

L O S A N G E L E S

Leadership Academy



The Voice



Volume 7 Edition 6

Newspaper serving the Lincoln Heights community since 2008

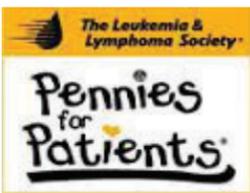
March 2015



Schools Raise \$ and Awareness

All Los Angeles Leadership Academy schools took part in the drive to raise money to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Primary Academy raised \$110, while the Middle School raised \$97.

At the High School, Phyllis Rosen's advisory pulled in the most money to drive the high school total to \$287.



Top Speakers @ Debate

Los Angeles Leadership Academy Speech & Debate team traveled to the University of California, Berkeley to compete in the Cal Invitational. Senior Brian Cabrera and Junior Brenda Reyes argued their cases over the Presidents' Day weekend. On the individual events front, students competed a speech tournament at Long Beach Poly High School. While taking on the category of Congressional Extemporaneous, Junior Brenda Reyes and Sophomore Angel Colon received speaker awards. Reyes went on to receive the Most Valuable Player Award.



Official Chapter Begins @ High School

Los Angeles Leadership Academy High School earns prestigious national charter membership into the speech and debate honor society. According to a press release, this membership reflects sustained commitment to speech and debate education over several years. "Achieving this honor is not easy," said Scott Wunn, Executive Director for the honor society. "Charter status places this program among the best in the nation."



High School Students Attend Festival

10th grade high school students at Los Angeles Leadership Academy attended the 23rd Pan African Film Festival at the Crenshaw Film Theater. Dedicated to racial tolerance through the exhibition of film, the festival opened students' eyes to African American film directors. The inspiration for the field trip is the recent release of the film Selma.



University of the West Visits HS

Located in Rosemead, California, the University of the West came to the high school to recruit students for Fall 2015. Alumna Paola Melena, class of '14, and an admissions counselor wanted to talk to students about the secret treasure of a Buddhist-inspired campus.

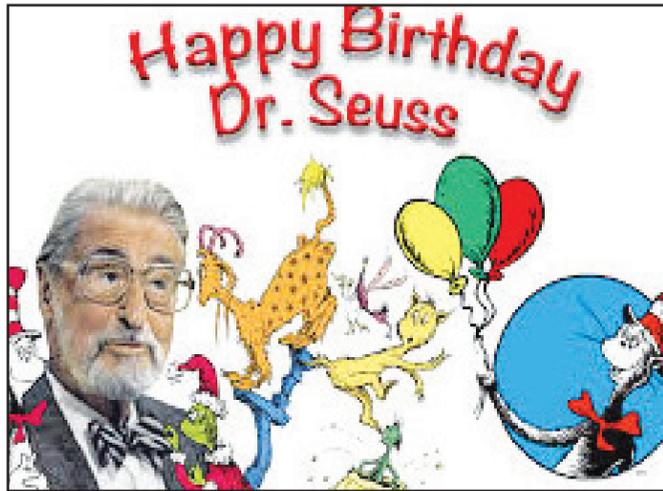


Dr. Seuss Manuscripts Found

Old manuscripts were recently found by Geisel's wife. The new book by Dr. Seuss will be titled, 'What Pet Should I Get?' "Ted always worked on multiple projects and started new things all the time-he was constantly writing and drawing and coming up with ideas for new stories," said Audrey Geisel in a statement. The book's release date is July 28, 2015.



Dr. Seuss Turns 111 Years Young Seussville Comes to Primary School



Symbol for Irish-Americans



Symbol for Irish-Americans

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." – Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel

BY ELIZABETH RUNDLES
Staff Writer

March 2nd marked the 18th year that the National Education Association (NEA)'s Read Across America program has inspired children and teens to read. That's exactly what happened this Monday at Los Angeles Leadership Academy Primary School. The volunteer readers came in, chose one of their favorite Dr. Seuss books, and were directed by fourth grade students to different classrooms.

They sat at the front of the class and began reading to the children. The kids were excited and all dressed up as they listened eagerly to the

readers.

A total of 17 volunteers came out, including three seniors from LA Leadership Academy High School. Each class had 2-3 readers through the course of the day. "This is our fourth year celebrating Dr. Seuss Day school-wide and it becomes a tradition that everyone looks forward to every March," said Mrs. Ibarra in an email interview. Mrs. Ibarra was right about this year's turnout; the kids did have a good time and were excited.

Diana Martinez, a senior at LA Leadership Academy, enjoyed this event as much as the kids. She was a volunteer reader at the Primary, dressed

as the "Cat in the Hat." Diana said, "The kids were great and it's a great day to be celebrated". She also claimed she could really see the joy the kids were getting from the celebration. Mrs. Mercedes Ibarra, Principle of the Primary, thought it was a great turn out. That morning the kids had green eggs and ham for breakfast, an ode to Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham. "Every year [the celebration] gets bigger and bigger," she said.



Educator Reflects on Career at High School 65 year-old Bob Gibson Moved from Stage to Screen to Classroom

BY ANTHONY VIDALS
Staff Writer

Los Angeles Leadership Academy has had many staff members over the years. Some have worked at L.A. Leadership for a semester, while others have worked at the school for many years. One veteran staff member is Robert Gibson, better known as Bob. Bob has played a very important role at the school since 2008, ever since Los Angeles Leadership Academy was in Koreatown.

This year would be his seventh consecutive year as a Special-Ed teacher, in a program where Bob goes into the classrooms to work with students. This year, he has the assistance of Jose Lopez. Today is a special day for Bob; he is turning 65! Bob shares his birthday with Michelangelo (the great painter) and Shaquille O'neal, the latter of which he used to work with in the past.

Bob Gibson is thought to wear suspenders as a style that is based on his age, well; fact is that he does not wear suspenders due to his age. Bob began to wear suspenders about a year before joining the school staff, due to a surgery he had near his stomach area. It was painful to wear a belt; someone suggested Bob try suspenders. Suspenders became gifts and started to grow as an interesting style for Bob. [See Bob, page 6]



Robert Gibson looks over files during a typical day at the high school. Celebrating his 65th birthday in March, Bob has seen many changes at Los Angeles Leadership Academy during his tenure, but continues his push for individualized education.

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Publication Policies

The Voice is a student newspaper produced by students at L.A. Leadership Academy. This paper is published to inform, educate and entertain the student body, faculty and members of the community of Lincoln Heights.

Students, faculty and community members with strong opinions are highly encouraged to write a guest commentary or a letter to the editor, which may be published.

Send letters to the editor:
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National Scholastic Press Association

Viewpoint
Should the United States Clean the Ocean of Plastic?



RUTH INFANTE
Sophomore

Yes

There is plastic and debris in our oceans. Our need to have plastic is affecting the oceans because million tons of trash is dumped into the ocean.

These plastics do not biodegrade, they just break down into smaller particles and then sea life consumes it. All the plastic in the ocean is creating gyres, which will stay there for many years to come because it takes centuries for plastic to decompose. Each gyre contains an estimate 100 million tons of marine trash. Newsreporter Mike interviewed Captain Paul, who said "if we don't change our ways, all the world's fisheries will collapse by 2048."

