Staff Spotlight: Meet AAE’s New Assistant Principal, Mr. DeJesus

There is a new assistant principal, Mr. DeJesus, who has joined the Aerospace staff for the remainder of the 2019 academic school year.

Before being selected to come on board, Mr. DeJesus was a teacher and an administrator at Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy in Hartford for the past 10 years. According to the Hartford Courant, “After Mr. DeJesus took over in 2016 [as a school leader], the absentee rate dropped 50 percent.” It is the Renzulli school community who credits DeJesus with “clearly demonstrating excellence” and accomplishing this goal (Courant, Nov. 11, 2019). After an extensive search by the Aerospace hiring committee comprised of staff, students, and parents, DeJesus was selected to fill the assistant principal position that was left vacant when Mr. Moore took a position as principal of Canton Middle School. Moore was the assistant principal at AAE since 2011.

DeJesus comes from an educated Puerto Rican family in which both of his parents were educators, so he was expected to be a great scholar even at a young age. This was what prompted him to attend the University of Connecticut for an undergrad program, then, the University of Hartford for his masters, and finally, Central Connecticut State University for his 6th year program in school administration.

DeJesus started his career in 2005 when he was a long-term substitute and worked one-on-one with students as a tutor. After that, he took a five year break from the field of education and decided to follow his heart to pursue other passions. DeJesus spent some time acting and modeling for various companies. He even had a guest appearance on the 2005 romantic comedy Hitch. “These things have taught me to become more comfortable and have helped me become a better educator and provider,” says DeJesus.

Mr. DeJesus came back to teaching again in 2010. Besides loving to teach, DeJesus is a busy man. He is a zumba instructor, loves to read, acts, models, and paints. He is very excited to see what this school year brings. He explained, “One thing I admired about this school is how happy the staff is. They are happy to be in school”. Mr. DeJesus has a multitude of ideas for the school and is always happy to look for strategies to help students learn.
Closing Shop for a Cooldown

Weeks of a devastating government shutdown creates the longest stint in history, and time is still counting

By Theodore Colbenson
Staff Writer

Four weeks ago, the government shutdown. This decision was made by government officials at midnight on December 22nd, and is already being placed in history as the longest shutdown in all of the 242 years the U.S. has been fully established.

What’s worse is how there seems to be no end in sight, forcing 800,000 people to be without a paycheck.

Colombia’s “Earthquake”

By Brian Sinclair
Staff Writer

On January 17th, 2019 in Bogota, Colombia an earthquake was reported to the police officers. But, that wasn’t the case. A car bomb exploded in front of Bogota’s Police Academy killing at least 21 people and injuring more than 65.

The radius was so big, reports have said that it has reached people in the area of 5 blocks away. Witnesses in the area said they didn’t think it was a bomb, but instead an earthquake. The car was said to have carried at least 175 pounds of pentolite, which is a powerful explosive, that went off minutes after a promotional ceremony. The man who was responsible for this attack, Jose Aldemar Rojas Rodriguez, died at the scene.

A witness said “This kind of thing had an impact” as she was a mother of two who was home at the time of the explosion.

“It makes you think that once again the country is headed toward that memory of those years when there were so many car bombs and attacks everywhere.”

By midday Thursday, people came out of their houses mourning for the ones who have lost their lives. Colombia’s president, who had been away from the capital, called the bombing a “miserable terrorist act” and said that “All Colombians reject terrorism and are united to confront it, with this all we can do is mourn and look ahead at the future.”

Implication of Pulling Out of Syria

Is the war in Syria legal?

By George Castillo
Staff Writer

Recently, regarding President Trump's decision to pull out of the war in Syria, Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senator from South Carolina, has stated that it would be a “stain on the honor of the United States.”

Graham’s sentiments are shared by other Republicans such as John Bolton, the National Security Advisor of the United States, who did not support the pull out either. In fact, General Mattis, nicknamed the Warrior Monk, actually resigned over this decision.

This pro-war stance has matched the views of many Americans throughout the country, which is ironic considering the fact that many Americans would have been hard pressed to find out that this war is illegal.

The American war in Syria is illegal according to International law, as attacking a country that refuses to fight back is in violation of International protocol. Furthermore, there was no congressional approval for the war or UN approval, this something you will not hear in everyday programmed television and is reminiscent of what took place during the Vietnam Conflict. The difference, however, could be seen as acknowledging the United States lost the advantage in Vietnam, whereas Trump is arguing that ISIS has been adequately defeated in Syria and it is now time to focus our interests elsewhere.

