Winter 2016


University Lower School

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Are you interested in Virtual Reality? Virtual Reality, also known as VR, is a computer generated simulator. It is used to see a virtual world of things you might not see in person. Once you put on the VR goggles and have the controls in hand, you feel like you can interact with anything in the virtual environment. Sounds cool doesn’t it? So, when will VR be coming to a classroom near you? According to Dr. DeLaFuente, Lower School Associate Director, the answer is, “Next month!”

Dr. DeLaFuente has known about VR, but came up with the idea when she and Miss DeMaria, Lower School’s Science Lab teacher, were shown an animation of a virtual world. “I immediately thought it would be great for the Lower school to have this!”

Studies show that when someone experiences things “hands-on” they understand and learn more. The aim of VR coming to the Lower School goes along with this theory. Dr. DeLaFuente explains, “Many science concepts are abstract and Virtual Reality will bring these concepts and science to life!”

Dr. DeLaFuente, along with Miss DeMaria and a team of specialists, designed a “biosphere” that will contain different interactive components that relate to both Life and Earth Science. Students will get to explore this biosphere wearing the goggles and using the controllers, while the teacher facilitates the learning experience. The best news of all is that ALL students who come to the Science Lab will get to experience this one of a kind simulation. So, in addition to all the wonderful lab activities done in Science, students now can look forward to VIRTUAL REALITY!
If The Book Fits, Read It

By Maya Berkman and Krisalynn Fleches

Do you like book fairs? If yes, read on because Mrs. Cantor our librarian would like to give you some information about this wonderful showcase. Mrs. Cantor explains, “The goal of the book fair is to get a lot of books in kids’ homes and raise money for the school. Book Fairs usually take place twice a year, in the Fall and Spring. There is always a theme; this year’s Lower School theme was Buccaneer Book Fair.”

The book fair is a great experience for kids and their family no matter what age. A good librarian will always have the right book for you. Plus, there are many things to buy besides books such as, coloring books, erasers, pencils, and posters. Chase Ross, a Fourth Grade student, said, “I looked forward to the book fair because there were two new books I wanted to read.” Chase thinks the book fair is a good idea because it encourages students at our school to read and buy books! This year’s book fair took place the week of November 14th, and kids certainly did join in on the fun and shopped till they dropped.

New At Art

By Blake Leshner

This year, Art has a special new addition to the classroom, teacher Mrs. Mas! Mrs. Mas, who was a Fourth Grade teacher for 7 years, happily took on the role as art teacher alongside of Mrs. Balber. Mrs. Mas said, “I really enjoyed teaching Fourth Grade, but art is something I’m truly passionate about!” Mrs. Mas decided to take the position because it was an opportunity to do what she loved and when the opportunity came she knew she needed to go for it.

Perhaps the one thing Mrs. Mas likes the most now is that she gets to inspire students in a different way. She also enjoys that much of her students love color and creativity as much as she does. Although Mrs. Mas misses her Fourth Grade team and all the planning they did together, the good thing is she still gets to see them. Mrs. Mas explains, “I don’t know when I will return to the classroom because I like where I am! I love the special’s team and working closely with Mrs. Balber.”
Girl Power
By Kayla Giset

“It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s…Superman!”
Ok. Big whoop. There is also Supergirl, and it could have been her. People all around the world underestimate a girl’s specialty, a girl’s uniqueness, a girl’s POWER! And University School’s new student government board can prove them wrong!

This year, there is an all-girl Student Government team, which include; Cameron Alters, the President, Mia Spector, the Vice President, Haleigh Mish, the Historian, Sophie Simon, the Secretary, and Kayla Giset, the Community Service Coordinator. According to Dr. Womack, guidance teacher at the Lower School, this is the first year that an all-girl team was brought to the table. “I think the year will turn out differently than other years.” he said, “I know the all girl team will make a difference.”

It isn’t just the staff commenting on the team, it is the President herself! “I think that the new student government team is spectacular! I think if there were boys it would still work well, but I think the girls are FANTASTIC!” reveals Cameron Alters.

Yes, girls can do anything boys can do. So, make a difference in a girl’s life, even if you’re a boy. Tell them that they can do anything if they put their mind to it. No matter who they are, or where they are from, every girl has a power… What's yours?

