

THE TOMAHAWK

Spring 2019

May Edition

Tantasqua

THE ADL CONFERENCE

By Serena Chiasson
Photographs by Serena Chiasson

On April 12th, members of Tantasqua's Anti-Defamation League (ADL) club took a trip to Boston to take part in the twenty-fifth annual ADL Youth Congress. Eighty-two schools from across New England participated in the event. This year it was centered around anti-Semitism, but various other types of hatred



and bias were discussed, as well. Guest speaker, George J. Elbaum, spoke about his experience as a Jewish Holocaust survivor. He

stressed the importance of combating hatred. If discrimination against a specific group of people progresses to the extent that it did decades ago, genocide can occur. Current and future leaders need to be educated on the effects of discrimination and need to learn how to combat such issues.

After Elbaum's presentation, and a performance from the drumline Grooversity, students separated into small groups and dispersed throughout the building. In these small groups, students were able to have more intimate discussions about different forms of bias they have seen and experienced in their schools. Some forms of bias that were discussed include homophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, as well as a few others. Students brainstormed ideas on how to handle sensitive issues like these, and how to prevent related incidents from occurring in the future.

(tab) The Anti-Defamation League is a newer club here at Tantasqua, co-advised by Mr. Lafortune and Mr. Kristensen. Mr. Lafortune advised the club at the junior high before moving it to the high school. The club stands to educate the school on bias and prejudice.



Members of the club have been working on a lesson plan to share with the school through advisory plans; they are also looking forward to getting official training next year to be certified by the ADL. Their hopes are to be able to lead their advisory plans and become peer leaders at the next ADL Youth Congress.

Anyone is able to join ADL and they meet most Tuesdays – contact Mr. Lafortune for more information. Whether you can come to every meeting, or just a few, everyone can play a part in ending bias and prejudice in school, and this club is a great place to start.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2019

By Liza Flandreau
Photographs by Liam Metz

Many people have been affected by cancer in their lives. For this reason, every year, the Tantasqua School District participates in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. With twenty-seven teams and over 220 participants, the school district was able to raise over \$29,000 for cancer research. The top team – raising over \$6,000 alone – was "Burgess Brave": a team of teachers and staff from Burgess Elementary School. The following two teams were "B. E. S. Strong", and "Health Careers Cancer Crushers 2.0", who raised \$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively.

Although the fundraising began earlier this school year, the actual event took place on March 29th, 2019 in Tantasqua's field house. Teachers, students, and community members alike came to support cancer research by walking for a cure. The event went all night and anyone who raised \$100 was welcome to stay over. The atmosphere was cheerful and determined as the community continued to raise money throughout the night.

To honor those who have been through the battle, the event was kicked off with a survivor walk. The community cheered on local cancer survivors as they took their lap around the gym. Next, caregivers got a chance to be recognized in the second lap of the evening. There was also a luminaria ceremony where people decorated luminarias and lit the candle inside to remember and celebrate the lives of lost ones, as well as to honor living survivors.

The American Cancer Society started this symbolic tradition to "show everyone affected by cancer that [there is] light in the darkness."

Ms. Sullivan and Mrs. Kennedy led the event with the help of the Relay for Life committee, which is made up of Tantasqua's high school students. The committee planned, set up, and cleaned up after the event was over. The committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated and donated this year and they look forward to next year's fundraiser.

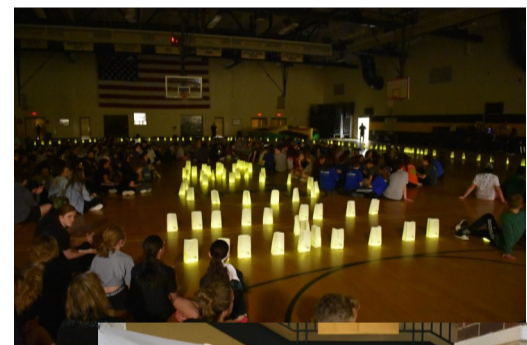


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



TANTASQUA'S SPRING MUSICAL

By Liam Metz

Photographs provided by Ms. Briggs and Mr. Lucas

The Tantasqua Drama Club presented *Seussical: the Musical* on May 3rd and 4th. Large crowds turned up to watch the production, and for the first time in years, the balcony had to be made available to the audience.

The musical was based off of the whimsical stories of Dr. Seuss. The child JoJo, acted by Mai Caslowitz, meets the crazy Cat in the Hat, acted by Grace Ahlstrand. They then go on many adventures and meet various interesting characters. They meet a kind elephant named Horton (Matt Morales), a shy bird named Gertrude (Sydney Leanna), and many more, each with a colorful personality to add to the diverse cast of *Seussical*. There are moral lessons to be learned throughout the entire musical, and they are delivered in a clever Seuss-like package that blends humor with reality.

Color adorned the set and large abstract shapes made an archway across the stage that was perfect for the setting of the musical. When combined with the clever costumes, it really looked like a scene out of a Dr. Seuss book. This magical set was created and built by the innovative members of the Carpentry department: Mr. Morrison and Mr. Seguin.

After his first viewing, Mr. Lucas had nothing he could say besides the fact that "it [was] AWESOME!"