The debris in the ocean causes many problems and has many harms. It effects the sea animals by choking, trapping and poisoning them; millions of animals die each year. Most animals mistake the small and micro plastics as food, causing malnutrition, intestinal blockage and death. Most of these plastic introduce cancerous chemicals into the ocean and into the food chain, which affects sea animals and humans. If the pollution in the ocean keeps growing hundreds of thousands of marine mammals will continue to die, according to Dutch engineer Boyan.

In addition, ocean debris is harmful because of invasive species that

ride on the trash. "The danger is that this could alter the open ocean forever and destroy the native life there that has kept the oceans healthy for thousands of years," said Annalee, a science writer. All species that already live in the regions can be killed by invasive species.

The Ocean Cleanup Array is the solution to the harms of the ocean debris. Slat is a 19 year-old engineering student that raised \$2 million for his plan to put arrays into the ocean to funnel out the garbage. The 30-mile long V-shaped floating barriers are designed to catch the buoyant trash. There are no nets in these arrays so they will not catch sea animals and they will be harmless to the ecosystem. In addition, these arrays have been tested in the Azores Island and have been proven by scientists, that the barrier does not catch plankton. Business Week 2014 states this barrier will clean the ocean, stop invasive species from ruining the coral reefs, and stop animals from dying.

In conclusion, these arrays will help the sea animals live in a healthier environment and stop cancerous chemicals from entering into the food chain. Because if we don't clean up the sea this will affect humans because we eat fish and they can have cancerous chemicals that can kill us. If the pollution keeps on growing hundreds of thousands of marine animals will die and will go extinct. Therefore, not only is this plan going to clean up the ocean but it will also prevent further trash build up, the probability is high that the clean up effort will work on a larger scale.

One of the multiple problems is that what the affirmative claims to be the solution, is in fact, the problem. Our mission as the Negative is to prevent disaster from hitting home. Vote Negative, and prevent the tragedy, which is waiting to happen as an effect of the affirmative plan. There is no beneficial gain for humans, animals, or mother earth if you vote affirmative. The negative is here in the now, and thinking of the future. Sesini, with a masters in Green Management, states that non-profit organizations are being set up to help prevent marine debris from entering the ocean. The hurtful clean up project as proposed by the affirmative is not needed at all. Although the affirmative states that plastics are killing millions of animals each year, in actuality plastics are not killing of species. Newitz who has a PhD from Berkeley stated that science is not conclusive on the impacts of plastic. There is no clear evidence whether eating plastic is killing them. What the affirmative claim to be harmful is actually not harmful, and in fact a time skew to this debate round.

VERSUS

According to Kazo, president at Wildlife Research Team, capturing tiny particles of plastics while not harming marine organisms such as plankton mingled with plastics is inevitable. Not only will they actually harm the food chain's main source of food with the clean up project, but also there is no feasible way that they can stop cancer from entering the food chain. The ocean clean up project as proposed by the affirmative has no solvency. Kazo stated that although Slat claims that the plastics recycled from the gyres would be financially profitable. Other sources state that it would be worthless due to degradation. Now, Cho, blogger of The Earth Institute stated that most scientists agree that it is not feasible to clean up the plastic in our oceans.

A major disadvantage that is presented in effect of their plan, is the social services trade off. Now, the social services trade off disadvantage is the act of cutting money from other programs such as education,

No



VANESSA SANCHEZ
Junior

housing, and medical cares in order to aid in paying for the cost of their plan. The truth is that the Ocean Clean Up project cannot pay for itself- the plastics recovered has little value on recycling market and transportation costs are huge. Wilson, Associate Director at The 5 Gyres Institute stated that recycling weakens the polymer chains and thus, the destroying the structure in what you can recycle them into.

Therefore, in order to provide solvency for the harms the affirmative cause, we present the following counter plan. Which means that the United States federal government should ban single use plastic bags. The counter plan will solve, and it is dependable to their plan. The counter plan solves because it will significantly reduce the amount of plastic flowing into the ocean. The Sulfrider Foundation states that local bag bans and fees have been widely successful in reducing the environmental harms and economic costs associated with plastic bag waste and litter. Our counter plan contributes to the benefit and solves for plastic going into the ocean with prevention.

If the affirmative were actually trying to solve for anything, then they should find no problem in going back and finding a new solution that will work. In reality the affirmative plan provides no solvency. As the Negative we are here to catch this bigger problem before it becomes a catastrophe to happen if we allow the affirmative to go through with their plan. Vote negative because not only does our counter plan outweigh their plan, but our plan also does not destroy mother earth or those living in it.

Upcoming Event

- 3/9 8th Grade High School Visit
- 3/12 Board Meeting
- 3/12 Economics Junior Finance Field Trip
- 3/13-3/14 Debate Tournament @ Cal State L.A.
- 3/17-3/18 High School Exit Exam for 10th Grade
- 3/17 8th grade High School Orientation Night
- 3/20 10-Week report cards
- 3/21 10th Grade March Performance
- 3/25 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/26 LA County Science Fair Begins
- 3/27 Cesar Chavez Day
- 3/30-4/7 Spring Break

Who Am I?

My birthday is the 50th day of the year and I was born on the "Year of the Snake" in the 80's.

My favorite drink is Thai Iced Tea

My favorite food is Oyakodon

Favorite TV Show: Parks and Recreation

In high school, I played tennis.

I Graduated from UCLA

College Major: Mathematics

Motto: "Be the rabbit hole."
Instill curiosity in yourself and in others.



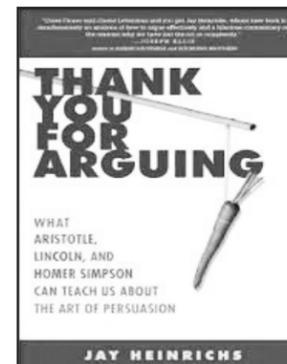
The Voice Ch-Ch-Ch Challenge

March's Challenge

The first student to answer the clue will receive:
Special Prize + a copy of *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs

Clue: Who Am I?

The first student to tell the Journalism teacher the answer will receive the prizes





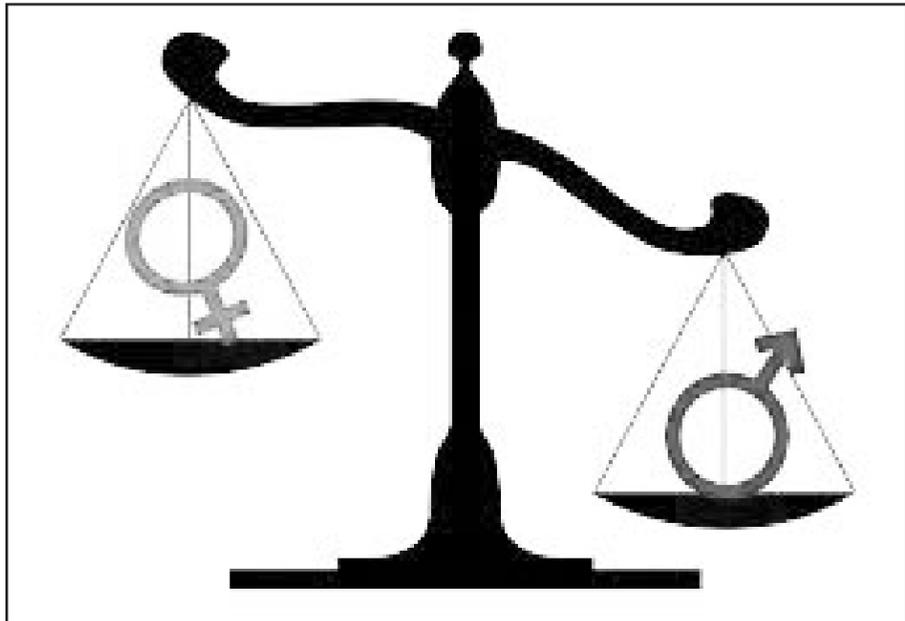
Gender Equality Shows Progress in U.S. Experts Agree Difficulties Remain

BY OSCAR ISEM
Editor-In-Chief

Not so long ago, in a land very very close, a report by the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) confirmed a controversial belief in 2015 America: women earn less than men.