The Place for Sports
By Amanda Stewart

Have you seen the brand new addition to the Sports Center? If not just keep reading. Ms. Washington, the Lower School dance teacher, gets to work in this brand new building every day! She explains, "The Sport Center was built because we needed more room for athletics, more class room space and more office space." Middle and Upper School students take their PE class in the brand new state of the art gymnasium. "Two of the main features of the Sports Center are the gymnasium and the multipurpose room," said Ms. Washington. Lower School students are also fortunate enough to experience the new complex by taking dance class in the multi purpose room. Sports have added great life to the University School’s already wonderful programs and it’s great to know that now we have an even better place for sports!
Flying High with One of America’s Top Generals
By Lily Miller

On November 11, we honored the veterans who have served in the military, including the Air Force Reserves. The mission of the Air Force Reserve is to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace. The current leader of the Air Force Reserve, and its 70,000+ citizen-irmen, is Lieutenant General Maryanne Miller. She is the first woman in U.S. history to be the Chief of the Air Force Reserve and is also one of the best pilots in the U.S. Air Force. She spoke with the Great White Gazette and provided insight on her background and advice on how to be a successful leader.

Great White Gazette: Can you tell us what your responsibilities are as Chief of the Air Force Reserves?
Lt. Gen. Miller: My job is dual-hatted. I essentially have two jobs. As Chief of the Air Force Reserves, I am the main advisor to the Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all reserve matters. I provide, train and equip all the Air Force Reserve forces. I am also in charge of the Air Force Reserve Command that directs and supervises all Air Force Reserve units and commands around the world.

Great White Gazette: What inspired you to become a pilot?
Lt. Gen. Miller: When I was in ROTC while attending college, I would play tennis with my professor of air and space studies. In ROTC, I was preparing to become a lawyer. My professor said that I was a great athlete and that I could be a great pilot. He actually turned my paperwork in after I had told him no, that I was not interested. I got the position as a pilot and I thought that I might as well do it.

Great White Gazette: Has being a woman been a challenge in a profession that is mainly dominated by men?
Lt. Gen. Miller: I was definitely aware that I was one of the only women and I also knew that everyone was watching. I do think that I put more pressure on myself than other people put on me. If you try as hard as you can, people won’t really judge but admire you. I was good at what I was doing and the men with whom I worked with never had issues with me because they knew I was competent.

Great White Gazette: With nearly 5000 flight hours and qualified to fly ten different types of airplanes, were you ever in a situation where you were scared?
Lt. Gen. Miller: When I was an instructor pilot I was with a student and we actually had a problem with our fuel tank. It was pumping gas out of the plane. We could potentially run out of fuel. I had to tell the student we might have to get out of the plane, but did not want to use the word eject because I was afraid he might eject prematurely. I had him sit on his hands before I explained the emergency so he wouldn’t pull the ejection handle. Luckily, we landed the plane safely and did not have to eject.

Great White Gazette: What advice would you give to children and adults about achieving a goal?
Lt. Gen. Miller: There is no limit to your creativity. The only limits are the ones you put on yourself. We tend to create stories in our heads saying that we cannot do something. You should wake up every morning saying ‘I can do this’ because you really can. God gave you your gifts for a reason. I believe you should use your gifts because that is why he gave them to you and he expects you to use them for the greater good.
Girls For STEM!
Editorial By Lilian Anderson

In my years at University School I have noticed something that troubles me. I have always enjoyed programs including science, engineering, math, and technology, but I have noticed that I’m usually one of the only girls participating. The same is true for my sister. In multiple classes, such as Robotics and Rocketry, we have represented the girls, be being either alone or nearly alone. This information is surprising, because recently, young women are clearly excelling in the S.T.E.M subjects. Looking for answers, I turned to the public. When asked why she wasn't participating in S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs, Maya Tuckman, a Fifth Grade student said, “I didn't give much thought to it, and I was worried that it would cut into my other after-school activities.” Are girls just lacking the time, or are they not even thinking about joining S.T.E.M programs? I believe we all need to work to change this issue. All the teachers, parents, and students need to work harder to encourage young girls in these areas. University School continues to introduce more S.T.E.M programs and classes for all of its students, but the participation level for girls continues to lag behind. While many girls don’t have the time with all their other after school activities, we should stress the idea of making these areas of study more of a priority. It is important that we start to teach girls this now, while they’re young, so they will be able to have a head-start in the future.

