

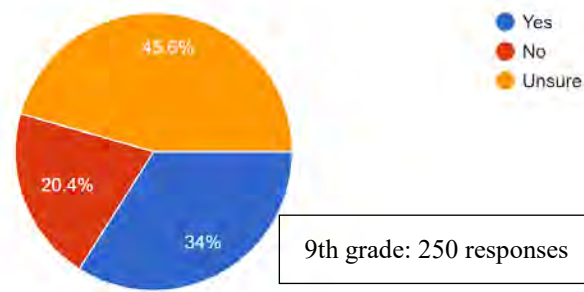
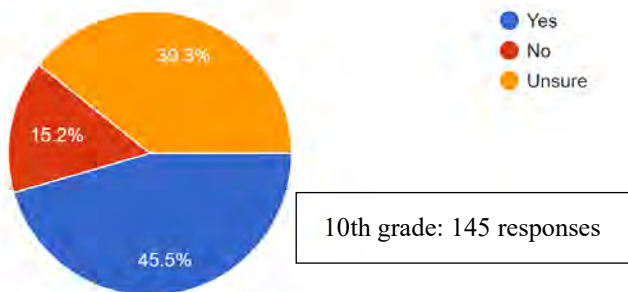
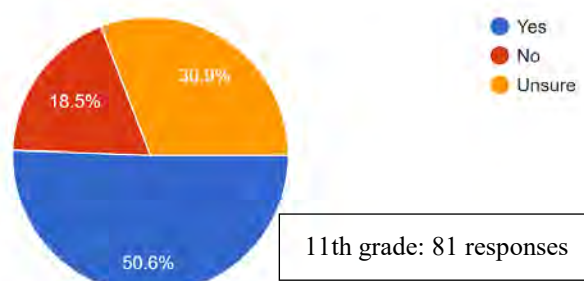
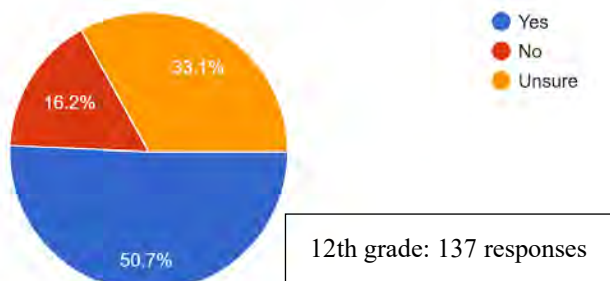
The Buccaneer

RBR's Student Newspaper

Taking our best shot (or not)

Bucs weigh in on COVID-19 vaccine

In our February survey, we asked students if they planned to get a vaccine for COVID-19 when it became available to the general public. Go beyond the pie charts on page 3!



Crops to Classroom

Which RBR staff member drove this 1950s-era tractor as part of a summer job?

See page 2



Rock and Doc

Which RBR staff member earned her Ph.D. while touring in an indie band?

See page 5



Mr. McGoldrick:

Down on the farm: hard work and long hours (but free veggies)

By Finn Barrett

When you think about your teachers, you might not immediately wonder what they did before they got to RBR. When we heard about RBR history teacher Mr. McGoldrick's previous employment at a farm in Connecticut, however, we thought that it might be interesting to look into.

Mr. McGoldrick worked at Newgate Farms from 2000 to 2006 in high school and college, having been recommended to the owners by a friend of his who also worked there. He explained, "I lived in Windsor, Connecticut--the town just north of Hartford, and the original town in the colony of Connecticut. The farm was about 3 miles away, and had been in their family since 1933. Its name, [Newgate Farms](#), comes from the same prison that Ben Franklin's Loyalist son was kept in during the Revolution.

"I worked there because it was a job that was available to 15-year-olds as long as we worked under a certain amount of hours and didn't work on certain types of machines," he added. "When I turned 16, I was allowed to operate a few of those machines, and when I turned 18 I rode on the big tractors. I still have the scar from when a piece of the bean picker broke off and landed in my forearm--I may even still have the piece that broke off!"

Mr. McGoldrick started out doing physical labor such as picking crops in the summer, planting in the spring, and preparing the fields for planting in the future. Eventually, he was selling the farm's produce at various farmer's markets nearby and managed the farm nursery where various plants and flowers were grown. "The late hours on Fridays followed by really early Saturdays was difficult," he said, "and occasionally the weather would be oppressive for a couple days." Despite these difficulties, he said that there wasn't anything he particularly disliked about the job; he enjoyed the work itself and the people that he worked with.

McGoldrick used the money that he earned working at Newgate Farms to help pay for college to become a teacher. Many of the skills he learned while working at the farm proved useful in his teaching career.

"When I became a manager of sorts on the farm, it was the first time I really was in charge of a group of people, so learning how to work with others has come in handy, but also just the process of working exceptionally hard and incredibly long hours has [also] helped. There were weeks in college where I would work 70-80 hours on the farm, and at the end of each day I'd have to go out and run 10-15 miles at night since I was on the cross country team at Monmouth University."