The musical was directed by Ms. Briggs, with assistance from Mr. Ternullo (assistant director and vocal coach), Mr. Raymond (conductor of Pit Band), Mrs. Arrastia (choreographer), and Ms. Boyd (coordinator of the Youth Ensemble). The Tantasqua Drama Club put on a great show that was much loved by everyone that went to see it.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SCIENCE FAIR & ALL ARTS DAY

By Liza Flandreau

Photographs by Liza Flandreau

This year the annual Science Fair and All Arts Day was held during the first week of April. The display of projects and art was open to the public on Tuesday night, April 2nd, and open to students, teachers, and judges the following day. This year there were thirty-six projects by forty-nine students who competed in the Science Fair. The foyer and second floor were filled with art by high school students, as well as elementary school students. All Arts Day is a brilliant way for aspiring art students to show their work and get feedback for further developing their skills. Below are the results of the Science Fair, provided by Ms. Breinlinger:

Tuesday Night Community Preview - People's Choice

- 1st Place: *Isabella Pabon and Kylee Inthiraith: Heart-to-Heart*
- 2nd Place: *Olivia Livingston: Food for Thought*
- 3rd Place: *Griffin Michalak: The Shove It: The Bucket Shovel*
- 3rd Place: *Jonah Green: Effect of Antibacterial Soaps*

Wednesday - People's Choice

- 1st Place: *Jack Leland and Troy Phay: Venus Fly Trap Experiment*
- 2nd Place: *Jonah Green: Effect of Antibacterial Soaps*
- 3rd Place: *Griffin Michalak: The Shove It: The Bucket Shovel*
- 3rd Place: *Lily Audette: Colby Cheese Experiment*

Judges' Choice - Engineering Fair

- Gold: *Avery Knott: A Safer Hockey Puck*
- Gold: *Griffin Michalak: The Shove It: The Bucket Shovel*
- Silver: *Isabella Pabon and Kylee Inthiraith: Heart-to-Heart*
- Silver: *Dakota Schantz: Period Pocket*

Judges' Choice - 9th and 10th Grade Science Fair

- Gold: *Erin Parker: Water Potability of Surrounding Watersheds*
- Silver: *Lily Audette: Colby Cheese Experiment*
- Silver: *Claire Sosik: The Best Mosquito Repellent*
- Bronze: *Olivia Livingston: Food for Thought*
- Bronze: *Ana Wengender: How Posture Affects Memory*

Judges' Choice - 11th and 12 Grade Science Fair

- Gold: *Nick Chidester and Nadine Chidester: Is Road Salt Polluting our Ponds?*
- Gold: *Addie Ellithorpe and Ali Jdrzejczyk: People Vs. Plastics*
- Silver: *Kathryn Henry: Recyclable Roads*
- Bronze: *Nichola Sciullo: Damaging Effects of Light*
- Bronze: *Jonah Green: Effect of Antibacterial Soaps*

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: TANTASQUA BUDDIES

By Alexandra Mrotek

Photograph by Todd McCarthy

The Tantasqua Best Buddies club gives students the chance to make friends with the students at Tantasqua with special needs. Each club meeting consists of fun activities such as doing crafts like tie-dyeing, playing games, having parties, or listening to speakers. During a meeting, students



work in groups or buddy up with a student with special needs, but not always the same person. This way students can get to know different people. The advisor, Mrs. Kennedy, says that this club is really just “about having fun and making friends with people you wouldn’t normally see.”

The Tantasqua Best Buddies club meets after school twice a month on Thursdays in the Beyond Pathways room. Anyone can join, and it has a flexible schedule so students don’t need to be present at all meetings to be a part of the club. Students should join this club if they are looking for a fun environment to meet new people and make new friends, and if they want to help out and get to know the students with special needs here at Tantasqua. The Tantasqua Best Buddies club is an extremely welcoming club, and it would love to see new students join.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: MATH TEAM

By Kathleen Mantalvanos

Any students who are interested in solving challenging math problems should look into joining the Math Team at Tantasqua Regional High School. Math Team is a club that is open to all students and there are several meetings throughout the year. Each year the club participates in four math meets at other local high schools. Math Team meets involve five rounds of different subjects, and they are timed. After the five rounds, they have a short intermission period, and then follow up with which school won. Math Team is a great choice for students of any grade to exhibit their math skills and strive to improve them.



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SPORTS

SENIOR SPORTS

By Liza Flandreau
Photographs provided by Mr. Lucas

This year, three seniors have signed a National Letter of Intent, committing to a college for a particular sport. Jill Dunn committed to La Moyné College for softball, Austin Varney committed to Franklin Pierce University for lacrosse, and Michael “Chippy” Sosik committed to Franklin Pierce University to play golf. Sosik is “looking forward to [his] future in golf and [he hopes] to go pro if everything goes well in college.”

A National Letter of Intent is a legal document stating that the student will attend that specific National Collegiate Athletic Association college in the fall. NLI is only used for Division I and II sports and are a major accomplishment for the students who sign them.

Good luck to Dunn, Varney, and Sosik; Tantasqua wishes you a bright and successful future!

SPORTS SCHEDULE

By Liza Flandreau

Below is a list of dates, times, and opponents of spring sport games/meets that are held here at Tantasqua (starting May 6th). For the full list of home and away games/meets, go onto the high school’s website, click “Athletics” in the left column, and then click “Athletics Website” for the schedules of each sport, or click [here](#).

Key:
Girl Games
Boy Games
Co-ed



Varsity Lacrosse	Varsity Tennis	Varsity Softball	Varsity Baseball	Varsity Outdoor Track
05/07/19 vs. Grafton HS @ 3:30PM	05/06/19 vs. Southbridge HS @ 3:30PM	05/13/19 vs. Leicester HS @ 3:30PM	05/10/19 vs. Holy Name HS @ 3:30PM	05/08/19 vs. Northbridge HS @ 3:30PM
05/09/19 vs. Worcester HS @ 3:30PM	05/09/19 vs. Shepherd Hill HS @ 3:30PM	05/21/19 vs. Quaboag HS @ 3:30PM	05/13/19 vs. Leicester HS @ 3:30PM	
05/14/19 vs. Northbridge HS @ 3:30PM	05/13/19 vs. Leicester HS @ 3:30PM	05/24/19 vs. Chicopee HS @ 4PM	05/21/19 vs. Quaboag HS @ 3:30PM	
05/16/19 vs. Auburn HS @ 3:30PM	05/15/19 vs. David Prouty HS @ 3:30PM			
05/20/19 vs. Westborough HS @ 4PM	05/16/19 vs. Doherty HS @ 3:30PM			
05/20/19 vs. Agawam HS @ 4PM	05/20/19 vs. East Longmeadow HS @ 3:30PM			
05/23/19 vs. Hopedale HS @ 3:30PM	05/21/19 vs. Quaboag HS @ 3:30PM			
05/28/19 vs. Nipmuc HS @ 3:30PM				



