2015-16 Glocal Winners Chosen

By Cameron Lane-Flehinger
Register Forum Editor

This year’s competition included a new twist: in addition to the two teams travelling to Iceland, the top five teams all received $2,000 in seed money to help facilitate their climate solutions, and paid summer internships from the City of Cambridge.

City Manager Richard Rossi discussed the possibility of expanding the City’s financial commitment even further, saying “this year we’re sending two teams, maybe next year we can send three or four or five.” In only four years, Glocal has established itself as a significant part of the CRLS community and provided important experiences for numerous students. Observed Principal Damon Smith: “This project helps students develop the skills and sensibilities that will help them after graduation.”

Bay State Schools Shine

By Sophie Harrington
Register Forum Contributor

As a nation, the U.S. scored 481 points on the mathematics section, thirteen points lower than the international average, but Massachusetts scored 514, placing the state at number five ranking according to the Boston Globe. Approximately 1,700 students from 49 public schools across the state were selected to participate.

In reading proficiency, the state placed fourth in the world, not far behind Finland. Without knowing how the state placed during the exam, CRLS sophomore Miles Damon stated: “I would undoubtedly rank Massachusetts students among the most able and intelligent as a result of the

Alumni Celebrate Past, Look to Future

By Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

On November 23, the Rindge Alumni Association celebrated its 120th annual dinner with an award ceremony, a good meal, and “lots of hugs.” Ray Ciccolò, President of the Village Automotive Group, won the Man of the Year Award.

The Rindge Alumni Association is the oldest continuous alumni group in the country, and includes those who attended the all-boys Rindge Tech up to its combination with Cambridge High and Latin in 1978. The group is headed by Executive Secretary Ted Darling, who is “main reason the Rindge Association still exists,” according to CRLS Varsity Golf Coach and Rindge Tech grad Joe Pagliaro.

Mike Ananis, Executive Director of RSTA, said that the current technical arts curriculum “continues the [Rindge Tech] tradition of good quality education.” Referring to the dinner, he continued, “This kind of gathering doesn’t happen enough. It is a connecting of people who love their class and their school.

Charles Singleton ’62 is one such alumnus. A superintendent near Washington, DC, Singleton flew up to Boston to reconnect with old friends, some of whom were receiving awards. While at Rindge, he ran track, where “there was a good bit of rivalry with Cambridge Latin.”

Rafael Pereira accepts his RSTA student award from RSTA Director Mr. Ananis.

Photo Credit: Rich Morgan Photography.

“This Rindge gave me a base to work from,” he says, and taught him how to be a ‘good team member.’

Current RSTA students Rafael Pereira and Miles Damon.

Continued on page 4
The Smoking Gun in Teens’ Health

By Ashley Nicole
Register Forum Contributor

More than a fifth of American teens (grades 9-12) smoke or use tobacco in some way, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Starting in their pre-teens years up until adulthood, teens are taking up this deadly trend, ignoring the permanent and often preventable effects it has on their health.

Despite hundreds of studies, scientists and doctors are still baffled about why teens are continuing this habit. When asked, senior Maggie Joachim said she believes “teens are smoking because of peer pressure.”

It is no secret that friends influence the decisions teens make, which calls to mind the question of what high school students think is “cool” and what is not. “For us [freshmen], we’re starting high school, and it’s a completely different community. We want to fit in and be with the popular crowd. If we see the ‘cool kids’ smoking, then we’ll think, ‘Hey they’re doing it, maybe if I do it too they’ll think I’m cool’,” explained Madison Smith, a freshman.

Despite their supposed purpose as a relaxant, cigarettes have been linked to causing deep psychological damage, such as panic attacks, anxiety disorders, depression, and cancer.

The question then becomes whether or not teens truly know the effects of smoking. Jada Alexis, a senior, says, “Ignorance isn’t bliss in this situation. There’s no way someone can’t know the negative effects smoking can bring. It adds more stress to your body. Why would anyone knowingly participate in that? But I guess everyone is entitled to their own way of living.”

It is a known fact that cigarettes remain the leading preventable cause of diseases and death in the United States, causing more than 480,000 deaths a year.

If steps are not made to drop the rate of teen smoking, 5.6 million adolescents currently aged 17 and younger will die young from smoke-related diseases. Early onset smoking has also linked to the usage of other narcotics in the future. According to the Surgeon General, teenagers who smoke are three times more likely to use alcohol, eight times more likely to smoke marijuana, and twenty-two times more likely to use cocaine.

Dr. Len Horovitz, a pulmonology specialist at Lenox Hill Hospital, states that with the substantial facts surrounding the dangers of smoking, any teen taking on this habit is making by far “the worst choice a person could make.”

Research such as these have motivated state officials to implement strict anti-tobacco movements. States with the lowest rates of tobacco use among adolescents, according to recent studies, are those that have strong tobacco-free environments.

Actions such as increasing the cigarette tax and promoting anti-tobacco campaigns are set in hopes of deterring teens from the habit.

There are great steps also being made towards the education of teens about the high risks involved in smoking. Nonetheless, Joachim concludes, saying, “To be honest, [regulations] still won’t help. Teens just don’t know how to listen.”

Harvard Lab Studies Teenage Brain Development, Peer Influence

By Tomek Maciak
and Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editors

“I myself was a rebellious teenager, and I grew out of it in a way that made me curious: how do some people stay consistent through development and others don’t?” says Leah Somerville, director of the Affective Neuroscience and Development Lab at Harvard University.

Affective neuroscience is the study of how the brain handles emotion, combining the study of psychology and neuroscience. One of the underlying objectives for researchers at the lab is to gain a better understanding of how elements in the brain affect cognitive, emotional, and social behavior, especially during adolescence.

“One thing that’s really interesting is that adolescents tend to take risks more often than children or adults. So we wonder, what are the factors that influence risk taking?” says Megan Garrard, lab manager and research assistant at the lab. Adolescence is a “naturally stressful time” because of new responsibilities and more autonomy, according to Garrard, and the brain undergoes some significant changes. One of the most drastic is a process called pruning, where the brain eliminates unused connections. This is part of the reason it is harder for adults to learn new skills than children.

