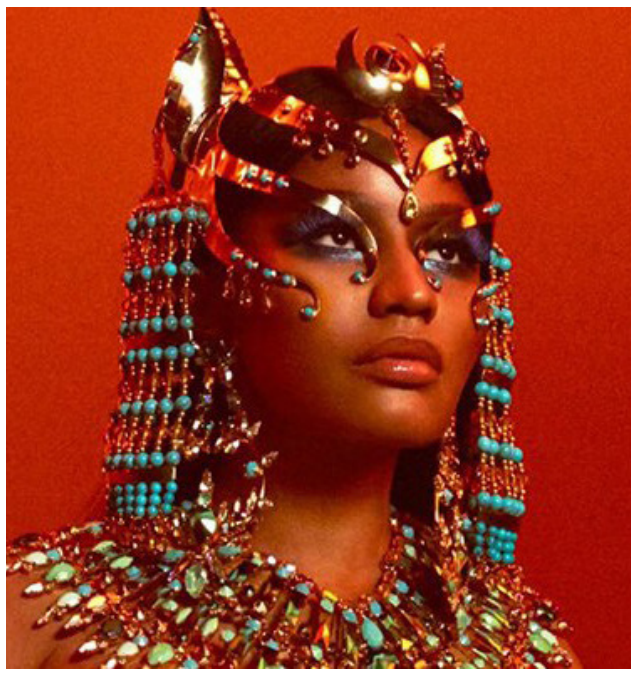






REVIEWS

ALBUM REVIEW: QUEEN
The Queen Has Come To Reclaim Her Throne



By Christopher Alexander

This is one artist that you definitely know all too well - for good or not so good reasons. Well ladies and gentlemen, her long awaited album is here. Nicki Minaj dropped *Queen* on August 10, 2018. To date, the album has went on to break multiple records, including being declared #1 in 86+ countries. This album was truly something of a queen's stature, as it had everyone buzzing as to what Minaj had created.

All throughout 2016 (even after the release of her third album, The Pinkprint) and 2017, Minaj had teased fans that her fourth album would be making its debut, but this has finally come true in 2018. She even included it in her lyrics. Some of these include her verse on Major Lazer's song, "Run Up": "Bout to drop a album, this is my fourth" and in Lil Wayne's song "5 Star": "When my album drop these girls is gon' cry in the car."

However in 2017, Minaj had been the target of multiple feuds. This includes the infamous diss track that Remy Ma dropped in February of 2017 in which she ruthlessly referenced a lot of flaws to Minaj's career. However, Minaj fired back with one of her only solo songs in that year, "No Frauds." Eventually, Ma quickly fell off the map of music, as many critics antagonized her. Then came newcomer Cardi B. Many speculated there to be a riff between her and Minaj. Although the two have cleared the rumors multiple times, the media always finds a way to refurbish old gossip.

Minaj decided to take a hiatus towards the end of December of 2017 and quickly went into hiding. Sources claim it was at this point that she recorded most of her album. Minaj's absence did, however, help with the rise of rival Cardi B. Nevertheless, Minaj unexpectedly returned in April of 2018 and dropped two singles to the album, "Chun Li" and "Barbie Tingz."

In "Chun Li," Minaj raves about being declared the bad guy on many occasions. She grew tired of being antagonized in almost all of her conflicts and decided to profit off the idea of being the "villain." In "Barbie Tingz," Minaj showed that her signature 2007 personality fans love all too well is still alive and that she can break into it anytime. Here, she exhibits a lot of old hip hop vibes and raps about being mistreated by the industry even though she is the foundation for female rappers that are hailing today. In fact, she is the one that resurrected the dying genre a few years back.

Furthermore, Minaj dropped the videos for both songs on May 4, 2018. The "Chun Li" video showcases Minaj with many notable outfits that depicted her as the famous Street Fighter. The video has garnered an impressive 100,000,000+ views. Her "Barbie Tingz" video showcases her being copied and degraded by the industry. She shows her revolt in the video as well. "Chun Li" peaked at number 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 while "Barbie Tingz" leaked at number 25. Both were certified platinum by the RIAA and "Chun Li" went onto win Best Hip Hop Video at the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards.

On top of her multiple features, "Bed" featuring Ariana Grande became the second single to the album on June 14, 2018. It's music video was released on July 6, 2018 and peaked at number 42 on the Billboard Hot 100. It was certified gold by the RIAA.