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NEWS

HONOR BOWL

By Liam Metz

Photograph provided by Mr. Lucas



Honor Bowl is the closest thing Tantasqua High School has to its very own trivia team. It is an organization backed by National Honor Society and features members exclusively from NHS.

At meetings, participants usually practice by watching Jeopardy. They make sure to have fun while preparing for competitions in a relaxed manner. This year, Chuck O'Coin and Kathryn Henry were captains and led the practices and the team through their competitions.

This year there were three competitions for Honor Bowl. Two were at other high schools and one was hosted at Tantasqua. Each competition has three teams, and each team takes turns competing against each other. At all three competitions, Tantasqua won each match they were in.

Honor Bowl had a wonderful and undefeated season. The participants formed a strong bond and are even trying to do trivia outside of the standard competitions on their own time. At the final banquet, the future captains were announced; Annika Terry and Shannon Tweraser will be leading the team for what is hoped to be another wonderful season next year.



SKILLS USA 2019

By Kathleen Mantalvanos

Photograph provided by Chef Popp

SkillsUSA is the partnership between teachers and students to ensure that America has a skilled workforce. This year, at Tantasqua Regional High School, the students in the Tech Division went to SkillsUSA Districts in March to compete with other schools about their knowledge of their trades. Twelve students, out of the seventy that competed, received medals ranging from gold to bronze. SkillsUSA changes the lives of many students and helps them discover and further develop their passion for their career.

District Medal Winners from Tantasqua:

- Ty Lacey - silver in architectural drafting
- Cara Desrosiers - silver in Carpentry
- Sean Burdett - silver in CNC turning
- Liam Paulhus - silver in computer programming
- Katelyn Stockwell - silver in customer service
- Tyler Sawicki - silver in electrical
- Teylor St. Francis - bronze in internetworking services.
- Zach Zelazik - gold in internetworking services
- Luke Hall - bronze in internetworking
- Shawn Greenwood - gold in internet working
- Cassidy Desrosiers - silver in restaurant service
- Cameron Larcheveque - gold in technical computer applications



Gold and silver district medalists moved onto States in April along with students who choose to practice and participate in Leadership events. Students who attended States included Ty Lacey, Cara Desrosiers, Sean Burdett, Liam Paulhaus, Katelyn Stockwell, Tyler Sawicki, Zach Zelazik, Shawn Greenwood, Cassidy Desrosiers, Cameron Larcheveque, James Shea, Andrew Houle, Hugo Sandin, Marissa Parker, Cassidy Shaw, Cody Miarecki, Luke Hall, Wade Woolley, and Jay Burdett.

The following students earned gold medals from the States competition: Luke Hall (Technical Math), Liam Paulhus (Computer Programming), Wade Woolley (Techspo), and Jay Burdett (Techspo).

Liam Paulhus and Luke Hall will be competing at Nationals at the end of July in Louisville, Kentucky.

Congratulations to all students who competed and to all of medalists; thank you for representing and making Tantasqua proud.

NHS UPDATE: EVENTS AND CLASS OFFICERS 2019-2020

By Liza Flandreau

Every year the National Honor Society at Tantasqua participates in a community service project. This year they held a book drive during the last week of March and the first week of April. Students collected new or gently used books, ranging from children's to young adult level, that were then donated to UMass Memorial Hospital. NHS is beyond

grateful to have received over 500 books and would like to thank everyone who donated.

On Monday, April 29th, NHS picked up garbage around the school grounds for their Earth Day project this year. Many students came to help and were able to clean up Tantasqua and enhance the environment by doing so.

Earlier in the month, on April 2nd, elections for next year's E-board were held. Below are the results; congratulations to everyone, and good luck.

- President:** Serena Chiasson
- Vice President:** Rose Pecci
- Secretary:** Jack Lafond
- Treasurer:** Amber Lataille
- Historian:** Addison Ellithorpe
- Parliamentarian:** Cole Warren

NHS Book Drive

Needed: New or gently used books
Children to Young Adult
All Books will be donated to UMass Memorial Hospital
March 25th - April 5th



Collection boxes located in A-Block classes and lobby
Books will be collected from A-Block classes on all Mon, Wed, and Fri.

COLLEGE FAIR

By Liza Flandreau

Photograph by Ashlyn Kelley

Every year the juniors at Tantasqua have the opportunity to attend a college fair that is hosted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling. The fair is held at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield and this year it took place on April 8th. At this fair, juniors are able to explore and inquire about colleges they might be interested in applying to. This year, there were 147 colleges from all over the country in attendance. Each booth provided basic information, as well as the chance to speak with an admissions director from the school. This is an amazing opportunity to network and to be exposed to colleges and majors that students may not have previously known about or considered. Sophomores who are interested in attending next year should look out for news about it from the Guidance Department starting in March.



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TANTASQUA MUN-I: RECAP

By Julio Mercado *THS-MUN Secretary General*
Photographs provided by Liam Metz

On Saturday, March 16th, 2019 delegates attended Tantasqua's inaugural MUN host conference at Tantasqua Regional Senior High School in Fiskdale, Massachusetts. The topic for the conference was the Syrian Crisis, focusing both on the ongoing war and the refugee crisis it has created.