One focus of the studies at the lab is peer influence, as well as the part it plays in the degree to which adolescents take risks. Researchers also attempt to determine what other factors lead adolescents to take greater risks in games closely resembling gambling.

Researchers at the lab hope to prove the ways in which actions that people take affect the development of their brain during adolescence. Garrard says that “the choices you make might actually affect the way your brain grows and develops.” Participants take part in a variety of activities, depending on the study. The lab utilizes a functional magnetic resonance imaging machine (fMRI) to study brain activity while the participants play games.

The fMRI machine utilizes magnetic and radio waves to measure the amount of oxygen traveling to different parts of the brain, which allows researchers to recognize which parts of the brain are more active than others when the brain responds to stimuli.

There is much that scientists don’t understand about brain development. Despite this, Dr. Sommer-ville is hopeful: “In the last 20 years, there has been an explosion of technological advances: we can peer inside the body in a non-invasive way, which opens doors to understand the relationship between brains and behavior. It’s the most exciting time to learn about the brain ever.”

Participants receive a stipend for taking part in the lab’s studies. Find more information online at http://andl.wjh.harvard.edu/.
CRLS Reflects on the Merits of Expressing Gratitude

By Sophie Harrington and Grace Ramsdell

For many, the holiday season is an opportunity to express gratitude. According to studies, displaying gratitude is linked to both improved mental and physical health. In a recent study by researchers from the University of Southern California, demonstrating gratitude was not only proven to affect the “reward center” of the brain, but also to affect a person’s moral judgment, empathy, and ability to connect with others.

In a Register Forum poll, 100 CRLS students were asked about their habits of expressing gratitude. Of the participants, 28% were seniors, 25% were juniors, 33% were sophomores, and 14% were freshmen.

The poll loosely defined expressing gratitude as including everything from taking a moment to think about the things one is grateful for to thanking people in person or writing thank-you notes. However, participants were encouraged to respond to questions in terms of their own definition of expressing gratitude.

One personal definition comes from sophomore Pascal Beckert, who believes that “expressing gratitude is simply acknowledging the privileges we have and things that we love in the world. It helps us know that all of us have a lot to be grateful for no matter where we are from or how many material possessions we may have.”

Results reveal that more than 80% of respondents express gratitude daily, 60% of participants said they display gratitude because they feel genuinely grateful, 34% because they feel it is the right thing to do, and the remaining 6% because someone tells them to.

CRLS drama teachers Ms. Murray and Mr. Cramp take a few minutes to practice expressing gratitude with their students at the beginning of each class. As part of their daily “check-in,” students go around the classroom sharing whatever they are grateful for at that time. Responses often include people, possessions, or moments.

Mr. Cramp equates expressing gratitude to focusing on the things that matter to oneself, saying, “It leads to more confidence if you’re really thinking…’O.K., how am I doing today? What is something that matters to me?’…’When I step out of this room, can I start to name things and look for things that matter to me?’”

Mr. Cramp adds that it can create a sense of power over oneself when an individual thinks, “This matters to me, this is what I’m about.” Kiva McElhiney, one of Ms. Murray’s sophomore drama students, finds that expressing gratitude daily makes her a more happy and accepting person. “I love [saying what I’m grateful for]; it is probably my favorite part of the day and makes me really think about who and what is important to me,” says McElhiney.

Mr. Murray cites the ability to express gratitude as a vital tool for being a strong individual in a hard world. She reflects that when her students vocalize what they are thankful for, “it brings a lot of laughter and joy and kindness into the room.”

Ms. Murray and Mr. Cramp agree that even this simple gesture can unite communities within CRLS and foster relationships between individuals.

Senior Aida Muratoglu explains how gratitude can be shared between anyone and why doing so is important, saying, “Expressing gratitude—in the form of a small appreciation, in the way we thank one another for keeping the door open—encapsulates what’s so beautiful about the human spirit: our ability to connect to and learn from one another in productive and wholesome ways.”

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Register Forum, JANUARY 1978

The Register Forum is the oldest continuously published student newspaper in the country. Let’s take a look back at the January 1978 edition of the Register Forum—just after the combination of the two Cambridge high schools.
What’s up with Bottle Up?
MC Club Leads Reusable Bottle Initiative

By Klara Ingersoll
Register Forum Contributor

“So what are we going to do now that the seniors are gone?” asked Marine Biology teacher and Marine Conservation Club advisor Mr. McGuinness. Marine Biology’s emphasis on environmental action inspires students to work towards making a dent in problems that affect the CRLS community. This goal sparked a new student led CRLS environmental initiative: Bottle Up.

Many conversations had centered around pollution in the oceans and specifically plastic pollution. Researchers estimate that as much as 12.7 million tons of plastic are dumped into oceans every year. An obvious component of this waste is one-use plastic containers.

The issue of plastic one-use water bottles became more and more obvious as something the team could tackle in the CRLS community. CRLS has access to ‘wicked good’ clean water on tap through fountains all around school, and students just need to be able to bottle it up to drink it whenever they need—especially at lunch, when students purchase hundreds of disposable drinks a day.

Discouraging students from purchasing water bottles and other disposable drink containers at lunch saves students money and positively impacts health, because many of the drinks purchased are high in sugar or sodium.

The Bottle Up project has been wide reaching so far; students have made promotional videos to be aired on The Word, spoken with local businesses and politicians, designed logos and graphics, written grants, and discussed how the project can be most effective in the CRLS community.

The goal is simple: get water bottles to students at CRLS who don’t have them so that they aren’t dependent on buying one-use drink containers.

Senior Gregorio Leon supports the initiative, but jokes that “this is a watered down solution to a bigger issue.”

CRLS has access to ‘wicked good’ clean water.

Hundreds of bottles that were gifted to the project were passed out to students at the Bagel Benches along with Bottle Up stickers during both lunches on December 2nd and 3rd. The stickers were for students who already had reusable bottles to raise awareness about the effort. While handing out bottles at the Bagel Benches, Bottle Up team member Luca Jaccodine reflected, “We’re hoping that as students start using their free bottles, they will also start thinking about their own personal consumption and other ways they can reduce their waste.”

Some of the team’s current plans are to discourage Cambridge Public Schools from buying plastic bottles during MCAS and to join the existing effort to pressure the city of Cambridge to ban the sale of one-use plastic water bottles. The team will continue working on ways of reducing the community’s plastic use.