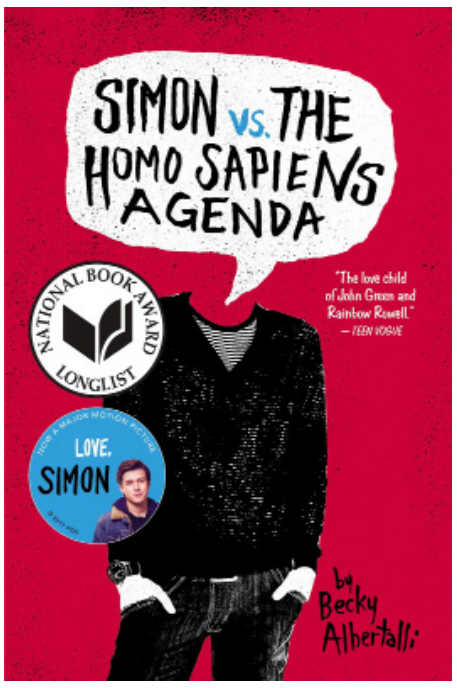
The album was originally slated to come out in June 2018, but was delayed to August 10 because Minaj felt that it was not up to par. However on June 7, 2018, Minaj premiered the official artwork for the album. It featured her sitting on a tree branch paraded in Ancient Egyptian attire. Some claim that she is depicting the image of Egyptian queen, Cleopatra. A week before the album was slated to release, Minaj announced that she would have to delay it another week due to an uncleared sample for Tracy Chapman to approve. However, on August 9, she declared in her Queen Radio show that the album was still coming out at 12 PM on August 10 when it was met with generally positive reviews. The album debuted at number 2 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The album consisted of 17 tracks and 2 interludes. In the album, Minaj showed a much more vulnerable side to herself than we'd normally see. The album went on to be certified platinum and win two People's Choice Awards and two MTV European Music Awards

Although the recent project was great, Minaj has confirmed that she is writing and recording another album. But my question is, how could she ever top this phenomenal piece of work? Well, never underestimate the power of Ms. Nicki Minaj, the reigning Queen of Rap.

BOOK REVIEW: SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA
"There Shouldn't Even be a Default"

By Christopher Alexander



Not many books exist that leave you thinking about yourself… thinking about who you really are. I'm not saying that you you might anything major after reading, such as a sexuality, a religion, or a life choice. I'm just talking about a book that makes you wonder about life…

Well, I had one of those experiences this summer, when I was coming home from my Psychology class at Adelphi University. My sister and I decided that we should go to the nearest Barnes and Nobles to get my summer reading book. Long story short, we walked out with The Book Thief, The Hate U Give, a Starbucks frappe, and Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda.

Well, let's just say that I got through The Book Thief first (highly recommend) and decided to pick up Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda instead of The Hate U Give (don't kill me, I know the movie was good). Anyway, I read the first few pages and immediately flipped to the back and read the last sentence… I knew where this book was going.

So basically, Simon is a homosexual male who emails an unknown online friend that turns out to be a not so nice "friend" of his. As a result, Simon is subjected to being blackmailed by him. As the novel goes on, we see more aspects of Simon's life as a closeted male.

Simon has a very diverse group of friends, but only one, Abby, knows his secret. As he is blackmailed, we see the growing passion that he has towards his online friend, nicknamed Blue. Blue is someone in his school and they communicate through their school's blogspot. Blue and Simon's relationship is challenged, but in the end they are united (it's for you to find out who Blue is).

I give this book a 5 out of 5. It really showcases the challenge that LGBTQ+ teens go through. Unfortunately, they do not have the easiest time in life. No, this not my "coming out message" (stop eyeing this article down, I see you doing it). But they are people just like us; they aren't foreign. They deserve just the same amount of rights as the rest of us.

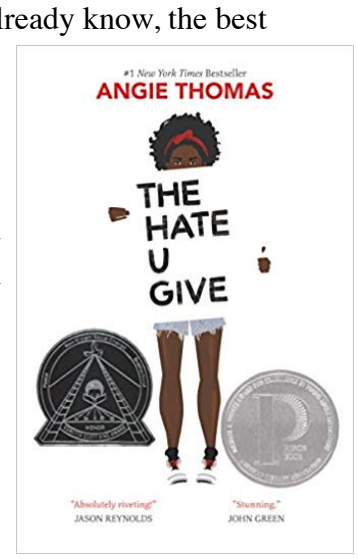
Don't they deserve love? This is why I commemorate this school. We have crossed the boundaries and have established a great spectrum of acceptance. I mean, just ask Mrs. Justin, who has established the GSA Club (Gay-Straight Alliance). Here is where many individuals come for a place of acceptance - because not everyone is comfortable being out.

