



Fighting Diabetes Just Became Easier

By: Cynthia Victor, THS senior

Who would have thought that walking--simply moving, lifting each leg, setting each foot in turn, never having both feet off the ground at once--would bring people together? Bruna Rocha, a Technology High School senior, and her friends participated in the New York Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk Sunday, Oct. 23, in New York City to support finding a cure for diabetes.

When Nohad Wahab, a friend of Rocha's and a THS senior, was asked why she participated in the event, she said, "I participated in the walk to raise funds and awareness for diabetes research." A week before the walk, Rocha approached her friends about the walk. Knowing how important this was to her, and how walking symbolized her perseverance through the 13-year struggle with diabetes, her friends could not turn her down. They walked in honor of Rocha.

Throughout this process, Wahab revealed an emotional experience she had with Rocha in middle school. One day when Ro-



Wearing Live, Love & Find a Cure tee-shirts, Bruna Rocha (far left), Nohad Wahab (middle) Cliff Reinoso (far right), and Andrik Mera (front) took a picture in front of the World Fair Globe of 1939. Source: Andrik Mera.

cha had a low sugar rate, Wahab didn't know how to help, and Rocha's parents were unable to be reached. But Wahab walked Rocha home. They shared ice cream and laughed as Rocha created a new Facebook page for Wahab. This small ice cream date was the building block for a great friendship.

Another person who accompanied Rocha on her walk was

THS senior, Andrik Mera. When asked about Rocha's character, he stated, "I've known Bruna since freshman year, but I never really knew she had diabetes until November of sophomore year when we started to talk. When Rocha and I were a couple. I would constantly tell her to check her sugar after we'd eat--and run to stores to get her chocolate milk when it was drastical-

ly low. She's the strongest person I've ever met. She has managed to look past the diabetes and accept it. She doesn't let it stop her."

To Rocha, this walk was important. She has been a red strider (diabetic) since age 6, and she has always wanted to participate in a walk. So when close friends of hers surprised her with the idea and the shirts, it was life changing.

Going into the walk Rocha, knew that her friends were making shirts, but she never knew what was written on them. She happily expressed, "I was shocked, but I was thankful for having such great friends. It felt amazing to know I have a support group. Nohad, Andrik, and Cliff mean the world to me. The fact that they went the extra mile for me and did all these things in honor of me made me feel happy."

Something small can't change the World, but it can change someone's world. Rocha's friends did something small, but to her it was life changing. Happiness is found in the small things. So next time you have a chance to do something "small" for someone, just remember it might just change their world.

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Walk to Fight Breast Cancer



Staff and students from Technology High School participate in the Breast Cancer Walk in Newark, N.J., on Oct. 16. Source: Niruban Bahetharan.

By: Niruban Bahetharan, THS senior

Technology High School students and staff participated in the Breast Cancer Walk in downtown Newark on Oct. 16 to raise awareness and money to find a cure for breast cancer by walking 5 kilometers. This walk was organized by the American Cancer Society who has the motto,

"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer." This organization is responsible for many walks across the nation such as NYC, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles.

This walk has been held every year since 1997. The THS team was organized by Noemi Ballester, THS's Engagement Specialist. The walk started at Prudential Center, continued to Military Park, meandered down

to Lincoln Park, and then finished at the starting point.

In a city where negativity and violence are so prevalent, the number of participants that came to the walk was incredible. On the Making Strides of Newark, N.J., website, it said, "With over 20 thousand walkers enjoying the celebration, we are on target to earn over \$426,000." All the money raised goes straight to research to find a cure towards cancer as well as paying for breast cancer screenings for early detection to cure some as early as possible.

At 10 a.m. all 2,910 walkers met at Prudential Center and began their walk to freedom from Breast Cancer. For each participant almost \$75 was raised--some raised less and others raised more.

The walk gave the participants a sense of well being for helping to fight against breast cancer. One of the walkers, Joselyn Jaramillo, THS senior, stated, "This little walk is just a bit I can contribute to breast cancer. It was a walk to

Cont. on p 2

Balloon Bash a Success

By: Christie Ortega, THS sophomore

Arms waving in the air like nobody cared, students danced away the night with friends at the Balloon Bash at Technology High School. On Sept. 30, THS's gym was filled with people from different schools and grades. Daniel Castillo, a well known DJ throughout Newark, blasted the night with varieties of music such as bachata, merengue, and reggaeton.

Romeo Santos, the well known Spanish singer, had his voice bounce off the walls as DJ Rawwr blasted his top hit, Propuesta Indecente. Anthony Crespo, a sophomore at THS, said, "I had fun and enjoyed it mucho. I enjoyed the music, the atmosphere, and dancing with my girlfriend." Castillo made the night enjoyable with varieties of music and high-energy DJing. The music created an environment for everyone to sing and dance the night away.

The tiny gym is meant for

about 40 people, but there were many people who attended the dance which created a crazy party. Irene Santos, a sophomore at THS, said, "The party was so much fun. I loved dancing the night away with all my friends and getting to spend time with



The crowd jumped with energy and took pictures while Rui Lopes was on Jaime Santos' shoulders at the Balloon Bash at the Technology High School Gym on Sept. 30, 2016. Source: Daniel Castillo.

them other than in class. However, I didn't like how hot and crowded it got." Although it smelled like a boy's locker room, Santos spent the night dancing with her friends and spending every minute like it was her last.

The odor floating around the room didn't stop Santos from enjoying his night.

Bodies were jumping up and down with excitement to the beat of the music. Stephany Donoso, sophomore at THS, said, "It was lit and wild, and a lot of crazy things went down."

This wasn't the typical school dance where people just sat down. There were people creating a ladder, climbing on top of each other, and waving fists in the air. A twerking train consisting of three was also built.

Nobody expected the party to be as lit as it was with balloons being kicked around and floating in the air. For those whose didn't come, they missed out on a real blast of excitement.

Don't miss out on the next Balloon Bash at Technology High School. It is sure to be even more successful and full of insane energy!

Cont. from p 1, Breast Cancer raise money and awareness." Regular people don't have the equipment and the knowledge to find the cure themselves, so they look to alternative measures to help in the process. What better way to help than to raise awareness and money to aid scientists in finding a cure. Just participating in this walk gave the participants a good feeling because they were doing something to support the cause, and they were not just watching others suffer alone.

The THS team was the largest ever participating in the walk. According to Ms. Ballester, the THS team organizer, "About 90 technology students and staff participated in the walk." About a third of the team were National Honor Society members since they were required to go by their president.

Achieving the goal of getting involved people wasn't easy. Ballester further said, "I posted posters throughout the school, placed fliers in the cafeteria, posted it on Google classroom, and spoke to many of the students during their lunch hours. I sent e-mails and reminders to staff, parents, and community partners. Our PTO VP, Gina Medina, an alumni parent, handed out fliers to parents during back to school night." She spent lots of time and effort toward this cause.

Technology High School's Breast Cancer Walk in downtown Newark was a success. It helped raise money towards a cure and gave the community a sense of faith in humanity in a sometimes inhumane city.

Blessings

Everyday is a new day that reminds me of how I am blessed
Everyday God puts me to a new test
Everyday I think about the Man above
Everyday He reminds me of how much I am loved

I am thankful for everything that I have
Even though some days are really sad
Everyday is a new day-- forget the past
Make new memories--ones that will last

I see my aunt, and all I think is *Strong*
She was always there for me when things went wrong
Feeding me and making sure everything was right
She showed me a new meaning to life

I'm grateful for her--
she's the reason why I'm kind
Though I don't speak to her all the time
She's always on my mind
Teaching me new things every day
I pray and I pray--that God doesn't take her away

But let me get out of my feelings
because life is great
Even though sometimes I can't lift the weight

I love everyone I know
Although it's hard to show
I thank God for everyone
who teaches me lessons
Because every day and everyone is a big Blessing

—Shanae Brooks, THS senior

Australia: Opportunity of a Lifetime

By: Nedjie Jocelyn, THS senior

Valeria Angel, a senior at Technology High School won a trip to Australia for the summer of 2016 where she explored the continent. One day when Valeria checked her mail, something jumped out at her: Travel for Free With Nat Geo! She excitedly filled out the application, and in a couple of months, she was shipped off to Australia.

"We invite the next generation of explorers to snorkel with marine biologists in Belize, go on photo shoots in Paris with a National Geographic photographer, help out with a community project in Nepal, and more," the program website of National Geographic Student Expeditions stated. The program had a wide variety of destinations to choose from; however, Valeria always wanted to travel to Australia. So it felt like a dream come true when she actu-



Valeria Angel enjoys the scenery at Uluru, Australia, during her summer while representing Technology High School. Source: Valeria Angel.

ally won a chance to go.

"In Australia, I experienced the wonders of Sydney, surfing, camping for six days in the Outback, hiking, and being in a rainforest on the coast up in Queensland," said Angel.