The success reflected in the elementary, middle, and high school levels of education in Massachusetts may also be attributed to the great community of higher learning going on throughout the state. Cambridge alone is home to two of the top universities in the world, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. CRLS sophomore Tyrone Quigley states: “Students in Massachusetts do well because of influence from places of higher education and scientific research.”

Competitive environments at school have forced Massachusetts students to succeed by coping with high academic expectations. In return for backing students with large financial resources, teachers and school districts have demanded students pass new tests administered like the MCAS. When the achievement exam was first tested in 1998, the performance by urban schools was disastrous—nearly two-thirds of students failed. In 2015, Massachusetts students have topped the charts ranking number one by the Federal Department of Education.

The state is not done making improvements; other areas can still be improved by teachers, administration, and students. But as CRLS junior Kester Messen said, “We [the students] still take action and fight for things as complicated as enacting social change, and making ourselves succeed, or as simple as getting a teacher to meet with us after school.”

What’s one thing you want to do before the end of 2015?

Kenya Wade
Class of 2018
“Go to Cali...I’ve heard it’s a really good place to get a burger”

Alex Sadow
Class of 2019
“Win a Pokemon tournament!”

Zahyyeh Abu-Rubieh
Class of 2017
“Come up with a really good New Years resolution so I can break it”

William Daniels
Class of 2018
“Take a nap”

Alexis Rabbik
Class of 2016
“The only thing I’m trying to do is apply to college...that’s really it”
Teacher Spotlight: Matthew Hochkeppel
CRLS' New ASL Teacher Talks Inspiration, Language, and Disc Golf

country that struggled to speak fluently.
I stopped speaking altogether when I was in college because no one in the United States understood me clearly… that could lead to mis-understanding very often if I continued to speak with people in general. In order to access a full language for the best communication, I stick with American Sign Language (ASL). Over time, it helped me improve my skills academically and socially. There are interpreting services available for both deaf and hearing consumers. If a hearing society is not comfortable with people using ASL, then it is their turn to learn the history of the Deaf (as a part of American history), (in order) to understand why deaf people prefer ASL over spoken language. Millions of deaf students may never find comfort in learning how to speak correctly without ASL being included in the classroom.

RF: What got you into teaching?
MH: On my high school graduation day, where I attended Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C., I realized there are many deaf children who need deaf role models. I studied to be a teacher of the Deaf; my minor was Social Studies/History at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. My teaching career changed from high-school teacher to special-education teacher, I decided to focus on teaching ASL to hearing students at the community college. Because I have always enjoyed teaching high school students, I recently returned as an ASL high school teacher.

RF: What do you like to do in your free time?
MH: As a mobile photographer, I take pictures for my Instagram. I play disc golf in the woods. I develop an ASL musical play or two.

RF: What was the best moment of your life?
MH: When I was a junior in high school, I witnessed Deaf President Now at Gallaudet University in 1988. It was a national protest movement. That was the only way the Internet technology was available to public. The local, national, and international news press physically came in to find out why deaf students, alumni, faculty and staff closed down the Gallaudet University. It happened after GU Board of Trustees picked a hearing candidate to be next president over two qualified deaf candidates. This event inspired me to do more than just being an accountant, which I was expected to be because of [limited jobs for] deaf people back then.

RF: How do you like CRLS? Ups and downs?
MH: I enjoy CRLS very much. My students show me their respect. Faculty and staff are friendly to me after finding out they have a deaf colleague. CRLS is preparing me to be a better teacher. The downs? There are none so far.

RINDGE ALUMNI
Continued from page 1
(engineering), Indira Riley-Mahahir (graphics), Victoria Noel (nursing), Bryce Borden (culinary), Esminarda Aspirilla (creative design), and Juan Arevalo (early childhood education) were given awards for being “technically proficient and demonstrating strong character,” announced Mr. Ananis.

“It’s an honor to be one of the six students [awarded] from the whole school,” stated Pereira in an interview after the ceremony. “I’ll make the most of it.”

Another notable award went to Larry “Cha-Cha” Loprete for Lifetime Achievement. A radio presenter on WBCN, he described himself as a “product of Cambridge Public School system.” And though he failed his swim test, and “still can’t swim,” he graduated nonetheless.

Bill Taylor, meanwhile, never received his diploma from Rindge because he left to join the military at the end of WWII, but the headmaster wouldn’t let him graduate early. At the dinner, he was awarded a diploma—70 years late—as shouts of “better late than never” echoed from the crowd.

The most coveted award of the night, Man of the Year, was given to businessman Ray Ciccolo for his success as well as his philanthropic focus. Ciccolo owns nine car dealerships, sponsors a yearly scholarship for CRLS students who attend Suffolk University, and runs annual road races to benefit various causes.

“He’s successful, he gives back, he comes to the dinners every year, and this is his 60th year out of Rindge. [We thought] this was a great time to do it,” said Exec. Secretary Darling.

In an interview with The Register Forum, Ciccolo spoke to his philanthropic tendencies, saying, “When you start from very meager beginnings, it’s a lot of fun to give back. I think I get more out of it than the people I give to.”

He also characterizes himself as an opportunity man: “I never have had a master-plan of what I’m going to do. If I thought it was a good deal, and I could make a little money and have a little fun, I would do it.”

“It was a spectacular time,” he continues when asked about his time at Rindge. “Adolescence is a tough time in one’s life, [but] we had a great camaraderie between the guys in the class. I remember so [much from] my time here. It stuck out in my mind.”

He was also working “practically full-time” in addition to his studies.

He advises current high school students in a similar situation to “put more effort into academics, because you will get much greater payback.”

His next steps? Spending more time with grand-kids, and further expanding his business. “I will continue growing… Life’s a challenge — it’s not a dress rehearsal. You might as well get as much out of it as you can.”

RSTA offers multiple business classes; talk to your guidance counselor to get involved.

The 120th dinner brought together alumni going back over 50 years.

Photo Credit: Rich Morgan Photography
Climate Change: An Urgent Issue

Why a Culture of Indifference Could Lead to the Apocalypse

By Stella Sieniewicz
Register Forum Contributor

Last year CRLS made it into the New York Times with an article about our school-wide walkout and die-in meant to support members of the Black Lives Matter movement.

