



STEM SAGA

NHS and the Spirit of Giving

National Honor Society is always excited for the opportunity to help not only in school but within their community as well. Just in time for the holiday season, the NHS hosted a dress down day for a small cost of a dollar along with donations of cans, book bags, and clothing items. These items collected all to give to a local soup kitchen known "Saint John's Soup Kitchen", in Newark New Jersey. While there, the members of NHS aided in stocking shelves and preparing meals for the less fortunate. When handing out the food, all members concurred that being able to give back was a humbling and gratifying experience. One member described their experience as "An eye opening experience. There was a warm feeling when seeing the smiles on the faces of those who were less fortunate and knowing that we were the light of their day." The NHS is expected to return to the soup kitchen throughout the rest of the school year and continue their endeavors of giving back. Their experience is something that they will keep with them for the rest of their lives.

~Reshona Pereira

Attention Seniors!

College is right around the corner and many of us have already been accepted into a few schools, but we still need to focus on money and scholarships. Here are some links to help you put more money in your pocket.

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>

<https://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/no-essay-scholarship/>

<https://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/?niche=niche-scholarships>

<https://www.raise.me>

[fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)

Lip Sync Is In

The senior class held a Lip Sync Battle hosted by Student council president, senior, Ibny Mitchell, as a fund raising event. Participants included: Mohid Mistery and Zion with a duet, Sophomore Kayla Meyers with a solo. Shaheed Sweatte, Marquis Matranga, and Larenz Mitchell. Kayla Jai and Ciara Allen, and Vania Hayes and Silver Marbiah of the senior class. There was even a performance from Ms. Prince's class .The show also included last minute volunteer lip sync participants in a battle of the sexes. This event was fun and entertaining for everyone .



Dishing Diaries (a Freshman's Diary)

In English class we discussed “fate vs. free will”, and this got me thinking of all the decisions that I happened to make in my life. There is a time in your life where you happen to sit back and think of the life that you have made for yourself and how that plays into who you are as a person. Fate is the idea that your future is pre-planned, and, no matter what actions you take in life to change it, you simply cannot change what is set in stone. I began to wonder just how different the human race would be if the idea of the future being mysterious transforms into a future that is known. As these thoughts begin to run through one’s head you begin to ask yourself the one question all humans find themselves asking: What is my purpose in life?

I believe that a life without purpose is like a body without a heart, useless. The heart is the catapult to the brilliant, complex series of bones, nerves, tissue and blood cells. This is a vital organ- the size of a fist! With one final swoop, boom your life is over! A tiny amount of damage to the organ could mean the difference between another wasted life force and your next meal. With purpose comes the sense of accomplishment when you achieve the goals you wanted. This is really what we strive for in our mundane lives.

That’s what really got me thinking about the short life I have lived and the transition to high school. My friends and I really have to accept the fact that we’re getting older as every day passes and, like the seasons, our thoughts and bodies change along with it. It’s a lot like how freshman think; even though, we are looked upon as the incompetent little kids to the upperclassmen. You could say that we are the cattle to these humans. It’s bittersweet to know that in a few years the table will have turned, and we will become the predators to the prey. To put it into simpler terms...high school is the National Geographic Channel.

Now, I would like to say that my friends and I have increasingly found a way to conquer the lunch line. It’s basically achieved due to the fact that two of my friends are closer to the cafeteria. As soon as the lunch bell rings, they dash into the lunch line and the rest of us cut our way to them. Greedy (yes) and Selfish(yes) but that’s the way the world goes round. We really need answers to why there was a food shortage to few weeks prior to winter break. Isn’t the school supposed to supply us with guaranteed food? If so, then tell me why for two days I saw with my own eyes kids who sat empty with no food because they had run out. This was outrageous and I think it was completely unacceptable.

The problem with this system is that the people who serve the food don’t ration enough. Just because some are willing to pay for extra food doesn’t mean that you should always allow it. If you know there will be enough food to serve more than everyone than by all means... go and get that second slice of pizza, but if there will not be enough than you will be staring at only one slice on your plate. I challenge all the readers to question everything that you see no matter who objects. Defy others and stand up for your beliefs! These mind sets are what makes people successful! Start a Revolution!



