

Arts Out Loud

A publication by the Literary Media Arts students at AACMS!



A Haunted Prison!

By Madison Reichard

Are you bored and want something interesting to do? Well then you might want to read this. This haunted prison is nearby and you may want to visit the ghost!

The haunted place I am referring to is the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, PA. According to GhostCityTours.com, visitors would sometimes see a man in a tower but the stairs to the tower had fallen apart a long time ago. Employees have also reported hearing whispering, giggling, screaming, and crying, but when they follow the noise it stops! Reportedly, there is also a ghost of a woman in the last cell on the second floor wearing white. No one knows who it is!

When prisoners would leave their cells, a bag would be placed on their heads. Prisoners were not allowed to talk to each other. If they talked or tried to communicate, they would have consequences. One consequence was called, "The Iron Gag." Prisoners feared this the most. The gag was

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placed in the prisoner's mouth with the tongue chained to the prisoner's arms and wrists that were strapped behind the prisoner's back. If he moved, his tongue would be cut. "The Mad Chair" was another feared punishment. Prisoners would be strapped in a chair so tightly that they could not move. They sometimes remain in the chair for days without food or water.

"The Water Bath" was a popular punishment for winter consequences. The prisoners would be chained and then engulfed in ice cold water. Next, they would be chained
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(A Haunted Prison Continued from p.1)

to the walls outside in freezing temperatures. The water would turn to ice all over the prisoner's body!

Due to the harsh punishments and ghastly environment, GhostCityTours.com claims that there are a lot of ghosts at the prison. In cell six, it is said that visitors will see a shadow that slowly goes down the walls. In cell number 12, it's creepier! In that room, people say there is an evil ghost that makes an eerie cackle. There are also sightings of faces appearing on the walls, and whispering that seems to be coming from everywhere. If you think the whispering and faces are not scary, then maybe blood curdling screams will scare you! Many people say that when walking through the prison it feels like someone is watching at all times. The last cell that is supposed to be haunted is cell number four. A locksmith was working on the wall in cell four when something evil started controlling him, making him frozen. He was unable to move or speak! The only thing he remembers seeing is faces sliding down the wall and orbs floating around him. The Eastern State Penitentiary is one of America's most haunted buildings!

By the way, Allentown and Philadelphia are very close. It is only an hour and fifteen minutes from AACMS. You could tour this spooky haunted prison, for only \$17, if you have the guts!



FUN FACTS ABOUT SLOTHS

Arts OutLoud 2

by Ian Verna



Did you know that **sloths** used to be 20 ft tall and they weighed around 2-3 tons? They were even taller than the woolly mammoth according to Thoughtco.com.

In more modern times, sloths have been mistaken for some type of monkey, but they're actually in the same family as armadillos and anteaters, as stated on activewild.com.

Another interesting fact about sloths is that they are faster in water than on land. In fact, they can move three times faster in water than on land. They can even hold their breath for 40 minutes!



SLOTHS AND AVOCADOS!

By Ian Verna

Do you like avocados? Maybe you eat them on toast or make guacamole for your chips. Well, sloths are the reason we have avocados.

Sloths used to be humungous! And they were the only mammals that had a big enough stomach to digest the entire avocado pit. Later they would poop it out in a new location and a new avocado tree would grow, according to Slothconservation.org. *(Continues on p.3)*



(Continued from Sloths and Avocados on p.2)

Speaking of poop, sloths can poop out a third of their body weight, so they better have good plumbing!

We all know sloths are slow, Slothconservation.org states that sloths can only walk at a speed of 0.003 miles an hour. That's even slower than my grandma! In fact, the old fable should've been The Sloth and The Hare instead of the Tortoise and the Hare!

While we're on the topic of slow-motion, did you know Sloths are slow enough that moss grows on their backs? Sloths are slow moving mammals and they live in central and South American rainforests. Moss grows in humidity and the sloths' damp fur is perfect to sprout moss, as noted in enchanting-costarica.com and instantanswers.org.

Sloths may be slow in movement, but they're also slow in processing! Sloths fall out of trees because they lack the sense of touch and they sometimes mistake their arms as branches. But do not fret because they can survive 100ft drops! You can find more about this slow and interesting creature on unrealfacts.com and slothconservation.org.



(The Progress **Pride** Flag, with the rainbow, and colors representing transgender people and people of color.)