From 9:00-9:30 AM the chairs from Clark University MUN gave a presentation covering Parliamentary Procedure.

Tantasqua delegates welcomed keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Bousquet to speak on the Global Refugee crisis and her part in working in refugee camps across Europe from 9:45-10:45 AM. Bousquet's insight as both a Fulbright scholar living in Bulgaria and Greece, as well as a Harvard Egypt Forum Fellow provided delegates with a valuable global perspective.



Vice President Michael Distefano introducing Dr. Bousquet.

After Dr. Bousquet's speech, President Brooke Freitas called delegates into session and everyone transitioned into debate. The first session was held from 11:00-12:00 PM and focused on the Syrian Civil war. Discussions ranged from the use of chemical warfare against civilians to the fate of the Assad Regime.



Delegates debating during the first session Cadence Boyce and Rowan Downey (left to right).

A break was then held for lunch from 12:00-12:45 PM at Cornerstone Café, where everyone enjoyed a fantastic lunch prepared by Chef Popp and his culinary students. During lunch, Syrian refugee Roshan Abdi and her daughter spoke to delegates about their family's experience fleeing Syria, and their long journey to America. She then brought out traditional Syrian dishes for members to try as well as Middle Eastern accessories for the delegates to purchase. All of the proceeds go to supporting her family still struggling in the Middle East.



Guest speaker Ms. Abdi, right, and her daughter, Hirou.

Following Abdi's remarks, delegates returned and held the second session from 12:45-2:30 PM where the focus shifted to a debate of the refugee crisis and then passing resolutions. The first resolution focused on a block of countries that were attempting to aid the migrants and help relieve pressure from struggling countries due to migrant overflow. The second resolution focused on getting the UN directly involved in the Syrian Civil War in order to defeat the Assad Regime as well as hold UN-monitored democratic elections. The third resolution detailed a plan where all foreign involvement in the war would leave and allow the Syrian people to decide who wins. After this, the UN would create a safe in order for free and fair elections to take place.

After much deliberation, delegates voted on all three resolutions. Resolution one organized by France passed with an overwhelming majority, the second resolution organized by the USA passed by a narrow margin and the third resolution organized by The Islamic Republic of Iran failed. Closing ceremonies and awards were then held from 2:45-3:15 PM. Tantasqua distinctions included the award for Best Position Paper, which was awarded to Ty Lacey and Shannon Tweraser, representing Turkey; the MUN Warrior Award and honorable mention to Aras Bellahcene and Liam Metz, representing the USA; honorable mention to Andrew Gustavson, representing the United Kingdom; outstanding delegates to Michael Distefano and Reese Crosby, representing Iran; and Best Delegate to Brooke Freitas, representing France.



NEWS



Team Hoyt category begins at 10:00am • Walkers/Runners begin at 10:05am
\$20 registration fee - \$25 after April 7

Kids Fun Run starts at 9:15am
\$5 day of race registration ONLY - ages 2-12

The race will begin & end at Holland Elementary School
28 Sturbridge Road in Holland, MA

Registration available online!

Registration opens at 8:00am or pre-register online at
www.lightboxreg.com

Race Fees:

\$15 for 12 and under
\$25 for 13 and older

Breakfast Goodies for sale by Whoopie Doo & Cupcakes Too!
\$3 Post-Race Ice Cream Cones from Jimmy D's!
Suzy Sunshine! Face Painting! Bounce House!

Featuring Team Hoyt and like-minded chapters from all over the world!

These organizations specialize in helping those who are physically disabled join the community by spreading their message: "YES YOU CAN!"

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general educational program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.

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OPINION

KIDS AND CAFFEINE: DO THEY MIX?

By Erika Madden

When you walk Tantasqua's hallways in between classes, you are more likely to see the majority of the student body sipping on some kind of coffee or energy drink



than in the past. Unfortunately, we as a society have normalized the overconsumption of caffeine, and it is spreading from adults to young teenagers at a rate that is out of control. These caffeine addictions are boasted about, with slogans like "Don't talk to me unless I've had my coffee" found on shirts, bags, hats, and of course, on coffee mugs. There is a great and growing dependence on coffee and energy drinks, and I believe that unfortunately, it is not an unwarranted crutch.

Society forces kids to wake up before the sun does more often than not. Sports, extracurriculars, and homework drive students to get to bed later than they really should be. So when they seek alternatives to sleep, such as caffeine, is it really fair to say that this addiction is the fault of the teens themselves?

The visible effects of consuming too much caffeine (or withdrawal from it) can include insomnia, irritability, headaches, tremors, fast heartbeat, and increased blood pressure within teenagers. I know that when I drink coffee, especially on an empty stomach, my hands begin to shake so much that I can barely hold a pencil in them. But what we don't see is the effects that caffeine can have on teenage brains and bodies. As teenagers develop, caffeine may interrupt the efficiency of neural connections and slow down their building processes since the majority of these neurons are created during our teen years. Caffeine can also lead to calcium deficiency over time. Those dependent on coffee and energy drinks tend to have weaker bones than those who are not reliant on these caffeine-based drinks. This bone loss could develop into something severe, such as osteoporosis.

Overall, caffeine should be staying out of teen bodies. That being said, I think we have to make it easier for students and young adults to cut out their caffeine consumption by demanding significantly less of them when it comes to choosing school over sleep.

