Welcome to Rocky Hill, Mr. Niper!

By Ronak Tallur
Assistant Chief Editor

Recently I had the privilege of interviewing one of the newest members of our staff, Mr. Niper. Mr. Niper is one of our Assistant Principals here at Rocky Hill, and by the smiles on his face when he walks the halls of our great school, it is easy to see that he fits right in! As an assistant principal at Rocky Hill, he works with our administrative team, leadership team, and staff to continue the work of raising the level of achievement for all students. Rocky Hill is a school where we strive to achieve excellence in all areas.

It is great to have an assistant principal who understands our goals and aspirations. “I strongly believe that through positive relationship building and a belief in each student as an individual, every student can be successful andachieve their set goals,” said Mr. Niper. Most teachers and administrators have certain principles that they play important roles in how they work with students and their colleagues. Mr. Niper’s principles are centered on motivation, dedication, respect, and creative vision. He strives to motivate students to do their very best and supports teachers to help increase student achievement. He made this clear in his bio when he said, “I am dedicated to a strong and well-rounded student, and I look forward to working with your students to develop this.” As a student, it is reassuring to know that our administrators and teachers care about our well-being.

Mr. Niper believes that respect is important to a student and their success. This is an important principle for students and teachers at Rocky Hill because respect is part of our PRIDE program. According to Mr. Niper, “I continuously stress the importance of being respectful and how it makes stronger individuals throughout life.”

Mr. Niper really enjoys being a part of community events. It is fascinating to know that he was a DJ for twenty years. According to his bio on the RHMS website, this is Mr. Niper’s eighth year as an administrator. He attended the Rocky Hill International Night and met some students and parents. Even though he is new, he seems to fit in quite well. My interview with Mr. Niper left me fascinated and awed by his wealth of experience. I can see why Mr. Niper is a great administrator for our school. If you read on, you will find out a little more about Mr. Niper’s background, and a few of those details might just surprise you!

Ronak: Who or what inspired you to take up a career in education?
Mr. Niper: A good friend of mine who is a teacher at Paint Branch High School. At the time, she asked me to be a long-term sub for her, and from there, I moved on!
Ronak: How long have you been teaching?

Mr. Niper: I was a teacher for five years at Kingsview Middle School, and after that, I was an administrator at Northwest for the past seven years.
Ronak: Did you teach before becoming an assistant principal? If so, what subject or subjects did you teach?
Mr. Niper: I taught science to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.
Ronak: What is it that you do as an administrator?
Mr. Niper: In summary, our job is to support instruction, facilitate and build upon relationships between teachers and students, and to make a plan for how the school year will flow. We support the entire school community, everyone from students and teachers, to parents and local businesses. It is a collaborative effort throughout the year.
Ronak: What advice would you give to the students here at Rocky Hill?
Mr. Niper: The advice that I would give to the students is to work hard, don’t give up, and use your resources. If you utilize their tools, they will be successful.

It was quite an amazing experience interviewing Mr. Niper. During this interesting interview, I learned that if you work hard, stay positive, utilize your tools, and strive to be successful, you can be successful. One of the things students like about teachers and administrators is the fact that they are approachable. Even though it seems that Mr. Niper stands tall and is taller than most of the students here, it is nice to know that he is approachable.

It means that it is okay to say hello to him in the hallways. He may not mind a high five or two. Some of us may have to jump high to reach his very “high” five, but it may be worth it. From what we now know about Mr. Niper, he is the kind of administrator you could talk to if you have any problem.

Please join me in welcoming one of the newest members of our staff, Mr. Niper, into this amazing community of ours!
By Aleysha Vergese
Chief Editor
Sadwik Gangavarapu
Tech Editor and
Ms. Odey

Even though firearms and gun possession is a sensitive subject, as children who are growing into adults, we cannot overlook the fact that guns are used to harm innocent people across the country. Gun ownership, gun control, right to bear arms etc. are expressions that have become too familiar. The Second Amendment gives people the right to own guns, and we get it, but we deserve the right to feel safe.

Guns used for protection provide a certain level of security when they are used the right way. Law enforcement officers carry guns and use them when necessary to protect citizens. Because of some heroic acts by police officers, lives have been saved, and criminals have been brought to justice. Clearly, police officers and members of the military using guns as a major part of their job to protect and serve. We need to understand that guns are dangerous and should be handled by people who are trained to use them. It does not diminish the fact that there are people who own guns legally have used them properly. It helps to know some citizens have used their guns to save lives. Also, some people use guns for sport. They use guns for hunting. So where is the balance when it comes to gun ownership and how people use guns?

In a book, A Fighting Chance by Senator Elizabeth Warren, she writes, “We lose eight children and teenagers to gun violence every day. If a mysterious virus suddenly started killing eight of our children every day, America would mobilize teams of doctors and public health officials. We would move heaven and earth until we found a way to protect our citizens. But with gun violence.”

With so many innocent children hurt and sometimes killed by guns, how can we be protected? Some people argue that good people should have guns to protect us from the bad guys. It just means more guns, and sometimes those guns purchased legally, by law abiding citizens, end up in the wrong hands.

Incidents of school shootings like Sandy Hook Elementary school hit very close to home. As we try to figure out how and why people would harm innocent children at school, a common explanation has been the idea of plying violent games or watching violent movies. Although there are reasons to believe that violent movies and video games could instigate acts of violence, not everyone who plays violent video games ends up hurting people.

Day after day we hear our elected leaders talk about gun ownership, background checks, mental illness and rights, yet nothing has changed. The sad reality is that every mass shooting brings up the topic, and days later, people go back to business as usual. Guns continue to be politicized and sadly, the issue has become an issue of the nailing political party.

Whether or not you agree with the idea of gun control, we know that guns, if not handled properly, can be dangerous and in the wrong hands, can be deadly. Gun owners should realize that as they exercise their right to own guns, they have the responsibility of ensuring the safety of others. When people get hurt intentionally or accidentally by guns, the owners should assume responsibility. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, NSSF, posted some safety tips for gun owners in their “Firearms Safety” article. Some of the tips are:

- Always keep gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Unload firearms when not in use.
- Be sure of your target and what’s beyond it.
- If your gun doesn’t fire, after pulling the trigger, be extremely careful with firearm.

Gun Control is No Child’s Play

By Aleysha Vergese
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The common good and poverty has been referenced in his speeches multiple times. He criticized capitalism as “the selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity that leads to both the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged.” Ironically, among the crowd of “the faithful” were people who capitalized on the pope’s visit and sold various items related to pontiff. There were several items like shirts, pins, hats, and bubbleheads to commemorate the pope’s visit. Most Americans, even some Catholics, were very excited about the pope’s visit. Pope Francis has earned the nickname, “The People’s Pope Francis’ US Visit: Religion Vs. Economics

By Hannah Kim
Staff Writer

Pope Francis, the leader of the largest Christian church, made headlines when he came to the United States. He spoke about a variety of topics, including abortion, climate change, immigration, etc. But what stood out, especially among his many speeches, was his stance on helping the less fortunate.

Pope Francis’ Bubblehead

Pope, because of his genuine love for people. It is not surprising people were ready to spend as much as $23.99 for his bubblehead

Some of the faithful bought T-shirts for as much as $50 and wore them proudly to express their love for Pope Francis.