There we set ourselves apart as active, meaningful supporters of social justice regardless of our age, race, sex, or political orientation. Which is incredible—and I am proud to be part of a community with the emotional capacity to care about the rest of the world.

And yet there has been no school-wide or world-wide outrage that over the past six months, the Indonesian rain forest has been utterly decimated by fire in what has been described by The Guardian as, “the year’s worst environmental crisis.” Or that China has admitted to underreporting their yearly CO2 emissions by at least 17%, meaning there is an estimated billion tons (or more) of CO2 in our atmosphere that we were unaware of.

This is not to put down our culture of protesting, in fact it is meant to do the exact opposite. We must instead expand our protests to raise more public awareness. While this is an issue of the environment, this is also, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

As a result of the deforestation in Indonesia at least 19 people have died and there have been 500,000 reported cases of respiratory disease having the potential to result in another 100,000 untimely deaths. And Chinese citizens in many regions, including the capital, Beijing, have been told to stay indoors as toxic smog has reached dangerous levels. As residents of Cambridge, environmental issues are not unknown to us. Many of our parents may even have been some of the first to shop at “Whole Foods,” drive Priuses, or put solar panels on their houses.

Similarly, we have seen climate change statistics before, received free ice cream on walk/ride day, or even participated in the 2014 climate march. We know the United States is the second largest global emitter of CO2, and that we are undeniably the consumers of many goods produced in China, the largest CO2 emitter. As citizens of America, we have been relatively untouched by climate change as so much of our production has been outsourced to developing nations where regulation on emissions is either weak or easy to bypass.

Perhaps we even know that when speaking about climate change, “two” is the magic number. Two degrees (Celsius) that would make many equatorial regions of the world not merely unpleasant, but completely uninhabitable. The fact of the matter is that we will not be the ones who suffer most from a potential two degree increase, it will be the people of the nations we have leased to do our dirty work.

We all need to check our privilege. Before it’s too late.

How Women Fight ISIS

By Claire Healy
Register Forum Contributor

Recently, the western media has used ISIS as the face of Islam, while failing to provide western audiences with a more diverse narrative of Muslims and the people of the Middle East. There is little coverage of opposition to radical Islam from with the Muslims communities directly affected, and a lack of Muslim representation in journalism, television and political discussions. This narrow view of the approximately 1.9 billion Muslims in the world is creating a hostile environment of ignorance and islamophobia for Muslims internationally—further fueled by outrageous statements made by several Republican presidential candidates.

Throughout this unfair scrutiny of Islam, Muslim women fall into a side role as the media focuses on their outward appearances—using headscarves, such as hijabs, nigabas, chadors and burkas, as signs of their oppression. Accompanied with this visual stereotype is a portrayal of Muslim women as exclusively victims; depriving them of their autonomy. It is therefore to condemn horrible treatment of women in certain Islamic countries, but it is also important to avoid generalizations of an enormous and diverse group. In this crucial conversation, single minded journalism cannot be tolerated. Malala Yousafzai is a powerful Muslim woman that the international community has embraced, and while she is amazing, she is not alone. Throughout the crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, certain media outlets have slowly begun presenting an alternative story of Muslim women.

Militant groups, aided by western airstrikes, are having the most success in the overall attack on ISIS. Some of these groups include the Yazidi fighters; the YPJ (Kurdish Women’s Protection Unit); the YPG (People’s Protection Unit) in northern Syria; the PKK, a Kurdish group founded on Marxist ideals; and the Peshmerga (Kurdish fighters in Iraq). All of these groups are coed, and the YPJ, along with several subsets of the Yazidi fighters, are entirely women fighting forces.

The YPJ (pronounced Yuh-Puh-Juh) has over 7,000 women, and was created in 2012 to defend Syrian Kurds against President al-Assad, al Qaeda and ISIS. The members are volunteers, and their motivation ranges from a feeling of personal injustice to a larger fight for their people, their families, and women’s rights. Most of these women are unmarried, and their motto “haval” means friendship. Contradictory to western stereotypes, most pictures of these women show them without headscarves, including a picture of a woman getting her eyebrows shaped by a fellow soldier. One member, named Trieb, was quoted saying “There is a sense among the women that the YPJ is in itself a feminist movement, even if it is not their main mission. They want ‘equality’ between women and men, and a part of why they joined was to develop and advance the perceptions about women in their culture—they can be strong and be leaders.”

The U.S. and its allies are considering providing support for the YPJ and other groups but—for now—the YPJ exists solely off donations from the area. While the portrayal of Muslim women is appallingly lopsided, a large role in the prejudice against them is how little average people challenge the media’s representation.

To contradict stereotypes, the Muslima, an online exhibition of art and stories, has asked people to grade its narrative.

By 2070, the probability of flooding in areas of Cambridge is large. Photo Credit: Woods Hole Group/MassDot

Muslim women are leading the charge against ISIS and fellow groups. Photo Credit: NBC News

The U.S. and its allies are considering providing support for the YPJ.
The Night Before Impresses
Lowbrow Comedy Receives High Marks

By
Liam Simons
Register Forum Contributor

The Night Before is a raunchy, politically incorrect, and downright hilarious modern interpretation of the classic Christmas movie. In this star-studded buddy comedy, three lifelong friends, Ethan (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), Isaac (Seth Rogen), and Chris (Anthony Mackie) search all around New York City for the Nutcracker Ball, the most elite Christmas party in the city.

Although the use of drugs and alcohol is almost incessant throughout the entire film, the movie ends with some wholesome and positive takeaways. The three friends, who were planning to end their long-standing Christmas Eve tradition after this final celebration, come to realize over the course of the night’s events that there is nothing more important in life than friends and family.

A son reunites with his mother, whom he has not seen in many years due to his success in life, and a man pursues his ex-girlfriend and confesses that his love for her has not waned. As if all of this was not already enough, Miley Cyrus speaks about the true meanings of love and Christmas, before performing “Wrecking Ball” accompanied by Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a particularly touching moment.

All in all, I highly recommend The Night Before if you are in the market for a laugh-out-loud comedy. Although it’s values and wholesomeness could easily be debated, it’s comedic value is indisputable. It will leave you smiling and in a good mood, and full of Christmas spirit.