She had an amazing time and did things that she might never get a chance to do again. She created great memories that not many urban students get to say they've experienced.

Her mentors were full of positivity and taught her a lot about

the country from their beliefs, their important figures, and myths about the land.

According to the National Geographic Student Expeditions website, "National Geographic offers student travel programs around the world each summer that aim to inspire and educate middle school and high school students ages 13 and older.

[Students can] get into the field on an Expedition, Community Service trip, Photography Workshop, or University Workshop, in a destination that captures their imagination." The program was one of the top three programs for teens wanting to travel abroad. Valeria was surrounded by knowledgeable leaders who helped her improve her photography skills. She worked hard for this chance and she rightfully earned it. She has memories that will last a life time.

"In Australia, I experienced the wonders of Sydney, surfing, camping for six days in the Outback, hiking, and being in a rainforest on the coast up in Queensland." —Valeria Angel

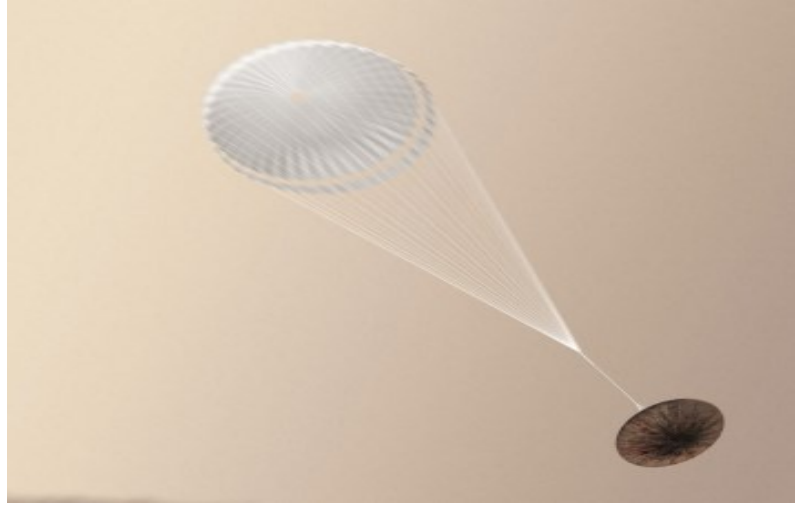
Exo Mars Schiaparelli Lander Breaks on Landing

By Mark Babooram, THS senior

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, an Exomars rover titled Schiaparelli spontaneously broke when landing on the Martian surface. It was supposed to land “safely” and collect data; however, what happened was far from the intended goal. More importantly, this experiment would have provided vital information that could have been used when it came time to send people to Mars. However, many people’s expectations have drastically decreased because any attempt in gathering more information on the Red Giant has now become more difficult.

Earlier that day, people anticipated the landing of this device; however, one minute later it broke spontaneously, like an aneurysm on the surface of Mars, rendering the whole operation a failure. According to Stephen Clark, “The spacecraft is feared lost after mission control lost contact with it less than a minute before landing Wednesday, when Schiaparelli was aiming to become the first European probe to successfully land on Mars.”

Another goal of the rover was to uncover any “life” on the Red Plan-



On Wednesday, Oct. 19, an Exomars rover titled Schiaparelli spontaneously broke when landing on the Martian surface. Source: exploration.esa.int.

et. Answers to this question still remain unanswered.

In spite of this catastrophe, many still hold out hope that there was something beneficial from this experiment. Megan Gannon, a writer for Space.com, wrote, “The ExoMars team was optimistic that the capsule had collected enough data during its descent to set the stage for the next phase of the mission: the planned 2020 launch of a life-hunting ExoMars rover.”

Even though the rover lasted

less than a minute, valuable information was gleaned. This device lasted long enough to gather information that could prove helpful regarding sending people to Mars.

Last, but not least, this is only one of the many rovers that will be sent to Mars. In the upcoming years, more rovers will be sent with humans when they attempt to colonize Mars. Jan Wörner, ESA’s director general, said, “Schiaparelli’s primary role was to test European landing technol-

ogies. Recording the data during the descent was part of that, and it is important we can learn what happened in order to prepare for the future.”

Though the mission failed and an expensive piece of equipment was destroyed, the risk was worth the data. It was a “test run,” and it’s apparently a learning experience. Sending something to Mars, only for it to be broken within a minute of landing, has to be viewed as any other experiment.

In conclusion, while the Exomars Schiaparelli lander appeared to be a failure, by providing very little information, it gave one big insight: mankind’s ingenuity can be useless.

“The ExoMars team was optimistic that the capsule had collected enough data during its descent to set the stage for the next phase of the mission: planned 2020 launch of a life-hunting ExoMars rover.”
—Megan Gannon

Red Ribbon Week Rocked

By: Michael Silva, THS senior

On Oct. 28, Technology High School hosted Red Ribbon Week where students presented their original videos that addressed drug-alcohol abuse, bullying, and sexual harassment. One of the presenters, Rui Lopez, a senior at THS, stated, “Creating the videos were fun, but we learned more than we thought we would in the process.”

In the video, Lopez was involved in drugs and sexual harassment. During the process, his group had to research about the topic they have chosen and create a video. Based on the data they collected, they created a video. After the videos concluded, the audience cheered. There was a sense of connection the students had with the short films.

The students’ hard work paid off as the entire school was left in awe. “I’m really proud of the message that the students were able to display,” commented Ms. Kukreja, Drama and sophomore English teacher at THS. She understands how difficult acting can be. She is proud of what the students were able to accomplish, especially since the short films presented topics the students identified with.

For the freshman, it was their first time hearing about Red Ribbon Week. Their reaction to the event was nothing but positive. “It was an amazing experience, and I was surprised how well the videos came out,” expressed, Andy Allaico, a freshman at THS. Thanks to all the hard work that the seniors and Kristin Daugherty put in, the first-timers were able to witness something truly amazing.

Is Homecoming Happening?

By: Dominick Gonzalez, THS senior

Many at Technology High School are still wondering if Homecoming is happening. Some are panicking and others feel upset because a significant high school event might not happen this year.

At THS, the students are wondering about Homecoming. Cancelling homecoming would be disappointing for many students, especially seniors. Yasmine Johnson, a senior at THS, said, “Homecoming is so special for teachers and students alike. If we do not have it, then it would disappoint a lot of the students and myself.”

Johnson, who is also a cheerleader at THS, really takes pride in the school and was disappointed when there were rumors about Homecoming not happening.

The purpose of Homecoming is to show pride for the school and for what has been accomplished, especially for seniors since this is their last year.

Maxine Torres, president of the

senior class, responded to this issue: “Because this is the last year for seniors, the need to create unforgettable memories is one of our top priorities. Also, as the president, it is my job as well as my wish to make this year amazing for everyone.” Homecoming is a fantastic opportunity for such memories to be made. There are only so many chances that the whole senior class can be together. Efforts to make Homecoming possible were noted. Jean Skillern, adviser for senior class, with the help of Maxine Torres, are taking the appropriate steps to make sure it happens.

Skillern explained, “We are doing raffles as well as fundraisers to raise money for this event.” For such an essential event, organization is key for a success Homecoming.

As of right now, Homecoming is definitely going to happen. You can help by participating in fundraisers. It’s a matter of all the pieces coming together.

“Because this is the last year for seniors, the need to create unforgettable memories is one of our top priorities. Also, as the president, it is my job as well as my wish, to make this year amazing for everyone.”
—Maxine Torres, senior class president, THS

Weiner on Bullying

By: Nichelle Ford-Owens, THS senior

Kimberly Weiner, Vice Principal at Technology High School, set up an orientation about Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) for all the students who attend the school. She wants to prevent bullying because it has such a negative impact on students and their learning. “We focus so much on our differences, and that is creating, I think, a lot of chaos and negativity and bullying in the world,” said Weiner.

This procedure is a positive step toward preventing bullying at THS. Students need to be reminded that it’s okay to talk. Weiner and the whole THS staff want the school to be a safe place; they have made themselves available to all students.

According to New Jersey state law, it is a crime to bully someone, no matter where it occurs. Bullies turn their wrath on victims who are perceived as weaker than them. “You will never reach higher ground if you are always pushing others down,” Weiner stated. Over the last few years, the incidents of bullying have increased. It is alarming that the number of young students taking their own lives because of bullying and harassment is increasing.

Weiner continued, “A lot of people are afraid to tell the truth, to say no. That’s where toughness comes into play. Toughness is not being a bully. It’s having backbone.”

Wiener is more than a provider who cares when it comes to people who need her. THS is glad to have a Vice Principal like her.