Recalling his time there, Mr. McGoldrick stated, "I had an absolute blast working with the people that I worked with--the family that I worked for treated me amazingly, with the expectation that we would all work hard. I also learned to love [to eat] a lot more fruits and vegetables that I previously thought I hated. The family argued and bickered a bit on farm-related matters, but in the end we were all there on the same team and

they took good care of us. We didn't pay for vegetables for those six seasons I worked there!"

He continued: "There was a long standing joke around the farm about a process called 'pinching the mums' where I would pretend to be one of my bosses (who is only a few weeks older than me, but he's part of the family that owns the farm) ordering everyone to 'pinch the mums'--it is incredibly silly, but the joke still is made 20 years later. There was also the time I learned how to drive a standard shift car on my lunch break, driving up and down the dirt farm roads (and our farm was very small).

"I also had a boss who called everyone of the workers 'hunny,' 'sweetie,' and he once called me 'Hunny Bunny,'" he added. "But when his wife would come to the farm, he always called her by her formal name. He is one of the nicest people I've ever met." Although he hasn't talked to the owners in about three years, he said that he does keep in touch with the family here and there.

The next time you see Mr. McGoldrick, be sure to ask him if he's still eating his vegetables!

Art from the heart



French National Honor Society members Keren Pimentel-Olivares and Nohemi Morales-Guerrero draw inspirational messages at the RBR entrance. RBR's FNHS and Key Club chalked the walk as part of a service project.

Cabinet Members of Color Celebrating Biden’s Diverse Appointees

By Matthew Blankley

Although Black History Month has passed, it is always important to not only remember the contributions of African Americans to our history, but also to recognize their presence in our future. As President Biden’s cabinet nominees continue to get confirmed, his choices mark great strides in representing a more diverse America: 40% of his appointments are people of color. Some of these are historic firsts, such as the first Native American or LGBTQ representation. This month, I would like to highlight some of the African American representation in the cabinet.

Lloyd Austin: Secretary of Defense

Austin was confirmed as Biden’s Secretary of Defense on January 22, 2021. Before being appointed to the cabinet, Austin had a distinguished military career, serving as Commander General in multiple missions in Iraq and led campaigns against the Islamic State. From 2013-2016, Austin also served as the Commander of U.S. Central Command. Since January, Austin has defended transgender Americans looking to serve in the military and spoken out against sexual harassment in the armed forces.



Marcia Fudge: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Congresswoman Fudge was confirmed as HUD Secretary on March 10. Her appointment marks a historic advancement towards African American women. She served as a representative from Ohio and on multiple committees dedicated towards education, labor, and human rights. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development oversees the support of community developments and access to affordable housing, a problem which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michael Regan: Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Another historic appointment, Regan is known for his unifying yet tenacious career, serving first in the Clinton administration. Until he was confirmed by the Senate on March 10, he served as head of North Carolina’s Environmental Quality team. Speaking of his potential role in Biden’s cabinet, Regan provides a promising glimpse that comes from these diverse appointments: “every person in our great country has the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthier life—no matter how much money they have in their pockets, the color of their skin, or the community they live in”



Vaccine or No Vaccine: Students Weigh In

Although the difference in numbers between YES, NO, and UNSURE responses varied slightly across grades, the reasons students provided for their decisions did not vary in any significant way based on age/grade.

Most students who responded YES gave one or more of these reasons:

- I trust the science: vaccine is safe and effective
- It’s the best way to beat the virus
- It is the right thing to do for my family/community/country
- It will get the world back to normal faster
- I do not want to get COVID-19



The vast majority of NO responses provided one or more of the following reasons:

- I do not trust the science: vaccine is unproven
- I’ve already had the virus
- I’m afraid of needles and vaccines in general
- I’m worried about potential side effects



The overwhelming majority of students who said they were UNSURE if they would get the vaccine offered one of these reasons:

- I will rely on my parents for the decision, as they are in charge of my health care
- I am waiting to see how effective the vaccine is

Big thanks to the teachers who offered the survey to their classes and to all students who responded!
Stay tuned for our spring survey!

RBR Staff “Inks” Outside the Box: part 2

By Maria Rigopoulis

In our last issue, we gave you sneak peeks at ten staff members’ tattoos, and what they mean to them. Learning about and seeing these tattoos have helped us learn things about some of our teachers and faculty that we may not have known otherwise. Continue reading to learn about ten more tattoos!

Ms. Sakowski is a Special Education teacher at RBR, and she got her first tattoo the summer after she turned 18. Her tattoo is an angel on her back holding a banner labeled “Memom” in honor of her grandmother who passed away when she was in middle school. She knew years prior that she wanted to get this tattoo in her memory, so as soon as she turned 18 she made it a reality!

Mr. Grillo teaches Media Production to all grades, and he also teaches the Interactive Media Academy students. He has a tattoo of a gargoyle in a stone medallion with his children’s initials engraved in it. This tattoo reminds him of his kids, and of his role as a father and a protector to them.