Look at all the teachers in our schools, who proudly wear their beautiful GSA shirts and are always available to talk students who aren't comfortable with themselves. We have developed such a great community of love, unity, and diversity. This is what makes this school great! We are Elmont!

Okay, not all parents accept their kids for their sexuality. Okay, not all students are comfortable with themselves. Okay, some religions declare it "irrational" to be of the LGBTQ+ community. But guess what, we live in a new world where everyone should be accepted. So if you're looking for a read that will express some type of acceptance to you, I strongly recommend this novel, Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli. Have time for more? Watch the movie.

THE HATE U GIVE
A Comparison of the Book and Film

By Ajayda Griffith



As many of you already know, the best selling novel *The Hate U Give* had a movie made about it. *The Hate U Give* builds on one of Tupac's powerful messages. It's a story moving story about a 16 year old girl who constantly has to split her personality between what she calls "Williamson Starr" and "Garden Heights Starr," both of whom are very

different in the way they talk and act. One day, her worlds falls apart and her two worlds collide when she witnesses her childhood friend unjustifiably shot by a police officer. But, like any book turned into movie, the two interpretations are noticeably different. For example, scenes are missing from the film - along with entire characters!

The very first difference to arise in the movie is the kiss between Khalil and Star. In the book, she does get into the car with him, but rejects him when he asks for a kiss. Knowing she had a boyfriend (in both the book and the movie at that time), I was surprised to see that part added to the script. Another interesting addition to the movie is when Khalil's mom, who we rarely see in both places, talks to a local news station about the death of her son whom she rarely saw.

Another aspect changed in the movie was the story of Starr and Kahlil's childhood friend Natasha's death. In the book version, it was said that Natasha called Starr to come out and play with her in a busted fire hydrant, and while they were out there Natasha was shot in a drive by; in the movie, Natasha and Starr were on the basketball court when she was shot in the drive by. Starr even knew that the gang, the King Lords, had done it, but she chose to say nothing about it.

There were a lot of key parts missing in the film. Like DeVante, one of the characters we saw a lot in the book, was missing entirely from the movie. In one scene where Starr and Chris find Seven beat up by King, the book let's us know that DeVante was supposed to be the one to take the hits from King. Not to mention the disappearance of the rival gang, the Garden Disciples, is omitted from all of the movie. They had created a conflict in the background throughout most of the book, but that wasn't transferred to the film.

There are some very powerful additions to the book though, like the scene where Starr proves her point to her supposed best friend Hailey about how racist she was without realizing it, using Hailey's hairbrush as a representation of the one Kahlil held when shot.

In my opinion, the book was better; it just seemed to flow better and was more enjoyable. Both the book and film version are still incredible and I couldn't have picked a better cast for the movie. If you haven't seen the film or read the book, I recommend you should because I can easily say it will probably be one of the best things you've ever read!



Future-Ready Sewanhaka

ELMONT IS READY FOR TAKEOFF

Is Elmont Ready to Become a Technological Hearth?

By Christopher Alexander

Well ladies and gentlemen, the time that we never thought would come has came. The time where Elmont advances out of the Stone Age and becomes a technological empire (did you get the AP World History reference… no, okay).

In this technological empire, there exists no paper, no pencil, no pen, nothing that contains the remnant of a dead tree or a some chemically loaded ink. Just a bunch of bright screens and styluses. Does it sound like a new utopia? Yay or nay?

Well let's examine the positive aspects of this. Going paperless will help the environment a lot, since there will be a lesser demand for paper pulp to make computer paper. Pens and pencils will decrease in number at school, meaning the resources used to make these materials will decrease in demand as well. Well other than the environment, how else will this endeavor help us progress to better goals?

Well, now you can't easily lose notes, as everything is stored in the Districts very large iCloud system. Lose something? Well with two clicks of a mouse (or fingertips), you can have it all back. Virtual projects will be much easier to create without the need to go down to the overcrowded computer lab.

Guess what? You can't goof off in class anymore, why? Oh, because teachers can view your screens from the time you walk into that classroom until the time you leave. Sorry Johnny, you won't be able to watch PewDiePie's latest video once it comes out… sorry.

Feeling a little weak today and can't carry that heavy textbook to school? Well, now you can access them at your fingertips. Want to know if you bombed that Algebra exam? Well log onto the Parent Portal to see all of your grades.

Although there are tons of positives, we won't be able to go over all because we could be here for hours! But what about the negatives? Airdropping, why is it a problem? Well, when the class clown decides it's funny to Airdrop their newest meme to the whole class, who can stop him now?

