At 10:00, for 17 minutes, students walked out of school to protest gun violence and remember the lives lost at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. Photo courtesy of Ms. Wright.

By Grace DiCicco
Staff Writer

On February 14th, there was yet another unimaginable tragedy ending 17 innocent lives prematurely. Exactly one month later, highschoolers around the country stood together and said, “Enough is Enough”.

On March 14th, AAE students, along with thousands of others around the nation, stood up and walked out of class at 10 AM. The students went outside and first took 17 minutes to appreciate, mourn, and show their respect for each and every one of the 17 lives lost in the Parkland shooting.

That was a day we can only hope is the last of the long series of mass shootings darkening our nation. After the 17 minutes of honoring these people, students stayed outside for a couple minutes longer to hear what a few students had to say about the issues surrounding this act of violence. Instead of completely focusing on topics that were really political or one-sided, like gun-control, they brought the school’s attention to mental health and ways to prevent a tragedy from happening in our own school.

Sophomore, Kyle Bechard, Senior Damani Douglas, and Junior Neha Kataria each gave speeches to assist in the understanding, of what it means to join this movement, to create change, and how to support their peers. There’s not much we as students can do in terms of writing or changing laws except for making it clear that we want it done. So, in the meantime between marches and protests, we must look after each other. We must both take care of ourselves -of our own mental health- and of others by reaching out a lending hand when we see fit. Even if we are unable to be the person to lean on, it is our responsibility to be kind in everyday life and to help lead people towards resources that can help them. That is what these students were saying in these speeches. The politicians and lawmakers may be slow to act or even unimaginably apathetic to our cause, but we are capable young people who have the incredibly simple ability to help those around us. By Grace DiCicco
Staff Writer

College Board Controversy.........................Page 2
Movie Reviews........................................Page 3
Science Fair.............................................Page 4
SHPE.....................................................Page 5
March for Our Lives.................................Page 6
Opinion..................................................Page 7
Sports....................................................Page 8
College Board Controversy

By Jean Pasato
Junior Editor

The events of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Florida, sent a wave of terror and sorrow across the United States. High schoolers are the most affected group, with several young students advocating the need for reform in gun control policies.

Amidst this fear and sadness, College Board sent a letter to its members, sharing their condolences with those affected, but also subtly promoting their AP Program. College Board writes about how student activists like Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg used skills they acquired from AP courses like AP Government and AP US History to raise their voice about gun control and violence. Despite their acknowledgment and condolences for the victims and their families, College Board received major backlash from college admission officers and guidance counselors. The controversial letter was met with disgust, prompting some members to resign and even to call for the resignation of CEO David Coleman. College Board has since then issued a statement in response to the letter, expressing sincere apologies.

The College Application: What You Need To Know
(And I Wish Someone Told Me)

If you're like me, you've probably grown up hearing about college and what it takes to get into a "good" college. Here are a few things I encountered during my college application process that no one bothered to tell me.

Standardized tests like the SAT and ACT are important, but they are just one factor. College will consider all parts of your application, but if your standardized test scores aren't up to their standards and there isn't something outstanding about you, admissions officers may not seriously consider your application.

Also, the classes on your transcript do matter. Colleges would rather see you take more difficult classes and get an A- rather than taking the easiest classes possible for easy A+'s and a 4.0 GPA.

Your application can take one of usually three routes: regular decision, early decision, and early action. A lot of students are surprisingly unfamiliar with these options by the start of senior year.

Regular decision applications are submitted at the normal deadline. Early decision applications are binding, meaning you submit your application early, receive your decision early and if you are accepted you must attend the school. Early action applications are non-binding, meaning that you submit your application early, receive your decision early, but are not obligated to attend the school. Your application type can tell admissions officers how much you want to go to a college. The college you go to doesn't matter—what you get out of the college you go to does.

College Rejections

By Ben Parke
Junior Editor

Rejection is a part of life; the college admission process is no different. Students apply to so many different “popular” schools and when they have their hearts set on one, it can be difficult not getting in. With good schools, competition continues to intensifies. And when so many students are getting A's and joining a wider variety of clubs it can become near impossible.

There are millions of great students, stellar athletes, and class presidents, but during these times it’s important to remember who you are and that no two students are identical. Through hard work those dreams of an Ivy League education or of going to a D1 school can happen, maybe just not on the time scale you originally thought. It could take a graduate degree, a medical license, or law school to get to these programs, but the road doesn’t end after high school and the college you attend doesn’t decide who you are.