TECHNOLOGY-DEPENDENCE AND ITS IMPACTS ON SOCIETY

By Alexandra Mrotek

The modern world relies heavily on the use of the technology and electronics that did not exist in the past. Technology, such as mobile phones, computers, televisions, and other appliances, are popular and appealing to many because of their usefulness and convenience. But recently, forms of technology have been replacing certain products. The shift towards digitalization has taken over many industries such as music, newspapers, movies, and to

some extent, books. These products have been becoming more popular in digital form, making items like CDs, DVDs, and print newspapers a thing of the past. This transition to a digitally-focused society has its benefits, but it also has its disadvantages in respects to the environment and personal sentiments.

The conversion to online materials, rather than tangible items, has obvious implications for the environment in the aspect that CDs, discs, and newspapers no longer need to be produced. This saves resources and yields less waste. Although newspapers can be recycled, they often are not, and as for discs, they are not decomposable and end up as extra waste that stays in landfills, along with other trash. This new digital age provides another option in which these materials and wastes are not needed. For example, newspapers such as the *New York Times* have experienced a 47% yearly increase in digital subscriptions as opposed to printed newspapers. Disc sales have decreased 14% in the last year, with more people tending to subscribe to platforms like Netflix. And for many, these new digital versions of everyday items provide an element of convenience that is hard to turn down. Now, instead of having to go to a store and search for a specific item, people can just go online and purchase or download what they want without even having to leave their homes. This also eliminates the problem of not being able to find certain items, like uncommon CDs or movies.

Though this new technology certainly makes life easier for many, it does come with some disadvantages. Electronic books and online news often increase the amount of daily screen time. This can lead to eye strain and vision problems in some cases. It can also have an affect on sleep; using electronics shortly before going to bed can affect melatonin production and can result in an increase in time that it takes to fall asleep, as well as a decrease in the quality of sleep. It's also important to point out that some people have personal attachments to tangible items, such as CDs and records or hardcover books; these attachments are also less likely with digital copies.

With each new technological advancement, the world is becoming increasingly reliant on digital versions of things. The digital age has certainly brought a lot of change already, and only time will tell if it will have a positive or negative net impact on society.



MARVEL MOVIES ARE THE BEST OF ALL TIME

By Gabriel Roberts

I know that sounds like a bit of a stretch considering the amount of movies in the world today, but I will do my best to convince you of this fact. When you really look at it, Marvel movies are absolutely incredible. And what Marvel Studios does is absolutely breathtaking.

Let's start from the beginning: It's 2006 and scripts for an *Iron Man* movie are being written. Kevin Feige, the lead of what is now called the "Marvel Cinematic Universe", was looking for potential actors to play the comic book character. A lot of big names were thrown around. Even Tom Cruz was thought of, but Feige knew a risk needed to be taken, so they hired Robert Downey Jr.: an actor who was no longer truly respected and was recovering from a drug addiction. The first *Iron Man* movie is still considered to be one of the greatest superhero movies of all time. But there was a surprise waiting for people

after the credits: Samuel L. Jackson came out with an eye patch and in a trench coat and fans knew exactly who he was: Nick Fury. He told Tony Stark that he was part of a bigger universe, and that he just didn't know it yet.



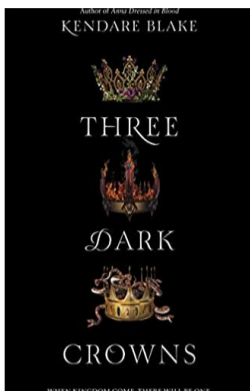
In reality, it was the audience who had no idea. Viewers were then introduced to other amazing characters like Thor and Captain America as more movies were developed. And then something amazing happened: *The Avengers*. People don't understand that a movie like this was not originally supposed to work. It was too big a risk. It had never been done before. All of these movies connect -- all twenty-two of them. They all have great reviews. It was a crazy and seemingly impossible idea, but Marvel did it. And they did it well. After eleven years, *Avengers: Endgame* was released: the culmination of twenty-two movies, and eleven years of storytelling that all came together for one big ending.

While other movies receive great reviews and hold up for years, movies produced by DC Comics stand on a completely different plane of existence. They inspire generation after generation and manage to combine years of storytelling into new movies nearly every year.

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REVIEWS

ENTERTAINMENT



BOOK: THREE DARK CROWNS

By Erika Madden

In Kendare Blake's *Three Dark Crowns*, readers are introduced to three different protagonists: Mirabella, Katharine, and Arsinoe. Each protagonist is a queen of a different realm with a unique ability. Mirabella controls elements; Katharine, being a poisoner, is said to have the ability to ingest copious amounts of poison without being even slightly affected; and Arsinoe, a naturalist, is expected to be able to bloom the most colorful flowers and control wild animals. As each girl enters into the period of time where they are allowed to fight for the Queen Crown and rule over all, they face obstacles, which makes such an accomplishment seem nearly impossible. This book is fierce and gripping. It pulls readers in and leads them down a path deemed predictable, but swiftly turns into a twisting and unforeseeable story with an unpredictable ending. Each character is uniquely written with personalities that fit into their own ferocious environment. With a large cliffhanger that leaves readers demanding more, Blake certainly demands her audience's attention and manages to keep it throughout the book.



BOOK: THE MEMORY BOOK

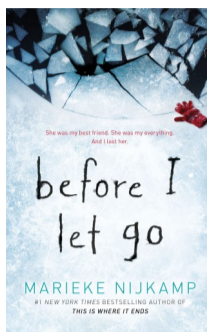
By Alexandra Mrotek

The Memory Book, by Lara Avery, is an emotional young adult fiction novel about a girl named Sammie and her struggle to keep her life intact while dealing with Niemann-Pick Type C – a genetic disorder that affects memory and cognitive function. She is extremely determined to continue her life as if she was healthy, but as she begins experiencing memory loss episodes more frequently, she realizes her condition is no longer something she can ignore. She begins her memory book to hold onto her life, which gives the reader insight into Sammie's fun and unique view of the world, while also dealing with a devastating truth. The reader can see Sammie's heartbreaking progression as NPC starts to deteriorate a smart, ambitious, and stubborn girl who refuses to accept that she may not be able to pursue her dreams. Avery does a fantastic job portraying Sammie's journey and how NPC changes her both personality-wise and physically through her symptoms. Though extremely sad at times, this is a beautiful story of a girl who realizes that she can still be happy even when her life doesn't go in the direction she had once hoped. It highlights the importance of family, friendship, love, and hope. Through the adorable and relatable characters and the incredibly realistic depiction of Sammie's feelings as her illness progresses, this book is captivating, inspiring, and definitely a worthwhile read.