LGBTQ Mental Health

~By Colby Salvo

LGBTQ individuals have so much to worry about. According to The Trevor Project, people are realizing that 2020 was incredibly difficult for LGBTQ youth and adults, as well as everyone else. We know that suicide remains a huge concern, with it always ranking as the second greatest cause of death among young people and really affecting the LGBTQ community. *(Continues at the top right of this page.)*

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(LGBTQ Mental Health Continued)

Sadly, the pandemic has made suicide rates much higher. There has never been a greater need for solid research, data gathering, and lots of mental health support. Every day, people encounter so many difficult issues. The Trevor Project website has a 2021 survey that provides insights into LGBTQ youth mental health issues, discrimination, housing instability, not being able to get health help, conversion therapy, and suicide, building on the findings of a previous survey. Below are the results. The 2021 survey also shows how safe spaces and social support have a positive impact on LGBTQ youth's well-being. It is the largest study of LGBTQ youth mental health ever performed, representing the experiences of nearly 40,000 LGBTQ teens and adults aged 13 to 24 from across the United States. This much information emphasizes the resiliency and diversity of LGBTQ youth, as well as the importance of embracing one's identity to one's health and wellness. The results of this survey also point to excellent strategies for supporting LGBTQ youth and contributing to their mental health, like being able to help your friend, your brother, sister, or neighbor. I, personally, have been in many challenging situations and all the assistance I received was super helpful in overcoming my mental health struggles. If you, or anyone you know, is going through the same, here are some resources from the TrevorProject.org to get the extra help you deserve:

Text line: Text "Start" to 678-678

Call line: 1-866-488-7386



(The Straight Ally Flag)

(Survey Results Continue on p. 4)

Here are **SOME** of the results of the Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBT Youth Mental Health 2021: (Trigger warning: suicide, self-harm, conversion therapy, abuse, and politics.)

40% of LGBTQ respondents seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months, with more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth having seriously considered suicide

48% of LGBTQ youth reported engaging in self-harm in the past twelve months, including over 60% of transgender and nonbinary youth

46% of LGBTQ youth report they wanted psychological or emotional counseling from a mental health professional but were unable to receive it in the past 12 months

10% of LGBTQ youth reported undergoing conversion therapy, with 78% reporting it occurred when they were under age 18

29% of LGBTQ youth have experienced homelessness, been kicked out, or run away

1 in 3 LGBTQ youth reported that they had been physically threatened or harmed in their lifetime due to their LGBTQ identity

61% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported being prevented or discouraged from using a bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity

86% of LGBTQ youth said that recent politics have negatively impacted their well-being

Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all or most people in their lives attempted suicide at HALF THE RATE of those who did not have their pronouns respected

These results really highlight that LGBTQ+ really benefit when accepted, encouraged, respected, and supported. Find more survey results at: www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/?section=Introduction.



Bubble House!

~by Michelle Ortega

This house does not look like your normal everyday house, right? This house is so different, really different! It sure doesn't resemble your neighbor's or your house!

Have you ever seen or heard about The Bubble Palace or The Palais Bulles? It is a place called The Bubble Palace, located on the French Riviera, set in Theoule-sur-Me near Cannes, France.

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Remember, there is help out there. You are not alone! Did you know our school has an LGBTQ+ and Ally support group called Spectrum? It meets every other Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Talk to Ms. Stachina and Mr. Pope for more information. Join Spectrum members as we advocate for an improved school climate by educating the larger school community about LGBT issues while supporting LGBT students and their allies!

(Continued from Bubble House p.4)

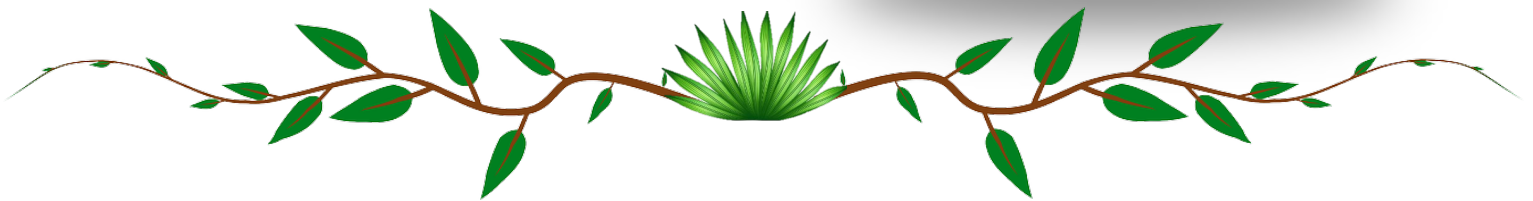
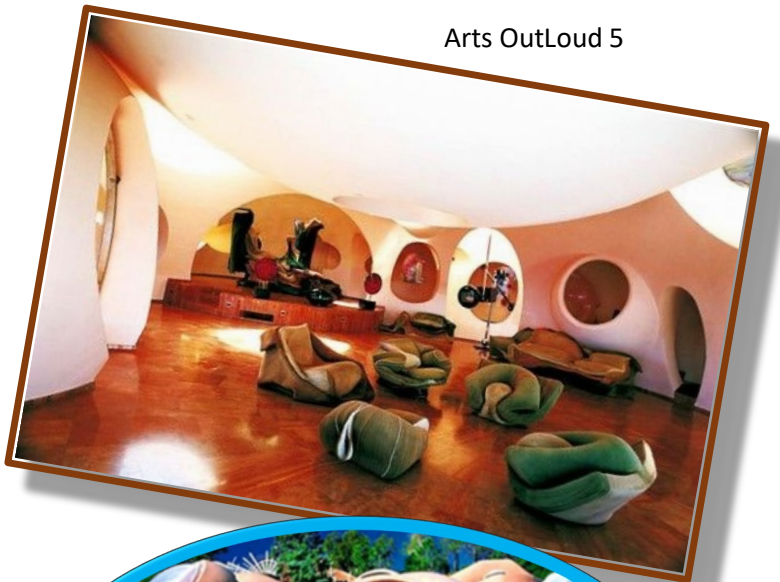
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What is The Bubble Palace made of you may ask? Well, it is made of reinforced wire mesh spray-coated with a concrete mix. The size of The Bubble Palace is 13,000 square feet. It sits on over two acres of land, and it has 28 round rooms, including a 500-seat amphitheater, reception room, panoramic lounge, and 10 suites. Who made it? Well, it was Antti Lovag and Pierre Bernard who had the Idea of The Bubble Palace. How did Antti Lovag and Pierre Bernard make it? Well, all of the spheres are constructed of lightweight mesh and rods and then covered with a concrete mix. Why did they make it? They wanted a house with a playful form that was spontaneous, joyful, and full of surprise. When was The Bubble Palace made? It was built in 1975 and took 14 years to construct. It was finally finished in 1989.

