On March 28th, 29th and 30th, AAE students performed The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and it was a huge success! Teachers and parents alike came to support their children and the cast in general. Every night was filled with laughter and joy as the quirky characters showed off their personalities and shined on stage. Both casts did an amazing job in each of their performances, making new acting choices every night.

Cole Miller drew inspiration from the original Broadway cast and took “Barfee” to the weirdest level. Samantha Boreland and Ondrea Kerr brought “Olive’s” innocence to light and Ben Keilty went from sharp conman to loveable Comfort Counselor as “Mitch Mahoney”. Nico McMahon and Cristian Rodriguez were not so subtle in their portrayal of “Chip Tolentino” and his problems with puberty, but it was fun nonetheless. “Leaf Coneybear” was animated by Sam Kavouras and Cameron Boehm as they leapt across the stage.

Neha Kataria and Kyla Lewis brought the patriotic and competitive “Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre” to the stage and melted hearts.

The volunteers called up on stage included Mr. Johnson, Ms. Wathen, Mr. Williams, Vishakh Talanki, Ms. Bodden, and Mr. Canterbury. They provided a familiar flair as they struggled to spell the words given to them. They were great sports, however, even when they had to say goodbye.

Sincerest apologies to Meghana Kandarpa as “Donna Panch” for being brutally mauled by an over zealous “Mahoney” tripping over her chair crashing into “Carl Dad” and “Dan Dad”.

As my last performance with AAE, I am immensely proud of the production we put on, and I can’t wait to come back and see how much better next year gets. I cannot thank the audience and everyone who supported our production enough because without you it never would’ve been possible. It was my favorite moment of the Bee. And so I hand off the baton to our younger cast mates, and I hope they break a leg!
Article 13 Passes
A change to the internet as we know it

By Ashawn Morris
Staff Writer

The vote to approve Article 13 was held on March 26 in the European Parliament with 348 votes in favor and 274 against. It passed. Under Article 13, you cannot use others’ content for your own personal use. Bots will now check every video, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, stream, meme, etc., that is posted. If there is a copyright violation, the post will be taken down, and the company could be sued, and, in return, you will receive a punishment. This could also be summarized as a crackdown on plagiarism.

Now, this may sound like it’s not a big deal, but it is. If you are a Twitch streamer or Youtuber or any general person who posts on social media, any content, meme, or photo you post, the company could be sued. That equals you not getting paid, and could result in fewer people streaming or posting videos, pictures, or memes. When you post a photo, bots will be checking if you lifted it from another site without citing where you got it from (which a lot of people don’t do). So, remember plagiarism is wrong, and cite everything you post.

It’s Time For A Break
Spring time is party time

By Ashawn Morris
Staff Writer

Winter is done; the cold is no more, so what time is it? It’s time to hit the shore!

Spring break is a time of vacation and relaxation for kids and teens of all ages to enjoy the sun and have some fun. This goes on for a week and is always in April. The best places (especially for college students) to go are Cancun, Cabo, Miami, and other sunny places.

Spring break dates back to the ancient Greek and Romans who would celebrate the coming of spring by enjoying the sun and drinking themselves silly. But what we now know as spring break really began because of two events: Fort Lauderdale built Florida’s first olympic-sized pool in 1928, and MGM released Where The Boys Are in 1960. Remember, when you’re out there having fun, stay safe, have fun, and party hard!
Costly College Classes

Students may have to pay for extra classes if they do not pass entrance exam

By George Castillo
Staff Writer

Although college students begin school with hopes and dreams, they often enter with hugely different abilities. While a student might have good grades on paper, the actual meaning of those grades is affected by the quality of his or her high school. As a result, many colleges use placement exams especially for core classes in math and English to test what a student has already learned and place him/her in a class that will help her further develop their skills.

However to avoid this test, colleges often use SAT scores to determine whether or not a student has to take the Accuplacer test. If you do poorly on the Accuplacer test, you will be placed in a more remedial class, meaning you will have to pay for a course that does not count towards credited graduation. And that means it will take you longer to get your degree and cost you more to get it due to the extra classes you will need to take. Students are recommended to be prepared for this test.

University Open House Tours Begin

Students begin to tour their prospective colleges

By Neha Kataria
Staff Writer

On April 7th, the University of Bridgeport held their open house for accepted students. It started with breakfast and a speech from the UB President, UB Vice President, and student council president. After, students went to panels that contained professors from their major and were able to eat and take a tour.