Besides, how would the United States benefit from spending billions of dollars in another war? The answer lies in Israel. It is in the interests of Israel, and the immensely powerful Zionist lobbies in America which are currently on overdrive pushing for the war on Syria by spreading fears of Iran.

This is confirmed in the pro-war statements of Pompeo and Bolton, as well as the official press release of AIPAC, the largest Israeli lobby in the United States.

But why would Iran be a danger to the United States in Syria? For one thing, Iran has been of enormous assistance, actively assisting in the fight against terror groups in Syria. It all stems back to the interests of Israel, who benefits from a destabilized Middle East, and a Syria in perpetual civil war.
Midterm Tension and Turmoil

Students feel overwhelmed by studying for midterms

I don't think anyone would argue that the week leading up to midterms has been stressful for all high schoolers. The anxiety and stresses were high as they prepared for important mid-term tests. Even teachers felt nervous about the testing because there was pressure for them to grade the exams before the quarter closed. AP classes were probably the most frazzled to perform well because the AP exams for them come sooner than finals.

Moreover, out of those stressed, the worst is seen in the senior class. This is because they need to keep their grades especially high since their grades will be sent on their official transcripts to colleges.

For example, I had immense stress and anxiety for my science and math classes. They require the most time to study because they rely heavily on memorization and cover a wider subject base, going through multiple chapters per month. This leads to an exorbitant amount to study in order to pass the test.

Passing these tests is essential because they make up ten to twenty percent of the final grade for the class, making these hours of study mandatory. Furthermore, my grades are already lower in these classes, to begin with. This test could be a way to bring up my average grade, or it could be detrimental to it. This prospect puts a lot of stress on high school students to perform well.

School Uniform, Still an Issue

The school administration had the seniors spending $25 per shirt this year on a school uniform, when these students were only attending the school for one more year. Honestly, it was a waste of time and money to go and buy these shirts. Did the school even think about the families that might not have money to throw around on school shirts that are only going to last for one year? It is even worse that after spending all of that money, the school has stopped enforcing the uniform policy. What the school should have done was asked the students and parents to take a survey on whether they wanted a school logo shirt for the seniors in their last year attending the school.

Funding Failures

The Academy of Aerospace and Engineering is renowned for its excellence in academics, ranking in the top ten schools in Connecticut; however, it's not very good at finances.

The $80 million school was built upon the pre-existing structure of an old Pratt & Whitney building, and upon completion was immediately full of problems.

The library had a frequent avian visitor that would throw students off their rhythm while working. The solar trees in the parking lot have become decoration, as they aren't connected to any device to make them functional. The panels on the side of the lunch room are damaged from weather, and have only been observed to move once a day, not nearly enough to collect energy. The $40,000 desk simply sits in the lobby corner and is only used by students waiting for buses and siblings waiting for after school clubs to finish.

The field on the side of the school is dilapidating from lack of upkeep and wasn't in use for its first year to let the seeds take root. Still, the grass is missing in certain areas and whenever it rains, the far side of the field becomes a swamp. The lobby ceiling holds wires that was supposed to hang a model airplane wing that was never completed due to financial and artistic differences between the artist commissioned and administration; however half of the total cost of the wing was given to the artist for materials, yet another poor financial decision.

How Late is Too Late?

Should students arriving at 7:46 or later be punished the same as students arriving at 9:00 or later? The current school policy of penalizing late students, says so, a student arriving at 9:00 and one arriving at 7:46 will both receive a tardy unexcused. I am not an extremely punctual person, I make mistakes, but if I try to get here on time and arrive at 7:47 I should not receive a penalty. Most of the time I will arrive before homeroom teachers will take attendance but I am required to sign into the office as late.
In 9th grade, I had to retake Algebra I when I passed the class with a 95% in 7th grade. I also passed geometry with an 89% in 8th grade but had to retake it in 10th when my peers, who were not from Hartford, were not subjected to do this.

The first day of geometry in 10th grade, the teacher told me, “You’re going to fail my class”. I was confused. I had already taken the class in 8th grade and passed it with a 89%. The teacher simply said, “You’ll see”. My grade went from an 81% (Q1) because I was doing great on my quizzes and tests to a 61% (Q2) because he stopped counting my homework that was done in pen and accused me of cheating on my quizzes because “A Hartford kid couldn’t be this smart”.