Assistant Director of the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago Veronica Arreola weighed in on the matter. "There is an inequality in the US on many different levels that makes it hard to say yes or no [as to whether men and women have equal rights]. There is a pay equity law on the book but an inequality for pay and many areas of life. On average the difference is about a quarter. White women around 85 cents to an hour [to a white male's hour]. Black 74, Latinas 60." The CEA report, titled Women's Participation in Education and the Workforce, is consistent with Arreola's findings. Arreola believes that gender stereotypes play a role in unequal pay. In her eyes, men are promoted faster because they are perceived as leaders, while women are perceived as wanting to stay with their children as often as possible.

However, blogger, mother of three, wife, anti-feminist and men's rights activist Jane Bloomfield produced facts that debunked both the findings of the report and Arreola. According to Bloomfield, the study did not take into consideration subsections. For example, in 2014, male nurses (\$60,700) made more than female nurses (\$51,100) a year. However, there are a large number of nursing positions, from a registered nurse (RN) to certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). And men, who make up roughly nine percent of the nursing population, make up forty-one percent of the CRNA population. CRNAs make significantly more than RNs, but require several years of training. Both are seen as nurses, and the CRNA wage is compared to the RN wage. Those that think that women still make up fifty-nine percent of the CRNA population are correct; however, there are also a much larger percentage of women that are RNs, which pulls the women wage average down.



The male versus female battle in our society

Radical feminist websites point to the originally reported wages, \$60,700 versus \$51,100, and scream bloody murder, saying that women in male dominated workplaces have it harder than males in female dominated workplaces. This is called the Glass Ceiling (women in male dominated workplaces being held back) versus the Glass Elevator (men in females dominated workplaces being promoted quickly) argument, and it stems from gender roles and stereotypes.

A few steps can be taken to lessen the severity of gender roles and stereotypes. "If we need to have selective service, then we both need to participate," replied Arreola, referring to a mandatory selective service sign-up for women and men. The selective service holds information to prospective draftees in a case of war. Men are required to sign-up one month after they turn 18 while women are not. Bloomfield's opinion is to take gender out of it. "Men have to agree to die in order to vote. Women have the right just from turning eighteen. The Selective Service should be

a choice. However, if you don't agree to join the service, you don't get to vote." In her opinion it is fair, and points to Israeli armies as proof that having females in the military can work.

"We have to be vigilant because we fight [stereotypes] on a daily basis. They are so entrenched that they created gender roles...I think the most important thing is to question yourself. Did I make an assumption on a stereotype?" said Arreola. Bloomfield echoes that sentiment, saying that while she doesn't have a problem with gender roles, those that fall outside that category should be protected. Both also agreed that equality can only come when men and women work together. Gloria Steinem, renowned feminist, summed it up best when she said, "women will never be equal outside the home as long as men are not equal inside the home."

The Immigration Series

Court Challenges Central American Minor Program Obama Administration Looks to Push Initiative in spite of Setback

BY ESTEFHANY HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama's The Central American Minor (CAM) Refugee/Parole Program has been available for immigrants to apply since December 1, 2014, but has been jeopardized recently due to Brownsville, Texas District Judge Andrew S. Hanen's ruling to stop Obama's actions towards this effect.

Initially this program was presented to help keep immigrant families together. It provided a great opportunity for those who had children in the immigration system and were already living in the United States before their children arrived. These families had the chance to ask for their children so that they would not be deported. A great percentage of immigrants have the mindset of bringing their young to the United States due to the fact that many Central American countries are dangerous. These countries jeopardize many young lives whether it is gang related or money related, so parents decide to hire a coyote, or human smuggler, in order to bring their children to America.

Many states in the U.S have been known to disagree with immigration advocates and Obama's decision to use executive action. One of Judge Hanen's main arguments was that Obama did not seem to go through a list of actions mentioned in the Administrative Procedure Act. The Administrative Procedure Act is formed as a layout of steps in which the U.S. Federal statute governs an amount of regulations that need to be taken before allowing a law to be passed for the nation. Since Obama's term is nearly coming to an end



The Latino community unites to fight for its rights in the United States

he is literally taking matters into his own hands, noticing that Congress has delayed many of his approaches. He seemed to have "skipped certain regulations" which were said to be that "he did not seek public comment before executing this action" to put the program to effect.

Immigrant father Ricardo Molina said, "Even though I have already benefitted from this program since I got my children back from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) I think there was still so many others waiting for their chance, but seeing this happen killed their hope." ICE, part of homeland security, have been the ones in charge of deciding whether the children should have the chance to be on parole and be let off to go with their parents.

Not only have illegal immigrants been affected, many immigration advocates have been

impacted as well because they have put up a fight throughout a long time to only be strongly hurt by this sudden challenge. When asked if she thought Judge Andrew S. Hanen had a sensible reason for filing a ruling against Obama's executive action, community immigration advocate Carolina Esperanza said, "Honestly the issues with this is that many people are affected strongly by this matter, despite the future decision immigrants will now have in mind that judges over the nation disagree with this program. Plus if they were to put a stronger effort those judges would get what they want, even though some government officials have mentioned they have no right to cause a strong disturbance with the presidents decision."

Student Recruitment Schools Find Success

BY SANDRA SANCHEZ
Managing Editor



Something is drawing kids to attend Los Angeles Leadership Academy and recruitment may have something to do with it.

L.A. Leadership's middle and primary schools both have a program in place to help bring in more students. Principal of the middle school Jesicah Rolapp is in charge of the recruitment for her school, and Principal of the primary Mercedes Ibarra is in charge of the primary's program.

Recruitment is done with the goal of increasing student enrollment. This is an important focus because the school's budget is based off the amount of students enrolled in each school. The state provides a certain amount of money for each individual student and the school creates a budget from that money.

Asked if the enrollment of one school affected the other schools, Ms. Rolapp explained that the primary has its own enrollment and budget, but that the middle and high school share one. She said, "...Because the 6th through 12th is one charter school we have one budget and in years past if there's a below enrollment at the high school then we have been able to help cover the costs at the high school." She clarified that for the middle school specifically; their aim is 300 students, and they are currently overenrolled, "which is a good thing."

The way recruitment works in the middle school is through a series of talks and events. Office Clerk Julie Yanez sets up all of school presentations, where Ms. Rolapp and her team would then go and present during a parent meeting. Ms. Yanez is also in charge of setting up dates specifically for recruitment efforts for the primary. Parents interested in the school are invited to take a tour of the primary, walk through the classes, and finish with a small Q&A session with Ms. Ibarra.