If you would like to learn more about this bubbly house, check out the following links:

www.theatlantic.com , www.dwell.com , and www.arch20.com.

What do you think? Would you want a house like this?



ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY: FUN FACTS

~by Sequoya Kehs

Do you know what Greek mythology is? Well if you don't, Greek mythology is a way the ancient Greeks explained how the world works. They also used myths to teach life lessons. Greek mythology has always been a very interesting topic to me. It's full of fun tales, and the animated videos of them are very entertaining to watch. In my research about Greek mythology, at Zestvine.com and theodysseyonline.com, I found 10 interesting mythological facts that are crazy, interesting, and fun!

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- It's believed that Homer, the guy who wrote about most of Greek Mythology, wasn't even just one person.
- The Titan, Cronus, ate each of his children as they were born. Yuck! He won't get Father of the Year!
- Greek Mythology helped shape today's plays and musicals. Greek Mythology references can also be found in today's science, arts, literature, and language.
- Hercules is a Roman hero, while Heracles is Greek. But these are essentially the same being.
- In Greek Mythology, supposedly, you can be dipped into the river Styx to become immortal like Achilles.
- The Hecatoncheires, 100 handed ones, were enormous creatures with 100 hands and 50 heads. They are the first children of Uranus and Gaia.
- Hera was very jealous of the fact that **Zeus** had many babies that weren't with her, so she said that their son, Hephaestus, was a virgin birth. This made Zeus very angry, and he took that anger out on Hephaestus by throwing him off of Mount Olympus.
- The four seasons exist because of Hades falling in love with Persephone and kidnapping her.
- The oldest Olympian is actually Aphrodite. Some stories say she is Zeus's daughter, but the origin myth actually makes her much older than him - as his great-aunt.
- Hera did eventually let go of her hatred towards Heracles, when Heracles saved her and other gods from the Titans. She even offered her daughter to be his bride. What a great mom!

If you enjoyed these fun facts, you can find more information on Ancient Greek Myths at Zestvine.com and theodysseyonline.com.



Representation in Literature

~by Lianni Rosado

The literary world is constantly expanding. The media is introducing and welcoming diverse topics left and right. People have come a long way with what topics and characters they choose to include in their writing. However, more representation can open doors for people. Not one of us is the same, so displaying that in works of literature can inspire both readers and other writers.

A study done by the Cooperative Children's Book Center shows that in 2019 71% of books were about "white children, talking bears, trucks, monsters, potatoes, etc. But what about the underrepresented minorities? For readers who aren't a part of those overrepresented majorities, it can be difficult to have their hardships, culture, and very lives excluded from written works. It's much more realistic to see characters that embody the lives and experiences of real people. Literature doesn't have to be the same old stories.

Not being represented in literature can also be very harmful for the minorities themselves. They may not feel seen or heard if they aren't seeing any characters that they can relate to. No one should ever have to feel like they are being silenced and spoken down upon because of their gender, race, sexuality, etc. There are so many stories unwritten that can truly make a difference and have an impact on our society today if they were to be displayed and included in literature.

Being represented in literature can also help young children develop a strong self-concept. A study of children's books published between 2003 and 2008 for representations of BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) folks, it was ascertained that, "racial and ethnic prejudices often make it difficult for children of color to develop positive feelings of competency and worth." Reading the story of someone just like you can be refreshing because it makes you feel less alone. Readers won't feel so

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disregarded or unacknowledged because there are other people that experience what they do. That can be very reassuring, especially for children.