Besides the pontiff’s memorable “yes,” some people took advantage of the demands for accommodation, food, and other necessities and made some extra money. If we hated the pope’s message, he stressed the idea of kindness and helping the less fortunate. He emphasized the need to help the poor. It begs the question: how much has been done in these first years of the third millennium to raise people out of extreme poverty?

Pope Francis said, “I know that you share my conviction that much more still needs to be done, and that in times of crisis and economic hardship a spirit of global solidarity must not be lost.” Clearly, this pope has made it a priority to recognize the plight of the poor among us. It is surprising that he skipped lunch invitations with the rich and powerful, and chose instead, to serve among with member of the Washington homeless community. I would imagine that if he had his way, he would probably ask that profits from merchandise patterning to him be used to care for the poor and homeless. Pope Francis takes his service to humanity seriously, and although he does not shy away from politics, social and economic issues, his message is the same. The rich should care for the poor.

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The Rocky Hill Page
Rocky Hill’s First International Night

By Saptak Gangavampu
Tech Editor

The first International Night at Rocky Hill lived up to its hype. Even with fewer than three hundred in attendance, the program was a great success. Our PTA did a wonderful job organizing this unique program that celebrates diversity here at Rocky Hill. Over the years, Rocky Hill Middle School has seen a steady influx of students from various ethnic backgrounds. The beauty of having such a diverse population is the opportunity to learn about different cultures. We continue to show our pride and celebrate our diversity in various ways. The international night gave us a snapshot of the various ethnic groups represented here. Our Principal, Dr. Eldridge, attended the program, and so did some other staff members like our assistant principals Mr. Niper and Mrs. Brazil. The mood at Rocky Hill was festive and definitely worth the time and effort.

There was an army to try foods from different countries. One of the most popular foods was called beignets from Cameron. Beignets are fried balls made from dough. Mrs. Chantil was happy to share some interesting facts about the food she brought. There were two wooden carvings on her display table. One was a male and the other was a female. She told us that it was a traditional wedding dressing for the first time that the bride and the groom met. Next to the Cameron table was that of Gambia. There were so many foods that Miss Kassana brought to show us. One popular item she had were the “Chapatis”. They were made with wheat, flour, eggs and sugar. The Jamaican display also was very interesting with wheat, flour, eggs and sugar. The display was very interesting. The first International Night at Rocky Hill was festive and definitely worth the time and effort. I encourage and push my students to be the best they can be (mathematically, of course)!

TWR: What is one lesson that you have learned throughout your career?

Mrs. Murray: I have learned to be open-minded and flexible. Teaching is a career that brings new opportunities and challenges each and every day, so it is important to be able to adapt to change.

TWR: Why did you become a teacher?

Mrs. Murray: I became a math teacher because I love math, and I have always enjoyed helping others understand it. My AP Calculus teacher in 12th grade was my inspiration for wanting to become a teacher.

TWR: What other schools or grades have you taught?

Mrs. Murray: I have only taught at Rocky Hill. I teach both 7th and 8th grade, but I have never taught 6th!

TWR: What would you like your students to know about you?

Mrs. Murray: I would like my students to know that I believe in all of them and that they can all achieve at a high level by putting in the time and effort. I encourage and push my students to be the best they can be (mathematically, of course)!

One Something More

I looked up to the ceiling
I looked down to the floor
I smiled at my report card

Aleysha Varghese
Chief Editor

There are very many talented teachers at Rocky Hill Middle School who put their time and effort into teaching and making sure that each and every one of their students is successful. We are proud to recognize Mrs. Danielle Murray, a mother of three, an AP Calculus teacher, who extracts her energy and every day, so it is important to be able to adapt to change.

Mrs. Murray: I am excited and feel honored to be nominated.

TWR: What makes you special?

Mrs. Murray: That’s a tough question to answer because I don’t like talking about myself. I feel that I am special to my students because I can relate to them and help prepare them for high school. I feel that I am special to my family because I can balance my job as a teacher, my job as a coach, and my job as a wife and mom.

TWR: What would you like your students to know about you?

Mrs. Murray: I would like my students to know that I believe in all of them and that they can all achieve at a high level by putting in the time and effort. I encourage and push my students to be the best they can be (mathematically, of course)!

Ah-Mazing Teacher

Suchismita Ojha and Jeevith Thanmanj establishing community strength. The beauty of having such committed teachers like you, who is willing to share her thoughts and ideas with the Rocky Hill society.

The Rocky Hill Page

India drew some sweet tooth patrons who enjoyed some delicious “Parle G” cookies. These are cookies that people normally eat as a tea time snack! The grilled chicken at the Italy display was awesome. Rudav Kathivavan, a 7th grader said, “the food is really good! I am really glad that I came to the first International Night! I hope this becomes an annual thing!” Although no very many people attended this great event, everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mrs. Bhutani, one of our parent volunteers was all smiles as she meandered around taking photographs. When asked if she is enjoying the event and if it will be an annual event, she said, “I am definitely enjoying this event, and I think this will become an annual event. I am very happy that Rocky Hill is implementing an event that the elementary schools have organized. Although not many people showed up, I hope more people find out, and make it to the event next year, and I am really excited for the upcoming performances!”

With food in their mouths and a passport designed to encourage students to visit as many displays as possible, students, parents, and visitors made their way to the cafeteria for more celebrations.

The performances were also really amazing! There was a dance performed by Suchismita. Decked in an elaborate Indian attire, she performed the Bhaua-Palvi dance, moving gracefully to the tune of the music. On her head she wore a Thaiya crown made from a special kind of form that grows in the water. The dance is special celebration of spring. The audience was captivated by her performance. A Korean drum group performed with drums that had different sounds and distinct beats from each drum. Sai 7th grader at Rocky Hill played an Indian drum, with his fingers. The music was melodious and soft accompanied by his guru’s piano. It was relaxing. Colombian dancers in traditional attire performed a tradition dance, making different formations with each move. The dances were spectacular, and we could tell that the dancers put in a lot of hard work into the dances.

The first International Night at Rocky Hill now in the books, was a huge success. Everyone who attended the event learned interesting facts about other countries. They got to try on clothing and eat food. All in all, it was a great event and everyone who attended the event walked out thoroughly satisfied. Special thanks to our PTA president, Mrs. Wilson for organizing this great event. Most of the parents who came were delighted to be part of this diverse population. At the end I hope we learned that what makes us unique also make us relate to one another as we discover how much we have in common.

As Cesar Chavez, a renowned labor leader and civil rights activist once said, “We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community - and this nation.” Rocky Hill is stronger because we recognize and celebrate our diversity.
Writer's Corner

Book Wars: Divergent vs. Hunger Games

By Ronak Tallur
Assistant Chief Editor

Over the past few years, there have been many great books series’ that have released. Two of the best book series’ have been “The Hunger Games” and “Divergent.” It is interesting to compare the two trilogies and see which one is the best book that has been released in the past few years.