In an AP Portfolio Art class that teacher Mrs. Haverty describes as “fabulous,” senior Francesca Scola stands out. Scola, who was nominated by fellow senior portfolio artist Hannah Peck for being “a great artist with a great vibe,” has demonstrated tremendous creativity, consistent technical ability, and what senior Stella Yeung refers to as “untamed spirit” throughout the first months of this year-long class.

Yeung elaborates that “you can always tell when a piece is Francesca’s because they naturally portray her bold character.” This level of voice is essential in the portfolio process, in which AP Artists prepare twenty-four pieces for submission: twelve with assigned topics or media and twelve in any style on a chosen theme.

So far, artists have created drawings in pen and ink, graphite, and pencil, as well as various mixed media projects incorporating marble paper, prints, and a host of other materials. On a recent project, students created prints in color and black and white and then modified them in the studio with materials of their choice. On subjects that range from self-portraiture to walnut transformation, the entire class has proven outstanding.

Even among such strong competition, however, Scola’s ability has shone through. Senior Chelsea Darwin asserts, “her artwork always stands out and she has a really definitive style,” which Darwin goes on to describe as “fun and colorful and always a little weird in the best possible way.”

Scola’s excellence has extended beyond the boundaries of her own canvas; “She enables everyone’s art by being a supportive friend and a consistently positive presence in the studio,” according to Peck, who also attests that “she makes everyone happy because she’s so weird.”

Mrs. Haverty emphasizes collaboration between the artists in her classes, and students have recently spent time creating cards dedicated to other members of the class.

This level of support between artists extends to Mrs. Haverty herself, who described the entire class as “my rock, and my favorite part of every day.”

Look out for work from Scola and the entire CRLS art program on display in the library later this year!
#5: Betty Wap

Betty Wap

Love him or hate him, Betty Wap had a monster year. “Trap Queen” is the song that you claim to despise, but when it comes on the radio, you can’t resist hitting a subtle whip. Betty is much more a singer than a rapper, and this is readily apparent throughout his debut album. Front to back, his pipes are seriously impressive on this album. Regardless of his perceived weaknesses, Betty definitely has an ear for catchy melodies; I can’t count how many times I’ve heard CRLS students sing the infectious choruses of “My Way” and “679” in the hallways. What Betty Wap lacks in track diversity, it makes up for with consistency and entertaining choruses.

#4: I Don’t Like S**t...

Earl Sweatshirt

It’s easy to picture Earl hunched over a keyboard in a dark room, scribbling lyrics and creating the claustrophobic sounds of this album. On I Don’t Like S***, Earl takes us inside his panic room for surely his most depressing album yet. The themes and beats are darker than his previous work, but Earl’s wordplay is as potent as ever. “Grief” is the standout track on the album, and it depicts Earl at his lowest. Listening to his frantic delivery is almost uncomfortable. With complete mastery over his flow, Earl mutters about addiction and his grief for his grandmother. After hearing IDLS, you’ll agree with Earl’s words: “I don’t act hard I’m a hard act to follow.”

#3: Surf

The Social Experiment

Chance The Rapper was praised for dropping one of the best rap projects of 2014, Acid Rap. Chance fans eagerly anticipated his follow up project. Nobody expected anything like Surf. On the album, which was released for free on iTunes, Chance gladly takes a backseat to The Social Experiment’s upbeat jazzy vibes. This is hardly a hip-hop record—what keeps it in the genre of rap is not the outlandish instrumentalists, but the standout verses from Chance, and Surf’s extensive feature list including J. Cole, Quavo (Migos), Big Sean, and Erykah Badu, just to name a few. Surf was certainly a slap in the face to fans who anticipated An Acid Rap II, but the happiness you feel after listening to “Sunday Candy” and “Wanna Be Cool” is hard to argue with.

#2: GO:OD AM

Mac Miller

Listening to Mac’s discography is a journey, to say the least. Once a generic pop-rap party rapper, Mac has evolved into a conscious auteur aware of his place in hip-hop: the top. In GO:OD AM, Miller confronts his vices and flaunts his swagger as one of the best producers of the year. Mac may come off as belligerent on tracks like “When In Rome,” where he brags “I’m at the top of my game,” but he atones for this cockiness by being transparent and real, giving listeners a window into his everyday life as a celebrity in “Ascension” and “Perfect Circle/God Speed.” This is a well rounded album you can play through in any setting. GO:OD AM is Mac’s best work yet.

#1: To Pimp a Butterfly

Kendrick Lamar

To Pimp A Butterfly is the best hip-hop record of all time (Gasp!). Yeah, I said it. Kendrick’s latest album is by no means an easy listen. It’s dark. The beats are foreign to the world of hip-hop. Its subject matter: depression, addiction, violence, prejudice, and racism. Kendrick dives deeper than ever into society’s restraints on his life as a black American. “Alright” is an anthem that turns systematic oppression on its head; “We gon’ be alright!” are the most powerful words spoken by a chorus in 2015. “Mortal Man,” where Kendrick-sums up his entire message, is the most emotional twelve minutes you’ve ever endured. TPAB is the most important hip-hop record ever.

Revisiting Dr. Dre: The Chronic Two Decades Later

Dre is going unaccompanied for the first time, crafting his solo debut The Chronic, which would act as the flagship release for the label. Filling the vacant seats left by N.W.A. are a posse of Long Beach rappers, Snoop Dogg prominent among them, along with Virginia native The Lady of Rage and a slew of obscure R&B vocalists. Colin Wolfe mans the bass and key- boards, Dre’s stepbrother Warren G acts as designated crate-digger, and Chris “The Glove” Taylor sits behind the mixing console alongside Dre. Working 24/7 (aside from a.m. naps and runs to the Popeye’s across the street) this ragtag team of talent would go on to create the most revolutionary, and arguably best, rap album of all time.

Unlike many subsequent Death Row albums, The Chronic remains as masterfully crafted and just as much fun to listen to after 23 years. Following a hilarious spoken intro ending with “[Eazy-E’s] a penguin-looking m***********” comes “Dre Day,” the funkiest diss track of all time featuring Dre and Snoop Dogg rhyming back and forth over a George Clinton sample.