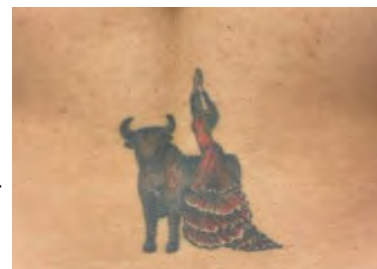
Mrs. Hanhart teaches Child & Personal Development and Preschool Lab classes to all grades. Her tattoo is located on her right ribcage, and it is a heart with five words: family, faith, love, hope, and strength. The tattoo is meaningful to her because her family is the most important thing to her, and the words give her motivation.

Mr. Olsen teaches history classes ranging from Global Studies to U.S. I and U.S. II. The tattoo on his arm is a Viking Compass with a chain around it. Surrounding this is a line from “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens translated into Norwegian. In English, it says “I wear the chain I forged in life.” This is a reminder to him to always

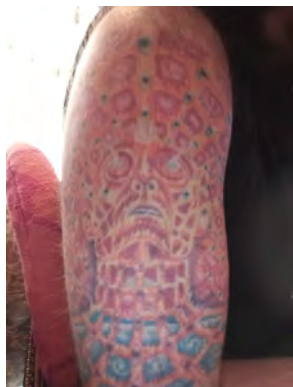
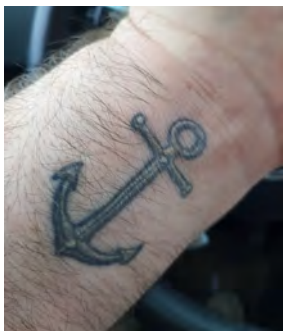


help those in need, and to symbolically remove links from the metaphoric chain around his neck, just like Marley tells Scrooge to do in Dickens’s story.

Mrs. Boyle is a supervisor at RBR, and one of her three tattoos (right) has a very special significance. This tattoo is on her back, and she got it as a memory of when she lived in Spain. While she was living there, she learned to Flamenco dance, which was one of the many reasons she fell in love with the Spanish culture.



Match the staff member with the tattoo you think is theirs!



1. Mrs. Tedeschi (Spanish & Global Citizenship)
2. Mr. Mauro (English)
3. Mrs. Lisko (Photo)
4. Ms. Kauchak
5. Mr. Enny (Culinary Arts)

The Buccaneer

Red Bank Regional’s Student Newspaper

Editors: Cooper Strauss, Maria Rigopoulis,
Julianna Vockroth

Buccaneer contributors:

Kira Ashton-O’Connor
Finn Barrett
Matthew Blankley

Molly Jain
Leo Morales
Jackie Rogers
Amy Serrano

Faculty advisor: Cassandra Dorn

Dr. Alvarado:

Following the beat of her own drummer drumming

By Julianna Vockroth

Not many people can say that a school shooting set them on a career path, but one of RBR's school psychologists, Dr. Alvarado, can. Although she was interested in psychology at a young age, even buying second hand psychology books, her goals crystallized after a school shooting stunned the country and schools began examining ways to combat them. She explains that schools tried to identify students who might be prone to violence through a "totally arbitrary 'School Shooter Profile.'" This had the unfortunate side effect of lumping all non-mainstream kids into the "potential threat" category. Soon after the shooting, my school sent out passes to all the students they saw as "other," myself included, and brought us to the library. They...allowed the student council to ask us some pretty insulting questions meant to make the school community feel safer. This was all led by our school psychologist. I remember thinking in that moment, 'Whatever she does, I can do it better.' So I decided I wanted to be a psychologist and work in schools."

She first got her undergraduate degree from Rutgers. Earning her masters and her doctorate from St. John's University in New York took five years of graduate classes and three years of full-time, unpaid internships. She has been at RBR just under four years. "I would have stayed in New York," she explained, "but I wound up going to see a band play in New Brunswick, meeting and eventually marrying their bass player. He lived in Red Bank, so here I am."

That connection to music extends far beyond her marriage. Dr. Alvarado has always loved music. "Up until middle school, I was a rabid music appreciator but I never considered playing it," she said. "But then a friend showed me a Bikini Kill record, which introduced me to the riot grrrl movement...When I saw Bikini Kill, I thought, 'Wait...I can PLAY music, too?'"

Although her mother initially tried to convince her to play the flute, Dr. Alvarado held out for drums. As a freshman in high school, she said, "I had an awesome teacher who played drums and loved punk and garage bands so we hit it off. I remember one day after a particularly spirited conversation with him, he called my mom after school saying, 'Listen, you've got to let this girl play drums.'" She formed a band with friends and began to play at small local venues.

Her current band, the Vandelles, formed while she was in college. Her new bandmates "actually turned out to be kindred music spirits [and] are my best friends to this day." The band was accepted to play at the South by South-West festival in Austin, Texas. The performance turned out to be bigger than expected: "The day of our festival slot, it was pouring and our outdoor show was delayed. Due to the delay, we wound up taking the stage at time originally designated for the headlining band so we had this really huge, somewhat bewildered crowd. It went really well and things just progressed from there."

Her band name was inspired by "Phil Spector's wall of sound and 1960's girl groups...we wanted to have a name that

could have been on a bill with The Crystals or The Ronettes." However, their sound fits in more with the "Shoegaze" genre; she lists The Jesus and Mary Chain, Spacemen 3, and Pale Saints as major influences. "But we also have a real love of garage, surf, and psychedelic," she added. "When we started, the goal was to sound like a girl-group playing a Beach Boys song with broken amps. Actually, we still want that."