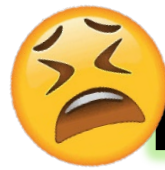
POC (people of color), the LGBTQ+ community, and other minorities should not have to constantly feel like their existence is not worth representing. They should not have to grow up believing that their stories are daunting and negative, because they aren't. Children of these minority groups are exposed to this narrative from a very young age, and this type of message is constantly being shoved in their faces with the lack of representation in the books that they read.

All in all, including more representation of diverse minorities in books can have a positive impact on society. Writers have the ability to inspire thousands of individuals with just one novel. They can also inspire other young readers and writers to dream big, break down the walls of stereotypes, and go beyond.



To be different,
Not the same as another,
Diverse, distinct, peculiar,
These are just some synonyms for different,
Which I hope can make a difference,
In a world of such resistance.

- M. @kindnessprxjct



Emotions

Influence



Decisions

~ by Ethan Devers



Every day people use emotions to influence their decisions. It's very common for a lot of people, including me. It's not necessarily a bad thing, but sometimes it can cause problems.

According to Seeken.org there are two different types of emotions, positive and negative, which have extreme effects on our decisions. For negative emotions like anger and embarrassment, we tend to not use logical thought. And when we make decisions in the midst of these emotions, they are usually wrong. Even though positive emotions can be good to experience, they can sometimes force you to make wrong decisions. You might be asking why they can influence you to make wrong decisions and the reason is that when you are extremely happy you might not really think all that much about what's going on. According to bachremedies.com, emotions are created when the brain interprets where they are and what's going on around them. And all decisions are influenced by this process in some way.

Here is an example of how emotions can affect decisions. "For example, if you're feeling happy, you might decide to walk home via a sunny park. But if you'd been chased by a dog as a child in a park, that same sunny park might trigger feelings of fear, and you'd take the bus instead," as noted by bachremedies.com. This shows the way emotions influence decision making because every move is really influenced by emotions.

So, the next time you make a decision, ask yourself if you are letting emotions affect your choice. Be honest with yourself, and make choices that are right for you, not based on emotions alone.



Is the Russian Sleep Experiment Real?

~By Tyler Scherter

What was the Russian sleep experiment?

Researchers took five people from prison to participate in an experiment where they locked them in a room with gas and made them stay awake for 30 days straight – a chemically forced **insomnia**. “While the room was stocked with sleeping cots and books, there were no bedcovers, running water, a toilet, or even enough dried food to last them all for an entire month,” according to sleepguru.com.

In the experiment, five prisoners were told they would be let free after participating in the gruesome study. They hardly complained for the first couple of days and it was going fairly well. The Russian researchers still monitored them. Eventually, their conversations and movements started to shift to a darker tone. The prisoners started to complain about the conditions and the events that they signed up for. Their complaints were ignored. “One of the test subjects started screaming at the top of his lungs for three hours straight, all while running the length of the room until he was only able to emit squeaks. The researchers learned that his vocal cords were destroyed. The other test subjects continued with their behaviors, unusually not reacting to the behavior of the first, as they demonstrated their continued **paranoia** by whispering into the microphones. That is until a second subject followed the behavior of the previously screaming first,” Sleepguru.com.

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“It is obvious to see why some people might believe in this story since its downward spiral reads somewhat similar to The Stanford Prison Experiment. However, while many have heard all about the unethical practices in prisons around the world, this one is a really just a work of **fiction**. It was first published by Creepypasta, where it has since become one of its most popular stories - the stuff of urban legends. You might have heard of the site after it gained popularity as a result of its character, Slenderman,” Sleepguru.com.

I guess what this teaches us is - don't believe everything you read!

Other Urban Legends

Urban Legend: “A humorous or horrific story or piece of information circulated as true,” (Oxford Languages Dictionary).

Why are urban legends so interesting? We just love to tell scary, or weird, tales that may or may not be true. Here are some urban legends that you might have heard before.

1. There are bodies buried in Hoover Dam.
2. Pools will turn red if you pee in them.
3. Wedding rice thrown on a just married couple, if not picked up, will make birds explode.
4. Humans only use 10% of their brains.
5. Shaving hair makes it grow back thicker.
6. Friday the 13th is unlucky, or deadly!
7. Coca-Cola can dissolve teeth.
8. Gum stays in your stomach for 7 years.
9. Cracking knuckles causes arthritis.
10. There are large live alligators living in the sewers of New York City.

Spoiler ALERT! According to stacker.com, all these urban legends are false! Go to [25 popular urban legends explained | Stacker](#) for more info.



Immigration Issues

by Mya Duran

Immigration is an important topic that not many talk about. Many people experience discrimination because of their culture, skin tone, or because they cannot speak English, on a day to day basis- some at school others at work. People think that immigrants can just get on a plane and stay in the U.S. But in reality, it's much more difficult than that.