After the careers of Eazy-E, Tim Dog, and Luke (of 2 Live Crew) have been dragged through the dirt for five minutes, “Let Me Ride” begins. Detailing a day of cruising down Greenleaf and Slau- son Avenue in a Chevrolet Impala, the California sunshine can almost be felt gleaming off the chrome detailing as Snoop calls out “Rolling in my ’64.”

Completing the trifecta of essential Dre. Dre G-funk cuts is the monumental “Nuthin’ but ‘G’ Thang.” Featuring a funky Mini- moog synth whistle and an infectious bassline, Dre and Snoop take turns rapping about whatever comes to mind: Death Row Records, Compton and Long Beach, collards greens, etc.

Wedge between these funky classics are hilarious skits and hard-hitting bangers (Led Zeppelin drums make an appearance through sampling).

Also present are socially conscious cuts that manage to resonant profoundly in 2015 given similar issues facing black communities in America. “Lil’ Ghetto Boy” paints a picture of young black niiin forced into volatile situations curated by the ghetto they are stuck in. “The Day the N**** Took Over” explores the flip side of instability in American ghettos, detailing the exploits of black men looting and rioting. Dre raps, “Sitting in my living room, calm and collected / Feeling that gotta-get-mine perspective,” over a tense, menacing beat featuring live recordings of the LA riots of ’91.

23 years later, it’s easy to see why The Chronic is continually heralded as one of the greatest albums of all time. From Kanye West to Kendrick Lamar, emcees and producers alike cite it for its incredible quality, originality and timeless as a true testament to excellence.
Nations Reach Climate Agreement

By Rosa Munson-Blatt
Register Forum Contributor

Starting November 30, over 170 nations came together for the 21st annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties to attempt to solve the massive problem that is climate change. And on December 12th, those nations reached a groundbreaking agreement that commits almost every country to seriously reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change, as explained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is caused by “humans adding billions of tons of heat-trapping greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.”

The greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, heating the Earth. The rise in temperature has had calamitous effect on the environment, such as the melting of ice caps and glaciers, droughts, dying corals, and a slight but persistent rise in sea level.

At CRLS, the Environmental Action Club tries to confront these issues. As their Facebook page describes, “EAC empowers a collaborative activist movement in Cambridge to address global climate change through local action.”

EAC member and junior Jack Kyrik reacts to the conference, saying, “Extreme weather and geological damage to the planet threatens all nations and our world. A powerful legislation and agreements must be reached at the Paris climate summit.”

Learning from previous failures, many major and implementable developments have resulted from the conference. One was the participation of China, which is imperative since they are the world’s biggest contributor of carbon emissions. Before the meeting started, China announced a plan to cut their greenhouse emissions by 60-65% and increase their utilizing of non-fossil fuel for energy sources by 20%. Another development was the increased involvement of American city governments. Many state representatives to the conferences pledged to sign on to a sub-national climate agreement.

While the conference produced many positive developments, there was also much resistance. While Russian President Putin stated for the first time that climate change is a huge issue, Russia, which emits the highest amount of ozone-depleting substances, made very few changes in its environmental action plans.

Indian Prime Minister Modi has supported new pro-environment laws, yet the country’s negotiators refuse to comply with international pollution standards. They argue that developing countries like India deserve to use more fossil fuels to help catch up economically with bigger nations.

In addition, many scientists agree that the recent agreement, while significant, only cuts half as many emissions as is necessary to stop a 3.6 degree temperature increase.

Senior and Co-President of Environmental Action Club Aida Muratoglu responds to countries refusing to negotiate, arguing, “If a major polluter choose to not participate in the talks, that country is ignoring and actively perpetrating the human rights injustices that fossils fuels and pollution inflict on the developing world.”

Many experts believe that there needs to be a system of benchmarks to measure each country’s environmental progress. Also, many say all nations must first understand and acknowledge that climate change is a dire issue that needs to be addressed before making real change.

Senior Griffin Andres, a member of the Marine Conservation Club, hopes the nations will be able to accomplish this. “We need to counteract all the damages we have caused to our natural world.”

Many feel the future of the planet is endangered by climate change. Photo Credit: New Yorker
Population Growth Explodes

Projections Show 9.7 Billion People on Earth by 2050

By Maddalena Tridenti
Register Forum Contributor

CRLS students seem to have an accurate sense of the size of the world population. Seniors Laetitia Moubarak and Eva Luna Maes estimated the global population to be 8 billion, while sophomore Sasha Tekeian and junior Gabby Joella guessed around 7 billion.

According to Worldometers, the current global population is 7,380,629,000. With 83 million people added to our population annually, the number of people on the earth is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050.

Nowadays, only a few countries strongly contribute to population growth. Between 2015 and 2050, according to the United Nations (UN), nine countries will account for more than a half of the global population.

The fertility rate is one of the most influential factors in the population growth. According to the UN, each of the 48 least developed countries averages 4.3 children per woman. Says Moubarak, "Families with very low wages in many underdeveloped countries usually have bigger families."

Areas in Northern America and Europe have decreased in rate in recent years. Environmental Science teacher Janira Arocho confirms this: "Most developed countries are seeing a decrease in the rate of growth, and many even experience a decline; but in poor developing countries, where women do not have access to birth control, population growth continues to be a problem."

As the number of people in the world increases, consumption of natural resources becomes more of a concern. Nobel Prize-winning scientist Paul Crutzen talks about a new geological era called 'Anthropocene,' and is characterized by the human impact and his activity on the environment. Senior Kelly Robinson states, "The current amount of people is way more than our Earth can handle. We are already running out of resources, like fish and natural gas."

According to the United Nations Environment Program, in about ten years, two-thirds of the world population will be living in countries that lack water. Another concern is access to food; studies report that right now, more than 800 million people don’t have enough to eat, which could worsen with population growth.

Senior Marc Gomez-Olive states, "I think that overpopulation would bring starvation. A possible solution could be promoting investments in the agriculture sector." According to The Sixth Extinction, written by Elizabeth Kolbert, the main factors of the physical world transformation include deforestation, forced animal movement from their natural habitat, and CO2 emission in the atmosphere and in the ocean.

