



The Auburn School

NURTURING UNIQUE MINDS

3rd Quarter Newsletter, May 2017

NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

By Andy Hubner

Welcome to our student newsletter for the Third Quarter of the 2016-2017 school year!

We have had some smashing successes at The Auburn School! We celebrated the holiday season with a great Thanksgiving Feast and continued celebrations in each homeroom prior to our Winter Break. Thank you very much to the PTO and individual families for the wonderful treats for staff! We also celebrated Start with Hello Week where the school community contributed to building a healthier and friendlier culture by recognizing the strengths and positive qualities in ourselves and our peers. On February 14th, we celebrated Share the Love Day at The Baltimore Auburn School in Park Heights. Over 85 students worked together on a variety of community service projects that focused on supporting Interfaith Works, Humane Society, and Bryanna's Love.

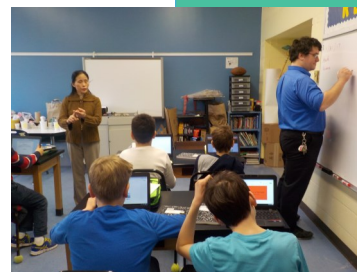
We all enjoyed our Fun Fridays as well as our Parent Student Art Projects and eagerly look forward to camping and the All-school Carnival!

I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to two of our parents. Liz Papian conducted a training for our foreign language teachers and Patricia Westwater ran a communication seminar with our education teams. Thanks to you and to all the parents and families who continue to make this school a wonderful place to be!

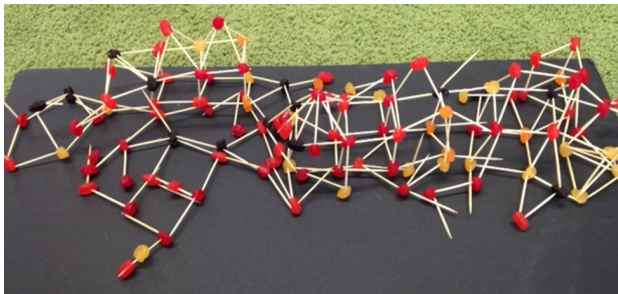
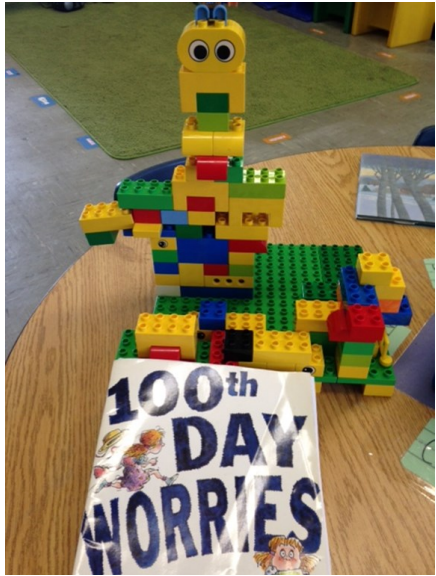


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Spotlight on LS1 and LS2.....2-3
- New Staff Interview.....4
- Student Shout Out!.....5
- Current Events.....6-7
- Upper School Sci-Fi.....8-11
- Winter Student Social.....12



CHECKING IN WITH LS1



LS1 students read a story and built structures using exactly 100 Legos and 100 toothpicks to celebrate the 100th day of school.

Ask an LS1 Student

By Micah, Henry, Carter, Dalton, and Parker

What did you like about the 100th day of school celebration?

“My favorite activity was building.”

“I liked building the fruit snack house.”

“I liked building with the Legos.”

“I like making anything.”

“I liked reading the *(100 Day Worries)* book.”

“I liked eating the pretzels (from the 100 day snack).”

What do you like about LS1?

“I like Math in LS1.”

“I like to use the Legos to make cars.”

“I like playing on the computer.”

“It’s great!”

“I just want to stay with you at the Auburn School.”

Share the Love Day

By Zach

LS 1 went to the Auburn School in Baltimore for Share the Love. We rode on a large yellow bus for 40 minutes. We met new friends, listened to stories, and played outside on their jungle gym. We wrote letters to friends who are at the Baltimore Hospital. It was a fun day!”