Then, my grade went down to a 53% (Q3) because he accused me of doing 200 homework problems in the first 5 minutes of class when I actually did the work at home like everyone else. And then worse...a 44% (Q4) just because he wanted to prove to the office that it wasn't me who was doing the work. If you averaged those grades up...my grade ended up being a 59%.

For the final, the teacher had me take it in a different classroom from my peers because he thought I would cheat on it because my midterm grade was a 75% which brought my grade up to a 62%. So, I did what he expected of me; I played dumb on the final. I got a 51% and passed the class with a 60% that year because if I did the questions that I “shouldn’t know” because I’m from Hartford, he was going to take the points off anyway.

Growing up, parents, teachers, and authority emphasized the Golden Rule: treat others the way you would want to be treated. Back in elementary school, this could be applied to students who made a rude comment to another kid. In middle school, this might have looked like students who were talking while the teacher was talking. However, as we have grown up, we stopped talking about the Golden Rule. How many times have you encountered a person who is treating you in an ill-manner, but will lash out if the same were to happen to them?

Recently, we have noticed a trend in men not treating women the way they would want to be treated. This happens all over the world, regardless of your culture, what town you live in, and even what country you live in. Mistreatment of women has existed for thousands of years. AAE is approximately 80% male. The senior class has 19 girls and 74 boys, and all the classes below are very similar regardless of the school’s efforts towards gender equality. This disproportion causes multiple issues regarding the Golden Rule. Boys in this school make many girls uncomfortable with verbal harassment. A girl in our school reported to me, “Once I was walking in the hall and a guy came up to me and said, ‘Yo I’m tryna to d*** you down’”. She explained that after she gave him a look, a look which clearly indicated she was not interested or pleased with what he was saying to her, he kept asking to “smash”.

Another student verbalized, “These guys always say something about my body. I can’t wear a dress anymore.”

It continues with another student who shared a story about a boy in this school who asked her in public, “Can you sit on my face until I am wet?”

This culture of harassment is everywhere, and it is especially prevalent in our high school. So, the question is, where is the Golden Rule? When will we begin to treat others the way we would want to be treated? When will we start looking seriously about administering consequences for those who intentionally make women feel uncomfortable and disrespected?
Dear Lyla

By Yekxenie Morales
Advice Columnist

My friend doesn’t know how to maintain being loyal in his relationship. He and his girlfriend been dating for around 2 years. However, he has messed up really badly. We went to play basketball at the YMCA, and he left his phone with me. I noticed that his phone kept ringing, and it was someone named “John.”

I automatically thought it was an emergency so I unlocked it. I saw something I shouldn’t have. It was a picture of a girl and a whole lot of messages with hearts. I automatically knew he was cheating! I don’t know what to do! I don’t think it’s my responsibility to tell her, but I want her to know.

I advise you to tell her. Think of it this way, if someone that you care about finds out your girlfriend/boyfriend sees someone is cheating on you, and doesn’t tell you, how would you feel?

You would definitely want to be informed. However, know that once you tell her, she will be hurt emotionally and that should be your place to check up on her. Don’t let your mind think of doing the best thing, think of doing the right thing!

CAPTION CONTEST
we provide the cartoon - you make it funny

Top Submissions:
“When is this class over?”
“What is she talking about?”
“Is this on Schoology?”
“This wasn’t on the study guide”

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.

‘Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse’: Review
Hilarious, Action-packed, and Exceptional

By Jordan Jenkins
Movie Analyst

97% According to ‘Rotten Tomatoes’

This action and adventurous Marvel associated film is about a popular, creative, yet quirky Miles Morales from Brooklyn who was bitten by an escaped radioactive spider in an abandoned subway tunnel.

After being bitten, Miles discovers that he has the abilities of the one and only late Spider-Man; but comes to find out later on that he is not the only spiderman in the multiverse.

Now all the spider men and women have to team up and work together to prevent a giant disaster from destroying all of New York and get back to their own world.

This film got an 8.7/10 on IMDb, 97% fresh on rotten tomatoes, and 87% on metacritic. Critics from New York Times says, “This may be the first Spider-Man feature to qualify as a great New York movie, drawn from the life of the city rather than outdated stereotypes.”

Dry Skin Fix

By Kavita Parma
Lifestyle Writer

Start by using warm water on your face before you wash to help open up your pores.