Dr. Alvarado said that one of her greatest achievements has been "the long term balancing act of having a pretty successful music career while getting my doctorate. Writing research papers in a van while everyone else was either sleeping or out having way more fun than me-- being able to keep the long-term goals in mind in those times is something I'm really proud of now." She even toured with The Jesus and Mary Chain while completing her final year of interning: "For weeks, I would run out of my internship, hop in my car and drive to wherever the show was, play, jump in the car and drive home. Boston and back. Maryland and back. Rinse, Repeat. After a few weeks of this, our final show was mercifully at that Bowery Ballroom in NYC. I remember walking off the stage and literally passing out backstage from exhaustion."

The Vandelles started playing a lot in Brooklyn, then expanded as their band gained popularity. Other than touring with The Jesus and Mary Chain, she and the band have toured alone all over Canada, Mexico, and Europe. They do not appear in New Jersey often, Alvarado explained, but they have played Asbury Lanes and "many basement shows in New Brunswick."

The band even has a sync deal, which is short for a music synchronization license. "This means that a music publisher shops our music to media of all kinds and we get paid when they use it," Dr. Alvarado explained. "We've had songs in TV shows, video games, [and] some indie movies." Even with COVID, the band still manages to make music by recording parts independently and editing them together. Ironically, she says that if she could have any talent in the world, it would be "to be able to sing really well. I have a lifelong obsession with 1960s girl groups, a fact that's very obvious if you've ever seen my eyeliner application. If you ask me what my dream job is, I will always answer, 'be a member of a 1960s girl group.' Sadly, the eyeliner isn't enough and I'd need the voice to go with it."

Despite her success in music and her professional life, she's happiest when she's with her two year old son, as "watching him discover things that makes him happy is hands down the best feeling I've ever experienced." She added that the easiest question of the entire interview was to name a person she admired: "national treasure" Dolly Parton. Another fun fact: she is an Aquarius, and although she's a bit too skeptical to believe in star signs, she identifies with the associated personality traits.

Happily for RBR, girl groups of the 1960s are no longer hiring drummers. We are certainly lucky to have this multi-talented mother, band member, and psychologist here to help the Bucs.

Organize yourself and reduce stress

Advice from a senior

By Amy Serrano

As a freshman, I never thought of having my senior school year virtually, and I can't imagine how freshmen feel about this online routine. This is not something easy; everyone stresses about virtual learning. All of a sudden everything changed. We often like to say change is for the better, but virtual learning is affecting our vision or giving us a headache, and definitely putting us in a bad mood.

I am not a scientist or psychologist, but as a senior, I offer some advice about ways to cope with this:

1. Many students will disagree with me, but think about it: how much time do you spend on your phone? I know it is the usual way of communicating with friends and family, especially in these pandemic times, but what about the time you spend randomly looking at your phone because you are "bored"? I include myself in this, definitely. My advice would be to sign off for a day, or two. If you want to look at your phone, what about playing a game that will help your memory? Why not download apps that teach you languages or something else involving learning? This is actually helpful: you think you have wasted your time on your phone but you didn't, because you spent time learning something. Or, if you absolutely need to look at your phone, do it, but time yourself, and then keep going with your routine.

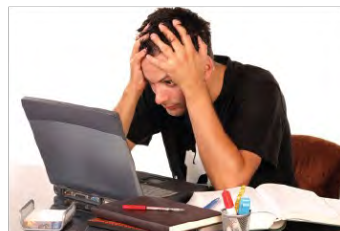
2. Write the things you have to do for the day on a piece of paper, and after you have done each one, cross them out. I assure you, it feels really good when you cross out one task after you have finished it. When I'm doing some work or something I don't like to do but I have to, I just think about the end. Think about how good you will feel when you're done with all your work.

3. If you have a huge load of work or tasks because of school, work, and extra activities and clubs, I recommend the following:

- Take a ball, and play with it. Or take a sponge and squeeze it
- Play music in the background. It can be your favorite song or a relaxing playlist
- Find a video that instructs you in relaxation or deep breathing
- Take a walk. If you have a dog, take him outside. One day I took a walk to the beach and found many interesting and nice things around me. Just have face protection with you and keep a distance from others.
- Do an exercise routine
- Write in a diary, or journal thoughts you have.
- Take an hour of your weekday and think about it being your weekend. What are the things you do on a weekend at home?
- If an assignment is due Wednesday per se, make it due Tuesday for yourself. This is helpful because it will not make you feel stressed about doing an assignment right before it is due.

I personally have done most of these things. Many things that took up too much time have been shut down, and I have realized that I have more time than I thought. I can go to sleep early with work done, and not stress too much over the things I have to do.

Once again, who would have thought that for today, our virtual life has become a routine? I say "for today," because I hope this doesn't become a new lifestyle. Many of us will refuse to do that.