First The Hunger Games trilogy: The first book of the series, “The Hunger Games,” was a brilliant read that seemed to be loved by anyone who read it. “The Hunger Games,” abbreviated THG is told from the point of view of Katniss Everdeen, a sixteen-year-old girl who volunteers to take her sister’s place in the Hunger Games, a competition that serves as a reminder for a war that took place seventy-four years ago. This event, sponsored by the Capitol (the dictatorship form of government) brings together twelve males and twelve females to fight to the death on live TV. Katniss and Peeta Mellark are chosen as the two contestants from District 12. Katniss is very good with the bow, while Peeta is quite strong and good at camouflage himself.

This book was a fast-paced adventure that had me at the edge of my seat. Suzanne Collins did a great job of making the reader root for Katniss and Peeta to win the Hunger Games, and this is why THG was loved by thousands of readers worldwide.

Unfortunately, the second book of the series, “Catching Fire” didn’t perform so well. Again, Katniss and Peeta (the so-called heroes of District 12) are put back into the arena. President Snow, the antagonist of the story, has become increasingly obsessed in trying to destroy Katniss, and considers anyone who sympathizes with her an enemy. This book is a great fast-paced and adventurous adventure. Suzanne Collins did such a great job writing the story that she made the readers feel connections with the characters. For example, she grew the reader’s hatred in President Snow, but grew their love for Katniss. This book was a great way to finish off the series, and “The Hunger Games” in my opinion was a success.

Now let’s move on to the “Divergent” series. “The Hunger Games” protagonist is a female. The protagonist in this series is Beatrice “Tris” Prior. Also, similar to “The Hunger Games,” there is a love story involving the main characters. Tris’ boyfriend is Tobias Eaton, who is one of the leaders of Dauntless, and is also a Divergent. I loved “Divergent,” because Veronica Roth made me root for Tris more than anything. Veronica made me want Tris to survive, and escape from Jeanine Matthews. The plot was brilliant, and I felt like each page had meaning to it.

The second installment of the Divergent series is “Insurgent.” “Insurgent” was written similarly to “Divergent,” because it made me root for Tris, and want her to survive, even when survival seems impossible. I loved the battle sequences in the story, and the fact that reading it made me feel the fear that Tris was feeling. Veronica Roth literally put you into Tris’ shoes and made you feel her pain, her anger, or her frustration. Veronica Roth made “Insurgent” a brilliant sequel to “Divergent.”

The final book of the Divergent series is titled “Allegiant.” The story became rather boring, and didn’t defy the Capitol and get away with it. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a touching, but not overly sentimental book. I make you root for Tris as much as I would have liked her to. Also, I did not like how Veronica Roth ended the story. “Tris’ death delivered a great blow to the series, and really made the pages after her death meaningless. Another thing that I didn’t like about “Allegiant” was that Peter took the memory serum and “tried to become a new person.” Veronica Roth trying to make Peter a new person ruins the scope of the book, because Peter is just fine the way he is. Trying to change someone who, like Peter, has a bad reputation, is worthless, and a waste of time. This was what made “Allegiant” a series finale that, in my mind, wasn’t as good as the rest.

So there you have it. “The Hunger Games” was a brilliant series, which was fast-paced, adventurous, and had fighting as its main theme. “Divergent” was another series that was fast-paced, had lots of fighting, and had adventures. Both series’ had a love story involved in it, had loved ones dying, and had parts to the story that weren’t very good. In my mind, Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth delivered in making great series’. But if I had to choose which series was better, I would choose “Divergent.” “Divergent” and “The Hunger Games” were pretty much equal to one another, but the first two books of “Divergent” really set themselves apart from the entire Hunger Games series. I hoped you enjoyed this edition of “Book Wars” and make sure to join us again next time.

Paper Towns Book Review

Riya Satar Staff Writer

John Green has, yet again, produced a fascinating story. Some may argue that it could be one of the best books for teens this year.

“Paper Towns” is about Quentin Jacobsen, a nerdy young boy who has a not-so-secret love for popular girl Margo Roth Spiegelman. One night, she unexpectedly pops into his life. As their night long journey comes to an end, Quentin is optimistic about his possible future with Margo. But when he awakes for what seemed like a normal day the next morning, he soon realizes that Margo is missing.

This book is all that the kids are talking about these days, and after reading it, I can definitely understand why. Green explores the wonderings of young teen love all while keeping the lovey-dovey-happy-ever-after stuff to a minimum. His writing style explores realistic situations, which is the main reason his books are so relatable. The characters are ones that everybody can relate to in one way or another.

My favorite part has to be when Margo and Quentin embark on their adventurous plot for revenge. It shows the rebellious side of teens when the two of them vandalize houses and cars with fish, leaving a signature on the walls in spray paint. During this scene, I enjoyed Green’s descriptive writing and thought about how I would have gone. Quentin play their sly tricks. This part allows the reader to imagine an escape from reality. I think people will enjoy this part because everybody has a rebellious side and in one way or another could probably relate to this.

Although the plot does drag out slightly in the middle, the overall mix of mystery and witty humor makes this a book worth reading. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a touching but not overly sentimental book. I suggest getting a book because you’re in for a wild ride!

Snowflakes Book Review

Riya Satar Staff Writer

Snowflakes are white. They are made of snow but in shape of a flake. So don’t mistake them for corn flakes. Snowflakes come down to the grass. Not so they can play brass. They fly in the sky. To say no but why. Snowflakes melt under the sun. With snowflakes we have so much fun.

By Venassu Jijo

Autumn

By: Sakshi Nenula

The leaves turn into beautiful colors Red, orange, yellow, and brown. The fascinating scenery blows my mind as I stop to enjoy the refreshing weather.

The quick winds move the leaves and they dance around in the sky. The sun’s glistening glow reflects onto the small puddle beneath me.

As the leaves from the tree drop I take them and put it as a pile. I move my feet and jump on the gnomish pile. I take my hand and I feel the crisp leaves as I dance around the colorful mountain.

Then I look up at the bright blue sky and smile. Because I had an amazing time in the prettiest season over.
Pandas

By Nicholas Fantle
Staff Writer

Pandas

Pandas lived on earth for over three million years. A lot of people don’t think that pandas are important animals. Pandas are one of the top 20, most popular animals in the world. Some people like them because of their black and white spots. But other people like them because of their big eyes. Also you might ask yourself how pandas are born. But the answer is...zoos. Zoos save the animals from the wild and take care of them. An average zoo may spend $7 million a year to feed and take care of all the animals.

Most baby pandas are born during the months of August and September. They leave the mother when they are about 2 years old. When they are born it takes them four years to fully grow up. Pandas are fun and interesting animals, some of the facts are that 99 percent of a panda’s diet is bamboo. The rest is made out of other grass and fruit. Most of the day, pandas eat food, rest and look for food. Even if pandas are considered in the bear family, they don’t hibernate like bears do. They mostly live up to 20 years in the wild, but in zoos they can live up to 30 years. The oldest panda is a 36 year old male, named Jia Jia who lived in Hong Kong.

Pandas in the DC Zoo

Since the giant pandas arrived in the DC’s Zoo, people have been obsessed with pandas. But on August 22, 2015, two new male baby panda were born. They were the babies of a female panda named Mei Xiang and a male panda named Tian Tian. Then four days later one of the two baby pandas died. On September 25, 2015 the first lady named the baby panda Bei Bei, which means “precious treasure.”