Did you know that to be able to legally live in the United States from a country like The Dominican Republic you have to be able go through many procedures like filing for papers and obtaining a green card? This can take many, many years. Some try multiple times until they can't take it anymore and find a way to get here illegally because they want better lives for their families. According to factcheck.org, "More than 10.8 million illegal immigrants were deported in 2016." Can you believe that so many people got separated from their children and families?

I talked to someone who has actually experienced discrimination and who struggled to get her papers and her green card. She talked to me about how she was treated differently because she did not speak English. She went to a store one time and forgot her card in the car. She went to go get it and said she would be right back. Instead of waiting for her to get back, the cashier put all the groceries away. She was so upset.

So, what is the answer to these problems? Change is slow. Please remember, you don't know what others have gone through. Please be kind and gracious. Treat others how you want to be treated. Making our world a better place is everyone's responsibility!

Coming Out: Tips and Tricks!

~By Ava Beck

Hello, people! In this thrilling article, I will give you tips and tricks on how to tell different people that you're... well, whatever you are, whether thou be gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, non-binary, transgender, or genderfluid. Shall I go on? You're unique and your own, no matter what you are, and if the person you're coming out to doesn't understand that, they're the ones in the wrong, not you. In my research, I found a couple sites that had some great ideas on ways you can let people know your feelings about your sexuality or gender. The following was compiled from two helpful sites that are supportive to LGBTQ+ issues. They are LGBTQ+ Students Center at lgbtqplus.usc.edu and also Healthline at healthline.com.

Tip 1. According to Sian Ferguson at lgbtqplus.usc.edu, she feels that you should not rush. Take your time! You don't need to tell others right away.

Tip 2. Bring up the LGBTQ+ community during a conversation. This will really help you know if the person you are speaking to is an ally. It can also get a conversation going. If they aren't supportive, and you think you will physically or mentally get hurt if you come out, by all means, DON'T DO IT (healthline.com).

Tip 3. Find a good time to come out. If you are currently fighting with your friend, parent, or others, or in a heated discussion, don't come out right then (lgbtqplus.usc.com).

Tip 4. Another helpful idea, I believe, is to find a group of helpful people that support you and can relate to you.

Tip 5. Be ready for different types of reactions. Like the following...

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The main types of reactions others may have, ranked best to worst.

1. The amazing ones. These people are the best, in my opinion. They are loving and accepting, and most of the time pretty educated on LGBTQ+ issues. They help you on the journey of discovering yourself, trying their best to remember your pronouns, or respect your sexuality, meanwhile loving you just the same.

2. The uneducated ones. These parents/others may ask you a lot of questions about the community, your sexuality or pronouns, or other LGBTQ+ related topics. It is important to know that, even if they are slightly confused, they still love you.

3. The "okay" ones. These parents/others just say okay when you come out. They don't ask questions; instead they just respect your pronouns or gender. They are, all in all, awesome people, either understanding the community already or not wanting to make you uncomfortable.

4. The nice ones. They love you a lot, just don't remember to use your new pronouns ALL the time. But they are still great!

5. The trying to be nice ones. This is where it starts to go, well, downhill. They try to be nice, but end up kind of insulting you, making you feel bad, like you shouldn't be this way, when really, they have no clue what they are talking about. You're awesome!

6. The toxic kind. Yeah, these people are pretty upsetting. They get angry at you for coming out, they don't use your preferred pronouns, or they are mad if you like someone of the same gender.

7. The really mean ones. They scream at you for being yourself, continuously mocking the community or telling other people about how dumb you are. Now that you've come out, they seem to treat you like you're nothing.

8. The horrible ones. Some parents threaten to kick you out of the house, barely talk to you, pretty much shut you out of their lives. Some may mock you, punish you for the smallest of things, and might even physically hurt you.

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I recommend talking to somebody if you are going through any of the scenarios after number five. Further, please consider talking to a trusted adult, friend, or authority to help you. I wrote this for my fellow LGBTQ+ people because I feel like some need it. It's tough coming out and you shouldn't pressure yourself to do so. Try using these tips, and remember, I am not a professional. You can use these tips, but I don't guarantee they will work. If you would like more information, don't forget to check out the sites I researched to write this article. Good luck and know that you are awesome and you are not alone!



Buy These Games, Do It Now!

~ by Hugo Yelagin

So, you may be thinking, "I'm getting bored of the games I play." Are Call of **Duty** or **Fortnite** getting old? I suspect some might think this because the exact same thing has happened to me. I'm an amateur when it comes to games but I have selected a few of my favorites that come from smaller developers and need more love to show you today and try to convince you to buy them! So, let's get into it.

The first game is my personal favorite of all time: **Hollow Knight**. This world is literally
(Continues on p. 11)



(Buy These Games Continued from p. 10)

what got me to download steam (where you can find all of these games) and was developed by Team Cherry, a small developer team located in Australia. They created Hollow Knight as their first game and it was a huge success. Their really unique art style and amazing way to tell a story, without your character saying a single word, is incredible as you explore the ancient world of Hallownest, fight zombified husks, and discover ancient secrets of the kingdom. The game is classic side-scroller fun and this older style has been reworked and modernized into a brilliant experience that can be purchased on all platforms for \$15!