**Have a Stress-free
Spring Break, Bucs!**

Teacher Tattoo answer key:
 1. Mrs. Tedeschi: Autobot symbol and Quote: "Till all are one" (Honoring her brother who passed away and his love of Transformers)
 2. Mr. Mauro: Anchor (Honoring son who passed away before he was born)
 3. Mrs. Lisko: Three stars (Representing her three children)
 4. Ms Kauchak: Quote ("Never never give up")
 5. Mr. Enny: Oversoul painting (Represents interconnectivity of all life and matter)

Frosh Ask, Seniors Answer

A recent *Buccaneer* survey solicited questions from 9th graders addressed to the Class of 2021. Selected questions and answers appear below. Thanks to all freshmen who submitted questions and the seniors who responded!

Q: *How can I stay organized better?*

A: Utilizing a planner—like one you can buy at Staples to keep track of homework due dates, test dates, etc.—can help you remain organized and on task. Also, color coding binders/notebooks to coincide with each class is very helpful.

A: I use an iPad to keep all of my homework and notes on. I will never go back. It's neater, easier to find and will never be lost.

Q: *How can I make new friends?*

A: Join a club or sport to find people with similar interests.

A: Be open minded and take advantage of people you have classes with to make friends.

Q: *Do you receive a lot of work and if so, how do you manage your time and deal with stress?*

A: It depends on which classes you take, and if you decide to take honors or not. I manage my time by at least starting all of your assignments on they day they are assigned.

Q: *Is there any Buc Pride this year compared to past years? I haven't seen anything regarding school spirit this whole year.*

A: We're not the best school in terms of school spirit, especially in the pandemic, you can change that

Q: *How do I deal with classes when they start to feel crushing and pressuring?*

A: Don't be afraid to talk to your teachers and let them know how you feel so they can help you out.

Q: *What classes should I take senior year?*

A: Worry less about that and more about what classes you want to take junior year. Taking classes like AP Lang and Algebra 2 will help a lot with the SAT and will be fresh in your mind.

A: Don't think that far into the future. You're gonna learn a lot about yourself and what you like between now and then.

Q: *What clubs or sports would be good for introverts?*

A: If your goal is to become more comfortable with other people and public speaking, I would recommend Model UN or Mock Trial. Those are super fun and have definitely helped me become better at public speaking and collaboration.

Q: *How do you survive in this kind of environment? I am new to high school.*

A: Just keep swimming

Q: *Should you do honors or AP classes?*

A: You should try at least one in a subject you are good at. If you are great at English, take honors English, but don't take all honors classes if you're not great at everything.

Q: *How do I make the most of these 4 years?*

A: Realize that every year is equally important. The myth that junior year is most important and freshman year is least important is a lie

Q: *How does the amount of schoolwork change as you get further into high school?*

A: The coursework will remain the same for the most part. That being said, if you go from a CP class to an AP class you should anticipate some additional homework.

Q: *How many AP classes should I take junior year?*

A: Take your sophomore year grades into consideration: if you did not get a 90 or above, maybe you shouldn't do AP in that class. I would suggest taking no more than 3, because you want to make sure you balance your workload with anything else you're doing like sports, music, clubs, or a job.

Seniors, the Class of 2024 still has some questions!
Send answers to cdorn@rbrhs.org.

- What was the most challenging obstacle you overcame throughout RBR?
- What is your favorite part about high school and why?
- What did you do to get through the hard parts of high school?
- What was the best part of RBR before the pandemic?

In school and out:

Mask up,



Math League: greater than the sum of its parts

By Molly Jain

*Grandstand seats for a game cost \$8 each, while bleacher seats cost \$4.25 each. One day 9,000 tickets were sold for a gross total of \$60,000. How many grandstand seats were sold?**

Are you eager to grab a pencil and start solving that problem? Maybe it's a *sine!*

These are the type of questions students of the RBR Math League team answer each meet. The meets occur once a month for the first few months of school, and usually occur at a different high school each time, although this year all of the competitions have been virtual. The contest consists of three parts: the individual section, five questions you do on your own that usually have some sort of trick to them; the relay, a set of three questions done in a team of three where each answer is part of the next question; and the team problem, a pure logic question done as a group.



And even if you'd rather run screaming from that question at the top, it doesn't mean that Math League's not for you. With the three different sections of the contest, there are three different kinds of questions, so you can find the ones that you're best at.

The questions on the test use all different kinds of math, from geometry to algebra to simple logic. And even better, most problems are simpler than they

seem, or have some sort of trick to them. Who knows, maybe you'll find you have a knack for seeing sequences or calculating probability that you never knew about!

There's also no required math level or grade to come to the competitions. You don't have to know complicated theorems or high-level concepts to try the questions, and almost all of them can be solved with just some experimenting, logic, and fairly basic math. "Math league isn't just for math nerds - it's for everyone," said RBR's current Math League president, senior Jonathan Klein. "Don't be discouraged if you're not the best math student; give it a try and see what doors open up." Klein said that Math League introduces "a new type of math which isn't generally seen in the classroom," and that people should join the club so they can see the elegant and interesting ways these problems can be solved.

But it's also not all about the math and the problems. Another senior Mathlete said that her favorite part of the club is being able to do a club with your friends and do math at the same time – plus, munchkins before the meets are a nice plus. She recommended others join Math League because "It is super laid-back and a fun way to test your knowledge in math."