Steven Universe: Not Just for Kids Anymore

By Princess Andrews, avid fan of Steven Universe and senior at Technology High School

“We are the Crystal Gems! We’ll always save the day! And if you think we can’t, we’ll always find a way!” These are the words sung by the heroes, called the Crystal Gems, in the show Steven Universe, that is a cartoon about a plucky young boy named Steven Universe who is an half-alien/half human being who has a heart bigger than his brain. Steven, along with Garnet, Pearl, and Amythest, make up a group of galactic warriors called The Crystal Gems who fight to protect all life on Earth because they believe all life is precious.

“For once, someone else is doing the ravaging other than humans,” says Princess Andrews, a fan of Steven Universe. Steven Universe offers an unique perspective on villainy. Usually, humans are seen as the villains, stealing, invading, destroying, killing each other. But in Steven Universe the opposite happens: humans are the ones being

invaded, stolen from, destroyed, and killed. Additionally, since the Crystal Gems, and Rose Quartz in particular, are seen as “traitors” to their own kind, the perspective of treason is also explored.

Steven Universe deserves many points for originality. This



Title card of Steven Universe created by Rebecca Sugar in 2013. Source: i.ytimg.com

show features nearly an all female cast and underrepresented people such as the LGBT community. Strong examples include the love Ruby and Sapphire have for each other, or the fusion between Steven and Connie, called Stevonnie, who is a non-binary person, meaning that they do

not conform to the “normal” gender standards of “female” and “male.”

Alibi film editor, Devin D. O’Leary, wrote, “What’s best about Steven Universe is that it never preaches out loud. It’s stories are fun and adventurous. And yet, it has boatloads to say about gender, age, family, heroism, and plain old boring everyday life on planet Earth.”

Nonetheless, every series has its flaws. David Hinckley from the New York Daily News argues, “The dialogue and the storylines seem to be aimed at maybe 4- to 7-year-olds, with appropriately gentle humor and flashy exaggeration,” making Steven Universe seem like another cartoon devoted to heroism, where good triumphs over evil. But the story is much deeper than this. Within the main story exists several sub-arcs, such as “The Cluster” arc. The stories of Steven Universe coexist the same way an onion does: in layers, and once the layers are peeled off, more lay underneath.

“Steven Universe is a cartoon about a plucky young boy who is half-alien/half human and has a heart bigger than his brain.”
—Princess Andrews

If you cannot handle several plots at once, or are not interested in deep, reflective stories, this is not the show for you.

In short, Steven Universe is a new-age cartoon with new-age morals. It has been well-received largely outside of North America with dozens of foreign dubs. Its demographic is incredibly extensive too.

However, this show pulls you in, whether it be through its groundbreaking characters, fantastical art, or whimsical songs, it will be sure to leave an imprint on your heart and your mind.

Artist on the Lookout: Hayley Kiyoko

By: Gildato DaSilva, THS senior

Hayley Kiyoko (born Hayley Kiyoko Alcroft) has placed herself in the midst of today’s pop culture and has become a nationwide phenomenon. She is a Japanese-American singer, actress, songwriter, and director who was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on April 3, 1991.

The talented actress gained popularity through the Disney Channel original movie Lemonade Mouth. She also gained major roles in the movie industry during the past year starring in Scooby-Doo! The Mystery Begins and Scooby-Doo! Curse of the Lake Monster.

She has also played a major role in the CBS series CSI: Cyber as the hacker turned FBI analyst, Raven Ramirez, but the series was canceled after two seasons.

However, Kiyoko’s main passion in life is music. She began a music career in the girl group, The Stunners. The group split up in 2011, and after Kiyoko’s brief acting career, she released her debut EP, A Belle to Remember.

The EP garnered little acclaim but placed her on the pedestal of rising artists. In 2015 she released the EP that would soon make her

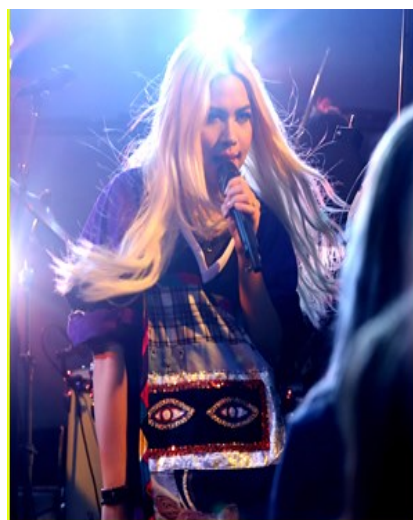
a household name, This Side of Paradise. This EP featured her most famous singles, Girls Like Girls and Cliff’s Edge. The EP’s reception had a positive outcome with Billboard saying the album is “...drawing on the thick, bubbling textures of ‘80s pop and injecting them with modern flavor.”

Kiyoko was overjoyed by the success of this EP, telling Billboard, “The outcome of this EP is worth so much more to me because it was really built from the ground up...I think every track of the EP is really a piece of me, of what I have felt growing up, from a child to a young adult.”

The EP has gained her more attention in today’s society. However, that wasn’t the pinnacle of her music career.

Kiyoko released her recent EP, Citrine, named after her citrine crystal necklace that she wears, and stated, “I started carrying a citrine crystal around with me because I got a concussion right after I finished writing the EP. I’ve

been dealing with concussion stuff throughout the year, so this crystal I’ve been carrying around has been helping me stay happy. It’s helped me to get rid of my self-doubt, and it’s just centering me. I thought, ‘If this is helping



Singer, actress, and songwriter Hayley Kiyoko. Source: www.imdb.com.

me this much, I should call my EP Citrine because that’s what I want my EP to do for my fans – I want to promote happiness and get rid of self-doubt. I want to do that for them.’ That’s why I called it Citrine.”

Citrine was released the end of September. The EP’s reception has been received

with mostly positive reviews from fans praising the EP’s representation of the LGBTQ community. Kiyoko’s fans, named Kiyokians, are very supportive of Hayley’s LGBTQ representation in this EP, one fan mentioned the widespread variety the EP has: “...is not just for LGTBQ people.”

Kiyoko also directs her own music videos such as Girls Like Girls music video, Gravel to Tempo, and One Bad Night. Her time of directing came around the time she released her EP, This Side of Paradise.

When she made that EP, she reported that she composed the songs in the basement of her home and had no form of financial help from any studio. She and a couple members of her team were on their own. Therefore, directing these videos became her job in order to save money. However, she gained a fondness towards directing with later videos like Cliff’s Edge, Gravel to Tempo, and One Bad Night.

Kiyoko describes her experience directing: “I’ve fallen in love with directing and creating. So at first it was kind of forced. And then I was like, wow, I really enjoy telling stories and being a part of this process from start to finish; sitting in the editing room, being there during coloring...really seeing the whole vision through has been really gratifying for me. Now I love doing it.”

Overall, Kiyoko is a multi-talented person who has heart-warming music. She is the artist to be on the lookout for.

The Vampire Diaries Dies This Season

By: **Sandra Santiago, THS senior**

Elena Gilbert, Stefan Salvatore, and Damon Salvatore are the stars of The Vampire Diaries, an American supernatural drama television series. The show stars on CBS. Its first season began Sept. 10, 2009. Its last season started Oct. 21, 2016. It is bound to be the best action-packed season ever. This show is full of drama, romance, and horror--everything a teen would want to watch.

The Vampire Diaries started as a book written by L. J. Smith. Then it became a television series. Now the show is coming to an end, possibly because it was rumored that its lead star, Nina Dobrev, would leave the show after season six. Its other stars, Ian Somerhalder and Kat Graham, hinted season eight would be their last. But the cast and producers made the official announcement Saturday during their annual appearance at the San Diego Comic-

Con that this would be the last season for The Vampire Diaries. So will Gilbert make a comeback and return to the show for its last season? As Catherine Masapan-ta, senior at Technology High School, predicted, "Yes, I do think Elena will come back because this is the last season. In all the other seasons, she was the star, so she has to come back."

Gilbert IS making her comeback on The Vampire Diaries. She is the star, and stars must keep shining--and that is



Three of the main characters of The Vampire Diaries: Damon Salvatore, played by Ian Somerhalder, Elena Gilbert played by Nina Dobrev, and Stefan Salvatore, played by Paul Wesley. Source: Seventeen.com.

what Elena is going to do.

Good vs. evil--who will win? Who knows, but keep your human side with you. Lisa Randolph, one of the Biomed teachers at THS, stated, "The Vampire Diaries is so intriguing because it is a conflict between good and bad and humanity and what it means to be human." The good vs evil plot structure motivates the viewers to watch more and to see if good will overcome evil.

Will Gilbert ever return? No one knows, but let the other characters be happy too. As Amanda Oliverira, freshmen at The College of New Jersey, commented, "My expectation

for the last season is for Stefan to be happy, and I would love for Elena to not come back...but she's going to come back. I don't really know what to expect. I just want Stefan to be happy and for Caroline to be happy as well--I also want a lot of action."