Steven Spielberg was rejected by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts three times. Barack Obama attended Occidental College and Warren Buffett was rejected from Harvard.

We will all face rejections, it is how we deal with them, that is how people will remember us by. Everyone's not going to get in the colleges of their dreams, there are just too many applicants, but the way you respond to these rejections and finish out the year, that’s what shows your character. There are thousands of great schools and each student will go somewhere they fit in, you just have to trust in the process.

Don’t think about how hard you worked to not get it, but how that work has made you more knowledgeable and helped you grow as a person. Don’t think about the time you wasted doing extracurricular activities, but the fun you had doing them. Remember to enjoy these last few months, to go out and be the person you were meant to be because college isn’t the end of the road. So to all the seniors, finish the year strong because no matter what happens, this is just beginning. The history of your life isn't written in one night or by one letter and if you don't like the path you're on now, there will always be time for change.
The Sound of Silence

Are Student Walkouts Working?

After the March 14 school walkouts, news sources offered a variety of interpretations of the demonstrations, calling them shows of solidarity, movements to support stricter gun laws or gun bans, grassroots activism, interruptions to the school day, safety risks, and political indoctrination. The lack of a clear meaning of the walkouts led some students to remain in class, wary of having what they intended as a show of solidarity misconstrued as support of a national gun ban.

However, the generality of the most prevalent descriptor applied to the walkouts - "protests of gun violence" - reflects a larger issue with this nation-wide movement: the lack of meaning. The school walkouts have little more impact than the “thoughts and prayers” approach that progressives often condemn. These demonstrations continue a trend of paying lip service to the issue of violent acts committed with guns without taking meaningful steps towards making changes.

If students want to be productive members of the national conversation about gun violence and reform, they can donate to families and activist groups, take time to research the issue, contact representatives, and vote if they are able - regardless of whether they stood on the lawn or sat at their desks on Wednesday. As it existed, Wednesday’s walkout was not for the past or future victims of school shootings - it was for the people who wanted to assuage their own guilt and discomfort to feel as if they have done something to help.

America does not need another 17 minutes of silence; it needs a voice, and students are poised to lead the conversation. We cannot do that if we divert our energy to efforts without real impact. For both the students that participated in the walkout and the students that did not, it is now time to ask: Is this the only stand I want to take?

Voice Over Violence

The Solution Isn’t Arming Teachers

In days following the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, President Trump made a statement that suggests if teachers carried guns at the school, then the massacre would have been prevented. He also stated that a bonus may incentivize more teachers to carry guns throughout America. This statement resonated in schools across America, sparking countless debates.

We cannot fight fire with fire. Many teachers are repulsed by the idea that weapons could be a part of the learning environment. I implore proponents of teachers carrying guns to consider how more weapons could ever lead to peace. There are more peaceful solutions to address this growing concern.

The power of petition to address the fallacies of gun control in America is an important use of our civil rights to inspire change. While protests and petitions may not directly lead to the huge legislative change this country needs, it is nonetheless an important step forward in demonstrating that we cannot tolerate anymore violence.

On March 14th, our school participated in the Walkout to commemorate the deaths of the students at the Parkland shooting. On March 24th, we accompanied other students from CT and across America in the March For Our Lives, a protest pushing for stronger gun laws. The power is in numbers, not guns. We can inspire change if we continue to demonstrate the pressing need for it.

Image reprinted from https://www.pinterest.com/
Math Team
By Rishika Maitra
Editor

The AAE Math Team has been very successful in its endeavors this year. Beginning with the first meet of the Capital Area Math League, the team advanced steadily in its standings in the Euler Division. Finishing the CAML season in a strong fourth place, the math team has qualified for the CSAML state meet in April to represent AAE among teams from all over Connecticut. Senior Jocelyn Gartley was recognized for her exceptional performance.

March For Our Lives Rally
By Joseph Howard
Staff Writer

On March 24, survivors of the shooting at Parkland, Florida inspired and led hundreds of thousands during the March For Our Lives. In protest of the idleness of government representatives towards gun violence, the march was organized to prevent terrible and tragic shootings like the one in Parkland from ever happening again.

Many advocates demand that gun laws and regulations be made stricter, and that more policies and support groups be created to treat the mentally ill. Although this event was centered in Washington, D.C., over 800 other US cities participated in their own sibling events. Thousands of youth, with support from their teachers and families, organized in Hartford at the steps of the State Capitol.