Community is one of the best parts about Math League – whether it's chatting on the bus, celebrating at the year-end pizza party together, or meeting students and friends from other schools, math is only part of Math League. So if you like problem-solving, finding creative solutions, or just being in a great community, give Math League a try!

What Are You Looking At? Reading Facial Expressions

by Kira Ashton-O'Connor

Have you ever wanted to read people's minds? Reading body language can tell you what someone's feeling without words. It's the closest thing to mind reading there is! Even though faces are very expressive, it can be hard to detect real emotions. People tend to be fully themselves when in a conflict.



We are all familiar with the common nine emotions that are the easiest to acknowledge: happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, disgust, contempt, laughter, and offering a greeting. But there's also blinking. When someone blinks a lot it can indicate tension or lying. And when a person is concentrating more intently, their blinking subsides.

Eyes also indicate interest, like when we watch TikTok or see a cool movie trailer. When someone is showing interest, their eyes may be wide. In addition, there is pupil dilation. When someone is looking at you or someone else and you notice their pupils getting bigger, it might indicate they are attracted to you.

There is also smiling. And yes it's easy to tell when someone is smiling, but do you know if the smile real or fake? When someone is smiling insincerely, their lips curl up like a real smile would, but there are fewer wrinkles under the eyes.

Ever heard of the term "two-faced?" When you hear that phrase, you might grimace and say "That's definitely not me!" But everyone is two-faced. If you take a picture of someone and draw a line straight down the middle, the left may look slightly different from the right. Normally, the left side of your face is more expressive. This is because the right side of the brain "feels" more emotion than the "logical" left side. Because the right side of the brain controls the face muscles on the left side, the feelings are exhibited more on that side.

That is just some basic face body language reading. Hopefully now you can tell what someone is actually feeling over a Zoom call!

*The answer to the question at the beginning of the article is 5800. Did you get it right?

See you in court!

By Cooper Strauss

TV is flooded with court trials, whether sort-of real (Judge Judy) or completely fictitious (Law and Order et al). Ever wonder what it feels like to be a lawyer or a witness in a courtroom? Find out with Mock Trial.

Wayne Johnson served as a defense lawyer on RBR's Mock Trial team this year, and provided an overview of what the club entails. Essentially, teams are given a case, and team lawyers must prepare both a prosecution argument and a defense argument. In addition, some students serve as witnesses, and must prepare to answer questions asked by their own team and opposition lawyers. RBR's prosecution team goes up against another school's defense team, and the defense team takes on a rival's prosecution. The trial takes place (usually) in front of a judge, who will rule on the case.

During team's practices, Johnson explained, "We prepare for the competition by researching our mock case, discussing possible arguments with each other, and even preparing with our lawyer-coach Mr. McPherson.... Anyone who knows me knows I love to hear myself talk, so my favorite part of Mock Trial has to be that it gives me a space to speak and argue about something in a way that makes me feel extremely confident. As someone who had very little understanding of the legal process prior to joining the club, I realized how much it helps you become more civically engaged."

Johnson described his experience during the recent match: "Watching the prosecution team go against RFH (especially knowing it was RFH) was both frustrating and fun because you'd think something like 'They could totally use this [point] against them!' but you couldn't really tell them to do it. I was actually our team's timekeeper for that match, and more than once I almost missed telling our team they had one minute left because I was filling up my water glass!"

Continued Johnson: "One of the most memorable moments in the match for me was when I objected during Howell's closing statement (something that is very rarely done due to the difficulty of having the objection being sustained), but the objection was ultimately sustained and made our team look really well-prepared."

One frustrating aspect, according to Johnson, is that "no matter how much work you put into the case, the results are out of your hands and you can't do anything to change it. When things don't go your way in a case, it can be pretty upsetting since you can't go back and change it, and it is ultimately the decision of someone else. Regardless of the judge's ruling on the case, however, it's still a great experience to go to court (whether you go to Freehold or join via Zoom) and argue the case in the first place."

Although a little bit different (virtual courtrooms, making sure your mic was working, all business up top, sweatpants on the bottom), the Bucs gave an impressive performance, with the plaintiffs winning a decisive victory over our cross-town rivals, RFH. Congratulations to everyone who performed this year: the lawyers, Molly Chrampanis (Prosecution), Heather

Humes (Defense), Cooper Strauss (P), and Wayne Johnson (D); the witnesses, Carter Costic (D), Rachel Grant (P), Natalie Hawthorne (D), Athena Komitas (D), Amy Serrano (P), and Lillian Woolley (P); and the many others who participated in the team's success, especially advisors Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Ooms.

I want to end with an appeal: I've done Mock Trial every year at RBR and loved it. Yes, sometimes it gets tedious, sometimes it feels long, and sometimes it's overwhelming. That's the nature of it. However, it is really, really, fun. You get cases with wacky details. You go against other teams that take it so seriously that it becomes funny. Take it from Wayne Johnson: "While it does sound quite serious and intimidating to newcomers, it's a welcoming and fun environment. We always have quite a few laughs, and while we obviously take the competition seriously, we make sure to have fun during practice as well. The dedication that everyone puts into the case itself also creates a special bond that makes the practices super enjoyable. There is a role in it for everyone, even if you aren't a fan of public speaking. It is an excellent experience that helps you grow as a student and develop leadership skills and confidence."