Let Salvatore and Forbes be happy, and bring on the action this season! Sadly the end is near for The Vampire Diaries, and it will be missed by every TVD fanatic.

"The good vs. evil plot structure motivates the viewers to watch and see if good will overcome evil."
—Sandra Santiago

Must-Have Clothing Trends

By: **Brionna Freeman, THS senior**

Dressing to impress every day, Technology High School students display must-have trends in fashion. Walking the THS hallways reveals that students wear look-a-like outfits. At Tech, students express themselves through their clothing-- even though they have strict uniform rules. The THS school colors could get monotonous, continuously wearing black, white, and grey. However, students still dress to impress by adding color to their basic uniform colors.

Most schools have a common dress code the students should follow, but how many of those students actually follow it or like it? Fashion trends have become a way for students to express themselves. They vary from the latest Jordan's, to the most likable sweaters, to the most leading outfits. The editor of Seventeen magazine, stated, "The bomber jacket is popular. This new trend is every lazy girl's best friend. Throw one over your favorite dress or tee for a look that's so chic, but not in a try-hard way. Girly girls can find them in pastels, and ladies looking for a little more toughness can try ones with funky patches." This season fall is in style, especially with the blending of bright colors shown in the leaves through clothes, and the jackets in navy blue and olive green are selling out.

The hallways at THS are like a runway full of the same outfits put together differently. "It's fall now,

and here at Tech, Uggs, Converse, and Jordan's are common. The icon of Bryson Tiller is present everywhere.

"If you don't wear olive or navy, a baseball cap, or sneakers, you're not in style," said Al-wali McKie, a senior at THS. Usually students grades 10 through 12 dress this way, while the freshmen are pretty new to the dress code.

"At Tech you're guaranteed to see the same stuff, especially colors. Everybody is wearing something olive green or navy blue with Jordan's or Adidas. It's getting boring," explained Tyneikia Robinson, a senior at THS.

Here at THS students are submissive to fashion trends to the point that they're considered fashion victims. Everyone wants to be a *fashionista* or into a fashion period, but they don't know how to actually put it together. Fashion trends typically fade, but having style is eternal. Typically everyone questions, *would the trending fashion be the same THS?*

Technology's fashion trends tend to be repeated, and it eventually gets dull. There are some must-have clothing that should not be important at THS.

According to Kevin Vega, THS senior, "You can definitely see what style path everyone follows. Some can dress while others can't. Using trends doesn't mean you can dress just because it's the latest thing out."

Even high schools have fashion trends. Whether students participate in them is their choice.



Model wearing a popular bomber jacket. www.armynavystores.co.uk

THS Photography Club

By: **Alex Madera, THS senior**

Flashing lights come from the corner of each event where a group of individuals capture moments people can view later. This is Technology High School's Photography Club. The Photography Club takes place all year round as they take pictures of events throughout the year. The members of the club attend each event, take pictures with their cameras, and show them to the students who missed the event.

The person behind the Photography Club is Joseph Nieves, junior English teacher and Photography Club advisor at THS. Regarding the Club, Nieves said, "We make sure we have photos for THS personnel to access." Then, people who were not at an event can see what happened. Parents can also see what is happening at THS by looking at the website and seeing pictures the Photography Club members have taken of past and

current events.

The Club does improve the member's photography skills. As Nieves stated, "We make sure photographers have a positive place for people to critique their photos." The Club provides its members a place for them to be-



Left to right: Joseph Nieves, Bryanna Serrano, Melanie Palmer, Karoline Gonzalez, Karllin Oyola, Lillian Castillo-Martinez, Odalys Castillo, and Aileen Naranjo. Source: G. Valerius.

come better photographers without fear of judgment regarding their photos. The members take pictures, show them to those in the Club, get feedback, and plan strategies to improve their photography

skills.

One senior at THS, Shakiya Chance, said, "The Club really does help members improve their photo taking skills by knowing better angles and knowing how to manipulate the light." Not only will members be able to take pictures for the school, but anytime they want to take pictures at outside events, like a family gathering, they will be able to use the skills they learned in the Club to take better pictures.

"The Club really does help members improve their photo taking skills by knowing better angles and how to manipulate the light."

—Shakiya Chance

By: Nakimah Fuller, THS senior

The Technology High School girls volleyball team's overall record was 13-6. The reason why the volleyball team is doing so well is because of their bond with each other and the people that support them. The volleyball team is like a family on the court. The way they stick together and have each other's back demonstrates this quality. What makes them an amazing team is how they play hard each game-- whether they win or lose.

While interviewing the junior varsity and varsity team members, there were some similarities and differences even though they play for the same team. Destiny Castro, a varsity player, said, "The worst team moment is when everyone on the team knows they're going to lose."

The players on the team give up on themselves when they know that they are going to lose, but during the University game, Technology was the underdogs. Some of the players were either sick or out, but the team managed to win. But will they give up on themselves when they go against another "hard" team?

The volleyball team is not always serious. They have their days when they just have fun and vibe with each other. While attending games, the first thing

All Out, All Games, All Season



Juniors, Nickolle Magalhaes (left) and Grace Valerius (right), honor fellow volleyball players on Senior Night: Destiny Castro, Jennifer Boamah, Cynthia Victor, Yashira Fernandez, and Katrina Gonzalez. Below: JV and Varsity players celebrate with their fans on Senior Night. Source: Andrea Valerius.



cheer for their teammates whether they score or hit the ball out of bounds. When asking the JV team who's the funniest person on the team, everyone re-

plied, "Destiny Castro." Castro hypes up the team by just being her usual self—goofy. Whenever the team is down or just need to laugh, they can always look to Castro to make that happen.

The team has some weaknesses like their communication skill on the floor and their focus level at practice. As a team, they should be able to do things like speaking to each other on the floor or know when to be focused.

When the volleyball team gets those things solidified, they will be a hard team to beat. The players should be confident in themselves and their teammates whether they start or not. Of course, every team takes a few losses, but they can be reduced depending on their chemistry as a team.

Karina Gonzalez, a captain of the volleyball team, mentioned, "During practice the team doesn't focus and don't communicate as well." These things can make the team suffer while playing because no one's talking on the floor to prevent the other team from scoring. If both players are going after the ball at the same time, they might end up bumping heads and give the other team a point. The more the team communicates, the more games they will win.

Technology High School's volleyball teams' connection shows in how they play the game. The players are like a family who always has each other's back, whether they win or lose. Their wins come from their supporters, but also the team connection.

Conference Champions!

By: Gilbert Irizzary, THS senior

Technology High School's boys soccer team silenced all doubters after winning their conference in dramatic fashion in a 5-0 victory over North 13th Street. THS's hard work was the reason for their success according to Gerardo Regalado, a senior at THS, who stated, "I feel like we gave it our all, and we worked hard every day at practice. We played as a team and that helped us win the conference."

The hard work and the road to success was such an enjoyment to watch, especially for one fan, Anthony Delarosa. He is a THS senior who supported the THS boys soccer team throughout the season. He stated, "As a fan, it was fun to see my friends and my school's soccer team accomplish something they strived for. All the games the team members gave positive energy to the team. I saw all of them work as a team, stay together, and play together."

THS's boys soccer team was unstoppable, going undefeated in their conference. According to Jaime Santos, a senior and soccer player for THS, stated, "Winning the conference for our school was an amazing experience. I feel that we as a team made a huge impact on the school, and we have shown



Back, left to right: Coach LaCava, Ronny Montero, Carlos Rivas, Bryan Rodriguez, Joaovictor Lebrao, Joseph Innamorato, Luis Rivera, Miguel Andagana, Cesar Sarmiento, Jaime Santos, Andy Allaico, Cynthia Colon. Bottom, left to right: Michael Silva, Harley Sandoval, Anderson Morquecho, Wadson Silveira, Angel Hernandez, Gonzalo Saavedra, Jason Seaz, Rui Lopes, and Gerardo Regalado.

school spirit. It is my senior year, and I've been playing with my friends for three years. Winning something together for our last year made winning the conference even more memorable." Guillermo La Cava, head coach for his second year, was proud of his team. They won 14 games and

only lost five to win their conference and get a great seat in the State Tournament. La Cava was proud of his team's success. He stated, "Last year didn't go so well, but after seeing how hard the boys worked to get where they are, it is truly amazing to watch."

THS Football

By: Ahsan Moore, THS senior

Helmets clacking, coaches screaming, boys tackling—these are sounds that Ahsan Moore and Shakeem Gibson, both THS seniors, are familiar with. Moore plays football for the Shabazz Bulldogs while Gibson plays for the Weequahic Indians.

Ahsan Moore, stated, "I play football because it's something to have on college applications, and I can get possible scholarships from it." Students play football for a number of reasons, but in this case it's played for college. Football is a gateway to getting into college; players play to get scouted and handed scholarships by colleges looking for new recruits.