When asked about the recruitment program, Ms. Rolapp explained in detail the efforts they go through to get the school's name known. She also mentioned that, "every student in the middle school completes a survey about how they found out about the school and how they like the school, and they also let me know if they have any students in 5th grade or who are going to be coming in for next year."

Results of the survey indicate that because of recruitment efforts, 20% of the students attend the middle school. The other 80% attend because of "word of mouth." This means the majority of students who attend LA Leadership Academy attend because a family member or a neighbor told them about it. Ms. Ibarra said, "I think it's a combination of things, I think that [parents] like that it's smaller, I often hear from friends and families that they often feel welcome, that it's a warm environment and that they want their child to be in this environment..."

Questioned on the success of the program Ms. Ibarra mentioned that as of now the primary has 25 students enrolled for the upcoming school year. Ms. Rolapp said, "What's been great is because we've had such a strong enrollment over the years, and kept our budget stable, we've really been able to hire new people help the students."

Both the primary and middle schools have seen an increase in enrollment with the addition of a recruitment effort, and both have plans to continue with their respective programs.



Why So Green? Saint Patrick's Day

BY ROBERT VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

About green

Green is not just for St. Patrick's Day; a look at other associations with the color:

Love
The Romans linked green with Venus, the goddess of love; in the Middle Ages, green symbolized budding love

Fertility
Ancient Egyptian god Osiris, called "The Great Green," was regarded as a source of Earth's fertility

Islam
The prophet Mohammed loved green, and it became the holy color of Islam

Catholicism
In the Roman Catholic liturgy, green is the symbol of hope

Napoleon
French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte painted his house green and was poisoned by fumes from green dye

Poison
Green dye used to be made with copper and toxic arsenic

© 2010 MCT
Source: "How Colors Work" by Eva Heller



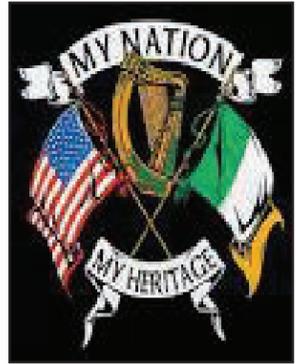
Ireland in its National colors.



Celtic Cross



Saint Patrick



Symbol for Irish-Americans

What is Saint Patrick's day? What day is it? Who knows this holiday and where it came from? Why is it that people celebrate it? Saint Patrick's day is celebrated on March 17th, a holiday where many people would re-ly celebrating by having a party. A holiday originating from Ireland by a man named Saint Patrick who was a Romano-Briton captured and was forced into the life of slavery during the fifth century. Eventually in a few years he escaped from his slave owners and settled back to England to become a priest, he then came back to Ireland to introduce christianity. Thomas O'Grady who is a professor in English and director in Irish studies stated "Well, it's a good excuse for a party! But traditionally it's a religious celebration, a recognition of Patrick's legacy for Ireland vis-à-vis the introduction of Christianity."

Like other holidays and events, people have thought of it as controversial to certain ages and people. "There's the sardonic saying 'What's worth doing is overdoing.'" said by Thomas O'Grady.

In Ireland it's commonly celebrated with drinking alcoholic beverages, most of the time it's celebrated like there are no borders or limits while celebrating the holiday. "Yes, Ireland has a historically strong "pub culture"-- but many people use the occasion of St. Patrick's day to go overboard." said Thomas O'Grady.

Even though Ireland is very catholic there are no specific religions that celebrate the holiday but everyone is welcome to join when it starts. You do not have to be a certain age either when it comes out in the following month "There's an old song that starts: "If you're Irish, come into parlor..." Yes, everyone enjoys the "craic"-- the Irish word of fun!" said Thomas O'Grady. When celebrating it's like how a party starts it's usually routine, there's a lot of food and drinks with music playing along for dancing.

Music is played with bagpipes, guitar, banjo, accordion, flutes and many more. There foods, drinks, and desserts are sometimes green to show the color of the holiday, for ex-

ample they have green cupcakes and bagels.

One specific dish most people eat in the holiday is corned beef with a side of steamed cabbage, some enjoy this dish while there are others who don't. "One of the foods associated with Ireland is a meal of corned beef and cabbage-- I hate it myself... but many people believe you haven't celebrated the day properly without gassing yourself up a plateful!" said Thomas O'Grady. Other people ask "Why do people think of Leprechauns on the holiday?.". Leprechauns are like fairy tales in Ireland for small children when growing up.

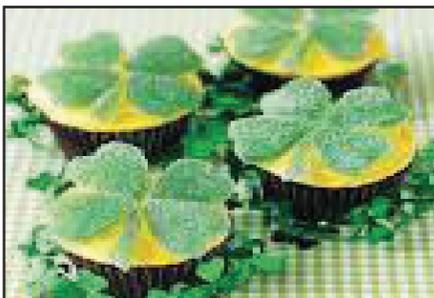
The story goes when you find the end of a rainbow there will be a pot of gold sitting there that belongs to the leprechaun. Some say when found take it to become rich, others say if you find it and return it to the leprechaun he will grant you a wish. So cross your fingers that you run across a leprechaun on Saint Patrick's Day.

"I dress in green and call my brother a leprechaun, since he's born on this day." Arlene G. 12th



"When I remember, I wear green. I am one quarter Irish! When my kids were little we would make Irish soda bread." -Phyllis Rosen

Food



How do you celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

"With my Wifi." Andrew Navarro 9th

"Wear green." Beverly Pesquera 11th

"Pinch those without green." Anna Hernandez 12th



Shamrocks, saint and shillelaghs

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated March 17, honors Ireland's legendary patron saint, who died on that day in 461.

<p>Shamrock</p> <p>Small, three-leafed plant appears on U.K.'s coat of arms with English rose, Scottish thistle</p>	<p>Irish flag</p> <p>Green represents Catholics; orange, Protestants; white, the wish for harmony</p>	<p>Leprechauns</p> <p>Fairies who work day and night mending shoes of other fairies</p>	<p>Shillelagh (sh-Hay-lee)</p> <p>Walking stick; Irish for stout oak club or cudgel; also a forest that once stood in County Wicklow</p>
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Patrick: Saint and legend

<p>387 A.D. Born in Britain to a Roman family; his father served as a magistrate; his original name was Maewyn</p>	<p>Early 400s Taken to Ireland as a slave; after six years, he escaped to France where he studied for priesthood</p>	<p>432 Sent to Ireland as a Christian missionary by Pope Celestine I, who named him Patricius, which means noble in Latin; he introduced Roman alphabet, Latin literature; Christianized the land</p>	<p>Familiar legend He drove the snakes from Ireland by beating a drum</p>
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Source: "Shamrock, Harp and Shillelagh" by Edna Barth, "All About American Holidays," World Book © 2012 MCT



Activities Page

Dr. Seuss Loved to Read, Do You?