So I call on our administrators to grow these programs and sell them to our girls. I call on teachers to talk to your female students about getting involved in these programs. I call on parents to not fall into outdated stereotypes of what your girls will or will not be interested in when signing them up for classes. And most importantly, I call on my fellow girls to step up to these opportunities and all the potential ingrained in them. Girls need to participate in S.T.E.M programs. We are the future mathematicians, scientists, innovators and engineers—READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

Raging Robotics
By Ava Collazos

This year students have the option to take robotics. Robotics is an elective for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students here at the Lower School. In robotics, students build robots and then control and drive them. Mr. Stern, who teaches robotics and is a (former) graduate of Lynn University, is very enthusiastic about the program. He exclaims, “There are different levels for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Each time students add on to their robots.”

There are many steps involved in building a robot. Xavier Osceola, a Fifth Grade robotics students explains, “We use the company Vex robotics to build the robots.” Vex assists students in building the robots by giving them step by step instructions, but students learn more than just how put together a robot through this process. They also learn and practice collaboration. Sam Dyer, a Fourth Grade Robotics student explains, “We work in partners to build our robots.”

When students finish the book of instructions they can make their robots unique with their partners. After, there are challenges in a small arena for the completed robots. There are two types of blocks, magnetic and plastic. For example, one of the challenges is to pick up the block while using the controller to control your robot, and stack them. Robotics is a great program for all grades and students. It provides a great education, while allowing students to work cooperatively!
Mrs. Garren Comes To Town
By Ava Collazos, Alanna Frier and Jack Steinman

This year Mrs. Garren joined Florida because her husband got a job here. She moved to Chatham University in Pennsylvania. So far, working at the Lower School has been a great decision for Mrs. Garren. Her favorite part of working with the fabulous students. Although this is Mrs. Garren’s first year at the University School, she has great experience teaching. “I have worked at schools for over twenty years and I taught in Switzerland, Africa, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Saint Croix.”

The students all feel Mrs. Garren’s dedication and love for teaching. Kirsten Habibi, a Third-Grade student says, “I love Mrs. Garren because she is fun.” Nick Dyer, a Fourth-Grade student concurs, “I like Mrs. Garren because she helps us make stuff.”

It is not easy planning innovative activities for students in grades JK through Fifth, yet Mrs. Garren is fully prepared. “When I plan out the activities I try to think about what is fun and if we have the materials to make the project be the best it can be.”

Some of the amazing things you can do in the Innovation Lab are Dash and Dot, B-bots Osmo, Legos, and use of the 3-D printer. Sebastian Cruz in JK reveals, “My favorite thing in the Innovation Lab is B-bots.”

Besides regular school hour classes, Mrs. Garren also has the Innovation Lab open in the mornings and afternoons, so students can explore even more. Mrs. Garren has certainly made the Innovation Lab better than ever and Lower School students are happy she is here!

This is How U School Stays Safe!
By Isabella Morales

Do you remember hurricane Matthew? The hurricane that caused students to miss two days of school back in September? People around South Florida were all buying supplies, and trying to make their homes safe in preparation. But, what does it mean to be safe? Hawk Wallace-Ross, a JK student, thinks one way of being safe is, “Making good choices, like listening to your teacher and following the rules.” Hawk has a good point because U School students have to practice these things when they have Severe Weather Drills. So it seems like being safe takes more than just putting shutters on your windows, it requires good listening and following directions as well. And that’s how U School stays Safe!

U School students stay safe by . . .

“Making good choices, like listing to your teacher and following the rules.”
-Hawk Wallace-Ross
Baseball!

An Editorial by Annie Wasserman

White leather, red stitches, I have no blue, but I am All-American, who am I? Like you probably guessed, I am speaking about the sport baseball. But not just a bat, gloves and ball, baseball, the sport itself is someone’s passion, someone’s dream, someone’s goal. Personally, baseball is my life. I eat, sleep, and breathe baseball. It is an amazing sport with just enough teamwork, individuality, and fun.

Now to my main point, baseball is amazing! Everyone should play it. Why, you ask? It brings a world of excitement with every move. When you’re up to bat, you knees start shaking. The question is, is it excitement or fear? Sometimes I wonder. You can set a goal for almost anything, from touching the ball, or getting a run, or getting an out. There is no limit for all the goals you can set. 50% of people interviewed enjoyed playing defense, stopping the plays, and being engaged in the teamwork as part of the game. In any case, being apart of any side, you will have fun. Sometimes it gets rough, when you lose, but winning totally makes up for it. Run those bases, hit that ball, make that out, just play some baseball!

Football Famousness Fiasco

By Kristen Newell

Football grabs the eyes of parents and kids all over the world. It is very exciting and leaves you sitting on your couch wanting more. But, what do Lower School students really think of the sport?