Northeastern’s Open House took place April 6th and Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s took place April 10th.

The University of Connecticut held their open house for accepted students on April 13th. A similar set up took place. Students saw the dean, professors, and current students speak in panels, were able to eat in one of the many dining halls, and go on tours.

Open houses are an amazing opportunity to see schools in full in order to be able to guide your decision making process for college.

The Notre Dame Disaster

The French hope to rebuild the structure in 5 years

By George Castillo
Staff Writer

The mammoth blaze that tore through the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris nearly destroyed the 850-year-old landmark, alarming worshippers and admirers around the world. Authorities in Paris are still trying to piece together exactly what happened before Notre Dame Cathedral caught fire, causing the roof to collapse. Officials believe this was an accident.

About 50 investigators are involved with the probe, and they have started questioning 30 employees from different companies, including those that were involved in the cathedral’s restoration work. Currently, many people have been offering to help and donate money to rebuild Notre Dame.

Just recently, The University of Notre Dame has donated $100,000 to the restoration. French President, Emmanuel Macron, hopes the country can rebuild Notre Dame within five years. With the scale of the project, the timeline will be met with hundreds of millions of dollars which has already been pledged for the rebuilding efforts.
What’s The Deal With Late Work?

To accept or not to accept, that is the question

Although the teachers in this high school are extremely varied and diverse, I believe they can all be broken down into two clear cut categories. There are teachers who accept late work with no penalty, and there are teachers who do not accept late work without a penalty. Although I do not have access to the grading information of all of the teachers, I can tell you what I have noticed in classes that accept late work without a penalty and those that do not.

In classes that allow students to turn in work, I see less failing grades, more classroom engagement, and harder working students. On the other hand, classes where students cannot turn in work with no penalty are filled with students that are resentful, failing, and not trying because the teacher is limiting their ability to improve.

When you limit someone’s ability to do well, you limit their motivation to try, so the policies surrounding late work are demotivating our students to do worse in their classes. The simplest solution is to remove these policies so that our students have motivation to catch up in their classes and do the work the teacher assigns them. Classes are hard enough without extremely tough deadlines; they shouldn't be unnecessarily restrictive.

What Is A Sport?

The debate over what competitive games meet this criteria

There are over 8,000 sports and sporting games played around the world. However, there is an ongoing debate around what is considered a sport. Essentially, there are different perspectives on what a sport is.

The definition of a sport is something that involves physical exertion and skill in which an individual or a team competes against one another for entertainment (Dictionary.com). People argue that there are some sports that don’t qualify for this definition. For example, games like chess or poker are popular and are competitive, but those games lack the physical exertion that you see in sports like football and basketball.

Also, there is the question about sports like Esports. Esports is virtual gaming where thousands of people compete in different video games for money. Some people say that it is an easy way out. Anybody can pick up a controller or play a video game. On the flip side of that though is the level of skill. Some games require mental exertion, while some games don’t. This debate brings up the question should the criteria for what is considered a sport be changed?

Spread Of Kindness Act

Creating a curriculum of kindness

The good feelings that we experience when being kind is a feeling you never want to let go of. The endorphins activate areas of the brain that are associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust. Feelings of joy are proven to be contagious, encouraging more kind behavior. More importantly, spreading this kind of behavior around the school would be beneficial towards the social life of students and improve their learning.

The more socially invested a person is in their learning environment, the more invested the person might be in their effort towards their education. Personally, I believe in the creation of a curriculum in schools that would provide an education on kindness and its importance. This course could be beneficial due to all the possible activities and lessons that would be taught and become a habit and a way of life for AAE students.

Creating a community of students who appreciate each others’ kindness would better the school environment and the future environments of graduates.

Stress Free Senior Year

A student reflects upon a stressful junior year

As we come close to finishing our senior year, we are all struggling with work and capstone. And, although we are all still stressing about it; my opinion is that junior year for me was, and is, the most stressful year for students. Junior year, I received so much work and stressed myself over classes; many of us ended up failing. Moreover, in junior year, work was overwhelming and more difficult to do. A lot of us just gave up and had a lot of missing work, which ended up in bad grades at the end of quarters. Overall, for senior year, there is work, but it is not as stressful as junior year. The only stress is capstone, which is still not as stressful as the all of the work from last year.
Dear Lyla

By Michelle Richiez
Lifestyle Writer

Anonymous

My boyfriend and I have been dating for almost a year now. We were talked down by everyone, but still decided to give it a try.