Mom + Mad = Something Not Pretty

By Christine Kim and Ishka Nisk
Staff Writers

Mom wanted me to go to bed. But I wanted to go to Sarah’s house. For ice cream. Yes, ice cream. But she said no. And not just any “No.” She said it like this. “RAIN GRAMATCHEZ OLSEN! YOU WANT TO GO TO SARAIS HOUSE FOR ICE CREAM? ITS THE MIDDLE OF WINTER!! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?” NO, NO, AND NOIF I WASN’T CLEAR ENOUGH, NO!

I tried to protest (of course) and after her long lecture she said, “Well, we don’t have any plans, so you might as well have a reading lesson. I got you a new reading teacher to help you out. Go to your room! AND DON’T COME OUT TILL I SAY SO!” Honestly, I didn’t see what the big hubbub was about. I just asked to go to Sarah’s house. Granted, I did ask for ice cream, and when she said no I asked if I could have it at Sarah’s house. Okay, so I did do my part in riling her up, but it was fun. I have my moments.

A few minutes later, I was sitting in the kitchen with an overly dumpy woman (my dad excuse for a tutor) breathing down my neck. I stared at the book she wanted me to read while tears of frustration prickled in my eyes. I wanted to read it of course, but the words just swam on the page. Every tutor I had quix. They called me illiterate. They told me that I wasn’t a just a difficult student, and I didn’t try hard enough. Okay, so that may be a teeny-weeny bit true but still.

That’s just plain rude! "Rain?” the tutor peeped. “Why aren’t you reading? Is it too difficult?”

“No.” I snapped. “I just can’t see the words properly.”

"Is my going to Sarah’s house also a teensy bit true but still."

"Yes, Rain?” and right on cue, the puppy dog eyes and pouty lips work their way in, which (if the plan is carried through successfully) should make my mom take pity on me and choose to be nice when I ask this next question. I’m so delightful.

Mommy?”

“Yes, Rain?” And right on cue, the puppy dog eyes and pouty lips work their way in, which (if the plan is carried through successfully) should make my mom take pity on me and choose to be nice when I ask this next question. I’m so delightful.

“Mommy?”

“Is my going to Sarah’s house also different?”

Rain’s mother’s face hardened. Uh-oh.

“Am I THAT unreliable that you think I can’t stay true to what I said? Do you really think my decision on that matter has changed?” It was then that I said THE WORST THING that I could have possibly said at that moment.

“Yes.” What? It’s true! Don’t look at me like that!

“Yes?”

Oopsie.
The wait is over! The NFL season is finally back and fans all over the country are excited to watch their favorite teams clash against one another as they fight for a spot in the playoffs. The New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks are set to face off, with the winner advancing to the championship round of the playoffs and the loser automatically penalized.

By Ronak Tallur
Assistant Chief-Editor

The wait is over! The NFL season is finally back and fans all over the country are excited to watch their favorite teams clash against one another as they fight for a spot in the playoffs. The New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks are set to face off, with the winner advancing to the championship round of the playoffs and the loser automatically penalized.

By Shelby Wilson
Former Editor

On Saturday, October 24th the PTA hosted the first Rocky Hill Color Fun Run at RHMS. Over 150 participants came out to run, walk, and rock their Wildcat Pride.

It was a lovely fall morning and it was a perfect day for running. The music was playing and everyone was getting pumped up to run. Excitement filled the air and it was a great way to start the weekend.

Then soon it was time to run. Everyone gathered up in the basketball court and was ready to have a blast! During the run we were splattered with colors of purple, blue, green, etc. It was a great way to exercise and have an enjoyable time. Following the run Unique

Mrs. Rye, her husband Mr. Kent Rye, her brother, Greg and their fellow Ravens fans.

Mrs. Rye's brother, Greg!
Griffin III underwent surgery for a torn ACL that he had suffered in the loss to the Seahawks. That offseason was tough one for the Redskins. Head coach Mike Shanahan was the source of constant criticism for not removing RG3 from the shelf game even though he had clearly been in pain. However, fans remained firm that the Redskins would return in the 2013 season, better than ever, and win the Super Bowl. On September 9th, 2013, the Redskins took the field for their season opener versus the Philadelphia Eagles. Early in the game, the Redskins got a defensive touchdown, taking a 7-0 lead. By the end of the first quarter, however, the Eagles had kicked out of a 12-7 lead. As halftime, FedEx Field was silent. The Eagles were leading 26-7 and RG3, who was wearing a knee brace, appeared to have an injury, was constantly taking hard hits. Less than five minutes into the third quarter, Lesen McCoy broke free for a 34-yard touchdown run, giving the Eagles a 33-7 lead. Despite the fact that RG3's play was clearly not up to par, the Redskins didn't score again until September 9th, 2013, exactly 8 months later. Despite the fact that they didn't score, the Redskins were clinging on to a 14-13 lead early in the 4th quarter, when everything changed. Russell Wilson threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Marshall Lynch of the Seahawks with 2:47 remaining in the game, a no-conversion, taking a 21-14 lead. When the Redskins got the ball back, RG3 fumbled deep into the field, and was sacked, causing him to bend awkwardly. On the next play, center Will Montgomery snapped the ball way off target. As RG3 tried to get the ball, his foot stuck into the ground and his knee buckled. The Seahawks recovered the ball and the Redskins lost their season opener. Three games later, fans seemed gloomier than ever. The Redskins were off to a 0-3 start, and were seen playing against the Dakotas. Starrs, who were doing quite well in the early going of the season. However, the Redskins ended up winning that game 24-14, going into their bye week with a record of 1-3. Two weeks later, the Redskins lost again. On Sunday Night Football against the biggest rival, the Dallas Cowboys. With a 1-4 record, the Redskins were going into a game against the Chicago Bears, who were flying high. However, the Redskins defense managed to get to Jay Cutler (left the game with an injury) and Josh McCown, the backup quarterback. In the end, the Redskins won the game 45-41, and improved their record to 2-4. Their week 8 game against the 6-1 Denver Broncos, however, was sure to be a challenge. Led by future Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton Manning, the Broncos had the best offense in the NFL. RG1 led the Redskins to a surprising 21-7 lead. However, the Broncos came roaring back to take a 45-21 lead, and eventually went on the game. RG3 sustained another knee injury, and had an emotional postgame press conference. A week later, Griffin III returned to lead the Redskins to a 30-24 overtime win over the Chargers. Unfortunately, that was the finals win for the Redskins in the season. Eight games later, the Redskins walked into their locker room for the last time, gloomily. The Redskins had finished with a 3-13 record, and Mike Shanahan had ended up benching RG3 in favor of fellow second-year quarterback, Kirk Cousins. A day after the week 17 loss to the Giants, Mike Shanahan and his entire staff were fired, paving way into a sure to painful offseason. However, things began to get brighter when former Bengals offensive coordinator, Jay Gruden, was hired as the Redskins coach. He was sure to turn things around and make RG1 return to MVP form. Trying to turn RG3 into a pocket passer, Jay Gruden entered the regular season with high hopes. Most fans believed that the Redskins would return to 2012 form and return to the playoffs. But after a week 1 loss, RG3 went down with a dislocated ankle. Kirk Cousins led the Redskins to a commanding victory over the Eagles and performed well in a loss to the Eagles. After that, everything went downhill for Cousin, who began to throw interceptions on a gamely basis. He was benched in favor of the third-string quarterback, Colt McCoy, who led the Redskins to two straight wins. After that, RG3 returned and began struggling. After a week 3 loss to the Buccaneers, RG3 called out his teammates, which led to Jay Gruden showering, "Robert needs to worry about himself...not about his teammates!" He said that changes would be made to the team if necessary. RG3 ended up being benched after a week 12 loss to the San Francisco 49ers. Colt McCoy returned for two games (both of them were losses) before he suffered a season-ending neck strain. RG3 finished out the season with a 1-2 record, but struggled mightily in a 45-17 loss in week 17. For a second year in a row, the Redskins had finished with less than 5 wins. RG3 began to bear down to the criticism, snapping at his haters on social media, leading to more and more criticism. Jay Gruden was also called out for making RG3 worse than before. Jay Gruden promised to make changes in the 2015 season after the struggles of the 2014 season. On February 18th, Jay Gruden announced, "Robert is our guy," making it public that RG3 would be the Redskins starter for the 2015 season. After an all off-season of training, RG3 geared up for the press as the tackle with the Cleveland Browns. A game later, RG3 went down with a concussion, making Kirk Cousins the Redskins starter. On August 30th, Gruden announced, "Kirk is our guy," deeming Cousins the opening day starter for the Redskins. On September 13th, Kirk Cousins made the first week 1 start of his career, throwing a touchdown and two interceptions, in a 17-10 loss to the Dolphins. A week later, Cousins led the Redskins to a 24-10 win over the St. Louis Rams, a team with an extremely strong front seven. Redskins fans were beginning to get very excited when Cousins threw two picks in a Thursday Night loss to the Giants, 32-21. Slowly, fans began to cheer on as the Redskins jumped with a sprained knee sustained in the Clevel and Browns. A game later, Kirk Cousins was praised more and more by critics. It was reported they could hear Redskins fans saying that former Redskins coach, Mike Shanahan, believed that Cousins would soon be a Super Bowl champ, as Pro Bowl quarterback, and would go down as one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. Though fans reminded Shanahan not to jump to conclusions, it was still true that many fans could deny that Kirk Cousins was the best quarterback on the roster. In an ESPN article, it was reported, "Last season, (Cousins) would have thrown an interception in a catch situation. Now, he has improved and matured as a quarterback.