Use a wash that helps with exfoliation, since there is a lot of dry dead skin on your face. If you have acne prone skin, I would recommend using African Black Soap.

Pat dry your face.

Use astringent to get anything off that the facewash didn’t. I recommend using Sea breeze.

Use a moisturizer that is hydrating, and if your have really dry skin that peels, I would also recommend using vitamin E oil on your face because it also helps get rid of scarring.

My pick here is L’oreal Hydra Genius Moisturizer with vitamin E oil.
The 25th Annual production of the play Putnam County Spelling Bee officially has its actors and actresses rehearsing. Congratulations to all who got a part, and thank you to everyone who auditioned.

Rehearsals are Mondays after school for the full cast and Tuesdays and Thursdays for principal roles, but check the calendar on Schoology to make sure. The show is currently scheduled to be on March 28th and 29th at 7 PM and March 30th at 2 PM and 7 PM. The spellers are double casted to preserve the energy of the show, so the cast list is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Cast List</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Norteana Garza, Meta Elvira, Jordan tran, Lakeyson Montes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Directors</td>
<td>Shin, Lisa knit, Ben Heith, Mavis D'Angelo, Shaq,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Jeans Pasato, Srikar Godilla,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actors</td>
<td>Olivia Bittell, Emily Murphy, Cole Wett, Jordan tran,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting Director</td>
<td>Netea Ewing, Nadea Lewis,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Ava King, Expo Gaver, Abigail Dingel,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costume Director</td>
<td>Cameron Bolen, Sam Haney,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeup</td>
<td>Olivia More, Devon Wardell,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director</td>
<td>Alex Montez, Aiden Rodriguez,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer</td>
<td>Bella St. Laurent, Ben Heith, Jordan tran,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a major crisis occurring in Venezuela. The new president Nicolás Maduro is responsible for the nation's economic crashing. With a process called "hyperinflation" the inflation rate up a whopping 1.3 million percent.

As a result, Venezuelan citizens are seeking refuge in nearby countries because of the failing infrastructure. There are also continuous riots, muggings and nothing is certain.

But, here at AAE, we have a student shedding light on such grim circumstances. Senior Jalaun Ross is voicing his concerns on it. He says “If the United States is such a rich place, why can't they help Venezuela.”

This is always on his mind, as he posts articles daily on his snapchat. He currently working on a video about why America should help Venezuela. Ross says if you want to help with his movement in any possible way, send an email to savevenezuela77@gmail.com.

Furious Physics Teacher Restricts Refreshments
Wollins wants only water

By William Hobson-Rhoades
Editor

On January 18th, Mr Wollins instituted the now-famous Coke-On-The-Floor Policy. When in Mr Wollins’ room, it is now a requirement that you place your coke on the floor.

This ban came about due to two large events. First of all, AP Physics C: Classical Mechanics and AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism student Will Hobson-Rhoades began ruthlessly spinning the coke bottle, distracting everybody in a 5 foot radius. This prompted Mr. Wollins to require the Coke bottle to be at least 3 feet away from the student. A short time later, AP Physics C: Classical Mechanics and AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism student Srikar Godilla took notice. He pointed it out, resulting in a cacophony of laughter that ultimately led to the institution of the Coke-On-The-Floor Policy. Diet Coke, although a repeat offender, is allowed due to the lack of sugar.

Link Crew Hosts Cocoa and Cram
Lovingly preparing students for midterms

Mrs. Kinkaid has offered up her room and her Link Crew Leaders during X block to help stressed-out midterm crammers looking for some relief with a tutor and a hot cup of cocoa. Attendance at this event has been a huge success.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Kinkaid
Debate Takes It Again

By Ben Parke
Editor

On January 12th, the Debate Team competed at Guilford High School and tackled the topic of whether or not third parties should be able to invest in lawsuits.

Trophies were awarded to Ben Parke for placing second speaker in the varsity division while Neha Kataria and Will Hobson-Rhoades finished in 3rd place for the varsity team division, earning a spot at the state tournament.

Furthermore, Josh Bell and Rufus Abraham went 2-1 in a crowded JV field, with judges complimenting their “immense improvement” and Srikar Godilla finished 5th overall in the varsity division. With 16 debaters competing at the tournament, stayed tuned for more stellar performances after their competition on February 2nd.