I don't know how I feel about our relationship anymore. I want to break up with my boyfriend because there is lack of communication and I'm not feeling it anymore. How should I go about it and tell him?

Advice

Hi there, honey! Um, I think that you need to be up front with him. The relationship won't end if you don't step up and tell him. You have to be honest and let out everything you have been holding in. You need to put yourself first and be happy. Make yourself your top priority here.

Nothing can go wrong if you are honest enough. Some people like to hear the truth, and if he has a bad reaction then it means he was not worth it after all.

Yes, it will hurt because you are letting go of someone you gave your all to for a good year. This is not something to bring you down but to make you a better person.

CAPTION CONTEST

we provide the cartoon - you make it funny

Top Submissions:

“Too bad it's not Halloween”
“I wish I went to the can earlier”
“Shine bright like a diamond”

Directions: If you have an idea about what you want written in the cartoon's bubble it could be published in the school newspaper. Simply scan the QR code and we will select the 5 funniest responses to share.

MK 11 Is Coming

The next Mortal Kombat game is about to be released

By Anaiah Smith
Staff Writer

Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19

Aries are known to be some of the most confident, enthusiastic and determined people. They are the type of people who have a strong personality and fight for their goals regardless of the push back.

However, Aries can also be aggressive and impatient. Aries are loyal companions when it comes to relationships. Their spirit animals is a cardinal with their lucky number being 17.

Mortal Kombat is a video game franchise that was first introduced in 1992. Like Street Fighter and Tekken, it became one of the most successful fighting game franchises and one of the highest grossing media franchises of all time.

Now Mortal Kombat 11 has just released their launch trailer for the game. The game is supposed to be released on April 23, and the pre orders have already gone through the roof.

Movie Review: ‘US’

TERRIFYING, SPINE CHILLING, AND A MUST SEE

By Jordan Jenkins
Movie Analyst

In order to get away from their busy lives, the Wilson family takes a vacation to Santa Cruz, California they plan on spending time with their friends, the Tyler family.

On a day at the beach, their young son Jason wanders off, causing his mother Adelaide to become protective of her family.

That night, four mysterious people break into Adelaide’s childhood home where they’re staying. The family is shocked to find out that the intruders look like them, only with horrific appearances.

New York Times says, “Jordan Peele’s new horror movie, Us, is more ambitious than Get Out, and in some ways more unsettling.”
Diversity in Engineering Assembly

By Joseph Howard
Staff Writer

On April 5th, a group of engineers came to the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering to give an assembly. The meeting was held in an effort to reveal the diversity within the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) community.

The 40 minute assembly consisted of several successful engineers who shared their personal stories of how their hard work in their jobs and enthusiasm in their education led them to their passion. Several of the speakers asked that each student should choose something that they will enjoy and be eager about, even if it was not in a STEM field. This is due to the fact that a person will be more willing to understand a topic that they are interested in or connected to.

The importance of higher education was mentioned countless times as well, either in regards to a college or technical degree. The engineers who spoke claimed that not everyone needed a college degree to be successful, but needed to have a developed education in whatever sector they decided to work in. Even so, they worked to soothe those that feel inadequate about their level of competence saying that one does not have to be the best in order to be helpful or proficient in the field.

The assembly helped to get students excited about their futures.
DJ Dollaz To Host Prom

By Avery Martindale
Staff Writer

DJ Dollaz is a young DJ that had once attended the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, and graduated in 2008.

Dollaz will be the DJ for prom with his bumping music. Dollaz is a well known DJ around the area of Hartford. Over 200 teens attend his parties, and the entry fee is also surprisingly reasonable to get in. Admission is usually $5, but if you show up late, it’s $10 to get in.

International Coffee House

NHS hosts International Night and Coffee House combo event

By Thor Colbenson
Staff Writer

So, once again, it is that time of year when the union of cultural foods from around the world are embraced, tried, and loved. On Friday, April 26th, International Coffee House will be hosted by NHS from 5-9pm.

It is a time for many students to show off their talents and perform them for a curious audience. If you didn’t feel like making or ordering dinner, or you’re just curious about other foods from other cultures and aching for some entertainment, come by! NHS members are asking that anyone interested bring a dish to share with them to the event.

Whatever may be the reason and motivation to come there, it can be guaranteed that this would be great time for the hungry and the fun hungry... and yes, there will be coffee.