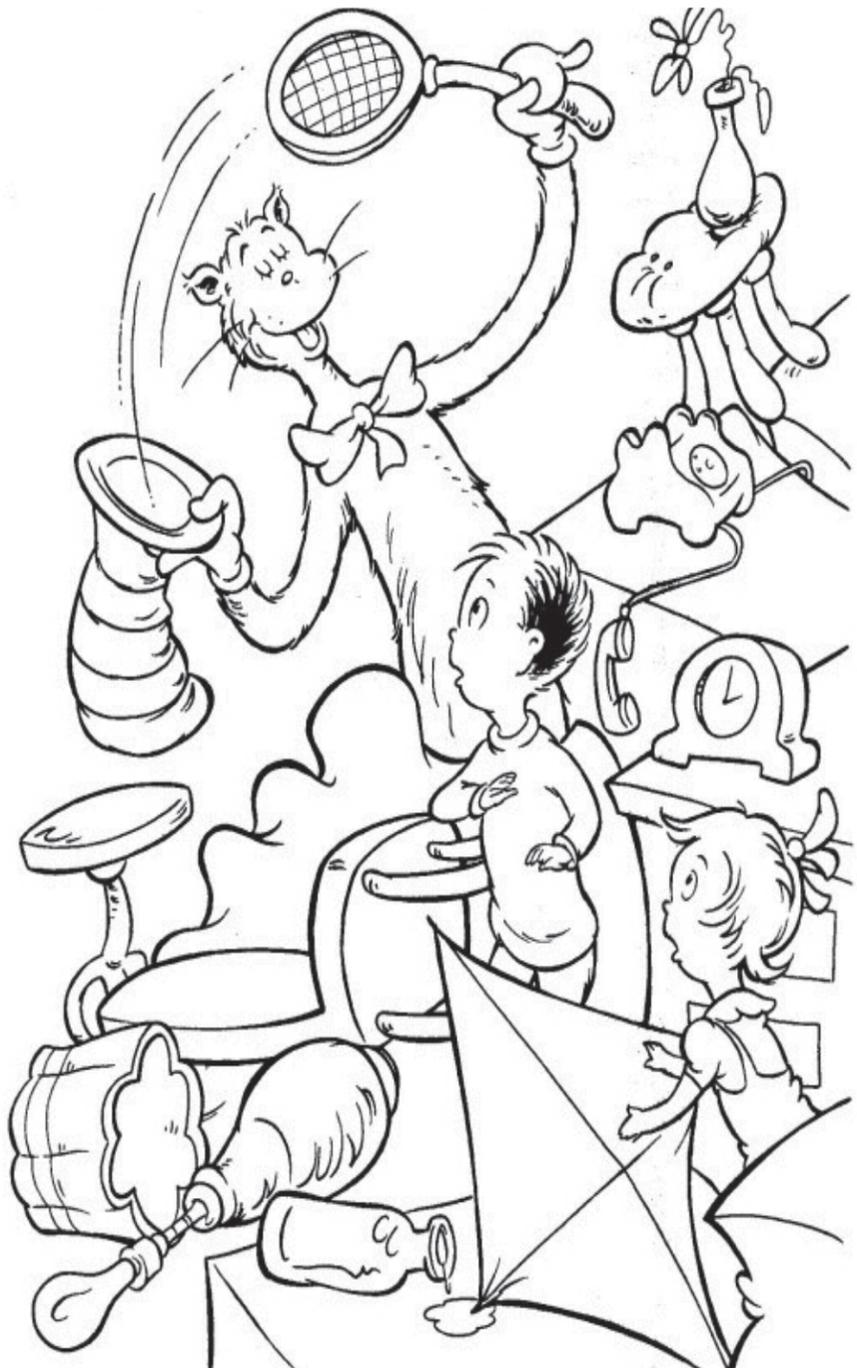
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Word Search

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- | | | |
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| fish | funny | game |
| hat | mother | nothing |
| one | shake | something |
| sunny | thing | tricks |

Color in the picture of the Lorax as he sends away the Bar-ba-loots aw



I can add in red.

$$0 + 0 = \square$$

$$2 + 1 = \square$$

$$2 + 0 = \square$$



I can add in blue.

$$1 + 1 = \square$$

$$1 + 2 = \square$$

$$1 + 3 = \square$$

I can add in pickle color too.

1	2	1	3
+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1
—	—	—	—
□	□	□	□



Video Controversy @ High School

Students suspended for bullying

BY WILLIAM CABRERA
Staff Writer

After recording a video, two juniors at Los Angeles Leadership Academy were suspended for cyber bullying. One of the publishers of the video said, "I thought I would be able to do these videos for a couple of months but I was wrong. I didn't make this video to bully anyone. The whole point was to have some memories from high school and have something to look forward every Friday."

Some students found the video entertaining. Junior Eileen Gonzalez said, "I thought the video was actually pretty funny and also think that students were entertained by this video...I really don't mind [being caught on camera] because I could actually take a joke and I am not a sensitive person that is affected by everything people say."

Some may have found this video funny or entertaining but others found this video very rude and say that this was an invasion of privacy. Adrian Lopez, junior, was discontented with the video because of the student who created the video. "The only reason I am upset about the video is because [he] made the video and I don't trust him, if it was someone else that would have made the video I would not mind but he made and I don't trust him believe that!" Ester De Leon, also a junior, was not pleased with the students filming her in class. "I believe that the video was very immature and coming from juniors that [gives a] very bad reputation [to the junior class]."

Education Code Section 48900-48927 states that it is illegal for a student to record another student on school grounds. While some students may say that their first amendment rights are being stepped on, the reality is in school their freedom of expression is actually limited, therefore if you were to violate any standard regarding the Education code of conduct you may face expulsion and or suspension from school grounds. Ms. Wirtz, L.A. Leadership's English teacher for eleventh and twelfth grades, was asked if she thought administration took appropriate course of action. She responded, "Yes, I think that the administration did a great job on defusing this issue and made sure that is was handled before it got out of hand...hopefully [the students] learned their lesson."

The principal of L.A. Leadership, Ms. Cuprill, was able to comment on the different forms of bullying. "Bullying is a high priority topic. Bullying can take many forms: verbal, physical, ostracizing, and these days it can be accomplished online. The key to combating bullying in any form is by collectively standing up against it, creating teachable moments for students who may not be aware of the impact of their actions, and providing consequences for their actions...I prefer to teach students how to use their devices responsibly rather than ban them. However, if students misuse the devices on campus...[it] may prevent me from allowing students to have access to this 21st century learning platform." Hopefully students learn from their mistakes and see that one needs to think of the people that may be hurt by one's actions.

Bob's Path Continued

(From Page One)

When asked if Bob has ever regretted anything in his life, he answered, "I had a chance to be Robin William's manager but I decided not to because I have never done that, its crazy, I could've been a rich man by now." Before working at L.A. Leadership, Bob worked at a different school for several years where he worked with severely emotionally disturbed students. It became very difficult so he began to look for a different job and found L.A. Leadership, but not before a dip into into the film and television industry. Bob says, "I love the idea that this school is fairly still new and I get to be a part of it and getting it off the ground full time, so that's what's keeping me here longer".

Robert Gibson is a really interesting man who on his free time likes to reunite with friends and loves to write. Bob might go into writing novels (NOVELAS?), with two scripts of his in the hands of producers and might some day produce them.

Many students have a friendly relationship with Bob, for example, Miguel Ahumada, a junior at the school says, "Bob has a unique way on working one on one with students, which is how most students want to be taught. Bob has worked with me one on one to help me improve my reading and writing skills while at the same time shows a passion for helping students that want to learn." Although 65 is considered retiring age, Bob still wants to try to stick it out for a few more years and will not retire this year.