BOOK: BEFORE I LET GO

By Erika Madden

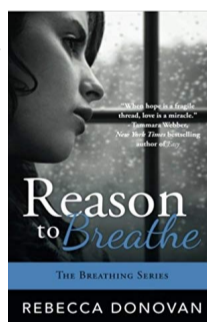
Before I Let Go, by Marieke Nijkamp, tells of the heart-wrenching loss that Corey experiences when her best friend, Kyra, falls into the icy waters of a lake in the girls' hometown of Lost Creek, Alaska, and perishes. Corey returns to Lost Creek to pay respects to her friend, but her welcome home from the townspeople isn't exactly warm and friendly. Corey is treated like an outsider, and Kyra is treated as if she is a person whom the town respects – when in reality, she isn't. Corey struggles to obtain answers from the townspeople, who seem trapped in a false world that glorifies Kyra for reasons Corey fights to understand. Through constant struggle with what really happened and what the townspeople say happened, Corey attempts to find the truth that surrounds her best friend's death. Overall, *Before I Let Go* certainly tugs at reader's heartstrings. Throughout the novel, I could feel the pain and desperation that Corey felt as she struggled to gain answers surrounding the death of her best friend. As far as a mystery goes, I didn't find myself blown away by the ending, though it wasn't predictable. I had hoped that the novel would travel in one direction; however, it went in another. The ending wasn't completely satisfying as the readers don't get a complete sense of closure when it comes to wrapping up the mystery; however, if you are looking for an eerie, character-centered book, then this one is for you.



BOOK: REASON TO BREATHE

By Liza Flandreau

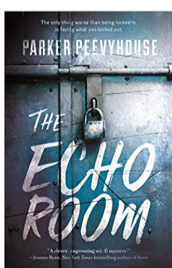
The first book in the Breathing Series, *Reason to Breathe*, by Rebecca Donovan will break your heart while simultaneously giving it a reason to beat. This heart-wrenching and beautiful story captures its reader from the first page to the very last. Readers follow Emma Thomas as she struggles to survive her twisted and unfair life. From an abusive home, she strives to put on a happy façade – only opening up to her best friend, Sara. Just as life seems pointless, Evan Mathews comes along and turns her world upside down – for the better. But is he enough to save her from the hell that is her life? This book will have you up all night, yearning for what the next page has in store.



BOOK: THE ECHO ROOM

By Alexandra Mrotek

The Echo Room, by Parker Peevyhouse, is a young adult science-fiction novel set in a post-apocalyptic world. The main character, Rett, finds him-



self in an unfamiliar environment in a situation that he can't quite figure out. The mystery is introduced early on, as the plot repeats, each time with a little more knowledge from the last. As Rett tries to work together with Bryn, who can't remember much either, they begin to get closer to figuring out their situation and how to escape. While the beginning and the end of this book were enthralling and interesting, the middle section became repetitive to the point of being boring. Although the repeating plot was annoying at times, the fact that it kept picking up on new details each time saved it from being monotonous. The eerie and mysterious tone of the book created a sense of something being wrong, which was revealed in a twist towards the end of the book. Overall, *The Echo Room* was a unique and mysterious read, and once you make it past the repetitive parts, the suspense and twists make it an interesting and captivating story. The setting and mood of the novel are vividly depicted and the sense of mystery throughout the book leads to a satisfactory ending. It has a really interesting premise, and the world it is set in is fascinating. Overall, this book is a quick, entertaining read, and is definitely worthwhile for fans of YA science fiction.

MOVIE: SHAZAM!

By Gabriel Roberts



DC Comics has recently been producing films of amazing caliber. Whether it is due to the new characters being introduced, or possibly due to having new screenwriters – either way, it is paying off.

The movie "Shazam!" follows a boy named Billy Batson who is fourteen years old. His backstory is that he was placed in the foster care system at age five and spent years running from his foster families, getting caught, and being placed elsewhere. Finally, he is placed in a home with five other kids and two parents, who also grew up in the foster care system. Because of this, they are able to relate to Billy and what he is going through.

One day Billy is transported to the lair of the great wizard, Shazam, and the wizard transfers his powers to Billy. Now, when Billy speaks the word "shazam," he becomes the adult version of himself with the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the stamina of Atlas, the power of Zeus, the courage of Achilles, and the speed of Mercury: S.H.A.Z.A.M. for short.

With the help of his brother – and a strong sense of curiosity – Billy explores his powers and finds the true meaning of being a superhero.

This movie is heartwarming and fun, and it will have viewers smiling the whole time.

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ALUMNI & COLLEGE

PACKING FOR COLLEGE

By Liam Metz

Packing for college can be extremely stressful for graduated high school seniors. What should one bring? What should one *not* bring? Well, there is no set list, but here are some ideas from current college freshmen:

The first piece of advice is to pack the essentials. There is limited space in a college dorm and there is no room for over packing. College freshman at Eastern Connecticut State University, Jessica Shultis, suggests that students pack primarily for the summer and fall weather when school first starts. Pack lighter shirts, a few pairs of shoes and also a variety of pants. This is primarily beneficial for students who will go home over winter break because they will be able to switch out their clothes for winter articles at this time.