Moubarak says some solutions could be to educate people, fix environmental problems, and redistribute wealth and resources. The ideal solution could be a balance between the world birth rates and the deaths rates. Equally important is a conscious consumption of the earth's resources.

According to the UN, the global fertility rate of 2.5 children per woman is expected to fall to 2.25 by 2050. However, the population won’t stop growing for several decades. Small fertility changes and more responsible consumption of resources can make large differences in the coming years.

The Ramifications of American Drone Warfare

By Lizzie Downing
Register Forum Contributor

On October 12th, a missile from a U.S. drone over Al-Raqqa, Syria targeted Mohammed Emwazi, better known as Jihadi John, the notorious British ISIS member seen in multiple beheading videos. The drone "evaporated" Emwazi according to one U.S. official.

Rarely do Americans recognize the names of those killed in drone strikes, and though Obama has repeatedly promised greater transparency about the program, he’s never really delivered. CRLS senior Ripley Burns, among many other students, felt "too uninformed to speak intelligently" about the issue.

The campaign against ISIS in Syria and Iraq, is comprised mainly of manned airstrikes. The latest figures from the Department of Defense number U.S. airstrikes at 6,471, with the rest of the coalition at just 1,818.

Separate from this broader effort is the more secretive unmanned drone campaign and the so-called "targeted killing" of alleged terrorists, run through parallel programs by the CIA and the military.

In 2011, John Brennan, then counterterrorism advisor and current CIA director spoke of "targeted, surgical pressures" as a better strategy than ground deployment, reflecting the Obama administration's reversal of policy after U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Many at CRLS agree; junior Juliet Nadis concedes that drone strikes are "probably a better alternative to huge invasions on the ground, definitely in terms of life and death, and seemingly in terms of the casualties."

The lower enemy to civilian death rates in proportion to other types of warfare are frequently cited in defense of drone use. Additionally, all measures of civilian deaths decreased over time, indicating improvements in the process. Sophomore Max McGrath acknowledges this as "a good point."

Many still suggest that civilian deaths are underreported, owing to a faulty chain of intelligence. Last month, a cache of documents anonymously leaked to the Intercept showed an instance in which all those killed in an Afghanistan strike were labeled as "enemies killed in action," while only a fraction were targeted beforehand, and most were unknown.

Drone strikes are legally justified by the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF), which in broad writing permitted the president to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against anyone remotely affiliated with Al Qaeda.

A request by Obama in February for a separate AUMF against ISIS died in congress, so the 2001 version is still in use. At the level of international law, the White House refers to a nation’s right to self-defense. Many UN officials see this as overly expansive.

Modern World History teacher Rachel Otty says this is a "potential invitation to spread the use of this technology," and that drones "allow for the possibility of endless war, especially if you’re using weapons in places where you’re not declaring war," citing drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia.

The strategic role of drones is only likely to increase with the effort against ISIS, though it’s anyone’s guess who will hear about it.
**Fencing Team on the Rise**

*Say Hello to Rindge’s Newest Team*

By Emma Harris

Register Forum Contributor

The sport of fencing is CRLS’ newest addition to its wide variety of athletic programs. If you have never heard of fencing before and had no idea that it is even a legitimate sport, then you are not alone.

Not nearly as popular in the United States as other sports, it is easy for fencing to slide under the radar. It isn’t televised except every four years during the Olympics. Even then, only one out of the three vastly different fencing styles is highlighted. With the fencing season underway, the team is constantly trying to raise awareness for the great number of benefits, both physically and mentally, that fencing has to offer.

Fencing consists of three weapon styles: foil, épée, and sabre, all of which originated in Spain and France in the 1400s. An épée has a heavy triangular blade and an épéeist’s target includes the entire body. A foil is a lighter sword, but foilists can only hit their opponent on the torso. Both foil and épée only count touches scored with the point of the sword. In sabre, however, the entire blade can be used to score. The sabre style is akin to what’s seen in the movies, and big slashing motions are used to hit the opponent. Most competitive fencers chose to train in only one style, although it is not unheard of for a fencer to practice more. The tip of the fencing “weapon” is the fastest moving Olympic object besides a bullet from a rifle.

Additionally, the way that fencing is formatted is very different from most other sports. It is almost strictly individual, as you compete by yourself on a “strip.” Unlike in team sports such as soccer and hockey, there is nobody to pass the ball to or tap in for you if you get hurt. Individual and mental strength such as these create high pressure moments, which, over time, the fencer must learn to navigate with increasing ease. Fencing strategically requires logic and reasoning skills related to those that a chess player possesses, which is why many people claim that fencing is “a chess game at lightning speed.”

After winning last year’s state championships, the team is looking to capture victory again. Épée squad captain and Senior Isabela Trumble says that this season she is most excited about “creating a strong and united team that will try [its] hardest and do [its] best!”

While the team has a few veterans, most members have little to no fencing experience and have to be introduced to the sport. Newcomer Liam Simons says that he was compelled to join the team because “fencing is a really fun sport that [he] has always wanted to try.

The team also has a nice and encouraging environment.

With the first competition only a few weeks away, Simons claims that he is most excited for the match-ups with other schools that have elite fencing programs, such as BU Academy and Dana Hall. “Although these will be tough meets, we have the opportunity to prove ourselves as a top-tier fencing program,” Simons adds.

Julian Cohen, another new member, says he is “looking forward to the challenge of learning how to fence,” as well as “testing [his] skills in a competitive environment.” In addition, “[he’s] excited to meet new teammates and make new friends.”

All in all, the CRLS fencing team has grown tremendously this year and all the teammates, new and old, look forward to working hard to bring home another win for the Falcons.

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After his 20th Season, Kobe Bryant Bids Farewell to Basketball

By Will Telingator

Register Forum Contributor

When the NBA season ends in June this year, the league will be losing one of the greatest players to ever step foot on a basketball court. On November 29, Kobe Bryant announced that he will retire at the end of this season, marking the final chapter of one of the most decorated careers in NBA history.

At thirty-seven years old, Bryant is undoubtedly a future Hall of Famer—he’s a 17-time All-Star, 11-time All-NBA First Team, and most importantly, 5-time NBA champion. Not only that, but Kobe inspired an entire generation of young basketball players with his amazing skills on the court. “Growing up, Kobe was the best. He was the highest standard,” notes sophomore basketball player Aidan Keefer. “The league is losing a legend.”