Shakeem Gibson, stated, "I plan on playing college football if I get a good offer to a good school." The Weequahic High School Indians football team achieved the number 1 seed in their conference, while Shabazz earned the 3rd seed.

Weequahic and Shabazz played the traditional Thanksgiving Day game on Nov. 24. Not only is this a traditional game, this year it was the Conference Championship between the two teams, and Gibson and Moore

Cont. on p 7

MGA and THS Partnership

By: Johnny Rosario, THS senior

Thanks to Nelson Tejada, Vice Principal at Technology High School, THS students were able to work at the Metropolitan Golf Association during the summer of 2016. The students worked 30 hours a week, and their average earnings were \$10 an hour. Out of all local high schools, THS had the



Tyneikia Robinson, Odalyz Vazquez, Johnny Rosario, and Catherine Masapanta. Source: Nelson Tejada.

highest number of student participants. The program showed them how the real world works and what it feels like to earn money through hard work.

Al-Wali McKie, a THS senior, said, "My experience was thrilling. I did so much, not just working, but I had fun as well. I drove a golf cart, but at the end of the day, I learned how it felt to work." McKie had fun in a working environment, but as he also experienced some unusual things. This shows the impact the MGA had on McKie's life because now he knows what a working environment is like and how to act in the work force.

A golf course is a marvelous place to work because there are many trees and people are enjoying playing golf-- a good morning sport. It requires maintenance workers to make the grounds look beautiful in order to attract players. Gregory Jimenez, a senior at THS, stated, "The environment was nice. There were a lot of trees and green grass. There were also deer on the course. They were walking around

in the mornings until more people showed up." The nice trees, grass, and wildlife makes the golf course engaging. Besides the deer, there were also foxes and groundhogs. Jimenez saw nature up close, and seeing all aspects of entire golf course gave him a great experience.

Gilbert Irizarry, THS senior and MGA worker, stated, "I like how the job was set up. It was a lot of fun working, especially driving the carts. The people treated me like an adult. There were some jobs that I didn't enjoy as much as the others. For example, weed whacking and raking bunkers were not as fun as filling divots in the ground. I found it funny how we were just raking sand."

Irizarry enjoyed the job, the hours --and the pay. The people around him treated him well. While some of the jobs may have been mundane, Irizarry learned that not all jobs will be fun. There are some things in life that he knows he won't enjoy, but that he will have to do it because it is his responsibility.



Left to right: Dione Jordine, Luis Desouza, Al-Wali McKie, Victor Diaz, Nathaniel Duguid, Joshua Rodriguez, Danny Manganinho, Roberto Mejia, and Justin Nickels. Not pictured: Gregory Jimenez and Gilbert Irizarry Source: Nelson Tejada.

In conclusion the MGA program has given THS students a real-world job experience. It is a sound, viable program that will prepare students for the workforce.

Stephanie Medina: Just Cheer All Star

By: Stephanie Medina, THS senior

Stephanie Medina and the Just Cheer All Stars went to regionals to compete against the best. They took first place at regionals in April of 2015 by living up to their full potential and doing what they do best.

Arwin Doughtry, a Just Cheer All Star coach, said, "You do not cheer with your voice but with your heart." Many people believe that cheerleading is a loud, top of the lung-yelling sport. But it is more than that. It is one of the most popular girls' sports out there today.

A former Just Cheer All Star cheerleader, Christine Riley, stated, "When you hit the mat and you're out there on the floor, there is no going back. Nothing else matters at that point." The amount of adrenalin running through your body has you zoned out as soon as you hit that mat, and when getting ready to perform, all your focus is on hitting your routine— nothing else. All you feel is pressure and anxiety.

Donna Steven, another Just Cheer All Star coach, stated, "The trust between your base and flyer is the most important thing there is." When you are throwing someone in the air dangerously, the trust the flyer has with her base is more important than anything because without that there is a 50 percent chance of the flyer getting



Above: Stephanie Medina participated in the April 2015 Just Cheer All Stars regional competition. Medina is the top girl on the middle tower. Source: Just Cheer All Stars.

Below: Stephanie poses for a picture after writing this article.

injured or failing that stunt. Once you drop your stunt, all the pressure is on you at that point.

Cheerleading is a lot of pressure and all about hard work. When one fails, they all fail as one unit. Through the harsh and rough practices, through all the sweat and tears and bruises, it all becomes worthwhile when you finally succeed and win. That is the best feeling you can imagine.



Technology's Fast Panthers

By: Mekhiah Thomas, THS senior

Sweat dripping, heart beating, head down, "take your mark"--and they're off running. The Technology High School Panthers raced against University High School and Science Park High School on Oct. 18 at Branchbrook Park in Newark, N.J. Isthian Thomas was accompanied by two of his fellow team mates, Moryke Kaba and Sergio Olmedo. Moryke earned the gold, Thomas earned the silver, and Olmedo earned the bronze at this meet. THS had a medal sweep! The runners were now feeling good, accomplished, and ready to compete in the upcoming cross country meets.

Thomas, a THS junior and captain of the cross country team, was asked, "What made you want to run cross country?" It took him a while to answer, but he finally said, "Running was always a passion of mine. Going out there on the field brings me a great deal of joy. I know that entering a meet I always want to give my all and leave my mark on the field. When

I run, I leave all my fear and worries on the field. I do it for all of those who may not be able to run due to the fact that they have personal problems or even disabilities." Thomas is a student who puts his all into everything he does; his determination moves



Isthian Thomas, a THS junior, is the captain for the cross country team. Source: Mrs. V.

him to strive for better. His best time of the season for the two mile is 12:48.

Moryke Kaba is also a junior on the team. He supports his friend, Isthian "Izzy" Thomas as captain and accepts the construc-

tive criticism that is given to him.

Kaba stated, "My heart literally drops when I'm preparing for a meet, especially when I arrive. I always get intimidated by other teams and automatically assume the worst of my performance, but when I look at the effort that my friend Izzy puts in, it makes me want to work hard and ask him for advice on how to push myself to do better and make it to the finish line." Kaba continues to work hard, push himself, and support his teammates.

Del Rios, coach of the team, works hard to get his students prepared for each meet. Rios stated, "It's not easy for some members on my team to run and place well during a meet, or even place well in field events, but what I look for is determination. If they are determined to do better, then it's my job to motivate them to work to their full potential."

Coach Del Rios wants his team to improve and to place their best at each meet, even if the first time they don't do well. Rios doesn't want them to feel discouraged, but he wants them to try and push harder for the next time.



Shakeem Gibson played football for Weequahic HS while Ahsan Moore played for Shabazz HS.

Cont. from p 6, Football

faced each other. Weequahic won the game 22-8. The boys met again at States on Dec. 3 where Weequahic one again came out on top 18-8.

Some play football purely for fun and aren't using it to reach college. Others play football to develop their social skills, increasing their ability to work with others.

Moore's reason for playing football may be for fun and to earn a scholarship, but without him knowing it, football is training him in valuable life skills.

Madam President: Maxine Torres

By: Liliana Ventura, THS sophomore

Maxine Torres is a senior at Technology High School in Newark, N.J. She is the president of the Senior Class. Since junior year, she was encouraged by her peers to run for class president to make the senior year a memorable experience.

Torres is an interesting and engaging person. She has lived in Newark for 17 years. She has three siblings—two sisters, and a brother. Torres stated, “My family is my backbone and my biggest support system. They are the people closest to me, and I know I can rely on them for anything and everything. Without them, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.”

Her favorite subject is English, specifically writing. It’s a form of self expression and the class that she is strongest in. She stated, “I don’t have a favorite sport because I’m not athletic at all. However, I do support all of our school’s teams.”

She said, “I don’t know if I’d call it a talent, but singing is something I really enjoy.” Even though Torres doesn’t recognize the amazing talent she has, most people say she has an amazing voice.

When interviewing Torres on the role of being class president, she responded, “I became president last year through the nominations of my peers. I ran sophomore year for president; however, I came in second place. The following year (junior year), my class requested a re-election, and they chose me. My class believed in me to make our last year as memorable as possible. This isn’t a title; in fact, it comes with more work than anyone realizes. However, I will put in all of the hard work and more for my classmates, and I want them to have the best year possible.”

Torres’s personality and positive

characteristics motivated her junior class to do a re-election and vote for her. Her determination and hard work will make this senior year outstanding.

Torres’s favorite memory at THS was the West Virginia trip. The universities she’s most interested in attending are MSU, Kean, Rutgers, Seton Hall, Monmouth, and Montclair. She’s leaning toward attending Montclair State this upcoming fall if she’s accepted.

One word Torres described herself with was *passionate*. She is passionate in everything she does.