Shultis also says to bring a few shower towels and a bathrobe, as well as a shower caddy of some sort to hold products, since showers are typically in a shared bathroom space. Also, make sure to pack a lot of blankets and pillows for comfort. Another college freshman suggests to buy a mattress pad because the beds are often highly uncomfortable.

Making the most of the space available is very important. To do this, students can raise their beds and use the space underneath. If this isn't an option, there are multiple storage systems for purchase that can effectively use space by creating shelf space above the bed, too.

One freshman suggests to only bring a few personal items; there isn't a lot of room for picture frames and a lot of colleges won't allow things hanging on the wall. But, also make sure to bring a few things to make the dorm feel like home. It's important to think about the things needed to live daily life, and to pack them. Packing someone's entire life will not work out because everything you own cannot fit into a dorm.

A lot of freshmen bring snacks that they can leave in their room for when they don't want to go to the dining hall. Anything that can easily be heated up and won't go bad are good options. This however, is dependent on there being a microwave that the students have access to, so finding that out will help. Otherwise, look into bringing your own – as long as the wattage is within the allowed limits.

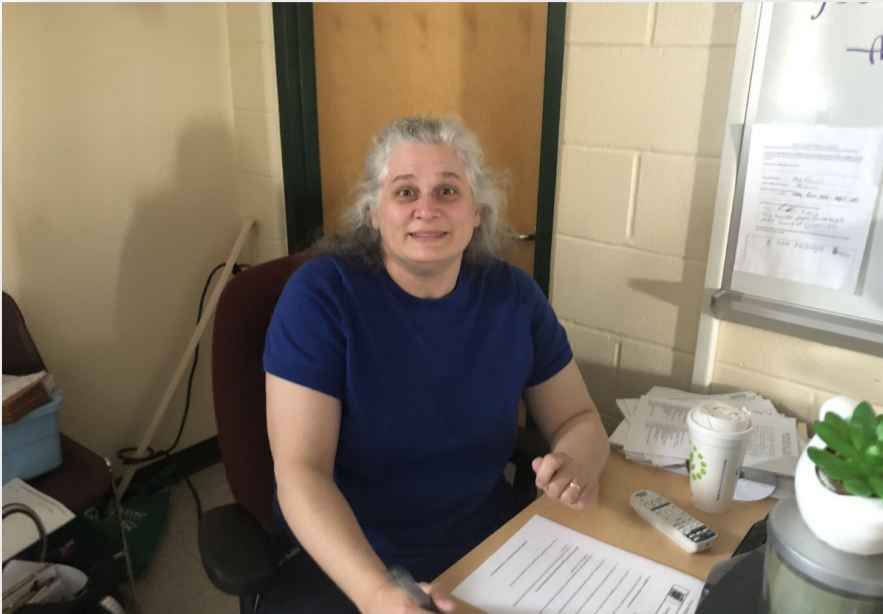
In the end, don't stress too much over packing. Most colleges have a store where students can buy any essentials they forgot or ran out of. But for some guidance, check out a preliminary list below:

- Extra long twin sheets for the bed, comforter, pillows, pillow cases, etc.
- Shower caddy, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Notebooks, folders, binders, pens, highlighters, etc.
- A few personal items to make the room home.
- Posters for the walls; sticky tack to hang the posters.
- Clothes and shoes for summer and fall seasons – to be swapped out during winter break for warmer clothes.
- A fan for the hot months (most dorms –unless in the south– don't have air conditioning)
- Reusable water bottle
- A laptop and charger
- Snacks and nonperishable food for the dorm room
- A microwave and/or a mini-fridge (if your school allows them)



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Photograph by Liza Flandreau

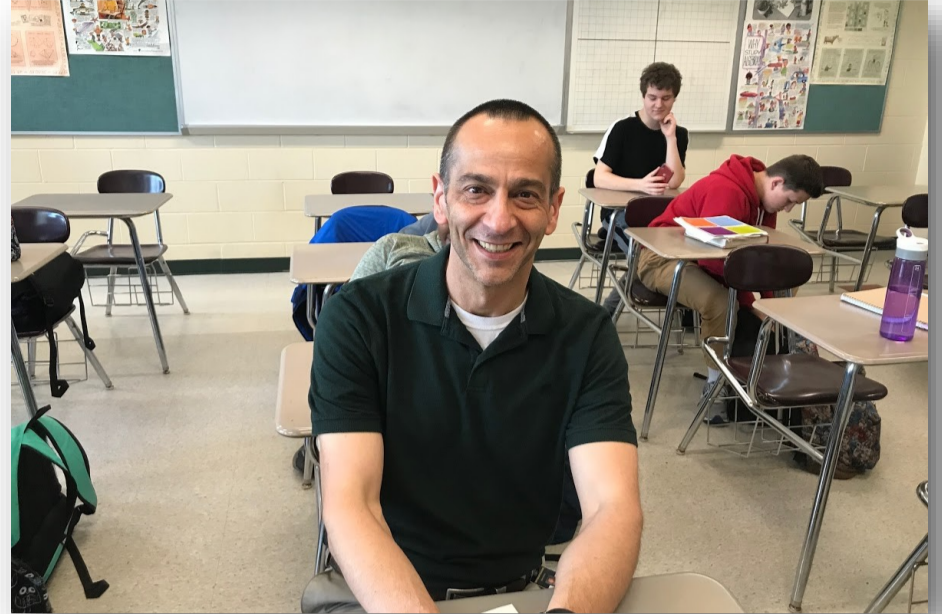
MS. SHARON REECE

By Alexandra Mrotek

Ms. Reece has been teaching at Tantasqua for twenty-six years. Teaching at Tantasqua was her first official job, but before she came here she was living in Spain working as a private English tutor. She says she wanted to become a teacher probably for the same reason many others had: because she had very good high school Spanish and German teachers and wanted to be able to help kids learn the same way that they helped her. She didn't always want to be a teacher, though. Ms. Reece started out in engineering, but felt as though she didn't fit in. The only other thing that she could think to do was Spanish, and once she started, she said it was the only thing she wanted to do.