Little **Nightmares** II is my second pick. While Hollow Knight told a story without your main character speaking, this game has no words at all for any of its characters. The Little Nightmares series is a horror title that was developed by Tarsier studios. Instead of focusing around animatronic bears or running from a knife-wielding murderer, Little Nightmares focuses around puzzles and escaping the nightmarish schools, forests, and cities in a world called "The Maw." You run with your companion trying to find out what went wrong with the word and why it is corrupted and learn a sinister message about the way the world works along the way. The Little Nightmares series can be played out of order and even on mobile so don't be afraid to buy them.

And finally, we get to number three: Totally Accurate Battlegrounds. Totally Accurate Battlegrounds (or TABG) is a wacky departure from our other two titles and it involves the creators of the critically acclaimed, "Stick Fight: The Game," and "Totally Accurate Battle Simulator." Only this time Landfall games have outdone themselves, yet again, and made their silly, wacky world into a multiplayer battle royal with silly weapons like a balloon gun, firework crossbow, and a blunderbuss from the 1700's. Its community is known for being just as weird and strange as the game itself. And guess what? It is completely **free** to play right now on PC, meaning you can get it today. The game is still a little buggy but that shouldn't stop you from having fun!

Now these are just my picks for some of the most fun indie games out there but I think that you might have some different picks than me. And of course, that's fine. But seriously, if you're getting bored of playing the same game that hasn't been updated for what feels like years than give these games a chance. There is a game that is considered art, a game that is almost like a horror movie, and a game for everyone desiring a silly experience. I promise you won't regret it!

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PERIOD PROBLEMS!

WHY DON'T SCHOOLS PROVIDE PERIOD PRODUCTS?

~BY MALAIKA KHAN 2022

All AFAB (assigned female at birth) people know that panicky feeling when we need to get to a bathroom immediately! We reach into our bags and don't have the products we so desperately needed. Why aren't period products supplied in school? Why should we have to go through the discomfort of asking a friend for a pad or maybe even having to go to the nurse? Even so, the nurse has a limited number of pads/tampons. When you need to go to the bathroom, sometimes your teacher doesn't allow you. This isn't a fun **debate** to have! How are you going to tell them why it's urgent without feeling crippling embarrassment? The uncomfortable feelings we go through are astronomical!

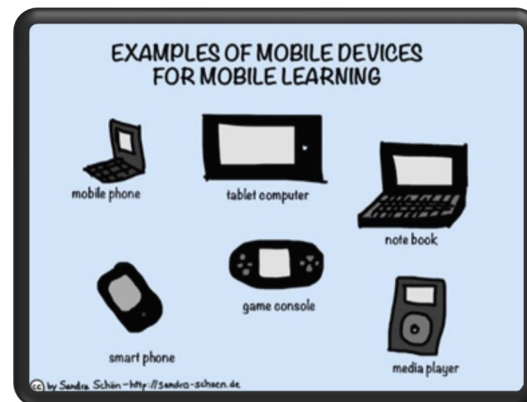
Due to the new Tiktok trend, "The Devious Licks," our school now has limited the times for going to the bathroom, and they don't allow you to take your backpack with you to the restroom. Some of my fellow classmates have provided menstrual products in the bathroom knowing that our school doesn't bother to do so. What if the AMAB people also had the same problems as us AFAB? Would we then get our products?

Some schools do provide menstrual products but you have to pay for them as well, and why should we have to pay for simple products when hand soap and paper towels are free? If schools can fund paper towels and hand soap as well as the hand dryer, can't they replace the hand dryer to save money and provide period products?

As noted on Kiddle.com only three states provide period products for schools and restrooms. New York now provides FREE menstrual products for high schoolers, while California also provides FREE menstrual products for restrooms. Further, Illinois also provides FREE menstrual products for restrooms. Out of 50 states, only these three states provide free menstrual products in restrooms or in schools. If they can do it, so can we!

Students, if you feel our school should step up and provide free period products for us, kindly let the administration know. This simple service could prevent future embarrassment for so many students!

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Should Personal Tech Be Allowed in Schools?

~By Remy Gudiel

Hello there, Arts Academy! I'm Remy Gudiel and I've been thinking, "Why aren't personal **devices** allowed?" I'm pretty sure we all know by now that any personal devices from home are banned here at Arts Academy, and I'm pretty sure that we're all tired of this rule.

There could be so many benefits to the use of personal devices in this school! And I believe if our devices were allowed, the school environment could improve greatly and be less stressful for everyone. And so that's why I am going to provide reasons as to why personal devices could be a great benefit for this school and could also be a great benefit to save time for Mr. Howard!

Personal devices can help the decrease amount of money that our school spends. It's a well-known fact that educational materials are pricy, especially textbooks. According to aeducation.com, "It's estimated that schools spend about \$250 per student per year for textbooks."