Although towards the end of his career Bryant’s performance has slightly declined, he still ranks as one of the most important figures in the sporting world. For many years, Bryant was the face of basketball, and was recognized by basketball fans around the world for his unmatched competitiveness and his relentless drive for success.

Junior Katrina Pierre, an avid Lakers fan, believes that Kobe’s success can partly be attributed to his unwavering passion for the game of basketball. She explains, “He’s played for nineteen years, which is a long time for anybody in any sport. No matter what got in his way, his love for basketball allowed him to push through any and all obstacles.”

As Kobe bids farewell to the league that made him a legend, he will be leaving behind a very powerful legacy. In addition to being considered an all-time great on the court, Bryant is widely regarded as being a great leader and mentor to his teammates. Junior Boal- vi Candelario agrees, “He is a great leader; he’s someone who other basketball players can look up to, whether it’s high school, college, or any type of basketball.”

Indeed, Bryant was sorely missed by fans and players across the globe. That is, maybe with the exception of some Celtics fans who felt victim to Kobe’s greatness in the 2010 NBA Finals. Freshman Aidan Daniliuk, a huge Celtics fan, states, “Well, I feel good and bad [about Kobe’s retirement]. Good because he’s a great player and I don’t want him playing against the Celtics, but I also like to watch him play, for the same reason.”

While it may be a stretch to call the Lakers serious playoff contenders this year, Bryant will surely be looking to end his career on a high note. Knowing Kobe and his competitive drive, he will do anything that it takes to help his beloved Lakers succeed.

In the end, Kobe’s retirement marks the end of an era. The impact that he left on the game of basketball can never be fully appreciated. Needless to say, he will be truly missed. As senior Cameron Walker puts it, “The NBA without Kobe is like fries without ketchup. It’s still enjoyable but not the same.”

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Photo Credit: USA Today Sports
**SPORTS**

**Player Spotlight: Jakigh Dottin**

*Rising Basketball Star Outlines Goals for Future*

months of your actual season to get better as a team to win games. But for the rest of those nine months that you’re not in season mode, it’s really up to you to put in the work.

**RF: What are your main goals this season?**

JD: My main goal for this season is to ultimately win a state championship. We’ve been here for a while. Last time we won was in 2001. So our main goal is to silence all the haters. I hear everything, I see everything, I just want to go out there and shut all the naysayers up.

**RF: Do you believe you’re the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time)?**

JD: Do I believe I’m the G.O.A.T.? Let me see... I think I can go down as one of the best but I know I’m not the best. Patrick Ewing really put a stamp on that, a long, long time ago, and I don’t think anybody can touch that. He’s the best player to come out of Massachusetts. We’re just lucky enough he came from Cambridge. But I think after these last two seasons, I can get up there.

**RF: Where do you see yourself in ten years in relation to basketball?**

JD: I would love to get a full scholarship to play basketball for four years at any university. Then after I graduate, see if I’m fortunate enough to play in the NBA or go overseas to play basketball. So I think that my main goal is to play ball somewhere and make money off of it.

**RF: Do you think your family has supported you through your years of playing basketball?**

JD: My mom and my uncle are really confident about what I do. They want me to continue playing. I believe that’s why I’m here now. I love the way they push me everyday to get better, that just shows that they care a lot.

**RF: Do you think your coaches are ready for this season? Do you think they’re well prepared to take you guys to the championship?**

JD: I think that the coaches are always prepared and there’s not one challenge they face that they can’t beat. They are all just so smart and so good at what they do. If anything unexpected gets thrown at them, they’ll get it out of way. If they give us the right tools, when we see these things, they don’t have to say anything because we can just react to it ourselves. I just think it is amazing to have that type of coaching staff.

**RF: Do you see your team winning a championship before you graduate?**

JD: Most definitely we can, with me, the other returners, and the new talent that has stepped up to varsity. I really think we can do it.

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**‘Say Boys’ Basketball Team**

*Coaches, Players Set Sights on a State Title*

By Rafael Goldstein

*Register Forum Editor*

The CRLS boys basketball team has high hopes for this season after a strong first season in the DCL. The Falcons dominated in their first season, winning the league outright, and then finishing as Division 1 North Champions. Unfortunately, the Falcons fell just short of the championship, losing a heartbreaker at the Garden against Central Catholic.

When asked about his approach to this season, Coach Lance Dottin reasoned, “Our goal is to improve every day. We want to challenge the DCL. We want to qualify for the state, and then we want to go out there and defend our title!” The players are also very excited about the upcoming season. Junior Nathan Habtom is looking forward to “simply watching [junior] Dimon ‘Wishy Washy’ Carrigan play.”

This year, the road to TD Garden will not be any easier. The DCL is one of the most competitive leagues in the state, and every game is a battle. Sophomore Aidan Keefer, a member of the CRLS varsity team last year, added, “We lost a bunch of seniors, but we have a bunch of players looking to make an impact.” This year, the team will have to play without Isaiah McLeod, who is currently playing for one of the top Division 2 basketball teams in the nation, Southern Connecticut State. McLeod’s name appears on the 1000-point banner in the Al Coccoluto gym, recognizing his incredible career during his time here at CRLS.

Despite McLeod’s departure, the team has plans to duplicate their success from last season. It is no easy feat to repeat a season as successful as their last one, but the players are still confident.

Carrigan added, “If we can communicate with each other, we will have another successful season and hopefully have a good shot at the state championship.” Carrigan is not the only player confident about the season. Junior captain Jakigh Dottin is not alone in his excitement, and he “can’t wait to go out and play and show that [the team is] a top program in the state.”

The boys first game was in Concord-Carlisle on December 15th. They will face Bishop Hendricken High School at the TD Bank North Garden on January 24th, so make sure to get your tickets!

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**FALCON PRIDE**

Top to bottom, left to right: Students at Falcon Pride Day on November 25th with Freddie the Falcon; sophomore Jonathan Cenescar; Freddie and Ms. Herrera; the CRLS robotics team’s robot; Andrique Fleurimond pumps up the crowd; the CRLS band.

Photo Credit: Steven Matteo