Here at Tantasqua, Ms. Reece is currently the advisor of GSA and the Young Democrats Club. She started the Tantasqua GSA club in the late 1990s, which, at the time stood for Gay-Straight Alliance and now stands for Gender and Sexuality Alliance. She started this club because she thought there was a definite need at the school. She said "at the time, kids in this area were not necessarily accepting or tolerant," and she wanted to be able to provide a safe place for them. She has been advising the GSA club on and off since the 1990s.

Her time outside of school is spent beekeeping, reading, and doing "typical family stuff" to spend time with her family. Ms. Reece says she couldn't even imagine having another job other than teaching because she's been doing it so long, but if she had to pick something else, she would want to make Lego videos. Her favorite part about teaching is helping the kids. She said, "I think every teacher wants to pass on the love of their subject to someone else. That's what keeps [us] going."



Photograph by Liza Flandreau

MR. SYD SKAZA

By Liza Flandreau

Mr. Skaza has been a friendly face on the fourth floor of Tantasqua for nineteen years. Before he came to the high school, he worked at the junior high for two years, and before that, he worked in Palmer for nine years.

Mr. Skaza has had a passion for teaching since he was in high school himself, but he didn't quite know it then. He always loved helping other students in his classes and he was very good at explaining difficult lessons to people. When he started college at Fitchburg State University, he was a computer science major. He quickly realized that he liked talking and interacting with people and wasn't getting that sitting in front of a computer screen. That's when he decided he would use the skills he had culminated during high school to become a teacher. He later graduated from Westfield State University and began his career.

Mr. Skaza has taught many math classes including algebra I & II, geometry, consumer math, and advanced math. He believes he is one of the lucky ones, because he loves every aspect of his job and wouldn't want anything to be different. He is thankful that he "truly found the perfect fit and honestly enjoys it."

As for outside of school, Mr. Skaza enjoys spending time outdoors running, hiking, and biking. He also likes to play video games and card games – his favorite game being cribbage. He has three kids who are all out of college now, and he loves spending time with them, as well. Mr. Skaza enjoys coming to the various sporting and music events at Tantasqua, considering his background as an assistant band director when he worked at Palmer.

Students at Tantasqua love Mr. Skaza and never have a bad thing to say about him – and the feelings are reciprocal. Also, if anyone ever needs a good dessert recipe, make sure to go to him for his famous "Skaza Bites" – nobody will be disappointed.



Photograph by Liza Flandreau

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Photograph by Liza Flandreau

MR. ROB RAYMOND

By Kathleen Mantalvanos

Mr. Raymond is the current band director and teacher here at Tantasqua, and he always seems to be filled with joy. Mr. Raymond has been the band director here for seven out of his sixteen years of teaching. His favorite part of his job is making great music everyday with his students. He is also in charge of the Jazz Band and the Marching Band.

Mr. Raymond attended high school at a school in St. Albans, Vermont. He continued his education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for both his bachelor's and master's degrees. Mr. Raymond enjoys golfing and spending time with his three children in his free time. He says that teaching at Tantasqua has been a joy, and he finds himself to be very fortunate to teach an important art form to such great students.

Mr. Raymond says that quality of the band performances are directly due to the long process of practices, and he is thankful for all of the hard work that his students put in on a regular basis. He says that he looks at a performance as an extension of the process of teaching the music to students. As long as the process is well-prepared, then the performance will go smoothly. Overall, Mr. Raymond is a very influential instructor and is thankful for the advanced music department at Tantasqua.



Photograph by Liza Flandreau

MS. MARIA HUGHES

By Liza Flandreau

Ms. Hughes is a friendly face in the halls at Tantasqua that can always brighten everyone's day. Ms. Hughes has been at Tantasqua for many years: she came on as a part-time employee and then transitioned into full-time in 2017. But before she came to Tantasqua, she lived what she would call a "whole other life."

Ms. Hughes is from England and started her career there as a dancer. For six years, Ms. Hughes performed as a professional dancer in the Royal Ballet, and even worked on the West End (England's version of Broadway). After those wonderful years, Hughes sadly developed a lot of pain and needed hip replacements – which was when she decided to change her career path to become a teacher.

In England she got a degree in teacher training and taught at a residential school, which served people from age three through adulthood. She also taught high school English, history, and physical education. She also tutored French before coming to the states. When she got to the states, she had to get extend her education and ultimately ended up receiving her masters at Westfield University. At Tantasqua she teaches physical education, health, and dance.

Outside of school she has various other jobs. Ms. Hughes works at the Westover Air Reserve Base, at a store trucking company, at different private dance studios, and as security detail. She even volunteers at Westover's Anti-drug program. She loves keeping busy and doing everything she does, but she also enjoys taking walks in the woods with her dog to relax. Her favorite thing to do is to walk near water, so she can hear the noise of the rushing water nearby.

If she were to have another job, she would like to be a 9-1-1 dispatcher, because she likes work that gives back to the community. She also would consider being a physical therapist, because she loves helping people.

Ms. Hughes is beyond appreciative of the Tantasqua community, especially in the wake of losing her husband a year ago. She would like to thank everyone for their love and continued support.



Photograph by Nicholas Capurso

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCES!



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**To everyone in the Tantasqua community,
Have a wonderful summer!
See you back here in the fall.
- The Tomahawk Staff**