And yes, we do have laptops that could provide us information, but at times they can be an inconvenience due to the security limits and malfunctions. And plus, all of our laptops have been through a lot, and so they could have all sorts of problems. Which is why our school's dear staff member, Mr. Howard, is always running around the building a lot. *(Continues on p. 13)*



(Continued from p. 12)

But if our school allowed personal devices, students could download free educational PDFs onto their devices. We could also take photos of notes and record lessons on our personal devices, we could even use our devices themselves to take notes for us since it could be quicker. There are many apps and programs on our devices that could make our learning process even easier. And it'd be even easier for Mr. Howard if we were allowed to use our personal devices, since there wouldn't be as much computer issues he'd have to solve.

As we all know, there have been many write ups in this school. One of the most infamous reasons as to why a lot of write ups happen is because of the no cellphone rule. We have many kids trying their best to find ways to sneak onto their phones during class, and to be honest, it's tiring. The no cellphone rule promotes the idea that kids should be sneaky and that results in kids trying to sneak onto their phones. If we had designated times for our phones and personal devices, it'd likely decrease the amount of write ups students get.

Another reason as to why personal devices can be good is because they can help in communication. It can be hard to communicate with your friends in school, especially since most teachers won't allow that often due to the noise. And we could even contact our parents, but our teachers don't let us since we could, "Always go to the office."

But if we're allowed to use our personal devices, we could save so much time and energy. Some students don't like to communicate verbally, some are even uncomfortable with it. If personal devices were allowed, we could communicate with each other much easier. We could stay in contact with friends outside of school. And we could also just communicate with our parents easier, which could save the office and administration so much time.

When would be a good time to use our devices? How can we use them and not mess this up? Well, we should set designated times that could allow us to use our devices. I'd say a good time to put our devices to use is during lunch and study hall, since it's our designated free time. And for note-taking during class, we could use our devices to put down notes.



As long as we don't do anything inappropriate on our devices, I believe that it could greatly benefit our school.

Arts OutLoud 13

Warzone Is the Best!

~by Justin Fragosa

Hey Gamers! I'm Justin Fragosa and I just love gaming! I bet many of you do, too! There are so many great games out there, but only one is the best shooting game in 2021 - Warzone.

Warzone's Argument

Call of Duty is now the best shooter game out there, I believe. Before Warzone had come out, Fortnite was on top with Apex Legends but not anymore. With Warzone's release all the Fortnite players switched, and most people deleted Fortnite. People liked how you could create your own loadouts and how it had more than one map to play on. If players had Modern Warfare or Cold War, they could upgrade their weapons on multiplayer. A few months ago, people stopped playing Warzone and switched to this new shooting game called Splitgate. The reason they switched is because Warzone did not have anti-cheat. An anti-cheat is when a hacker and their console get banned from playing the game. Therefore, players migrated to Splitgate because it had anti-cheat. Now Activision (the creators of Warzone) announced that they were working on an anti-cheat for Warzone that comes out on November 5th. That's great news!

What Has More of a Fan Base, Call of Duty or Fortnite?

According to stealthoptional.com, Warzone has 100 million players, but Fortnite has over 3 times that many. Fortnite has 350 million people playing the game even though warzone took some of their players. This means that Fortnite is the most popular battle royale game!

Fortnite's Argument

Fortnite: Battle Royale came out September 26th 2017, and was the most popular game when it came out. (Continues on p. 14)

Fortnite brought several things that we have never seen in a battle royale game like building, 3rd person, and having more than two guns to work with. And you can use more than one of the same weapons at a time. There are patch notes that tell you what is new. It also tells you what had been taken out and map changes. Fortnite was so popular that adults started playing, like one 50-year-old Fortnite pro player named, Acting like Tommy.

Splitgate's Argument

Splitgate came out August of 2021 and took some of Warzone's and Fortnite's loyal players. Eventually Splitgate fell in popularity because Warzone and Fortnite improved their game numbers. Also, people started hacking, and that really spoiled the experience. Now people barely play the game, and everyone switched to Warzone with its amazing graphics.

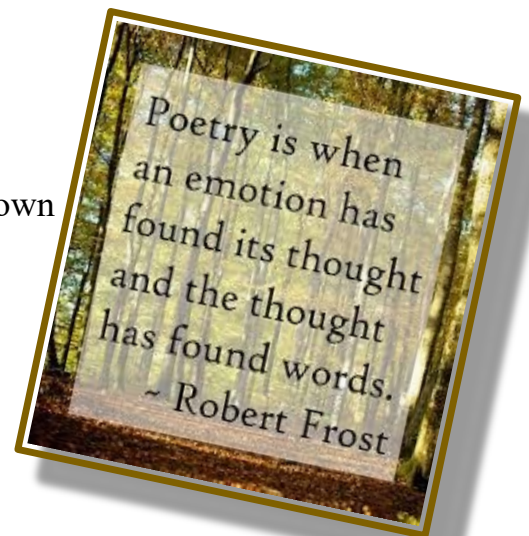
In conclusion, Warzone has better gameplay, graphics, guns, maps, and has a loadout so you can pick what guns you want. Fortnite has the best fan base and more people playing the game. But Splitgate is just the worst game! It has one of the worst graphics and movement. I know these are my opinions, but this is why Warzone is the best game! It truly is my favorite, and if you give it a chance, I bet you will love it too! Game on!