What about the taking of unauthorized pictures? When someone wants to take a picture of you and you don't want it, who can stop it when you're not looking? And if your iPad dies, how will you take today's notes? And will you be greeted with a friendly deduction to top that off?

Moral of the story is that Elmont is ready for this technological advancement, but what about the students? Are they capable of being mature and responsible with their devices, or do we have another set of problems on our hands? You'll be the judge of that…

The Origins of Technology

By Sunita Singh

The history of technology is the history of the invention of tools and techniques. The word "technology" came from the Greek word "techne," which means art and craft. It was first used to describe applied arts, but now it is used to describe the advancement and changes around us. Starting with the beginning of life on earth until the founding of early modern technologies, such as computers and nuclear power, the era of technology started when the wheel was invented which is one of the most important inventions known to mankind.

Gradually different objects started to be invented, but the main era of technology and invention came during the eighteenth century when the Industrial Revolution started and machines were invented and various types of developments and productions began. The Industrial Revolution commenced in Great Britain, and many of the technological innovations were of British origin. By the mid-eighteenth century, Britain was the world's leading commercial nation, controlling a global trading empire with colonies in North America and Africa, and with some political influence on the Indian subcontinent, through the activities of the East India Company. The development of trade and the rise of business were major causes of the Industrial Revolution.

New knowledge has enabled people to create new objects, and conversely, many scientific endeavors are made possible by technologies which assist humans in traveling to places they could not previously reach, and by scientific instruments by which we study nature in more detail than our natural senses allow.

If we look back to the mid-twentieth century, there was no access to the internet and it was difficult for people to communicate with each other, but with the invention of the internet, people could have face to face conversations via Skype, Facebook, and other Live Streaming outlets. The main reason that the invention of the internet took off is that of how amazingly easy it was to use, instead of going to a library you'd simply type in your search bar and unlock the potential of the World Wide Web (www, for short). Finding endless amounts of knowledge was seamlessly at your fingertips or at the click of a mouse. With the creation of the internet, there wasn't a need to leave your house for something like a cookbook or even on a book for your report due in a few days. The internet was of such importance even in the business world where everyone has to be technologically advanced to work to their fullest. Even with the invention of online banking everything became easier and more fluid to use.

As more existing technologies are stacked onto each other and are developed into something greater, consumers and businesses alike can expect to see more opportunities with future technologies. Technology will be faster, more productive, and more streamlined to make getting work done easier.

The deeper we dive into technology, the more it seems we try to blend the physical and virtual worlds together. Smart speakers, smart homes and even smart cars are the tech wave to ride in the future, but it's just the beginning. In other words, the future is happening now. Or at least it'll be here sooner than you may think.

Technical history is intertwined to the history of science. Technical Studies are the use of tool and inventions along with advanced techniques throughout history, using these tools to advance our understanding of technology. Since technology uses resources, technical history is tightly connected to economic history. From those resources, technology produces other resources which have impacted our lives. We are able to do things faster and be more efficient and productive. With these changes has also come a new mindset which allows for a new way of thinking and doing things, we aim for higher and greater things with the efficiency in our mindset.

YEARBOOK ADVERTISEMENTS - DUE JANUARY 18th

Dear Graduating Seniors and Family Members,

Graduation is on the horizon and all of the memories you have made at Elmont will be captured in the 2019 *Olympian* yearbook! To make the yearbook more personal and memorable **you may purchase an advertisement to dedicate to your friends, family, or yourself.**

This opportunity to advertise is voluntary and you should know that all seniors are represented in the yearbook whether you purchase a page or not. However, many students and families like to share personal messages of love, congratulations, well wishes, and thanks.

If you decide to advertise in the 2019 Olympian, you may choose from the following sizes:
- ❑ 1/8th of a page for $30.00
- ❑ 1/4th of a page for $50.00
- ❑ 1/2 of a page for $100.00, or
- ❑ a full page for $200.00.

Fill out the form on the next page and hand it in to Ms. Martinez (Library) or Ms. Simmons (English) or you may drop it off in their mailbox in the Main Office with payment.

You may pay in cash or check (all checks made out to Elmont Memorial High School).

Advertising space is limited; therefore payment must be received in full at the time of purchase.

The deadline for all advertisements is January 18th! Don't delay!!