High School Seniors Retreat to Santa Monica Mountains

Class of 2015 gathers to reflect on time together

BY KEVIN FERMAN
Staff Writer



Beautiful view at the Santa Monica Mountains



The Class of 2015 creating memories

Waking up to ice on their tents was normal for the seniors that were able to go on the annual camping trip. This year the Los Angeles Leadership Academy seniors had the opportunity to camp out at Malibu Creek State Park, located in the Santa Monica Mountains. Planned and headed by senior Diana Martinez, along with help from the Outward Bound Program, seniors were able to camp out in the wilderness for 3 days and 2 nights.

As seniors arrived at the campsite, they set up the camp. With the help of L.A. Leadership staff members, the seniors soon went off on their first hike to the park's visitor center. Students began to help in cooking dinner as soon as they returned. The seniors were able to pass time simply by enjoying the outdoors with card games and physical activities. As the night arrived for the first day, a ranger led the senior campers on a night hike around the camping area. Using only the light

of the moonlight and some flashlights, seniors battled obstacles like having to cross a small creek in the dark. To finish off the night, they gathered around the campfire to do smores and tell campfire stories. Lights out was at 10 pm and seniors began to doze off as the night's low temperatures came in.

The second day of the trip began on a chilly morning as the campers cooked breakfast to start off the day. The day revolved around a hike across the campsite, letting seniors see the many landscapes and views the Santa Monica Mountains had to offer. The hike ended with a stop at a nearby rock pool where the students were able to take a swim. While there, students observed a nearby photo shoot. The second night, students enjoyed a short astronomy lesson with a local ranger and had the opportunity to see planets like Venus and Mars through a telescope and learn about the different stars in the sky. The night

ended again with the students gathered around the campfire for smores and more stories.

The final day consisted of the seniors simply taking in the last hours of being around nature before they began to pack up their tents and luggage. Overall, they enjoyed the trip and had a good time. Senior Katherine Umana stated, "Overall I think this trip was worth all of us coming together, and it ended up showing that we can work together. I really enjoyed it even though it left me sore."

One of the staff chaperones, Chemistry and Anatomy teacher Carl Johnson, also felt the trip went very well. "I thought it was very well organized, it was all planned out nicely, everybody was all in their little work groups, and I didn't have to tell anything to anyone on the whole trip. Everybody did what was needed. I just hung out and went on a nice camping trip. Diana did a great job organizing the trip."

Experienced L.A. Times Journalist Shares Her Story

Mary Forgione mentors girls in MOSTe

BY IRANI MENDEZ
Copy Editor

At home or abroad, there is a random chance to meet Los Angeles Times Journalist Mary Forgione. She has worked as a journalist for over 30 years now, however she hasn't always been a journalist and she does much more.

In high school, she knew she was going to go to college and that she wanted to write for a living but didn't have a plan. Coming from a small town in Connecticut, she wanted a big city experience and decided to attend George Washington University. Mrs. Forgione didn't major in something that involved writing, but in Political Science. Majoring in political science wasn't very marketable, especially for women. She explained that she did what most women were doing during the 70s. She got a well-paying job as a secretary.

Mrs. Forgione was a secretary of the London Embassy and lived in London about five years. Her later job was as a paralegal. She didn't have the confidence to become a writer until years later.

She said she took a chance, because, "[I] really liked writing. [And] really liked the newspaper." Mrs. Forgione began with the Glendale News Press where she developed most of her journalism skills. Then she moved up and now works in a big time newspaper, where she uses her questioning, writing, and interpersonal skills.

Ms. Forgione writes for the travel section at Los Angeles Times. When asked why she writes for the L.A. Travel section, she explains that her reason to write for the travel section is because she enjoys traveling. She has gone on cruises, to Paris and other places. She adds, "traveling plus being paid, it's a dream job."

When her journalism career began money was a struggle. Being a journalist at the time was not a high paying job according to her so she had to choose; her dream and no money, or a job she wouldn't truly enjoy but have money. In the end



Journalism staff speaking with Journalist Mary Forgione

she chose her dream.

She is now involved in MOSTe, an organization which mentors young girls who come from low-income families. Ms. Forgione doesn't have any children so she really cares about the girls she helps in the organization. She explained in her time talk wasn't about kids but about professions. Through the organization Ms. Forgione has been able to mentor Stephanie Fabian, a Franklin & Marshall student, and Sandra Sanchez, a Los Angeles Leadership Academy student. Fabian calls Ms. Forgione "incredible." She says "[Ms. Forgione] is an incredible human with the biggest heart on this planet." In addition, both ladies said that Ms. Forgione has impacted their lives. In Fabian's case she says that she would not be the per-

son she has become if Mary wasn't in her life. In Sanchez's case Mary has helped her grow personally and has been a strong supporter in her life.

On February 11, L.A. Leadership Academy High School journalism staff visited the L.A. Times for a tour. Students realized that journalism is a hard career and also very rewarding. In Mrs. Forgione's writing skill is a talent practiced throughout years to be honed. As Mrs. Forgione continues her journalism career she says, "challenge yourself to be intellectually curious about the world, to push yourself beyond your comfort zone." Like Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Do one thing every day that scares you."



Teacher Workload Meets Student Apathy

Experts find that time is of the essence

BY RANDY GUZMAN
Staff Writer

It is no secret that teachers have one of the most difficult and least economically rewarding jobs in today's society. With lesson plans to be made, reams of homework to be graded, and tests to be made and corrected, the life of a teacher can be easily overwhelmed with an unsettling workload. But the assignment that seems to complicate today's teachers the most is having the time to make a lesson plan that improves student enthusiasm and performance.

For teachers that not only have to prepare a lesson plan for more than three classes, student underachievement seems to be a common issue. Kristin Olson, author of *Wounded by Schools*, said that a teacher's ultimate responsibility is to hold high standards for their students and let them personally know they believe in them. "Unfortunately," she said, "many teachers are too busy with the logistics of their classes, some having to prepare for more than 4 different classes that they often times forget to interact with their students on a more personal level." She also expressed that sometimes teachers forget, with the amount of work that they have, the power their words have on a student. "They forget they are giving feedback on themselves (the students) and their sense of what they are capable of."

According to an investigation done by Dr. David Dibbon, Principal Researcher at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, 54% of high school teachers associated their workload issues with lack of time. Although a majority of their time is spent directly with their students for most teachers, they do not have the time or the mental availability to have inter-personal relationships with their students.

Dr. Dibbon stated that when teachers are too busy grading papers or preparing new material to teach, students are not given attention they deserve. "I am not saying it is a teacher's fault students fail at such a consistent rate, what I am saying is that when a teacher preoccupied with what they will teach the following week or when they are too busy grading, student outreach to their instructors is almost nonexistent."

Veritably, in 2014, two students from South Dakota University studied the effects on instruc-



Mrs. Tichenell's desk. Is this what it has come down to?

tor workload of the implementing active teaching methods to improve student enthusiasm as well as performance. Cory Mettler and Nathan Ziegler studied two courses, one where active teaching was employed in order to improve student enthusiasm for the material and the other where traditional teaching techniques, like lecturing, were used. When they set out to conduct their study they stated that, "There is an abundance of data that suggest that implementing active teaching methods in the classroom produces a deeper, longer lasting understanding and increased enjoyment of course material." They however knew that many instructors had the same concern: "lack of time." Though active teaching showed a higher amount of student achievement and engagement for the material, it became apparent that, with more than one class to instruct, "Teachers are not be able to consistently prepare and cover all the material if they used active teaching methods."