Some girls and few boys say it is eternally boring, like watching a 100 year old man take 20 minutes to walk across his own house. Others, like Ethan Alenier, a Second Grade student, feels it is a dangerous sport. He said, “You can get knocked out or even seriously hurt.”

Even though the sport is disliked by some and vicious to others, kids still feel a need to watch the game. Who knows maybe the game of football fills your mind with the tingling sensation of excitement. It seems to be true that American football’s popularity is spreading all over the world, and believe it or not, football is one popular sport!
**The New Kids On The Block**  
*By Corey Wasserman*

Have you heard of Auston Matthews or his teammates, Mitch Marner or Fred Anderson? Well, they are American professional ice hockey players for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League.

Matthews was drafted first overall by the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 2015-2016 NHL draft and scored a record of 4 goals in his first debut. Back in 2013, Auston though that he would be a top three pick, and was even called “cocky” by some of his coaches. This 216 pound 6'3 center is now the third best scorer in the whole entire league! Miles Mittentag, of a 5th grade hockey player and fan said, “I have to admit Auston is amazing, but Fred Anderson and Mitch Marner are also some great pickups as well.”

Many hockey followers agree with Miles because Marner had 3 out of 4 assists to Matthews in the rookie opener. He also has an astonishing 4 goals and 10 points over a course of twelve games. On the other hand, even though Anderson gave up 5 goals in the season opener, he saved 46 shots in the second game of the season resulting in a win over the wild!

These three superstars are rocking up the house in Toronto and are hoping to bring Home a cup. It’s been 48 years since a Toronto Maple Leaf held that cup up and these dynamic three are going to try to kiss that cup again in 2017. Miles had some advice for the three players he looks up to. He shared, “The only thing that the Leafs need to do is practice.”

Columbus Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella revealed that his team practiced 5 hours a day and 6 days a week, leading up to their rivalry game against the number 1 Montreal Canadiens. So, it seems that Miles’ advice is really needed in order to bring Toronto to their victory and get The Leafs out of their Stanley Cup Drought!

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**Flip Into the New Trend**  
*By Vaughn Rex and Corey Wasserman*

Water bottle flipping- An activity where you flip the water bottle in a full rotation, and land it on the cap or the bottom of the bottle. This new trend started in 2016 when people uploaded videos of them trying to “land a flip.” Since then water bottle flipping has completely taken over and its popularity has grown faster than you can land a water bottle flip.

Jett Yurgealitis, a Fifth Grade student, is a water bottle flipping fanatic. He says, “I love the reaction when I land it. It gets me pumped up!” Most of the time bottle flipping is done during lunch or recess, yet Mr. Bowden, Fifth Grade teacher’s aide claims, “Some kids do flip bottles when they’re not supposed to. But I eventually catch them.” While Jett thinks that water bottle flipping is awesome, like many others Mr. Bowden thinks that it is a waste of time. But, the bottle flipping war continues as kids aren’t giving up. This hobby has been recorded on TV shows and social media and it seems as if the commotion is motivating flippers even more. Jett explains, “I flip at my house, restaurants, and friends’ houses.”

Water bottle flipping can be now considered a sport or challenge due to its unexplainable fame, but it is getting banned worldwide due to spills, distractions, and loud noises. News stations, such as NBC and CNN, are even considering it dangerous. Although this is a fun and silly activity, it involves playing competitively with your friends, which can lead to fight and harsh language. According to Fifth Grade student, Xavier Osceola this is true. “I think this trend is not dangerous but competitive and it should be stopped.” This water bottle flip war is definitely tense, so which side are you on?
“Able” To Compete
By Lilian Anderson

This August, at the 2016 Olympics’ men’s 1,500 meter race, American Matthew Centrowitz finished with the gold medal. Two weeks later, four men, on the same track, ran it with a faster time than Matthew Centrowitz. These four men were Paralympians.

Following this summer's well known Olympics in Rio, came the Paralympics. The Paralympics is the same as the Olympics, but for people with disabilities, such as, a loss of limb(s), loss of eyesight, and so on. Many people love their sport, but could never participate in the Olympics due to their disability. The Paralympics give these athletes a chance to compete on a world stage. The four men who beat Centrowitz’s time were all visually impaired (having different types of sight problems), but clearly they could run really fast!

Debuting after the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the Paralympics was a huge opportunity for people with disabilities. The athletes surprised everyone, being incredibly good, and not far from the level of the traditional athletes.