Poetry

Ugh, Love...

Love is something I feel is weird
Just the sound of it brings me tears
I prefer to be alone than waste my time on someone unknown
I can't trust nor believe so I choose not to see
I choose not to care
I choose to ignore
The special someone I so call need
Doesn't deserve my precious sanity
~Malaika Khan



Once Upon a Tear Drop

Once upon a tear drop
A child sat in a shell
Voices around muffled
By the thick walls of insecurity
Bound by the hurt
Scared by the monsters they called
people
Utterly beaten
By the world that was supposed to be
their oyster
Robbed of their childhood
By the same person who trapped them
Once upon a tear drop
Held a bruised child
By: JPM

Dreams

Don't let your dreams go afar
like they say
you can reach for the stars
so, don't let dreams run astray

Let the world know your name
have dreams that reach high
because your limit is the sky
and your dreams can fly

By Jordan Coughlan

I Have A Voice

I have a voice...
Booming through the fields
through the fighting and the debris
hoarse it may be
I refuse to stay unspeaking

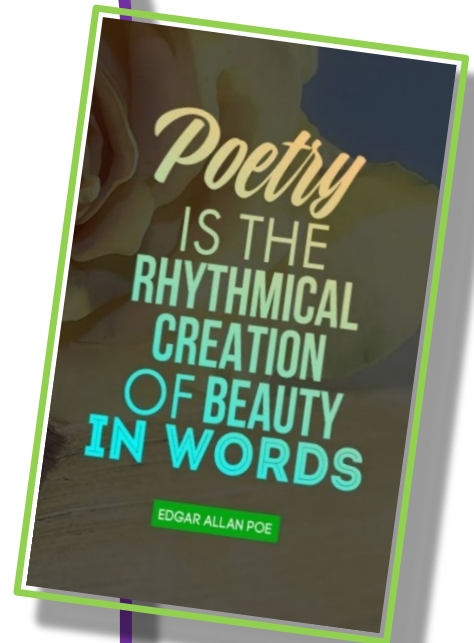
By: JPM

(based off of "A Beautiful Noise" by Alicia keys)

To Teleftaío Atomo

The last breath
 The last hour
 the last human
 the last finger
 the last life
 the last planet
 I can take your breath away, hoping that you'll stay
 I'm the last human, I can't look away
 Looking at the stars wondering if the last planet is safe
 The last hour is almost here, the last life is going to disappear
 The last finger is falling apart, I look into my hand as blood gushes out
 Thanatos appears, my pain disappears I see myself flying around
 Then sucked underground my body falls apart
 The last sigh, the last blink, the last breath
 The last time I look at the sky, so blue and so bright
 I see the clouds forming one more time
 I hit the ground and feel my eyes shut
 I'm finally free from the last life I can go on and watch from a high

~ by Malaika Khan



The Sun

It's so bright as if it were the life source of the universe
 A holder of light and fire
 It's like a flame that can't be blown out
 As if it's a majestic goddess waiting to go to sleep
 A huge ball of light that desperately needs to get out to the universe
 By Jordan Coughlan

I, The Strong

You fight everyday no matter how tired you are
 Every day you say you're feeling fine
 But I can see the pain in your eyes
 Hospital visit became daily visits
 Please say you'll be okay
 Please enlighten me one more time
 Just this one time say you're fine
 a year and couple of days
 you've beaten this sickness
 your pain was not in vain you survived
 and for that I am proud
 you beat cancer

By: JPM



LET'S SEE WHAT YOU LEARNED!

Arts OutLoud 17



Across

- [2] A cute creature known for its slow movement and long claws
- [4] A job you are honor bound to do
- [6] A period of two weeks
- [7] Unjustified suspicion about others
- [8] A machine that is used to entertain or do work

Down

- [1] A condition in which you cannot sleep.
- [3] Empty, without a center, devoid of anything inside
- [4] A formal argument or disagreement between two people.
- [5] A scary dream that you wake up from
- [7] Being proud of who you are



Editor's Note: Contributors to this edition of Arts OutLoud 2021-2022 included the 7th grade primary and secondary Literary Media Arts students as well as the 8th grade students too! Students created their contributions to this edition throughout the first three marking periods of the 2021-2022 school year. We truly hope you enjoyed reading! See Mrs. Pasquarella or Mrs. Frankenfield for the answers to the crossword puzzle. There is a snack prize for the first three 100% correctly completed puzzles!