Our LS1 class has continued to grow in size and knowledge throughout the year!

COMEDY CORNER

By Ian C and Drew R, edited by Biruk M

Ian: The last time I asked for a drumroll the audience rolled a bunch of drums down a hill, so lets skip that and get to the comedy! Today we are telling some knock-knock jokes!

Drew: Here's a great one:

Knock-Knock

Who's there?

Benjamin

Benjamin who?

I've ben-jamin on my guitar in guitar clinic!

Ian: Now one from me:

Knock-Knock

Who's there?

Doctor

Doctor who?

Where's Dr. Who? I love that guy!

Drew: Here's the last one from me!

Knock-Knock

Who's there?

Me

Me who?

You don't even know who you are!?



The LS2 students often play group games to build teamwork and sportsmanship skills. They have lots of fun too!

LS2 CLINIC SPOTLIGHT

Fun Fitness

Jacob B: In fitness club I like doing stretches on the bosu ball because they make my body feel good and are fun to do.

Games

Won C: "Game club is fun, I like playing the game wizard school, it is a cooperative game about wizards helping each other in high school. I really like playing it with other people."

Guitar

Nathaniel WD: In guitar clinic we learned about acoustic guitars and their notes. My favorite part is using the electric tuners, I also like using my knowledge to make music memo's with the guitar at home.

Martial Arts:

Won C: I like martial arts clinic because of the level up game. It's a one versus two game, it feels challenging and I like the blue team because I get to try to run away from tricks and traps.

Jacob B: In martial arts club I really like duels with swords, meditation, and stretching. Meditation helps me feel calm.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. PECK

How long have you been an artist for?

For as long as I can remember. When I was almost four years old, my mom was watching a documentary about an artist who couldn't use her hands to paint, so she would paint with her feet. I thought that was the most amazing thing ever and from that point on I knew I wanted to be an artist.

What did you do before coming to Auburn?

I have been professionally exhibiting my artwork in galleries, art centers and museums since 2003. My freelance work has included jurying art shows, giving workshops on art, photo-editing, and web design work. I still work on my art and plan to be in my studio catching up on several art projects over spring break. Additionally, for over a decade, I have worked with MCPS as a volunteer, coach, and as a substitute teacher. I also volunteer at an avian sanctuary 1-2 times per week.

Who is your favorite artist?

I can't pick just one! Kara Walker, Frida Kahlo, Andy Goldsworthy, Gustav Klimt, Ai Weiwei, and Yayoi Kusama are some of my favorites.

What inspires your art?

I am predominantly inspired by nature, motherhood, activism, and science. *For any students interested in engineering do check out the recent NOVA episode about engineering and origami -- fascinating!

What is your favorite thing to draw?

When I was a child my favorite thing to draw was rainbows and unicorns. Now, I enjoy drawing little doodles called "Zentangles."

What is your favorite part about Auburn?

My favorite part about Auburn is the mission of "growing the social and academic potential of bright students with social and communication challenges." What could be better than that?



Mrs. Peck getting the LSI students ready for another exciting art lesson!

STUDENT SHOUTOUT!

Alexandra Deutsch Interview

By Jack Tompkins

Alexandra Deutsch, from Auburn's Intermediate class, has won an important contest. She is the winner in this year's Children's Mental Health Matters poster contest. Alexander's poster art is entitled "You're an Amazing Person". Her poster artwork will be unveiled at the statewide Child and Adolescent Behavior Health Conference on Tuesday, March 14th. Alexandra and her family have been invited to the conference to have her work recognized.

Jack Thompkins: Alexandra, how did you feel when you heard you won the contest during art class?

Alexandra: I felt surprised and very happy.

Jack Thompkins: What did you do after you won?

Alexandra: Cheered myself and enjoyed the applause of my classmates in art class.

Jack Thompkins: What did you use to create the winning poster?

Alexandra: I used bright colored paint so that people would feel both inspired and happy.

Jack Thompkins: Congratulations!

Alexandra: Thank you!



We are all extremely proud of Alexandra's excellent work !

THE UPPER SCHOOL LOOKS AT CURRENT EVENTS

PS VR Vs. Oculus Rift Vs. HTC Vive

A review by Jack Tompkins

It's time for the future to be declared. Now I love these VR headsets but the winner must be declared. We're going through 5 different categories. If 2 are tied, we will have a bonus round. So let's get these headsets on and see how they feel.