If you have any questions or would like to send pictures digitally, please email them to: elmontyearbook@gmail.com

Sincerely,

The 2019 Olympian Staff, elmontyearbook2019@gmail.com

Ms. Martinez, amartinez@sewanhakaschools.org

Ms. Albanese, kalbanese@sewanhakaschools.org

Seniors! Scan this code if you are interested in paying for and submitting a YB Ad! Or, share with your families so they can create an ad for you!

SPORTS

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: Jevon Santos

"Ask not what your teammates can do for you. Ask what you can do for your teammates."
- Magic Johnson



By Andrew Candio

There are only a few people who can say they excel at a sport, especially one of high position and in this case at the Varsity level. Jevon Santos is a three time Varsity player who continues to excel in his role and continues to contribute to his team. Santos shows no signs of stopping, as he continues to improve and persevere through each trial and tribulation. He has a Grit n Grind mentality and with his legendary work ethic, he shows why he is an important asset to the team. And as Lebron James once said: "When you have one of the best players on the court being unselfish, that transfers to other players." Santos isn't selfish on the court, but looks out for his "brothers" on the team. But to truly know Jevon Santos, I asked him a few questions:

Q: What helped you become who you are today?
A: Listening to all the advice of people who have been in my exact position, but also listening to people around me that want to see me get better. Coach Holub, my parents and others who are willing to work with me and help me improve everyday.

Q: What is different from last year? How will this impact the team?
A: This year we don't have as many seniors as we did last year. It won't affect us that much if we do what coach tells us to do; we are bound for success. But another factor is a couple of new guys who can help us defensively and offensively.

Q: What makes you unique compared to other players?
A: I work hard and listen. You know many other people don't take what other people say into consideration and think they will just be good on what they know, but with me I always listen to what my coaches and others have to say to me whether it is something good that I did or if they are criticizing me on what I shouldn't do. At the end of the day, my coach always knows what is best for me so I'm going to continue to listen to him.

Q: How do you prepare for a game differently than your teammates?
A: I get ready for games by eating first because I can't play on an empty stomach. Then I listen to music that would get me excited for the game based on who we are facing. And lastly I try to break a sweat on the layup line so I don't start off the game cold or slow.

Q: What has basketball taught you that carries over into the other areas of your life?
A: Basketball has taught me to calm in situations and don't get so anxious. It taught me to relax and keep my head when irrelevant things are happening around me. But most importantly it taught me the key of consistency and to never give up no matter the situation.

Q: What makes this year's basketball team special? What has changed?
A: This year is so special because most of our team has known each other since elementary school. Most of us played basketball since we were young too, so we have a lot of chemistry and we all know our role on the team and to add on we are a very unselfish team.

Q: How did you become a good basketball player?
A: I became good at basketball player by listening to Coach Holub. I also have other coaches outside the school that help me improve different aspects of my game. Also my teammates push me everyday to get better than I was at the beginning of practice. But making connections and watching film so I can figure out how to do it better next time and prevent little mistakes.



Q: Is there a particular significance to your jersey number?
A: I wear the number 11 because the first sport I played was football when I was five and that was the first number I got. As time went on, I got to choose a number for which I chose number 11. Also one of my favorite players in the NBA, Kyrie Irving, wears number 11 and I look up to him knowing that he one if not the most dominant, skillful guards in the game.

Q: In what area do you feel you need to improve the most?
A: This off season I focused on shooting the most, but there is always room to improve in every part of my game. But at the end of the day it is whatever my team needs me to do.

Q: How is teamwork important for overall success?
A: Teamwork is a big part of our and any teams success. If you don't think of your teammates as your brothers then you won't have that connection on the court. Everyone on the team is my brother on and off the court.

Q: How do you deal with the pressure of having to perform in front of the crowd?
A: I don't pay attention to them. I don't think about it so much. I don't worry about what the crowd is saying or doing. The crowd is a distraction and if you let them get to you it could throw your whole game off. I don't pay attention to them. But at times I use that positive or negative energy to fuel my emotions.

Q: What else do we need to know about Jevon Santos?
A: I'm a competitor who isn't going to stop competing. But we have something special this year and last season is the past; expect something special and thrilling games so pop out Elmont.

Far too many athletes are selfish. They seem to be more concerned about their playing time, their statistics, and I've learned and seen how that is a loser's attitude. If you are more concerned about yourself than you are the team, then everyone will end up losing. And as a person who has seen and been beside the team last season and this seasons starting, I can tell you Jevon Santos understands that no one can win unless everyone wins. He looks for what he can do to make the team better, puts aside his ego, and commits himself to the team's mission. All coaches need good team players.

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You'll receive the most up to date information about our scholar athletes!