One of the many teachers at Los Angeles Leadership Academy's High School who is endowed with the responsibility of teaching various subjects is Katinka Tichenell. Ms. T, as she is commonly referred to as by her students, teaches Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Anatomy, mathematical enrichment, and her eleventh grade advisory. Being one of the more experienced teachers at the school, she has seen a worrisome amount of her students fail any one of her classes. Last semester alone, she taught more than 120 students, 60% of which failed her class. Tichenell believes Los Angeles Leadership

Academy students' upbringing has ultimately harmed their educational paths. "They have been taught how to take tests rather than how to truly understand what they are learning."

And though she stated that "only having one subject to instruct, would change the way I teach," she stretched that student apathy generally seems to be the reason so many students do not succeed in her classes. "One subject to teach would mean more time to plan a lesson," she stated, "which would allow me to incorporate more collaborative projects, proven to be more successful than conventional instruction." However, she believes group work at this school is a double-edge sword. "On various occasions, teachers will spend an extended amount of time making a collaborative lesson plan for the students, and when it is put into effect in the classroom, the students simply do not do the work. Students don't have the drive to equip themselves with the prerequisite skills needed to succeed."

Student apathy seems to rule over the minds of young scholars at Los Angeles Leadership Academy, and while in the end it will truly lie on the teachers to develop an intellectually prepared student for college, only so much can be expected from those who must worry about teaching more than one subject.

Medical Company offers STD Prevention Assembly

BY SELENA AGUSTIN
Staff Writer

Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater program, goes as far up north of Bakersfield and as far down of San Diego. The theater program's goal is to teach the students to be aware of what they are looking at and to be aware of their decisions.

The program preforms a play to inform students about their health and how to prevent diseases such as STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). Los Angeles Leadership Academy students had the chance to observe one of the plays, "What Goes Around". It touches STDs and HIV, teaching students why they should have safe sex.

Cynthia Cuprill, principal of L.A. Leadership, said she had seen the play before and wanted the students see it and get information they may not know otherwise. Juan Delacruz, an actor with the program claimed that although the group preformed in a classroom, which does not happen often because they usually preform in a theater for 700 students, they still want to get the message out. Their goal is to let students know that diseases know no age and that the students are not alone.

The reason why the program focuses on STDs is because this is the age most high school students are likely to be involved in sexual acts. "We get trained extensively in STDs and HIV; we are actually certified through the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)," Delacruz said. When a student has a question, the whole group is ready to answer it.

When asking 12th grader, Vanessa Ramos if the cast should come next year she immediately responded, "definitely! The younger students need to learn how to prevent [diseases] and if they ever get them they need to learn how to live life with it." Ramos enjoyed the play and it made her realize how easy it could be to get STDs, not only from one person, but also from the people in the person's past.

Hopefully, the cast preforms next year, but this time for the school wide to observe it. The students need to expose this information, so it can later help them in the future and help them to prevent these certain diseases.

Dropouts Get Second Chance: GED

BY MARIA RIVERA
Staff Writer

Graduating from high school is one of the biggest accomplishments any one can ever achieve. That moment when one finally has their high school diploma in their hands will fill one with pride and satisfaction. Sadly, some high school students choose to drop out of whether by design or circumstance. What if there was another way for those drop outs to receive an academic diploma? A General Education Diploma (GED) is the equivalent of a high school diploma. GEDs are offered to high school dropouts only.

A high school diploma is generally obtained after four years of high school. A GED usually takes less time because most dropouts already have some college credit. While there may be less time consumption it doesn't necessarily mean that the courses will be simpler.

The courses for a GED are more complicated and difficult. GEDs are important not only because they give one the credit that is needed to admit and receive a higher level of education such as a college or a university, but also because they allow one to apply for a good job. C.T Turner, a spokesman for GED testing service said that the GED tests were made as a goal to create a program that would allow people to transition from dropouts to college students and possibly employees.

One specific way to take the test is online. California is currently offering the test through computers. "Our goal is to allow people to take the test in the format most comfortable to them," said Diane Hernandez from the California Department of Education. An online exam could be an option for someone who gets nervous with a piece of paper in front of him or her. GEDs are a second chance for high school dropouts who want to better themselves. These tests allow another shot at a college degree and another shot at a higher paying job. GEDs give these people another opportunity at life.

New Bathrooms: Keep Them Clean or Urine Trouble



Boy's restroom found at the basement



Renovated boy's restroom, found on the main floor

BY KARLA MARQUEZ
Staff Writer

"I'm about to ask, can you hold my bag? But then I'm like wait, it has the hanger now, how cool is that!" Says Alondra Salazar, junior at Los Angeles Leadership Academy. Since Winter break, L.A. Leadership has remodeled both the girls and boys restroom located on the main floor of the High School. The boy's restroom is inside of Café two, and the girl's restroom is right outside of the U.S. History/Economics classroom that belongs to teacher Phyllis Rosen. Each restroom took about a week to renovate. Before the renovations both the restrooms were not at their best; both had tagged walls and mirrors. They also emitted bad odors, and were unpleasant to be inside of for too long.

Junior Oscar Fernandez said, "Obviously I like

that they fixed the restroom, before it when you went inside it smelled dirty, and looked ugly. Now when you go inside it's clean, it looks nice now." Classmate Alondra Salazar junior also gave her two cents. "I think it is totally FAB, it has an awesome little hanger now so I can place my bag/backpack, it has a better more modern look to it, it does not smell as bad as it did before and girls are actually keeping it clean, it's just so much better."

There still are other restrooms around the school and while they have not been renovated, they have been looked over and had minor issues fixed. For example, the girl's restroom on the second floor had a broken door, and was fixed. The boy's restroom can be a bit harder to be looked after and sometimes the one on the main floor is locked. A

male student also spoke about how before they completely remodeled the boys restroom, it had layers of paint on the wall because in previous years they would paint over the tagging that was on there.

In order for the changes to come about, Students told Juan Zepeda, L.A. Leadership's Facilities Manager, about how bad the restrooms were. Mr. Zepeda always asks students how they feel about certain things, what it is they want, and what they think should be done. He then goes and voices those opinions to the administration. This is helpful for the students because if they are uneasy about what they want to tell administration he is able to speak on behalf of them.



Health Tips

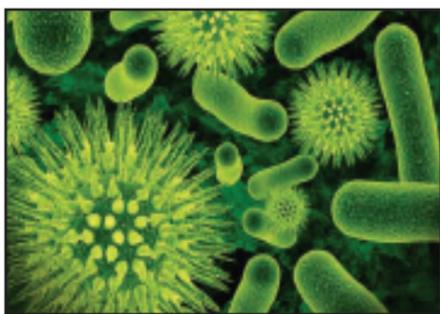


BY ROBERT VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

The Difference Between
Venom and Poison

People die easily. In fact, just one drop of one liquid may be enough to kill a man. Venom can kill; some types quickly, others more slowly and painfully. It is a produced liquid that comes from reptiles, insects, spiders, scorpions, fish, and plants. An example of venom's work is eating tissue like when acid is poured on flesh. Venom only works when it's injected into a living person or animal, like snake or insect bites. Poison is similar. Poison is identified when it is absorbed through skin, inhaled, or ingested by eating. In other words, poison is absorbed while venom is injected. Some examples of poison are: eating mushrooms in the wild, touching a dart frog, and eating a puffer fish. Both poison and venom have cause harm to the body internally, but they can have different formulas and cocktails of toxins. The best way to seek help when bitten is to not excite the body and stay calm to suppress the speed of the venom and poison. Using too much energy seeking help on foot will get nowhere, if there is a cellular device use it to seek medical attention. If there is no cellular device try and look for civilians or pedestrians who are nearby and can call for medical attention. Diana Lynne Vazquez, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), stated "Lie down and keep the snake bite below the heart, that is very important. Do not attempt to cut the wound and suck out the venom. If poison is inhaled get to fresh air as soon as possible, if it is ingested call the National Poison Center for treatment. If it is absorbed elevate it like a snake bite."