First category is the price tag. The HTC Vive has a big disadvantage right now. Because it has a \$799.99 price tag. The Oculus has \$599.99. And the PSVR has a \$499.99. So PSVR gets one point.

The second category are the controllers. The Oculus had a Xbox controller and that was it. Until there were the touch controllers. Which by far are the best VR controllers, but HTC Vive came out with VR controllers first. And the PSVR had VR controllers last. So one point for HTC Vive.

The third category are the games. The games for the Oculus have to be bought on the website. Although on the HTC Vive you can get games on Steam. But on PSVR you can get things on the home page. So two points for HTC Vive for a more accessible way to play.

The fourth category is tech. Now when you get a VR headset what's something you will need with it. Well for HTC Vive and Oculus you need a high powered PC. Which would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. But for PSVR you only need a Playstation, a PS camera, and maybe motion controllers. And it's just \$500. It's really not that much. So two points for Playstation.

The last category is comfort. Now the HTC Vive has the least comfort. It has straps that may not fit your head. The Oculus has straps too. But you can change it to make the straps fit your head. And lastly PS VR with a headband to fit your head. You can pull the headband back to make it fit your head. And you can pull the VR back to let you see the real world. So 3 points for PS VR!

The winner is PSVR!

A Joke by Jonty Porritt

Q: What do you call a sheep betrayal?

A: Muttony



The Intermediate students are always well-informed on the latest technology!

Why America Is Great

By Andre Schofield

America. What does it stand for? It stands for freedom, liberty, unity, equality, peace, and love. What does America mean to me? It means a place where people aren't judged by their skin color, who they love, what gender they are, or even their personality.

They all should be together. Now nothing and nobody can be perfect, and we all make mistakes but I believe that we should all work together to fix them and learn from them. Because that's all that we can do because we're only human after all. America also means much more to me. It means a place where I can choose my words and actions freely and independently.

Secondly it also to me means where people do their best to help each other out. In America's greatest hours of need not only have we had help and support from other continents and countries but we have helped ourselves by stopping what we were doing when we saw others struggling for help and helping them get back on their feet. I also think America means that they help and include people who seek help or refuge not shut them out and build a wall around them, that's just not what America stands for.

It stands for people who work together. For instance our society is a very sophisticated one it allows us to choose our jobs and who we want to support. We work together to build monuments like the Statue of Liberty and the Empire state building, one individual couldn't build those masterpieces alone we would have to work **together**. I believe that also since in everyday life we don't build walls around people we don't like that doesn't mean we can build walls around countries. Finally I believe we need a strong leader to lead America capable of staying committed to leading and supporting us, capable of not giving up, capable of being in charge of making executive decisions such as how much taxes should be increased or decreased and also protecting and not using our nuclear warheads and causing world war. In conclusion, America is already great!



UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE FICTION EXCERPTS

The DigiSkies

By Cameron Padgette

Chapter 1

The boy ran through a hole in the surface, and he stumbled into a rock. The boy walked through a tunnel, and he fell through a void. After falling for countless minutes, the boy fell through a hole filled with light. The boy then fell into a floating island. “Where am I?” the boy wondered. He only knew his first name, his mom and what his life was like. “What happened?” he thought. He remembered a huge robot destroying his home, then the screams of his mom as he blacked out. He looked around the area of the island that he was in. He saw slate pillars, he saw lush grass and trees, and he saw a dirt path. He walked up the dirt path. At the top of the path was a sword, made of bronze and diamond, and encrusted with emeralds. He grabbed the sword and examined it. The sword shined against the rays of the sun. For the first time in months, the boy named Oliver smiled.