While discussing the topic of THS, Torres, stated, “Although we come from all walks of life and different backgrounds, we’re one big family. I appreciate the closeness and the constant support that everyone gives to one another.” She also stated, “This school year specifically, the Senior Class as a whole is like one big family. We’ve all developed relationships with one another, and we’re cherishing our last days here at Technology.”

When discussing the topic of class president, Torres responded, “This role as president has taught me how to be responsible, how to manage time, and how to deal with all sorts of people. I get a million things thrown my way and have had to learn how to balance them all and keep up with my studies all at once.”

While conversing with Kimberly Mercado, a senior at THS, she stated, “Max is everything you look for in a good person. She is caring, kind, selfless, and always there for anyone who needs her. She goes above and beyond in all that she does, and puts everyone before herself. Regardless if you’re friends, or just someone in the hall, Max always has a smile and will jump to help you if needed. She is and will always be that person everybody wishes to have a part of their lives.” Torres is a selfless person; she prefers to help others rather than focus on herself. She has

learned to balance her time for school, work, and helping others.

Being class president requires a huge commitment. Torres explained, “I wouldn’t say it’s hard, but it isn’t easy. I have to deal with the disagreements from

my peers and negative comments thrown my way, school work, planning the school year, and making time for work and myself. Planning school dances, fundraisers, trips, prom, banquets, and managing sales and money are all part of the job. Most importantly, keeping everyone happy while making progress always comes first.”

Jean Skillern, Senior Class advisor, said, “Maxine is extremely helpful, determined, energetic, trustworthy, and persistent. She is the ‘go to’ person when I need something done.” Torres has a lot

of tasks thrown her way, but she tries her hardest to complete them. She tries to keep everybody’s opinions in mind and often compromises to keep everybody positive and on board with the upcoming school events.

When asked who her favorite teacher was, she responded, “Mr. Graff is my favorite teacher at Technology. His personality and teaching methods keep me interested in the subject and his class. His knowledge of science and humor made biology and environmental science such an enjoyable class.”

While conversing with Mr. Graff about Torres, he recalled, “My favorite memory of Maxine was when she tried to get me to donate my socks. She is mature and fun. As a student, she asks a lot of questions, which is good, and she asks them in a fun way. She’s a good student to have in your class.”

One message Torres has for her fellow peers is, “High school will fly by before you know it, so cherish each moment.” She would advise incoming freshmen to stay on top of their work and make sure their priorities are straight. School comes before social life, and enjoy every moment. Torres stated, “Life starts after this, and I’m excited for what the future holds, yet sad I’m leaving this place I’ve enjoyed for the past four years.”



Maxine Torres, president of the senior class at Technology High School. Source: Maxine Iris Torres.

“This role as president has taught me how to be responsible, how to manage time, and how to deal with all sorts of people. I get a million things thrown my way and have had to learn how to balance them all and keep up with my studies all at once.”

By: LaMajah Burwell, THS senior

Kenya Bey, a senior at Technology High School, has a smile that brightens up the room. She’s someone that has impacted others’ lives and always gives good advice to those who need it most. To know her is to love her and, according to her close friends and siblings, Bey is a helping hand and an amazing person.

“Becoming friends with Kenya has impacted my life in ways not even I can understand...she’s someone I can count on, and someone I can turn to when I feel my life is turning upside down. She’s always been a great supportive friend,” said THS senior, Mekhiah Thomas.

Bey has demonstrated to many that she is a good friend who is dependable and trustwor-

Kenya Bey: A Shining Light



Future NJCU psychology major student, Kenya Bey, takes a picture during a college visit. Source: Kenya Bey.

thy. Not only is Kenya a good friend, she’s also a hard working student. When asked what college she wanted to attend, she stated, “I plan on attending NJCU to study psychology because they have a debt free program.”

Bey’s dream is to go to NJCU and graduate with a degree in psychology and, with the debt-free program, she hopes to reach her goal.

About Bey, LaMajah Burwell, another THS senior, stated, “One thing I like about Kenya is her personality. She’s so laid back and fun to be around.”

Both Thomas and Burwell described Bey as laid back which tells everyone that Kenya is not a rowdy person; she’s relaxed and thoughtful.

To know Bey is to love Bey; her vibe is something that can brighten up her friends’ lives. Her personality goes hand in hand with the love she has for her friends because when they are not in a good mood, just talking to them makes them feel better.

Friends like Bey don’t come around often, so when you have one like her, cherish the friendship.

“To know her is to love her...she is a helping hand and an amazing person.”

—LaMajah Burwell

A New Technology Panther

By: Kevin Vega, THS senior

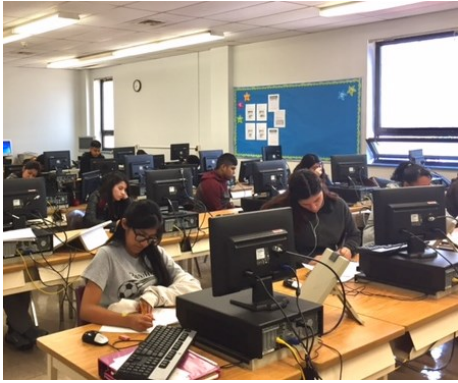
Markatos retired, Tech Coordinator required, Smith is hired. After losing an awesome Technology Coordinator, the school was forced to find a new replacement during the summer of 2016. Technology High School recruited Smith, not only as a Tech Coordinator, but as a Financial Literacy teacher.

Joseph Ford, an engineering teacher at THS, said, "Don't let the hard parts get you down because they will become easier with time." Joseph Ford has been working at THS for four years, and he knows the power of encouraging teachers their first year. He knows pressure is best handled with a team. This advice is not just for teachers. It applies to everyone—staff and students. The first day is tough, but it gets easier the more you practice and get used to it.

Ms. Smith was interviewed and asked about what she hoped to achieve by the end of the year. She replied, "My goal as a Technology Coordinator is to have everything organized. I still have a lot to do in the building. And I want to help my students understand financial literacy so that they can be responsible, financial citizens." Smith is going

to be teaching her Financial Literacy class to prepare them for the future that awaits them.

Seems like Smith already has her plans set. She wants the school running perfectly, with little to no mistakes. Claudia Goncalvas, a junior at THS, stated, "Before getting into that class, I thought it was going to be very easy, since all of the seniors used to say 'that's the easiest class in school.' Then



Students at work in Ms. Smith's Financial Literacy class. Source: Grace Valerius.

when I got into the class, I discovered it's not easy at all, but very challenging."

The previous juniors made the mistake of telling the underclassmen that the class was going to be easy. Financial Literacy is a class that

should be taken seriously because it's a class that applies to everyone's lives no matter what career they pursue.

In conclusion, Smith is going to educate her students while making sure the school is running perfectly. Technology High welcomes Smith to her new family.

The Phenomenal Paruta

By: Liliana Perez, THS senior

Aristotle once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." This quote expresses what different teachers do to earn their titles and how different types of teachers vary with their teaching techniques.

English teacher, Joanna Jedrzej Paruta, is a superior, inspirational, and invaluable teacher. She loves what she teaches which makes her students love what they are being taught. In other words, a teacher who loves learning earns the right and ability to help others learn.

Every teacher has her own style, and Paruta's style works to her benefit. She has had many of her students pass their AP tests, which is an amazing achievement, because most students are unable to pass it because their teachers are unable to prepare them for it.

When someone studies great teachers, they will learn more from their caring and hard work rather than from their style. When approached about her class and her teaching, Paruta said, "It isn't just the teacher that makes the class. It's the students as well. The students are invested in the class in a way that forms a tight knit community which allows you guys to become successful."

Last year approximately 77 percent of Paruta's AP Language and Composition class passed their AP test, which is fantastic for both her and her students. It shows that she is more than capable of teaching difficult content to her students.

Gildato DaSilva, a senior at THS, said, "With the way the past AP Lang students have described Ms. Paruta's teaching, I believe that I will be fully equipped to pass my exam. Most of her students passed

and faith in themselves because of her teaching. Paruta stated, "The students at Technology put a lot of pride in their work. They are committed to getting the best grades for themselves when it comes to the necessary skills to take these tests. It makes it easy to get good results such as out of 379 schools Technology ranked 24 in PARCC testing."

Students who were previously in AP Language and Composition and are currently in AP Literature believe that Paruta is able to make connections with her students. Viridiana Villasenor, a senior at THS, describes Paruta's teaching as comfortable and easy going. She says that it is so easy to comprehend what is being taught because she enjoys the subject itself, and the way it is being taught makes the class better than other classes. Villasenor believes that if other teachers teach the way Paruta does, then students would become more engaged and interested in the class.

Villasenor further stated, "The



Mrs. Paruta teaches Eng. III, AP Lang and Comp, and AP Lit. Source: Grace Valerius.

fact that she makes connections with her students and makes the class fun creates a comfortable and easy learning environment. She makes us interested in the topics that she discusses which makes us fully comprehend and enjoy her lessons."