Mock Trial participants become better writers, better speakers, and better dressers (if you go to in-person court). Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Ooms guide you throughout the process, and our lawyer coach, Mr. McPherson, gives first-hand legal advice. Whether you are interested in writing, speaking, or the legal profession (or are just looking for an extracurricular that looks great for college), I encourage you to do Mock Trial. You'll laugh a lot, and learn even more!



The case the Bucs argued appears on the next page!

Anger issues and purple Ford Explorers

RBR’s Mock Trial Case

By Cooper Strauss

This year’s case was a difficult one and dealt with a relevant issue: the role of the police. The fundamental issue of the case was false arrest. Eli Adam, a wealthy activist, along with his mother, Nancy Adam, and academic Kai Cruz were arrested coming home from a protest to defund the police. The officers that arrested them were off-duty, driving aggressively, and possibly drunk. It was the plaintiff’s job to argue that Adam and Cruz were arrested solely for their anti-police position by overly aggressive officers. The defense, on the other hand, had to point out that the plaintiffs committed arrestable offenses, such as harassment or simple assault. It was not a criminal case, meaning that jail time was not an issue. Rather, it was a civil suit, spearheaded by Adam, in order to call out the flaws in the police system. The case was written so that both sides had major flaws and major strengths.

But rather than go on about the nuances of the legalities present, let’s cover some of the more fun details. First, the cars in the case. As part of the evidence, Eli Adam drove a small Mini-Cooper. The police officers were driving an off-duty car, which was specifically described as a bright purple Ford Explorer. Tough, right?

Next, let’s go into the life of police chief “Mounty,” one of the arresting officers. Mounty’s career began by murdering two criminals, in circumstances remarkably similar to the ones in the current case: by slamming on the brakes of his

car right in front of them (maybe with the purple Explorer?). Rather than being chastised for this, he rose through the ranks to become chief. To quell his serious anger problems, he began to mountain climb, hence, “Mounty.” Coincidentally, “Mounty” happened to fall off a mountain before the trial. Rest in peace.

Now, let’s flip over to the Adam family. Not Adams, Adam. We don’t want to mistake them for the former presidential family, nor the cartoon one. The Adam family rose to prominence by inventing liquid paper (basically White-out). They lived the high life until Eli, after his own anger issues, decided to join a protest group known as the Numerians. The Numerians lie somewhere between Greenpeace, Buddhism, and a cult (but not the Kool-aid type!).

When stopped by the police officers on the night in question, before stepping out of the car, Eli Adam donned a Guy Fawkes mask, like the one from V-for-Vendetta. His mother, Nancy Adam, decided to throw a tomato at “Mounty.” She had tomatoes because, get this, she enjoyed eating them whole! Delicious... Their friend, Kai Cruz (an insect scientist), was their only witness. Coincidentally, this only witness had trouble with her vision, so her account could not be trusted. Cruz also decided to take a bullhorn out and start screaming, “Dirty cops!” All of the absurd details added some much needed flavor and levity to an otherwise technical, and perhaps controversial, case.



FNHS president Gonzalo Ponce oversees the chalk message project. The FNHS collaborated with RBR’s Key Club.



Key Club members Lori Senkeleski, Katherine Murphy, and Grace Keaveny chalk the walk for visitors to RBR.

The Show Must Go On(line)

A first-person look at the acting industry in pandemic times

By Taylor Kaplan

Since March of 2020, a global pandemic has corrupted the entirety of planet Earth. Businesses have closed, education has been restricted, and people are losing their jobs. From the moment things shut down, we have all developed our own functional ways of adapting to this “new norm” of quarantine and masking up. I don’t know about you, but I’ve developed a pretty serious relationship with Netflix as I’m trapped in the comfort of my room. But have you ever thought, “Hey, how are the actors of this movie doing with the whole COVID-19 madness?”

When I began working in the acting industry about three years ago, I would’ve never imagined something like this would happen. I just assumed it’d be the same process for the rest of my career; audition for projects in New York City, go BACK to work on them, grab a bubble tea, repeat. But now, with our current situation, this has all changed immensely. And, to be honest, some of the outcomes may have been positives for the industry!

In order to keep everyone safe, all auditions are now held completely online. Thankfully, self-tapes have always been a common way to audition for projects. For self-tapes, casting directors will send material that the actor must prepare and submit before a certain deadline. To achieve the perfect set-up for a self-tape, the actor must stand in front of a blank background, preferably a blue or light grey backdrop, in a well-lit area. Self-tapes are ideal for auditioning for movies, television shows, and musicals, of all genres. Another common way to audition are self-records for voice overs. These auditions consist of an mp3 of *only* your voice. It’s important to get extremely precise recordings of your voice, so it’s necessary that you invest in a good quality microphone set up in a quiet area with no background noise.