Ever since the Redskins heartbreak loss to the Seahawks, fans haven’t had much to cheer about. Now, however, fans have a reason to believe that the Redskins can make it to the playoffs, and may even win the Super Bowl. Fans believe that with Cousins (nicknamed Captain Kirk) at quarterback, the Redskins would soon join the elite class of teams in the NFL. And as the Redskins enter a tough stretch of their season, fans believe that it might start now. Fans believe that Kirk Cousins has got it, with their top ranked defense, a great running game, and a quarterback, a quarterback who had shrugged off criticism, and has proven to be one of the best.
Life on The Hill
Welcome to Rocky Hill!

By Aleysha Vergese
Chief Editor

Rocky Hill Middle School is one big family, filled with hardworking teachers, exuberant students, and loving PTA. With a tight-knit community like ours, we do our best to welcome new teachers and students. The wildcat Roar does its own part to recognize and welcome our new wildcat.

Mr. Tom Evans
Mr. Evans is a 6th grade Digital Literacy and English teacher, we are delighted to have him here at Rocky Hill.

TWR: Where were you before you came to Rocky Hill?
Mr. Tom: I came to Rocky Hill from Tilden Middle School where I was a teacher for the past 7 years.

TWR: What do you like about Rocky Hill?
Mr. Evans: The Kids! I love how students take PRIDE in their education and help each other in class and in the hallways.

TWR: What do you teach?
Mr. Evans: Literacy and English 6 this year, but I have also taught reading, journalism, creative writing in high school.

TWR: How do you like being here so far?
Mr. Evans: I love working at Rocky Hill! The kids and staff are amazing! The rotating blocks is a big adjustment from the seven period day, but I really like having longer class periods.

Mrs. Williams
Mrs. Williams is the head of the Special Education department.

TWR: Where were you before you came to Rocky Hill?
Mrs. Williams: Before I came to Rocky Hill, I taught math at RICA for six years. Before that I taught in Texas and Philadelphia for ten years.

TWR: What do you like about Rocky Hill?
Mrs. Williams: I love the sense of community at Rocky Hill, especially since two of my daughters go to school here.

TWR: What do you teach?
Mrs. Williams: I am the head of the Learning and Academic Disabilities program.

TWR: How do you like being here so far?
Mrs. Williams: I’ve really enjoyed being at Rocky Hill so far. Being brand new to this job, I’ve had a lot to learn but I’m getting the hang of it!

TWR: Would you like to share a bit about yourself or a special message to RHMS?
Mrs. Williams: I am passionate about helping students being successful!

Mrs. Zettes Coley
Mrs. Zettes Coley is one of the 7th grade special education teachers.

TWR: Where were you before came to Rocky Hill?
Mrs. Zettes Coley: I came to Rocky Hill.

TWR: What do you like about Rocky Hill?
Mrs. Zettes Coley: How nice everyone is! Students and teachers alike are respectful, caring, and welcoming!

TWR: What do you teach?
Mrs. Zettes Coley: I’m a Special Education teacher who teaches one Resource class for 7th graders and co-teaches four 7th grade English classes.

TWR: How do you like being here so far?
Mrs. Zettes Coley: I LOVE it. I’ve never been happier.

TWR: Would you like to share a bit about yourself?
Mrs. Zettes Coley: I love helping students tell their own stories through their writing.

Ms. Manzione
Ms. Manzione is one of the special education teachers.

TWR: Where were you before you came to Rocky Hill?
Ms. Manzione: I have had quite the journey before I landed here at Rocky Hill. I am from New Jersey which is where the amazing accent and attitude are from. From there I moved to Delaware for college and ended up staying there for three years where I became a Special Education Teacher. When I graduated, I moved to Indiana to become a school counselor.

I loved the job but not Indiana. I moved here with my boyfriend to be closer to home and family.

TWR: What do you like about Rocky Hill?
Ms. Manzione: I love that Rocky Hill is so welcoming of new faces. Being new is hard but all the staff are so nice and helpful!

TWR: What do you teach?
Ms. Manzione: I teach Special Education.

TWR: What do you like about being here so far?
Ms. Manzione: I love being back on the east coast where I belong. I get to see the sun again because it did not shine in Indiana crazy right.

TWR: Would you like to share a bit about yourself or a special message to RHMS?
Ms. Manzione: There is so much about me that I can’t even begin to list. I LOVE the bath that is where I feel at peace and I will live there one day! My favorite thing to do is go to the gym. I love to lift and one day I hope to compete in powerlifting competitions. I am told I could compete right now but I need a little more confidence first. My favorite color is green and my favorite baseball team is the New York Mets!

We are glad that the Rocky Hill community will get to know you better. Hope you enjoy teaching at RHMS!