For hours, activists gave speeches, sang songs, and chanted to end gun violence. Many students and teachers from Aerospace were able to attend and exercise their ability to protest. People held signs that read, “Am I next?” and “Never Again.” Senator Elizabeth Warren, who participated in the march in Boston, firmly exclaimed, “This is what democracy looks like.” While there were several other organizations protesting in solidarity with the March For Our Lives, but there were also many protesting against it.

Although few in number, many people marched for no further gun reform, claiming that it would be an infringement on their already restricted rights. The NRA (National Rifle Association) issued a statement accusing the movement of manipulating children to advance their agenda to destroy their right to bear arms.

However, with the previous shootings in Sandy Hook, Orlando, and Las Vegas still in the nation’s hearts and minds, the American people hope and believe that the March for Our Lives will be the final push for gun reform and change. If anything, the March for Our Lives shows the power of students and the determination of the people to make America and its classrooms safe and free from guns.

Teacher Spotlight:
Mr. Williams
By Ben Parke
Junior Editor

In a fluorescent lit classroom down the dark corridors of the third floor lives a towering “five-eight” history teacher. Who, on a daily basis braves the eighty-five degree weather of his classroom to teach his students about the United States and the world around them.

However, don’t be surprised when he rejects your apple on the first day of school because you may be surprised to learn that he’s allergic to the skin of most fruits, even writing a college paper about them where he explored the benefits of apples in the economy and nutritionally compared to oranges.

A Connecticut native, Mr. Williams went on to run cross country at Fordham University in New York City, his mothers alma mater. And later attended the University of New South Wales and North Carolina State for different graduate degrees. However, before he could attend NC State he did something few have ever completed (unassisted).

He ran across the country, completing the trip in four months and two days. And with the conclusion of his run, he moved with his future wife down to North Carolina were he would complete another feat just as great, proposing on the highest peak in the east coast. With school complete and a daughter on the way, the Williamses would eventually move back up to Connecticut.

Here, Mr. Williams now works at our very own school, the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering; running the debate team and teaching Civics and U.S. History. Still running marathons, over ten at this point, Mr. Williams is considered by many to be the best teacher in the school. Because not only is he a caring and compassionate man, but a dedicated teacher and the people who’ve been lucky enough to have him know that if they ever need help Mr. Williams is willing to listen.
Kim Jong Un's Loutish Locomotive

By Michael Bachand
Official AAE North Korean Correspondent

On March 27th 2018, a mysterious train entered the stations in Beijing China. Unbeknownst to many at the time, that train was carrying world famous North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un. This may not seem like a big deal at first but it becomes much more interesting when the situation - and the train itself - is taken into perspective.

The last time that a North Korean leader visited China by train was in 2011 when Kim Jong Il visited the country. Kim Jong Un specifically visited China on this occasion in order to plan peace talks. Needless to say, it is a rare occasion for such event to occur. But what do we know about the train itself?

The train itself is designed specifically for Mr Kim's safety and pleasure. Reports directly from North Korea state that the great leader's train is completely bulletproof. This makes the train thousands of pounds heavier than usual and reduces its max speed to only 37 miles per hour. Along with this the train is extremely well equipped with food, drinks, and other amenities with one Russian official stating that "It was possible to order any dish of Russian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and French cuisine." Along with this, the train is stacked with many different wines and tonics. Reports also state that Mr. Kim has a group of women 'entertainers' that he calls the "Lady Conductors" to 'serenade' him during his trips.

While the world opens up and gets adjusted to North Korea's new demeanor of plausible peace, rest assured that the nation's leader, Kim Jong Un, will be working in his train to develop a peace plan. Although, he must be sure not to lose his train of thought or he might go down the wrong track.

What Is Pacific Rim Uprising?

By Issac Stachkunas
Staff Writer

Ten years had passed since the bang that ended the conflict. Aliens came into and devastated Earth from a portal that lied at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Kaiju, beasts of unrivaled size, poured from the gap. To mount a defense humanity made its giants. Jaggers they were called, and each of these mechanized war machines required two pilots, to handle the strain of the sheer strength.

Now most either try to rebuild what was, or live amongst the wreckage, scavenging from day to day. Marshal Stacker Pentecost was one of the heroes that helped close the rip in the ocean.

His son, Jake, was one to leave the front and later scavenge it after the conflict. In living his life full of cheats, Jake's actions came full circle. Down on luck after a botched job, that ended in Jager chase, he was given two choices; re-enlist or serve jail time. Even as humanity attempted to rebuild from its pieces that still lingered one issue; why? Why did they even come in the first place?