What is an Infection?



A visual representation of a infectious disease

When a person is sick there can be all kinds of solutions why the person is sick, it could be from a fever, cold or flu. There is another way of getting sick, which is an infection. Infections are caused by bacteria and viruses, they both cause the same damage but with a different tactic of causing harm to the body. Bacteria are cells that infect and multiply quickly but are weaker than viruses due to the fact that they can be fought off by antibiotics. Viruses are not alive. Viruses are responsible for most diseases known to mankind: HIV, Smallpox, Ebola, etc. Viruses are more dangerous and should be treated immediately if discovered, doctors can give exams to tell what kind of viruses there are. The best way is seeing a doctor when sick; he or she can prescribe antibiotics, ointment, lotion, pills, shots, or other liquid medications. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Diana Lynne Vasquez stated, "It is essential to take the prescribed medications with plenty of water and taken for the full amount of days prescribed."

Lawmakers, Obama, Civil Rights leaders to honor Selma's
'Bloody Sunday' this weekend



A doctored photo of Selma, with the United States flag in color

By Renee Schoof and William Douglas
McClatchy Washington Bureau
(TNS)

WASHINGTON — Nearly one-fifth of Congress will be in Selma, Ala., this weekend with President Barack Obama and his family to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" march — a watershed moment that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Civil rights groups say the commemoration of this moment in the civil rights movement should spark work in Congress to update the law after the Supreme Court weakened it in 2013. Some congressional supporters say the lawmakers' pilgrimage could help build support. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, will be one of 98 members of both parties from the House of Representatives and the Senate going to Selma. "It shows me there's interest by Republicans to guarantee voting rights for African-Americans," Butterfield said. Some Republicans believed there was no longer a need for federal oversight of states' voting changes. Butterfield said he hoped they would learn about contemporary stories about voting restrictions during the weekend of events and then be willing to consider updating the law. Civil rights groups are demanding it. Cornell William Brooks, president and CEO of the NAACP, said in a message to supporters Thursday that "while we commemorate the anni-

versary of this great march, we must also remember that our rights are still not secured — Selma is now." He cited new laws since the Supreme Court decision, such as state ID requirements, that he argued imperiled voting rights. "Commemoration requires legislation," Wade Henderson, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of rights groups, said in a statement this week. "Selma isn't just a photo op. It's a solemn remembrance of the blood, sweat, tears and lives that went into securing voting rights for racial minorities in this country." As portrayed in the movie "Selma," some 600 peaceful protesters led by Hosea Williams and John Lewis set out that day on a march to Montgomery to call for voting rights in Alabama. Police met them on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and brutally attacked them with clubs, whips and tear gas. Lewis was bloodied with a blow to his head. Now a longtime Democratic congressman from Georgia, he'll be in Selma again this weekend. Lewis is co-chair emeritus of the board of The Faith and Politics Institute, the group organizing this weekend's congressional pilgrimage. Its mission is to encourage reflection and discussion across racial, religious and party lines.

In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a requirement that nine states and parts of six others obtain Justice Department approval before making election changes that might disproportionately affect minority voting. The court said Congress should update the law. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., an honorary co-chairman of the Selma trip and the only African-American Republican in the Senate, said voting rights and the commemoration of Selma should be "decoupled." "The issue of voting rights legislation and the issue of Selma, we ought to have an experience that brings people together and not make it into a political conversation," Scott said. But Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a co-sponsor of a bill last year to repair the Voting Rights Act, said he intends to honor the past and conduct business as he's walking across Selma's famous bridge this weekend. He said he'll be carrying a draft of a new Senate measure in his pocket and intends to talk about it. "I'm not going to be haranguing senators, literally, while we are walking," Coons said. "But the great thing about the civil rights pilgrimage is it gives us several days in several places for reflection and discussion."

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Chinese Celebrate New Year
Welcome to the year 4713!

BY ARLENE GARCIA
Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 19th, the Chinese New Year celebration began. The Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) is more than 4,000 years old and is said to have originated from beliefs of deities. Now in modern times, rural areas still celebrate using traditional celebrations such as setting off firecrackers, ancestor worshipping and dragon dances. In cities, dragon dances and ancestor worshipping are less likely to happen. Chinese New Year is the longest public holiday in China; most Chinese are off work for a week beginning February 18th. During this celebration, people wear red clothes (red is believed to ward off bad luck), post scrolls with lucky messages on household gates, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes. According to Ling-Ling Lim, a Chinese New Year participant, adults give red envelopes to children and in return the child wishes them good luck. Fireworks are believed to scare away evil spirits; however, in the past people would light bamboo reeds on fire, causing them to crackle. The most important aspect of Chinese New Year is the feasting with family members.

According to Los Angeles Leadership Academy alumni Sophia Huang, "There's a big feast, dumplings, noodles, fish and all represent the fortune and unity of family." The Chinese New Year, there are the zodiac animals in which each has a symbolic meaning. This year's symbol is the goat. The goat, which is the 8th in the Chinese zodiac, in theory each zodiac sign is associated with one of the five elements, and which characterizes a person. This year's symbol which is the goat or more precisely the wood goat, there includes other such as the fire goat (1907, 1967), gold goat (1931, 1993), earth goat (1919, 1971), and water goat. Wood goats are people who were born in the years of 1955 and 2015. The wood goat comes in a 60 year cycle. Those born in the year of the goat have specific luck. Their lucky numbers are 2 and 7, lucky colors are red, brown, and purple, and their lucky months are August, September, and November. The goat's unlucky numbers are 6 and 8, unlucky colors are blue, green, and black, and their unlucky months are March, June, and October. It is said that goats are gentle, compassionate, friendly, and are ready to help others.

Chinese New Year
This year, Chinese New Year begins Feb. 19 and ends March 5. According to the Chinese calendar, it is the year 4713.

The calendar
Each lunar year is governed by one of 12 animals whose characteristics are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements: metal, water, wood, fire and earth, which overlay a 5-year cycle of characteristics on the original 12-year cycle.

Dates to 2600 B.C., when Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac.

Known variably as the Year of the Goat, Sheep or Ram, the sign's confusion stems from its Chinese character, 'yang,' which broadly describes any of the ruminating mammals, with or without horns.

Those born during the Year of the Goat (Sheep or Ram)
... are tender, polite, filial, clever, and kind-hearted. They have special sensitivity to art and beauty and a special fondness for quiet living. They are wise, gentle and compassionate and can cope with business cautiously and circumspectly. In their daily life, they try to be economical. They are willing to take good care of others, but they should avoid pessimism and hesitation.

Source: ChinaHighlights.com