Rocky Hill Makes a Difference

We are glad that the Rocky Hill community will get to know you better. Hope you enjoy teaching at RHMS!
By Ms. Odey

Mrs. Rye and Mrs. Odey turned fifty years old last August! They could not wait to embark on an adventure of a lifetime! First, they figured out that they belong to the elite group, the Red Hat Society (RHS).

This society welcomes women who are 50 years old and enjoy having fun. Knowing Mrs. Rye and Ms. Odey, they couldn’t wait to join. Shannon M. Nass, a freelance writer, wrote an article about the Red Hat Society in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette titled “Red Hat Society Goal: Change attitudes on aging women.” Nass titled “Red Hat Society Goal: Change attitudes on aging women.”

They could not wait to embark on an adventure of a lifetime! First, they figured out that they belong to the Red Hat Society has become a worldwide phenomenon featuring groups of middle aged women who deliberately decide to face life with humor, amusement, and energy. It is fair to say this organization was made for Mrs. Rye and Ms. Odey!

At Zbounce

Although they got tired after more than two hours of roaming major stores in Lake Forest Mall, they made one more stop at a children’s bounce store. They slumped into a bounce chair that is designed for kids, and there was nothing the store owner could do but take a photograph. What a 50th adventure those two exuberant teachers had!

TWR Advice Column

The Doctor is In!

Welcome to the new feature in the Wildcat Roar! This year we hope to tackle some issues that middle-schoolers face on a daily basis. This year, our school focuses on being unique and being proud of who you are. We are all different, but that’s not a bad thing. We should embrace our differences. Being unique also means that we have unique challenges, and sometimes it helps to get some advice, which is why Dr. Right is here! Feel free to anonymously write to the Wildcat Roar with some issues that you need advice for, and Dr. Right will be here!

Dear Dr. Right,

How do I deal with peer pressure?

First of all, you shouldn’t be forced to do anything you don’t want to do. No matter what you’re being pressured to do, whether it’s joining in on bullying, stealing, or doing drugs, peer pressure is never right. I know it’s not easy, but you have to say no. Saying no and staying true to your values is better than doing something you don’t want to do and know isn’t right. Think about it this way: let’s say a “cool” kid encourages you to lie to your parents and go to a party with some older kids who have a bad reputation. Would you rather break your parents trust or go to the party to be “cool”?

Dear Dr. Right,

I told myself that I wouldn’t let what other people say get to me, but lately some people that I used to be friends with are starting rumors about me, and it’s really getting to my head.

Everyone has a different tolerance of what people think. Some people can take more and some can’t take it at all. I just depends on you, but it’s not your fault that these people are saying bad things about you, or that you care about what these people think. But no matter what these people say, they’re wrong. After all, they were friends with you for a reason, right? Whatever people who don’t like you say, you’re AMAZING! People love you and want to be around you, regardless of what anyone else says.

Dear Dr. Right,

I’ve been doubting myself lately, how do I deal with low self-esteem?

Society pulls us straight from the womb and teaches us our first words, “skinny, smart, strong, PERFECTION.” We always use these words, but do we know the real meaning to them? Just because there’s a girl who you think is pretty doesn’t mean that you’re not. You shouldn’t look at someone and let their looks or anything about them bring you down. You know how people always say “you can be anything you want to be!” If you want to be perfect then BAM. You’re already perfect. Your flaws are flawless, but you shouldn’t let them define you. Stay yourself, and stay super cool! An awesome legit amazing beautiful and perfect :)”

Dear Dr. Right,

I hear a lot about bullying, and I am scared of becoming a victim. How do I know that I am safe when I’m at school?

Be assured that your administrators and teachers here at Rocky Hill care about every student’s welfare. We are lucky to be in a school where teachers work very closely with parents to make sure we have what we need to succeed. If you ever encounter any situation with bullying the first thing to do is to talk to an adult. Any of the teachers around will be willing to help you. More importantly, talk to your counselor or any of the counselors. One thing you’ll likely hear them tell you is to be assertive. It means that you should be a find to stand up to a bully and say, NO!”
Microsoft made its big hit with its new development, Windows 10. With it's built in, easy access start menu, computerized assistant, and start menu, this OS may make your life glamorous! Many people believe that Windows 10 is an amazing Operating system in the Microsoft Company. Microsoft has made it one of its most advanced and greatest OS's in their time. Windows 10 is a free installment if you have Windows 7 or 8.1. Windows 10 has a lot of similarities with Windows 8.1, including the start menu. It is also a more reliable OS, with built in protection, faster network, and has familiar feel to it. Along with Windows 10 is the new Microsoft Edge. This the default browser for Windows 10 and is a fast and updated version of Internet Explorer. Microsoft has also included the personal computerized assistant known as Cortana who can help any find things on the web, the news, and even old files. The Play Store is also another extra in the Windows 10 OS, it includes all of the top rated games on the market that can be easily down loaded or bought with the touch of a button. Microsoft has definitely hit the market, big time.

With the new Windows 10 you can download and buy the newest and most popular games from the Play Store. Such as Minecraft, Candy Crush, and Crossy Road. There also virtual and realistic sporting games, including NFL, FIFA, and ESPN. Some of the newest movies, TV shows, music, and albums can be bought and enjoyed right on your PC. You can also use the app on the desktops and depend on every day like Office, OneDrive, Skype, and more. With all these apps and more you can get your work done is a faster and simple way. There's more, on your very own PC you can have the full Xbox one experience, with amazing visuals and outstanding graphics. You can stream your Xbox one games onto any one of your electronic. Windows 10 has the best gaming experience. Welcome to the latest way to surf the web! Microsoft edge is the newest updated default browser for Windows 10. Microsoft Edge gives you new ways to find what you are looking for, read and write on the web, plus help from Cortana where and when you need it. Unlike Internet Explorer, this browser is easier and more efficient to use. Microsoft Edge is also the only browser that lets you take notes, write, doodle, and highlight directly on web pages that you can send and show your friends. Then there are the Windows 10 updates, you can get your work done is a faster and simple way. Make notes on recipes, send your family and friends "subtle hints" about birthday gifts, or just draw musings on celebrities—the web is your canvas. Take your reading with you on Microsoft Edge. This browser allows to add and save your favorite articles and stories online on favorites or the reading list. You can also easily return to websites you often go to, on your favorites. If you want a clean, simple layout, free of ads and other distractions you can select the Reading View in address bar. This enables to show only the text you want to read.

The Windows 10 isn't only used for home uses, it also can be used for work. Windows 10 Pro gives you and your business great things. It works in all of your devices so you can stay comfortable. It has updated security to make sure that your business data isn’t lost or stolen. It can be managed with a light touch without heavy IT investment. Above all, it provides a familiar and productive experience—so your sole focus can be on doing great things. By putting devices on the web, businesses will be able to receive feature updates after their quality and application unity has been tested in the consumer market, while continuing to receive security updates on a regular basis. Windows Update for business can help businesses reduce management costs, provide control over update deployments, offer quicker access to security updates, and provide access to the latest additions from Microsoft. The Windows 10 is one of the best updates for your business. We also have some reviews from our very own Mr. Sprites who has Windows 10 as well. TWR: How do you feel about it? Mr. Sprites: Windows 8. Cortana is nice to have to ask to do things. Her name is based off of the computer in Halo, a major XBOX game which Microsoft bought from Bungie software. I like it and it has some new layers. You can ask her to open programs, schedule things and even what the weather is going to be like. Much like Siri from Apple. TWR: What is the benefit of having it? Mr. Sprites: Microsoft worked out some bugs with Windows 10 and with Windows 10. You have a whole new browser. It is called Edge. It does not use as many resources as Internet Explorer did/does. It has different desktops that you can use. Such as work, play, home etc. with different icons and preferences. In addition, security is better with Windows 10 as a whole. Plus it is a free upgrade to everyone running Windows 7 up. This is the first time a new operating system has been free. TWR: How has it changed the way we use windows? Mr. Sprites: Not really, just a little getting used to, but not much. It has the feel of Windows 8.1 for the most part.