Now, say you do book a project during this pandemic—how does that work? Well, if the actor is to be on-camera, then they are typically called to a location on a COVID-safe set; masks are worn between takes, actors must be tested and have temperature checks beforehand, and a limited number of people are allowed on set. As for voice overs, most actors aren’t able to go in person to record in the booth. So, the substitute for this is... at-home recording booths! Since I am working on voiceovers, I am especially familiar with this situation. Personally, since I sadly don’t have anywhere to put a real recording booth, I use a closet. Yes, you read that right—my parents’ walk-in closet. It’s as simple as bringing my microphone, laptop, headphones, and my phone in there, and it’s an instant booth at home! By connecting to the editor and voice directors through a certain website, they are able to save audio from my mic directly to their computers live. We even connect over a Zoom so that I can still see their faces! While there can be a few connection issues, it’s definitely much easier than going to New York City once a week. However, I do miss going in person and seeing everyone as well.

While all of this doesn’t seem so bad, many underlying factors have impacted many actors. Thankfully, I’m only a kid; my parents put food on the table and provide a roof over my head. Unfortunately, though, a lot of actors who were thriving before the pandemic are now struggling severely, as it can be difficult to book jobs now. Also, a lot of projects, like Broadway shows, have come to a halt, so a lot of them are at risk of closing. If you appreciate those work in the acting industry, there are many websites that accept donations, such as The Actor’s Fund, to support those who are struggling.



The Show Must Go On(line), part two

By Jackie Rogers

This year has posed many challenges, including for RBRs Vocal Majors. In a pre-Covid world, we learn music in the choir room and receive critiques on what we were singing. This, as can be imagined, was much easier when we were face to face with a teacher. In choir, we were able to hear every part of the music and the other people singing, which allowed us to line up our own parts with others and use the music to follow our own parts.

Now, however, virtual students in the program have commented on the difficulty of learning and understanding exactly what is being taught in the classroom. It is more difficult to follow a specific part in the music, as you can only hear your-

self singing. Even though it was difficult, we were able to put on a virtual concert, and thanks to the work of our teacher Mr. Krajcik, we were able to “perform.”

The beginning of this virtual year proved to be the most difficult. Many of us were fully virtual, and the rest followed the hybrid schedule. For us, as for everyone, it was difficult transferring all that we were doing in person onto a screen and in our own rooms. We are excited to be able to put on a musical review in the near future. We look forward to being able to rehearse in person and to learning new music and performing with each other again. While this year may not have been ideal, we are all counting down the days until we are back in person.

RBR(eading) Check out some good reads!

By Molly Jain

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Genre: Young Adult/Realistic Fiction

People who would like this book: Fans of books like *All American Boys* and *Dear Martin* will like this book and how it addresses similar themes. It’s also an essential read for any fans of YA. And perhaps most importantly, this book is a must-read for anyone looking for books about antiracism.

Summary: Starr has always worked hard to separate her two lives: the one she lives at her mostly-white prep school, and the one she lives at home in her mostly-Black neighborhood. But that uneasy balance is suddenly shattered when her childhood friend Khalil is shot and killed by a police officer despite doing nothing wrong. While Starr tries to cope with her own emotions and grief, Khalil’s case blows up in national news. As she deals with a local drug lord trying to intimidate her, friends suddenly acting weirdly around her, and the struggle to come to grips with the racism and injustice that surround her, Starr learns how to use her voice and the people around her to fight back.



The Hate U Give is a book about police brutality. But even more than that, it’s a book about people. What makes the book so remarkable is the view it gives into the lives of every person touched by an instance of police brutality. Starr’s journey through her grief and her realization that she has a voice she can use feels tangible, and her emotions are laid raw throughout the entire book. The book takes you on a journey with Starr, one that not only changes her but changes you as a reader. All of the other characters are equally impactful and fleshed-out, from their opinions on the events of the book to just little stories about their lives and who they are. The interactions between these characters feel meaningful and perfectly written every time, and make the book feel even more genuine and enjoyable. The strong development of every character’s story and the way they react to the events that unfold across the book makes the story heartbreakingly real and relevant.

Every scene is very vivid, from descriptions about the place it occurs in to little plot details and dialogue. This makes for some very memorable scenes, both those involved in the major plot and those more related to a subplot. While Khalil’s death and the

way that it encourages Starr to use her voice is the main focus of the book, some of the best moments are the ones in between the events of the main narrative. Some of the secondary moments provide the most striking insight into the way that racism and discrimination is entwined with so many aspects of our lives. One of the most memorable for me is when a joking conversation about differences between white and Black people turns into a serious discussion, in which Starr’s brother asks her white boyfriend, “What makes his name or our names any less normal than yours?” This candid examination of how society views white as the default encapsulates what this book brings light: not just police brutality, but the racism and discrimination that pervades our society. And while reading a single book is by no means a fix for racism, that is why reading this book and really asking yourself these questions along with the characters is a good first step for all of us.



Already read *The Hate U Give*? Check out its prequel, *Concrete Rose*, released in January!

Looking for a great book? Check out the library for even more fantastic reads!
Have a book recommendations or a review? Submit it to the RBR newspaper! cdorn@rbrhs.org

Have a story idea?
An opinion you’d like to share?
The Buccaneer is interested!
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