It seems as if her students believe that the connections and the way she engages them make her an incredible teacher. With the bonds that she creates, she is able to make the class fun and enjoyable for her kids because they are intrigued in the topics at hand and they love to discuss what they believe in and their points of view.

In responding to her students' comments, Paruta said, "It makes me feel inspired, and it motivates me to continue forming these bonds and having great relationships with my incredible AP students."

Last year approximately 77 percent of Paruta's AP Language and Composition class passed their AP test.

which shows that she prepared them fully to take that test. She stayed positive about them passing the AP test, and she showed them their true limits and capabilities.

Paruta's teaching makes kids believe that they will pass the class and these tests. They have so much hope

When most people think about drama, they think about acting or writing scripts, but it's far from that. Drama teaches life lessons and how the real world really works. Kukreja doesn't force her students to do the work, even if it might be a grade, because she wants them to be comfortable about themselves and their work. One of Kukreja's students, senior Jessica Sanchez, stated, "I will tell

my friends that drama will help them in the future, and it will stop your fears of talking to large crowds." Fear can destroy the human body because you will always live with the guilt of the "what if."

As students, they should not have any regrets or fears before they hit the real world. Drama can also be helpful for presentations and interviews because the students get more comfortable talking in front of people.

Why So DRAMatic?

By: Nakimah Fuller, THS senior

The new drama teacher, Shagun Kukreja, started teaching at Technology High School at the beginning of the school on Sept. 6. She teaches English and drama, and she coaches the THS debate team.

Kukreja wanted to teach drama to give students an opportunity to express their feelings in and out of school. She came to THS planning on making a difference in her students' lives by not pushing her students to do something they don't want to do. She stated, "The midterm will be a play, but not everyone will perform if they don't want to. Some will work on the sets." Her students will be graded on their interest in the arts.

When Deanna Rodriguez, a senior at THS, was asked why she thought it was important for students to learn drama, she said, "Drama develops communication because in the future you have to network for jobs."

Drama can also be helpful for

presentations and interviews because the students get more comfortable talking in front of people. Drama can help students through stage fright and build confidence overall.

Drama is not only about acting and playing parts. It makes students feel comfortable to express themselves through the play or script.

When asked about drama class, THS senior, Al-Wali McKie, said, "Drama helps you be emotional, and it helps you get out of your comfort zone." The more people stay in their comfort zones, the fewer opportunities they will receive because students often play it safe instead of taking

meaningful risks. If students want to do something risky to their reputation or crowd of friends, take drama. It's fun, but it's also a great experience and students can be anyone they want to be without being judged.



Ms. Kukreja, drama, debate and Eng. II teacher at THS. Source: Mrs. Valerius.

Black Lives Matter

By: Laura Oyuela, THS sophomore

What is the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement? Recently there has been a big focus on white supremacy and the impact it has on the black community. The BLM movement started in 2012 after Trayvon Martin, a black 17-year-old teenager, was shot by George Zimmerman, a white male who was also a neighborhood watch captain. Zimmerman was not initially convicted of the death of Martin.

This tragedy united Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, and Patrisse Cullors who created the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter. Now social media is filled with this hashtag and people are speaking out. Over time Garza, Tometi, and Cullors decided to bring the hashtag to the streets to give voice to his movement. This was only the beginning to a global movement.

African-Americans comprise only 13 percent of the U.S. population and 14 percent of the monthly drug users, but are 37 percent of the people arrested for drug-related offenses in America. The black community has a huge issue with being falsely convicted or arrested.

The BLM movement focuses on the unjust convictions and murders against the black community. This movement is forcing everyone to open their eyes, and see that this is not okay. If people are all truly equal under the law despite the differences in skin color, then the black community should not have to worry about being thrown in jail although they are innocent. They are stereotyped as aggressive, drug dealers, or gang-affiliated people. Veronica Torres, a sophomore at Tech-



March 9, 2015, Paul Soglin, mayor of Madison, Wis., addresses a crowd of protesters protesting the death of Tony Robinson on Martin Luther King Jr, Boulevard. Source: malcontends.blogspot.com.

nology High School, stated, "The Black Lives Matter movement has such a huge influence on today's society...people are sticking up for the African American community, and the mistreatment against them...although it is important for the African American community to stick together, it is also important for everyone to remember that a few people shouldn't automatically stereo-

"Darkness can't drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate can't drive out hate; only love can do that."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

type a certain group." Voices are being heard, and people are sticking up for the black community.

The BLM movement is misinterpreted as a violent movement. Yes, there have been protests that have gotten out of hand, but the BLM movement does not exist to protest with violence. All these members want is a change for the better. This movement can't be perceived as violent just because a select group got out of hand.

Richard Tabor, a New Jersey state Trooper, states, "17,300 black men from 2008 to 2012 were murdered. Only 300 of them were by cops. 17,000 were a result of black on black crime, but people say cops are the issue." Does this really justify the justice system? Death is death, and you can't bring anyone back. The people murdered had lives, loved ones, and family members.

Sentences for black males are 19.5 percent longer than those for whites. Moreover, black men were 25 percent less likely to receive sentences below the sentencing guidelines for the crime for which they were convicted. People are unaware of these statistics, so they tend to misunderstand the reality of this issue.

Leah Duarte, a Science Park High School student, stated, "This movement is a positive influence. It allows everyone to see the bigger picture, that all races are not seen as equal and are not treated equally. This is a real issue we have to face." This movement is opening the minds of a lot of people in society and helping people come together to make a change.

The reasoning behind the BLM movement is to make a change in the world and end racial injustice. In order to make a huge impact on America for the better, there needs to be a peaceful solution. As Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Darkness can't drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate can't drive out hate; only love can do that."

The Struggling Life of Syrian Children

By: Christie Ortega, THS sophomore

The children of Syria are victims of starvation and homelessness due to a 5-year long war. On March 15, 2011, the lives of many Syrian children began to change. According to the World Vision website, more than 2.4 million Syrian children are currently living as refugees. These children are suffering due to the Syrian War, which began with anti-government protests before escalating into a full-scale civil war. Children are being killed by airstrikes and shelling in eastern Aleppo.

Irene Santos, a sophomore at Technology High School, commented, "It saddens me to think that millions of children are at risk and need medical attention. It makes our problems so meaningless...I also feel mad that there isn't much I can do, but knowing this also gives me motivation to go out and do something that in the long run will be able to help the children, not only in Syria, but all around the world."

Children are waking up to the sounds of bombs and people screaming for their lives rather than playing with flowers and dandelions. No child should have to witness and live through a war.

Laura Oyuela, a sophomore at THS, stated, "This issue should be pushed more in society. The fact that I only recently heard about this makes me realize how overlooked this issue is. That being said, America can help out with organizations that allow people to send care packages to these children."

America has more than 8 million people living in it. There should be more than enough people willing to send food, water, and everyday supplies to help these children. If we don't help them, who will?" Even though many people don't know about this issue, there are people in Syria who are trying to get the attention of the world through drawings and paintings of the effects of the war.

Anthony Crespo, a sophomore at THS, stated, "I felt bad for the

Cont. on p 11



Presidential Misconduct?

By: Micaela Fresia, THS senior

Many resources, including interviews and the official presidential debates, provided the country with abundant knowledge on Republican candidate Donald Trump's views. In the first two debates, Aug. 11, on CNN and Aug. 20 at MSNBC, Trump discussed topics like planned parenthood, equal pay, and child care. In order to vote sensibly on Nov. 8, Trump's positions on these issues must be understood.

Trump continuously stated that he respects women. The facts, however, show that he does the opposite. Dating back to 1991, he said, "You know, it doesn't really matter what [they] write as long as you've got a young and beautiful [woman]." Trump does not respect women or their opinions on important topics.

"Well, the biggest problem I have with Planned Parenthood is the abortion situation. It's like an abortion factory frankly. You can't have it, and it shouldn't be funded by the government. I feel strongly about that,"

stated Trump in an interview with CNN's Chris Cuomo.

Pro-life candidate Trump believes punishing the mother who 'kills' her unborn child. Some scientists believe that a fetus doesn't have pain receptors until the 23-24 week of gestation. He is willing to defund an entire organization that provides resources for unprivileged women only to prevent women from getting abortions.

A misogynistic candidate is what the world is facing. "But when I come home and dinner's not ready, I go through the roof..." Trump spoke with con-

fidence in a 1994 interview with ABC News about his then wife, Marla Maples. He has also compared women to a building by deeming women dangerous and boring when working. "Unfortunately, after they're a star, the fun is over for me. It's like a creation process. It's almost like creating a building. It's pretty sad." Women are being treated like housewives—pieces of meat. "When you have to categorize men and women into a particular group and a particular pay scale, it gets very dangerous—because people do different jobs," voiced Trump at MSNBC's Morning Joe interview. Trump believes women are not as good as men; therefore, they don't deserve equal pay. Their work isn't valued the same, even if it is the same job with the same workload. Women are currently being paid .79 cents for every dollar a man makes. Are these the conditions women should be working under?