In Rio, over 4,000 athletes, representing 159 countries, competed in 22 sports. Abdellatif Baka of Algeria, Tamiru Demisse of Ethiopia, Henry Kirwa of Kenya, and Fouad Baka of Algeria, all ran faster than the Olympic champion, proving that people with disabilities are just people with different abilities.

These amazing athletes inspire people everyday and deserve a congratulations for pursuing their dreams.
Bye, Bye Bees?
By Ella Gohari

Can you imagine a world without bees? That would mean no more painful stings! However, a world without bees would be a horrible world. Bees are very important to the survival of the human race. They help farmers pollinate their crops, and almost all agriculture relies on their well-being. This means that without bees, there will be no food for us to live on. Unfortunately, bees are dying off in massive numbers.

While we do not know yet why bees are dying at such an alarming rate, Mrs. Elyse Etra, former Environmental Science teacher at the Lower School, has some theories. She says, “Two major factors that are threatening the honeybee are habitat loss and increase of pesticide use in agriculture.” The bees have been dying off in states such as California, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Florida. These states are the top honey producers, but their honey production has dropped by a landslide due to the honeybee loss.

What can we do to stop this? Mrs. Etra believes, “We can keep more land available for honeybees to forage.” Though the habitat loss is worrying, the pesticide use in agriculture is worse. “The pesticide attacks the nervous system of the honeybee and the effects are paralysis, loss of memory so they can’t find their way back to the hive, and death,” explains Mrs. Etra.

It is important that each of us do our part in protecting the honeybee. From not picking that flower to asking your parents to not use that pesticide spray, we can all make a difference for the honeybees.

Is The iPhone 7 Heaven?
By Jack Steinman

It’s no secret that Apple has invented the iPhone. Most people prefer this mobile device over any other, especially the most recent edition, iPhone 7. Emma Neidenberg, a Fourth Grade student just got an iPhone 7. She explains, “The price did range high. But I got it for my birthday.”

Although it seems as if the iPhone 7 looks the same on the outside, there are some differences you encounter right from the start. Emma explains, “You have to lightly TAP the home button, not PRESS it hard to open your phone and the way you take a picture has changed a lot too.” Since using the iPhone 7, Emma has only found one bug, which is very impressive! It looks like Apple is stepping up their game!
A Magical Prequel- Movie Review
By Amelia Wills

A Fantastic new J.K. Rowling movie makes its way onto the big screen. Finally after five long years, J.K. Rowling came out with the highly anticipated movie, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.

This movie follows a wizard named Newt Scamander on his mission to reclaim the Magical Beasts he accidentally let out of his briefcase as he entered New York City. He teams up with witches Tina, Queenie, and non-magic Jacob to find and capture his beasts before they are harmed. The fact that one of the beasts is invisible, and that the Ministry of Magic is after them makes this task even more of a challenge. Soon an evil force is attacking the city but, the question is what is it?

As a total Harry Potter fan, Fantastic Beasts really stood out from the Harry Potter series. The difference between Harry Potter series and Fantastic Beasts was that Fantastic Beasts was set in the 1920’s, opposed to Harry Potter being set in the 1990’s. This movie supplied us with a whole new cast of magical characters such as Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), Porpentina or Tina (Katherine Waterston), Percival Graves (Colin Farrell), Credence (Ezra Miller), Queenie (Alison Sudol), or the muggle (non magic) Jacob (Dan Fogler). This movie was packed with action and some violence but, includes some of...
Dear Ask Alanna,  
I would like to know why we are allowed to wear the light up soul shoes. The shoes distract me a lot. Can you help? If you can, what can you do? I don’t know if I should do anything or not. Can students not wear them on test days?

Love,
Secret Sparkles

Dear Secret Sparkles,
These shoes seem to be the latest trend. You really can’t stop someone from wearing this type of sneaker, but you can ask the Director if they possibly cannot be worn on test days to reduce distraction. Thank you for writing!

Love,
Ask Alanna

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Vince Lombardi once said, “The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” Year after year I tell my students that joining the newspaper staff is a “choice,” and so is success. Throughout the eight weeks, many students were met with the challenges of scheduling interviews and the disappointments of a feature, story or article not going the way they intended. Regardless of the obstacles they had to overcome, they approached the task with drive, perseverance and followed it through until they met success. I am very proud of the writing each one of these talented students contributed to this edition of the Great White Gazette. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I have.

Sincerely,
Fanya DeMaria
Editor and Faculty Advisor of
The Great White Gazette Newspaper