Suddenly the sword glowed, and he lifted swiftly into the air. Oliver's eyes widened as he saw cities of islands, millions of islands in the sky. Memories started to come back. The surface of Earth had been attacked by robots, his mom had been destroyed and all he remembered was running through a hole in surface. He realized it was not a hole, but a teleporter! The human race, Oliver concluded, had used machines to lift piles of dirt and grass into the sky. The surface was not safe anymore. He suddenly moved towards one of the huge islands. He landed at a dock. There were a couple of guards there. Oliver realized they would probably execute him if they knew he had some sort of dangerous sword. He crept past the guards, and walked into the city. He saw markets of people selling bows, swords, bread, apples, steak, and ships. Oliver sighed. Before the surface world was destroyed, he had been very poor. He had been homeless, and his family had lived in alleyways and in shelters for brief periods of time, before they were kicked out. He was used to a hard life, but it does have its advantages in this new world. Oliver walked towards the ships. When no one was looking, Oliver jumped into the ship. As he started the engine, police and angry citizens mobbed towards him. The ship shot off the dock, and towards the open sky. Oliver drove the ship for hours. Oliver watched the sun start to set, and just as he was about to fall asleep, a laser shot past him. He put the ship on autopilot, and jumped on to the small ship dock. He saw a small police cruiser. Oliver pulled out his sword, from a sleeve he stole. He deflected the shots. One shot hurt his left arm. Oliver used his right arm, deflected an incoming shot, and destroyed the ship.

It fell down through the sky, until Oliver could no longer see it. "I'm officially a fugitive, and I just got into this new world!" Oliver thought. Oliver climbed into the cockpit, and press the digidrive button. A portal opened, and Oliver drove into it. Oliver remembered his mom telling him about it. "Digidrive goes way faster than normal drive." his Mom told him, as the portals to the skies opened. Then a robot appeared. Mom screamed as Oliver ran into a hole in the alleyway. Oliver couldn't see that well because of smoke.

It was a teleporter! Oliver had no idea. His ship suddenly went out of digidrive. He saw about 8 or 9 medium or small islands. After a minute a ship landed on one of the island dock. Oliver opened the cockpit, and pulled out his sword. He bought some makeup, and some glasses, as a disguise. He sneaked around and asked if there was a place he could sleep tonight.

It took about a couple of hours, but he paid about \$ 85 dollars that he stole.

He went inside the room and locked the door. There was a average bed, a lamp, some coffee, and a old TV. The lamp was off. He didn't have anything to do, so he turned on the TV. The news was on. CNN was reporting that a 14 - year old had stolen the ship and has fled. The remains of the government (2 thirds of it had died when the robots attacked) was offering a 10,000 dollars reward for the boy, Oliver Johansson. "Ha!" thought Oliver as he watched. "They don't even know that I'm in disguise." he said. "Though, I have to be very careful." "I probably should leave before they notice my ship." the boy thought. He went to the ship, and took off. Before he could enter the digispace, a huge ship appeared. The tractor beam turned on. Oliver winced. "Oh, no my ship's camera is getting hacked!" He ducked under the ship control panel as a screen appeared. A voice started to talk. "Leaving so soon?" the unknown person said. Oliver was hiding under the control panel. He had to escape. He broke the camera in his ship just as the unknown person yelled "Guards!" "Get ready for inspec-." The ship was reaching the large ship's round bottom door. It started to open. Oliver pressed a button in the cockpit and opened the escape pod door. He ejected just as the large ship door started to close. The pod was heading for a large forest filled island. Oliver sighed. He was in huge trouble now.

War of the Systems

By Abigail Manley

Chapter 1

The bright, Erionian sun had just risen from the horizon and shone down its orange rays on the Billson Military Base. The metal shone like fire, and so did the thick, dense forest surrounding the complex. Rocky Marison squinted his eyes at the blazing brightness and sat up from his bed. He then felt a feeling of dread consume him as he realized what was about to begin today. The alarm for the whole building went off moments later, waking up every sleeping soldier in the complex.

“All soldiers, head to the dining area where the attack against Vyenren will be discussed for the last time before the battle.”

General Micah’s voice boomed through the hallways from the speaker. That fight, the fight the whole Eastern Alliance had been preparing for for months, was finally occurring. Rocky rose from his bed, and entered the hallways. Each step carried more weight on him as he headed to the dining area. Perhaps his last time in the dining area, before everything in Vyenren. Finally, after what seemed like forever, the large dining area stood before him. Rocky took a long, deep breath before stepping in the dining area.