~Samantha Augustin



Book Club

Recently, the Book Club finished reading the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*. In this book, author Jay Asher unfolds a story of confusion and desperation that will deeply affect teen readers, specifically on their views of teen bullying and awareness. They are currently reading *House On Mango Street*. This book covers a year in the life of Esperanza Cordero, a young Mexican-American girl. It is told in small vignettes and independent short stories or prose poems that addresses societal norms.

Glee (Cover-to-Cover)

Are members of the Book Club who bring written word (lyrics) to life through song. Within the last year, the Glee Club gained 15 members and are currently at a total of 35. They will be performing in the school talent show and art exhibition with their best songs. Make sure to come out and support them!

Robotics Club

The STEM Robotics Team has been doing exceptionally well this year. They established the FLL (FIRST Lego League) open to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders where the young ones are guided by adult coaches to research a real-world problem and develop a solution. They are required to design, build, program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology and compete on a playing field. At their first competition, they won the Judges Award. The robotics team also made it as one of the finalists in Duel of the Delaware on October 22nd.

During Computer Science Education week, the Robotics Club encouraged both high school and middle school students to become involved in *Hour of Code* and *Pet in a Zoo* online. The advisor, Ms. Froehlich, organized two assemblies on December 9th concerning women and minorities in the computer science field and a presentation by Picatinny Arsenal. They kicked off the "Sit With Me" campaign which inspires students to recognize the important role that women play in creating future technology by taking a picture sitting in a red chair.

The FRC Kickoff was on January 7th at NJIT. That means robot-building season is underway! The Robotics Competitions are scheduled for March 10-12 at Mount Olive and 17-19 at Bridgewater Raritan. Come out and support our school Robotics Team!

Model UN

The STEM Model United Nations went to a competition at Bergen Academy on January 2nd. They will be at a two day conference: Two in March, One in May. The club is looking for new members! At the conferences, members meet students from all over the world. A concentration of different nationalities will be there. You could even overcome your fear of public speaking and enhance your leadership skills! The overall purpose of the club is to become acquainted with diplomacy and international issues and to enjoy yourself!

Mock Trial

Currently the STEM Mock Trial team is practicing for country competition at courthouse in Newark on January 9th and 10th. They are also looking for new members! The tournaments allow students to argue "fake" cases in real courtrooms with real judges! In addition to becoming more familiar with the legal system, students gain critical thinking, public speaking, advocacy, teamwork, and character skills. If you are thinking of a career in law or politics, this is the club for you!



Ashma Thomas

Fatime Sylla Tells All

It is a new year, so a fresh start for all the zodiac signs

Aries- You will be appreciative of the slow start of the New Year, but soon this month would be filled with success caused by progression. Overall- plan out your future.

Taurus- Taurus you should live this life to the fullest. Relax, enjoy life and become stress free.

Gemini- Gemini , January of 2017 will be a vibrant month. Spend time with loved ones and be adventurous. You are ready to rekindle old relationships.

Cancer - Cancers will be successful in their professional life. You will not waste any time on immaterial items. In January a Cancer would love to escape reality and refresh their minds, and new opportunities will come their way.

Leo- In the month of January your friends and family will be very essential. You will be determined and accomplish anything you put your mind to. Your social life will become highly active, and well- being this month.

Virgo- During the month of January Virgos are busy. Some Virgos will try to focus on communication and make an effort to deal with any problems that come their way.

Libra- In the month of January Libras will be communicative and their friends and loved ones will be excited to know what they're thinking. During this month you will have many opportunities.

Scorpio- In the month of January Scorpios will gain advantages when they have circumstances. This month Scorpios will be sympathetic towards the people close to you and the younger generation. This month will have good social relations.

Sagittarius- The 2017 January monthly states that Sagittarius will be successful and determined to fulfil dreams. This month you will be independent.

Capricorn- This month Capricorns will be focused on emotional strength. You have no time to waste. Happy Birthday to those who celebrate their birthday during this month.

Aquarius- During this month, Aquarius, there will be a big shift in your life. You will have new friends & new connections. This month will bring a busy social life and amazing discoveries.

Pisces- This month Pisces, you should listen to yourself (inner voice) more. You will also become more sociable. Good luck will arrive soon.