30th Anniversary Sheff Event A Success

Article reprinted from the CT Mirror, Author Kathleen Megan, 2019

About 150 supporters of the Sheff school desegregation case gathered over the weekend to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the landmark suit, but also to ask a question that echoes the theme of Martin Luther King’s last publication: Where do we go from here?

With a California-based law firm having filed a lawsuit last year that could seriously undermine Sheff, the Saturday event served as a kind of pep rally marking the strides toward integration made under Sheff, while simultaneously cautioning that those gains could be lost.

Dennis Parker, executive director of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice and a longtime member of the Sheff legal team, told the group that much has been achieved by Sheff with the establishment of more than 40 magnet schools and a “choice” program that allows Hartford students to attend schools in other districts.

But he said, “It’s still the case that more than 50 percent of students of color in the Hartford area are in segregated schools, so we continue to fight to increase the number of students who have access to greater educational opportunities. So today we are both celebrating the success of the case, but also frustrated at the pace and the extent of the remedies that have been achieved.”

Parker said the case has been further complicated by the filing of the lawsuit by the Pacific Legal Foundation, which has argued against Affirmative Action in cases across the country, filed a lawsuit last year on behalf of eight Hartford families alleging that the state’s lottery, which is used to fill the magnet schools, is discriminatory and therefore violates federal law because it is designed to limit enrollment of black and Hispanic students to 75 percent to ensure some integration.

“The Pacific Legal Foundation, which has argued against Affirmative Action in cases across the country, filed a lawsuit last year on behalf of eight Hartford families alleging that the state’s lottery, which is used to fill the magnet schools, is discriminatory and therefore violates federal law because it is designed to limit enrollment of black and Hispanic students to 75 percent to ensure some integration.”

The parents who have joined the lawsuit as plaintiffs are frustrated that seats in some high-performing magnets are going empty when not enough white students enroll.

Time to Give “Change”

By Ashawn Morris
Staff Writer

Penny wars are back in school to help seniors run events. The event is coming to an end and Mr. Armstrong, Mrs. Combs, and Mrs. Sinesi are currently in the lead. This is an annual event that helps students feel better and give a little boost of laughter during the midterms to help alleviate the stress.

“We want to do this to raise money for senior events,” said Senior Advisor, Mrs. Guay, “This will run for a course of 2 weeks”. The second week is almost to a close, so please place your bets.
Boys Basketball

The Jets played an important conference home game against the Pirates of Parish Hill. The Jets were driven to win their game against the Pirates who are 3 and 3 in their season.

The Jets started off on a strong foot showing great energy on and off the court which gave them the early lead. The Pirates were fighting hard, keeping up with the Jets. Junior guard Zach Mihok contributed 27 points for the Pirates but it just wasn’t enough to stop the Jets!

On Monday January 14, the Aerospace Jets had very rough game with Achievement First but with all their hard work and teamwork Aerospace took a win.

At the start of the game the Achievement First Royals were leading looking very secure for the win, but of course, the Jets balanced the scoring with 20 from Jonathan Jacobs, 17 from Xavier Reid, and 13 from TJ Murray.

We are happy to say that one of our players Xavier Reid was one of the recipient sportsmanship wristbands. Turned into a really great win and night for AAE Jets and community.

The Jets played Weaver on Wednesday January, 16, but unfortunately lost.

Girls Basketball

On January 16th, the Jets played their away game against the Royals of Achievement First. The Jets came out very strong with a 50 to 21 win.

The Jets were happy to see former teammate Alicia Turton lead her new team in all aspects totaling 14 points for the night. Players who had particularly outstanding performances were: Senior Captain Lilly Pittman who had 14 points, Freshman Ashanti McLean who had 20 points and Sophomore Ashley Rinaldi who had 8 points.

Getting Ready for CRAL

Indoor track prepares for state championship

By Mr. Aviles
Track Coach

Spirits were high and so was the adrenaline as the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Indoor Track team cheered each other on at Hartford High.

The Jets had another successful flight with yet again another “tracklete” qualifying for states! Brendon Hunter sprinted his way to a 7.12 in the 55 meter dash which vaults him into the state championship! The rest of the team performed flawlessly in a multitude of events ranging from the 55 meter hurdles to the mile!

We are very proud of each of our student-athletes who competed today and are looking forward to the CRAL meet this upcoming week. Come join the Jets Indoor Track family and cheer us on this Sunday, the 27th at Hartford Public High School at 2:00 PM. -GO JETS!-