The comments haven't stopped since



In the debates of 2016, Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton battled it out for the honor of President-elect. On Nov. 8, Trump won the battle with an electoral advantage of 306 -232 as of Nov. 22. Source: www.politico.

Trump reduced Clinton to the role a wife before becoming a politician. "If Hillary can't satisfy her husband, what makes her think she can satisfy America?" On April

16, 2015, Trump posted such a remark on Twitter.

However, some of his ideas on certain topics remain beneficial for new parents, women, and men alike. "Provide a 6-week paid leave to new mothers before returning to work," noted his website. For example, Trump also wants to rewrite the tax code in order to meet the needs of low income families by making child care expenses deductions.

President-elect Donald Trump has some valuable ideas. Time will tell if he can implement them and make America great again.

tions. Children are sleeping in intolerable conditions without blankets and living in makeshift shelters.

A Syrian refugee child stated, "Everything was nicer. But then, the war was happening in front of us. It wasn't good anymore. We ran out of everything and the cold weather started coming. So we came here. With war happening on top of our heads."

Contact local and national agencies, such as World Vision, to see how you can get involved to help Syrian children who are victims of a senseless war.

Cont. from p 10, Syrian Children

children since they are victims of the bombing and having everything taken away from them...why would Bashar Al Assad, Syria's president, do this to his own children?" After watching the video of the child crying due to losing everything he owned, it is obvious that he isn't the only one. Losing everything means not having a home and that's a disadvantage when it comes to living condi-

Ask Alice: Advice Column

By: Janari Newsome, THS sophomore

Should high school relationships be taken seriously? Technology High School students felt differently about this issue.

Christie Ortega, a sophomore at THS, said, "No, we shouldn't take them seriously because we're just having fun for right now. I'm not going to be with the same person throughout high school or even after."

In high school students are 14-18 years old. Being in a relationship during this time can hold them back from doing many things. They have to think about college, and they may want to go somewhere differently than their significant other, but being in a serious relationship would mean making sacrifices for each other. It can hold them back from finding themselves in the long run. It can also be a lot of stress. Managing grades and a relationship can be difficult.

Another sophomore at THS, Sanaa Rozier, said, "Every relationship should be taken seriously." Rozier believes that when entering a relationship, plan to make it last—try to stay together through difficult, challenging times. Although it may be tough

because of high school drama, they should try to stay with that person.

In responding to the question of whether high school relationships should be taken seriously, Yasmine Jones, a senior at THS, said, "It depends on the person and his maturity level." It all depends on the person they're with and themselves. Before entering a relationship with someone, ask the other person what their intentions are. Some people might just be looking for fun, and others might want something different. That's why communication is key. Getting to know a person before making the commitment of being in a relationship is a necessity.

So what is the answer regarding high school relationships? Who can say whether or not this is something that should be taken seriously? Everybody's different, and everybody's intentions are different. There really is no right or wrong answer. It all depends on the person. If they have too much on their plate, adding a serious relationship is something they definitely don't want to do. However, if their life is somewhat together and they feel as though they can handle being in a relationship, then go for it.

The Panther's Tale

Technology High School 187 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104
www.nps.k12.nj.us/technology

Mission Statement

- To publish news, information, and opinion articles for and about student, faculty, and administration activities, interests, and policies.
- To maintain high ethical standards with regard to fairness, personal and legal rights, responsibilities, and accuracy.
- To provide a forum for free and responsible expression of student opinion and present well-balanced, locally researched coverage of issues of broader student interest.
- To strive for excellence in the technical aspects of writing, including grammar, spelling, clarity, and precision.
- To welcome diversity and to increase the scope and depth of our coverage; to heighten mutual understanding in the school.

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Contributing Writers

Princess Andrews	Alex Madera
Niruban Bahetharan	Stephanie Medina
Mark Barbooram	Ahsan Moore
Shanae Brooks	Christie Ortega
LaMajah Burwell	Laura Oyuela
Gildato DaSilva	Liliana Perez
Nichelle Ford-Owens	Marcos Pina Plaza
Brionna Freeman	Johnny Rosario
Micaela Fresia	Sandra Santiago
Nakimah Fuller	Michael Silva
Dominick Gonzalez	Mekhiah Thomas
Gilbert Irizarry	Faith Valerius
Jessica Jara	Kevin Vega
Nedjie Jocelyn	Liliana Ventura
	Cynthia Victor

PT Editorial Staff

Princess Andrews	Jackson Guaman	Nedjie Jocelyn
Gildato Silva	Grace Valerius	Faith Valerius
Kevin Vega	Advisor: Andrea Valerius	



Cartoons created by THS senior, Princess Andrews.

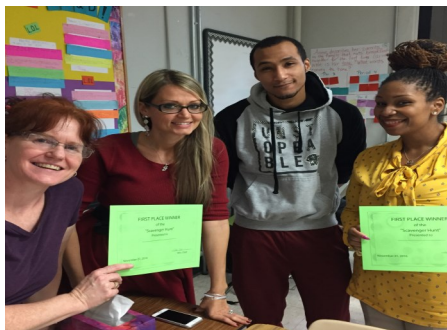
THS Photo Gallery



Jennifer Boamah (number 15) and Cynthia Victor (number 7) celebrate Senior Night with their friends.



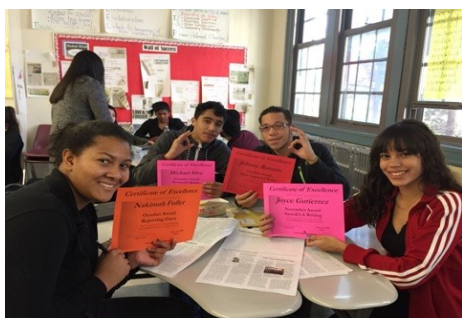
The junior varsity and varsity volleyball players enjoy Senior Night with their fans.



Mrs. Valerius, Mrs. Paruta, Mr. Wallace, and Mrs. Henderson win the Humanities Scavenger Hunt on Nov. 21 at THS.



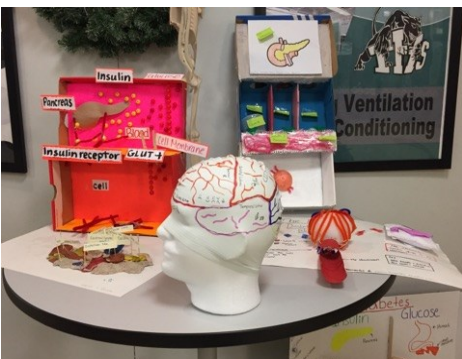
Mr. Wagner valiantly focuses on feeding penne on vermicelli during a Humanities Dept. "meeting."



Nakimah Fuller, Michael Silva, Johnny Rosario, and Joyce Gutierrez display their monthly writing awards in Mrs. V's Journalism Class.



Students' summer work is displayed on Report Card night, Nov. 28, at THS.



Report Card night at THS on Nov. 28. While parents enjoyed displays of student work, the administrators worked hard to prepare and serve dinner to the faculty and staff!



THS is decorated for Report Card night and for the holidays. Mr. Lee, Senior Security Guard, keeps THS safe.

Holocaust Poems

Everything Was Lost

The smell of flesh fills the air,
As soldiers take innocent souls,
Charging in square formation,
Splats of blood from my mother,
On the stuffed bear my very
own mom gave me.

Memories fade into darkness,
As I stand, there's no hope,
Light itself has abandoned us,
There was nothing else left to
stay for.

Everything was lost,
Homes were destroyed,
Soldiers raided,
People ran,
My feet felt like they were
disconnected and couldn't move,
I could hear the screams of
young ones
Losing their family.

The air was a nimbus
cloud of death,
Piles of bodies
rotting on the sides,
As I see blackness take over me,
The cold spreading through my
body.

—Marcos Pina Plaza,

When Will I Be Free?

It started with the humongous
hate of a man
His hate was like a dull day
never fading away

First we were "filthy" wild animals,
deprived from the exterior
Later on the trucks to the
gates of hell

My dignity left as a leaf being
blown away by the wind,
Not knowing when or
where it will land

When will I be free?
The camp looked as to be a scene
from the apocalypse
As if the world was crumbling
in front of my eyes
The sight of decaying bodies
dwelled in my head
The reek of gas and death
strong in the air
The food tasted bitter and very
stony in my mouth
But when will I be free?

Every day and night my soul
wept
Because I knew
that death was coming my way
like a passing shadow

The day I will no longer suffer
The day that I will finally be
able to escape this aching pain
Until I finally fall into a
beautiful deep sleep

And now I am finally free

—Jessica Jara, THS freshman