A Real Life Ninja Experience

Students attended the Real Life Ninja Academy and participated in activities that promoted team building and overcoming obstacles as seen on Ninja Warrior.

Ultimate Tournament Rollin’ Into Battle

By Jordan Jenkins
Staff Writer

Do you enjoy gaming? Are you a big fan of Nintendo? Do you have either a Gamecube controller or any other type of Nintendo controller?

Then you should consider attending to AAE Super Smash Bros Tournament coming soon on May 3rd from 3:30 to 7:30 in the Auditorium. To sign up, email aaesmashbois@gmail.com with your name, your grade, an appropriate player tag of your choice, and phone number.

The event is for the entire high school, and food will be served. This event has always been a tradition here at AAE, and will hopefully continue to be one.

Yes, this tournament can get pretty competitive, but it also brings students together and creates a bond between them, creating strong relationships within the school.

Splendid Spanglish Speakers

The 4th Annual Spanglish Creative Writing Contest hosted by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was held on February 22nd.

Two juniors from our school who participated were Katia Fabian and Andrea Lacunza. Fabian took first place, and Lacunza made honorable mention. The topics they wrote about not only mixed languages but made reference to their heritage.

The contestants were judged based on a demonstration of sociolinguistic consciousness (understanding of the complex dynamics - language, culture, gender, class, ethnicity, etc.- in multilingual, multi-ethnic communities) as well as effective communication of message through Spanglish. Fabian's poem titled “Idioma de Mariposa” will also be published in AAE’s literary magazine, The White Rabbit, due out next month.
Boys Baseball
CLHS 5 AAE 4

By Ben Parke
Editor

On April 1st, the AAE baseball team took on Civic Leadership at Bill Lee Field in Bloomfield.

A closely contested game, it eventually went into extra innings where AAE fell to CLHS 5-4 after the bottom of the eighth.

Junior Ethan Goodman pitched well into the seventh inning and junior Athar Mehmood followed with a valiant effort. Goodman also produced at the plate with a double that was capitalized on from another big hit by sophomore Justin Munoz.

With two runs scored by AAE in the third, CLHS responded with two in the fourth, and both teams picked up two more runs in the fifth.

A great team effort, it just wasn't enough for this one, and AAE picked up their second loss of the season.

AAE will be playing home games at Bloomfield High School versus Bulkeley/Weaver and Hartford Public, both games starting at 3:45 p.m.

Softball
Jet Eagles 3-1

By Desaray Chapman
Editor

Photo Aditya Awasthi

On April 1st, the Jet Eagles played their first game away against the Beavers of Cheney Tech. The Jet Eagles took their first win of the season with a score of 25 to 10.

Sophomore Griselda Acosta reached base 5 times, scored 4 runs, stole 7 bases and added an RBI.

That same week, on April 3rd, the Jet Eagles faced the Falcons of Prince Tech at home and took another win with a score of 19 to 9. Senior Dez (Desaray) Chapman hit a single, double, and a home run. They also had a total of 4 RBIs.

That same week, April 5th, the Jet Eagles had an away game against the Panthers of East Windsor. The Jet Eagles took their first loss of 3 to 27. Freshman Nysairy Soto swung and hit her first single of the season and Senior Dez Chapman had a double and 2 RBIs.

After their loss, the Jet Eagles came back strong the following Monday, April 8th, playing a fantastic home game against Capital Prep with a score of 32 to 17. Sophomore Griselda Acosta reached base 5 times, had a single, triple, stole 4 bases and had 2 RBIs. Senior Dez Chapman had a hit, scored 4 times and stole 8 bases.

Outdoor Track

By Anderson Delgado
Sports Writer

The Aerospace Jets flew into battle and emerged victorious in their outdoor track meet held at Newington High. They competed against both Buckley High School and Newington High School.

Congratulations are in order for both junior Dontay Batchelor and sophomore Arlene Martindale for throwing the javelin right into 1st place in both the men's and women's event! Hayden Misunas threw for the very first time and took 3rd place overall in the javelin event as well.

Batchelor swept all the field events, as he also threw 1st place in the shot put and 2nd place in the discus event! Sophomore Brendon Hunter ran right past his own former personal records and will be headed to states for both the 100 & 200 meter sprints.

A round of applause for the entire Jets team as they demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship towards both their own team, the home team, and the other opposing visiting team; Buckley. The Jets will continue their hard work and look forward to more athletes on the team qualifying for states at the next outdoor meet held on the 26th if this month. GO JETS!