As you now know, Microsoft has really blown us away with it's new OS. Windows 10 comes completely installed with the start menu, Cortana, Play store, Microsoft Edge, business updates, and more. With all of these new updates, you can have more fun on your PC than ever before. A simple and high tech way to keep your life smooth. I would get it now if I were you.

Dangers of Social Media

As you flip through an old yearbook you come across a picture of a smiling boy, now suffering from depression. You pause and wonder how could someone go from happy to sad in just a few years? You wonder, could I have influenced his depression? Maybe, just maybe if I hadn’t posted those mean words. Who knows, maybe if I hadn’t posted those mean comments he would still be happy. About 4.7% of adolescents suffer from depression, mostly influenced by social media. Although this number seems small, depression is actually pretty common in middle and high school and is probably happening in your school right now. Kids are always laughing on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., and typically will do anything from posting a mean comment to posting an even manner video just to impress their peers and or bring someone down. The only thing kids know is that they’re hurting someone. They don’t think that is that they’re permanently hurting someone. Or they don’t know that they’re hurting someone. At this age, kids don’t think before they act. And although you may regret hurting someone, once you post something on the internet, there is no way to remove it. Depression is a serious thing and once you hurt someone it’s hard to fix the break. Kids need to learn to be more respectful, and understand the dangers of social media. Social media can be a fun, yet dangerous. If not handled properly, social media abuse can lead to depression, and in some cases, death. ABC Family helped aware the dangers of social media by producing a original movie called Cyberbully, staring Emily Osment. Based off a true story, Cyber-bully was a way to encourage depressed teens to reach out. You.

Depression is a serious, and sometimes fatal condition. If you know anyone who suffers from depression, encourage them to reach out for help, and if they already are, help them through it. You.

Today’s Technology

By: Athin Nair and Venasmo Jjio Staff Writers
Growing Asian child that they get underestimated how important it is to a far. We find that many important fig-

of Asians and Pacific Islanders sur-

place in Hawaii, where the popul ation

scent. Not only that, the movie took

and Asian descent in the movie, only

ple. For example, the movie “Aloha”.

we are to be given representation,

needs to be seen soon.

This causes themselves condemning

in America were taught that Eurocen-

ara

Editor

By Sophi a Oprechio

Also, it introduces Live Photos, a

worthy of a self

takes brilliant 4K video, up to four

eral camera is more advanced than

in a long time. The new S6 Edge plus

they basically just changed a few

things. The first thing that’s changed

is the size. iPhone 6 Plus was laud-

ed by one and all, so now Samsung

has decided to take that under their

wing to produce a more powerful, exist-

ing phone. With the same de-

sign, the S6 Edge plus, now has a 5.7

inch screen, which is point 2 inches

bigger than the iPhone 6plus. Go

or go home, must have been the motto

the Samsung used while cre-

ating this phone!

They tweaked their camera just a little bit. With a 16MP front-facing, wide-angle camera, Samsung now

pose with their new compe-

itors of the iPhone. Though this it’s

like there is fire in every shot, and

for taking videos, they took care of that
too. With a 16MP front-facing camera

and 1080p full HD video recording,

720p playback, they did the feat that

was never before done. All I have to

say is, “Shoot like a pro!”

Though this phone doesn’t have

too many upgrades from the previ-

ous phone in the Galaxy xfranchise,

this phone is definitely a worthy

contender:

Although both of these phones have terrible battery, both phones have something different to offer. iPhone offers simplicity, through its features. Samsung is a bit more complex, but has a ton of features that no one can deny. So getting a phone all depends on your needs, don’t go depending on price be-

cause both of these phones cost the same amount of money, depending on your carrier. Test both phones out, see which features suit you the best, and then buy the phone!

Current Issues

Asianness

By Sophia Oprechio

Editor

Many young Asian children in America were taught that Eurocen-

trite features are the epitome of beauty. This causes themselves condemning

their non-white features or their dark

skin. Often this self-deprecation ends up causing serious mental illnesses. Representation of Asian characters needs to be seen soon.

Many times, when we believe we are to be given representation, Asian roles are played by white peo-

le. For example, the movie “Aloha”.

There was a character of Hawaiian and Asian descent in the movie, only

to be played by white actress, Emma Stone. Although she is an accom-

plished actress, this role shouldn’t have been considered to be played by an actress of Hawaiian and Asian de-

cent. Not only that, the movie took place in Hawaii, where the population of Asians and Pacific Islanders are not

the number of white people by far. We find that many important fig-

ures in the entertainment industry un-

derestimate how important it is to a growing Asian child that they get re-

presentation. Asian children don’t dare think that they could be on T.V. if they don’t grow up seeing people similar to

them on the big screen. This is more of an issue than putting one minor Asian actor in the background of a

show to fill a diversity quota. This is a matter of needing representation of well-developed Asian characters who

have a major role in a film. If there is much more work, how much more effort will be needed until we can see people like
us represented regularly?

Another example of poor and stereotypes representation can be seen in the popular book and movie series, Harry Potter. Cho Chang is a character

from Harry Potter. Cho and Chang are both Korean last names. The char-

acter is supposed to be Chinese. When

both the author and editor did not even bother to research a proper name for a Chinese girl, then you know some-

thing is wrong. It’s asinine and an in-

sult to not only the Korean and Chi-

nese community, but to all Asian fans you are asking for support from.

This is not the only example. This his-

tory of not being represented properly, even to the name, needs to be stopped. If the name issue wasn’t enough, there

was also a problem with Cho Chang’s character. She didn’t have complex feelings, a developed backstory, or a

breath-taking action scene. She was in Raven claw, the “nerdy house”. She was, to say bluntly, useless to the plot.

After his breakout perfor-

mances in the summer blockbuster

movies, The Fault in Our Stars and

Paper Towns written by John Green, Nat Wolff has made recent headlines about his star role in Adam Wingard’s adap-

tion of Death Note. Death Note is a Japanese manga/anime series written by the highly respected Tsu-

gumi Obu and illustrated by Takeshi Obata. The casting call for the main character stated explicitly that they were not searching for an Asian actor to play the Asian main character.

“This is the equivalent telling Asian people that they like everything about the story and character, except for our race,” stated by rising Asian actor Edward Zö.

Other times when we see As-

ians in films, they are highly por-

trayed as a math magician and or sci-

ence “geeks”. They are injected with the role of hardworking lab assistants who respectfully fulfill his/her duties without fail. We are not human ro-

bots! From personal experience it has become a burden to walk around knowing that if I perform a little bit better on a test, I am immediately cast aside from my “Asianness” according to my fellow classmates who are of a different ethnicity.