He went to the stand where the food was served, and was swiftly acquitted with a meal of beef, a nutrition and vitamin drink, and various vegetables. As he walked away, and spotted his friends, Quinn Walter and Tyeque Ern. Rocky quickly walked towards them and sat down. He looked at his food.

Not the most ideal possible last meal, but I take it over starving in battle any day!

Rocky quit pondering over his meal and dug in. Rocky normally would find this food bland, but somehow the flavor burst inside his mouth as if his tastebuds knew this could be his last meal. He forced his way through the food, and then gazed at the room. It was a normal loud place before training, but an air of dread, fear, and uncertainty clouded over the area and the mood of the soldiers. Then, a quick bell chimed over everyone, and General Micah spoke.

“As we all know, we have been at war with the Vyenren empire for 15 years. We have lost family and friends in that time. Millions have been slaughtered on both sides, and this battle will hopefully put this bloodshed to an end.”

Rocky froze. That war, the war that had changed the course of history, of both him and his planet system. He was only ten years old when he saw the news about the Vyenren prince being assassinated by a member of the Erionan government. Tensions between the two planets were already high due to differences between the societies, so it wasn’t long before war broke out. Emperor Kyzekyin didn’t believe that the Erionian government official was simply corrupt, but that the whole of Erionus was conspiring against Vyenren. Clouded by grief and anger from the death of his son, he quickly declared war on Erionus. Xyen quickly joined the battle as the planet was allies with Serious, and the two planets formed the E.X Alliance.

His mother, Alyan Marison, a part of the army, had fought in the Battle of the Crater. Rocky lived in fear for three long months without his mother’s contact. And then, his family received terrible news. His mother had been killed.

His heart ached upon remembering the memory. He quickly focused on General Micah’s words before he was saddened any further.

“Vyenren and Emperor Kyzekyin have left everyone in the Eastern Alliance in fear for their lives, history, and future. We will end this! We will rise above Emperor Kyzekyin and take back our safety, avenge our loved ones, and put an end to the dark clutches of Kyzekyin’s reign!” The crowd roared in response, echoing through the complex. After about 15 seconds, General Micah silenced the crowd with a hand gesture.

“In mere minutes, you will be deployed to the Billson Military Space Station, launched into orbit, and flown to Vyenren, where we will attack the Emperor and his army. I wish you all luck in the final battle.” General Micah stopped, and simply gazed at the crowd with his icy blue eyes. A wave of dread passed through Rocky’s veins as the crowd was once again frozen. Rocky got up to get his supplies. As he left the dining area, he became lost in his thoughts.

I WILL live for my father, no matter what happens; but if I die, at least I will die in my mother’s honor.

He swiftly took his supplies, and quickly walked outside the complex. The military cars were outside. Rocky felt the cold breeze pierce his tan skin. He ran to his assigned car, where Tyeque and Quinn were waiting. Rocky put his supplies in the back, and sat quietly. He gazed outside the window, and put a hand to his chest.

Comic Book Hero

By Karson Klimpacher

Chapter 1: The Origin

So we were going on a special mission. Sorry for not introducing myself, I’m Rogue Disaster a superhero. I want to tell my story up to where I am now. Ok so now that you know who I am I will finish what I was saying. We were going on a special mission. I was waiting for them to tell me to jump from the plane and then the plane’s engine busted and there was a burning odor in my nose. I was the only known survivor. I fell out of the plane and broke my left leg and shrieked with agony, along with a few of my a few of my ribs. Then I pulled my body to a palm tree and laid on it to rest. When I came to I saw enormous rhinoceros was in front of me, he smelled musty and earthy. I realized he was defending me from a immense, giant, roaring tiger. While this was happening I had a massive numbing headache which must have come from my long and dangerous fall. I was crying from this headache.

Two Weeks Later

I was all healed up. I was riding the rhino that defended me and I had found a secret and most likely ancient temple the night before so I’m feeling good. I was going to the temple that I found. Ok now I was focused I didn’t want to get attacked in the temple. We walked into the temple, I saw glowing symbols on the walls. When we were almost to the end of the hall my rhino tripped on a stone, and I fell into a giant hole! I saw a giant pot full of goop. I stopped myself from falling but got curious, and put my right arm in the pot. My right arm completely turned to stone. I was shrieking in pain.