Today’s Technology Cont.

iPhone6 vs. Galaxy S6 Edge Plus

By Saatvi g Gangavarapu

Tech Editor

Every year there is a battle among us. No it’s not between hu-

mans, but between two devices, both containing artificial intelligence. In the past years the battle always

emerged between Apple’s iPhones, and Samsung’s Galaxy phones. And this year, the battle is raging as strong as ever.

iPhone 6c: With a new tagline, “The only thing that’s new is everything!” Apple raised expectations tremen-

ously. Some of the new features the iPhone 6 boasts were tremendous as usual.

The original iPhone introduced the world to Multi-Touch, forever chang-

ing the way people experience tech-

nology. “With 3D Touch, you can do things that were never possible be-

fore.” This really sets the bar high! It seems how deeply you press the dis-

play, letting you do all kinds of es-

sential things quicker and much sim-

pler. It also gives you real-time feed-

back in the form of subtle taps from the all-new High Speed Engine.

Also the world’s most popu-

lar camera is more advanced than ever. The 12-megapixel eight cam-

era captures sharp, detailed photos. It takes brilliant 4K video, up to four

times the resolution of 1080p HD video. iPhone 6s also takes selfies worthy of a self-portrait with the new

5-megapixel FaceTime HD camera.

Adding to it, it introduces Live Photos, a new way to relive your favorite mem-

ories. It captures the moments just before and after your picture and sets it in motion with just the press of a finger. A new software is all that’s missing, oh wait! That’s covered.

“iPhone 6s is powered by the custom-designed 64-bit A9 chip. It delivers performance once found only in desktop computers. You’ll experience up to 70 percent faster CPU performance, and up to 90 percent faster GPU perform-

ance for all your favorite graphics-intensive games and apps. In the past the iPhone 6 and 6Plus had a problem of getting bent, so now they upgraded the phone’s cover. Look a little closer at iPhone 6s and you’ll find it’s been fundamentally improved. The enclo-

sure is made from a new alloy of 7000 Series aluminum — the same grade used in the aerospace industry. The cover glass is the strongest, most dura-

ble glass used in any smartphone. And a new rose gold finish joins space

gray, silver, and gold.” Wow that’s a strong phone! This phone has every-

thing you could possibly ask for! Now let’s take a look at the Galaxy S6 Edge Plus.

Galaxy S6 Edge Plus: After a series of phones that consumers were disappoint-

ed with The Galaxy S6 and Samsung’s misstep run. Now they are taking a second swing at success with their new Galaxy S6 Edge Plus. Let’s see what they have come up with.

Not long ago the S6 Edge released without high expectations, but it turned out to be the best smartphone in a long time. The new S6 Edge plus they basically just changed a few things. The first thing that’s changed is the size. iPhone 6 Plus was laud-

ed by one and all, so now Samsung has decided to take that under their wing to produce a more powerful, exist-

ing phone. With the same de-

sign, the S6 Edge plus, now has a 5.7
Entertainment

Duck on The Hill

Ms. Katie Odey
Supervising Editor

The 2014-2015 school has seen an increase in the number of students at Rocky Hill. Teachers and students at Montgomery County Public Schools are finding ways to adjust. Last October, October 12, to be exact, a brave young duck found his way to Rocky Hill. Mrs. Kinderdine said it’s a male duck, but there is no veterinarian around here to confirm that. She also named him Lucky Ducky. When Mother Goose wrote a rhyme about the lamb at school, she said that the children laughed and played when they saw a lamb at school, but she would never have imagined what they would do if they saw a duck at school.

This duck was friendly, and so are the staff and students of Rocky Hill Middle School. One thing we can be proud of is that all the students in the county, this scholarly duck chose Rocky Hill. Lucky Ducky arrived at Rocky Hill shortly after 9 AM on Columbus Day. The front entrance was locked when he arrived. Lucky Ducky decided to go to the portable classrooms without a fuss. Portable classrooms are common in most schools, and they provide a realistic picture of our overcrowded schools. Teachers were warned about large class sizes and the need to make necessary adjustments to accommodate all their students.

At Rocky Hill, students are learning to show PRIDE and are doing the best they can to get along with students as they move through crowded hallways. This year we have lunches, and our administrators do their best to control the crowds in the cafeteria. At the end of the day, students go home with tons of homework and projects, while teachers pile work and projects teachers pile on students each day. When it comes to surviving, there is no living creature that does not understand the importance of thriving and doing whatever it takes to make it through each day. The fact that Lucky Ducky came to school on his own is the reason we acknowledge his aspiration and applaud him for his bravery. One has to wonder what elementary school this ingenious duck attended and if Rocky Hill is the right school for him. MCPS may have to investigate the real residence of this duck. However, we feel a great sense of pride in knowing that Lucky Ducky chose Rocky Hill.

When Mr. Lucas saw Lucky Ducky, he thought that the duck wanted to join his class to learn about Ancient Mesopotamia and the Culture of Sumer. It would have been a good idea to hear what the duck thought about joining Mr. Lucas’ class, however, by all accounts, he did not have any problem fitting in. Our class thought about dressing him up as a village scribe, but Lucky Ducky’s language might have been hard to decipher.

Language is the key to learning, and it would be advisable for teachers to be trained to understand Quekese since they never know what or might show up to learn. There is no doubt that Lucky Ducky learned a thing or two about Ancient Mesopotamia, but we will never know because of the language barrier. While Lucky Ducky wobbled around the portables, some students wanted to feed it and give him water, and Mr. Anderson obliged. With a few crackers and a bowl of water, Lucky Ducky was dancing to the song ‘Down Town’ by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. One thing to remember is that the duck stayed away from Ms. Tippet and all the PE teachers. Can you imagine that poor duck running a mile in PE afer all that dancing?” “The Duck was very friendly and not afraid of all the students walking by,” said Mr. Anderson. The fact that Lucky Ducky felt comfortable among our students is testament to the kindness of Wildcats on the hill.

The generosity of staff and students at Rocky Hill may be the real reason Lucky chose our school. At the end of the day, when most of the students and teachers got ready to go home, Lucky Ducky did not hop on the bus like most of his classmates. Instead, he wandered around the school premises. Clearly the duck did not have a home! Mrs. Kinderdine could not bear to see a smart duck like Lucky, wandering around without a home, so she decided to help. She gladly adopted Lucky Ducky and gave him a home at The Kinderdine Bird Sanctuary.

Lucky Ducky could not be reached for a comment on how he is doing, but Mrs. Kinderdine said, “Lucky Ducky is enjoying his new friends at the Kinderdine Bird Sanctuary.” That duck has not been spotted at Rocky Hill since Mrs. Kinderdine took him home. At least he will not have to worry about heavy backpacks, homework, and PE.

If Lucky Ducky belongs to you or someone you know, please contact Rocky Hill Middle School to get in touch with Mrs. Kinderdine.

Cotton Candy Grapes

By Mahi Ganatna
Editor

Imagine the fluffy, pink cloud, entering your mouth, melting quickly, and of course, the famous Cotton Candy grapes. Be sure to check out these grapes next time they’re in season at your local Wegmans®.