It's difficult to describe what makes this film stand out from its predecessor and other films in general without giving spoilers, so in an effort to maintain secrecy generalities will be used. The film takes variety of concepts used throughout prior events in the story's timeline, and melts them together for a blend that offers combat sequences not often encountered in other visually fluid mediums. In addition the characters, at both their best and worst moments, are distinctly human in their actions. This film is not the first of its kind, but it is one of the easily available few.

Black Panther

By Issac Stachkunas
Staff Writer

Vibranium. The metal of potential beyond what most of the world has come to know. The world is slow to know of its progress because of the cloak setup by the country of Wakanda. Every deception has a price for its upholding though. Through loss the seed of pain grew in a boy, until it blossomed as hate as he aged. Wakanda is not without its share of heroes though.

From the M'Baku, the brute in the mountains, to Oyoke, the head of the Black Panther's guard, good knows many forms. None so prominent as the Black Panther himself though. He is the king of Wakanda, main protector of its people, and the subject of the story.

While Black Panther is not the most incredibility new in terms of environment and general plot it does take great advantage of a subtle, yet instrumentally integral, difference; people.

The majority of the players in the story are not of the average American living style, nor are the category of adjusting to such. They are from a country where equality prospers, while difference is acknowledged.

Dispute is not unknown amongst the people of Wakanda, but it is not as commonplace and trivial of a matter as it is in so many other places.
From March 12th to the 17th, 26 students from the Academy of Aerospace Engineering and the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, competed in the 70th Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF) hosted by Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

The students competed in the Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering categories under the direction of Dr. Lili Aramli and Dr. Michelle Bellinger. Students won over a dozen special awards with cash values totaling over $6000.

Thirteen students were selected as finalists and presented their findings and research to nearly 300 volunteer judges from academia, government, industry, and professional societies. AAE and GHAMAS students took full sweep of the Lockheed Martin Physical Science Awards for High School Teams with Vishakh Talanki, Jean Pasato, and Chris Rinaldi, winning first place, Srikar Godilla and Cristian Rodriguez winning second place and Preksha Gupta, Sana Kasmani, and Alexa Wilson taking third place.

In the CASE-PepsiCo Urban School Challenge Awards with IBM, Srikar Godilla and Cristian Rodriguez, both juniors at the Academy of Aerospace Engineering, took first place, securing them a trip to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May.

Seniors Preksha Gupta, Sana Kasmani and Alexa Wilson took third place and senior Keshav Vedula took fourth place.

In the UTC Aerospace Systems Engineering Awards, Keshav Vedula, a senior at the Academy of Aerospace Engineering, won first place, also securing him a trip to compete at ISEF in May.

The team of Chris Rinaldi, Jean Pasato, and Vishakh Talanki took third place in the event. Students who were finalists and received second honors at the fair included: Gianna Guzzo, Andrea Lacunza, Malavika Madan, Jake Manente, Nico McMahon, Emily Ngo, Rahul Nimmagadda, and Michael Stefano. Students who received third honors included: Anthony Antony, Dharini Jasti, Ondrea Kerr, Rishika Maitra, Sreenidhi Nair, Rebecca Nowinski, Alexander Smith, Tanu Singh, and Jonathan Spafford.
SHPE Spreading Hispanic and Latino Culture at AAE

By Jean Pasato
Junior Editor

In a place just as diverse as AAE, culture is an important part of our school identity. Events like Hurricane Relief, International Night and the recent Black History Month Celebrations not only share traditional food, dance, music, art and from all different parts of the globe, but reinforces the idea that diversity should be celebrated.

SHPE, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, is an organization at AAE that aims to support Latino students interested in STEM careers. Not only does SHPE build self-esteem and increase awareness of engineering related careers, but also support young Latino and Hispanic students in the college application process through scholarships and various projects.

Another important element of SHPE is spreading cultural awareness in the community. While SHPE is a relatively new organization, it already has plans to make a Hispanic Celebration Day, a celebration of Hispanic and Latino culture accompanied with performances and food.

The current date is set to May 25th, so please keep an eye out for any future announcements from SHPE!

Armstrong ‘Wins’ Coin Wars To Raise Money For Senior Events

By Will Hobson-Rhodes
Staff Writer

The Penguin Costume fundraiser is an annual event at AAE, in which a staff member must wear a penguin costume for an entire school day. And as in previous years, Mr. Armstrong was the favorite, and seems to be growing accustomed to the role, with the penguin costume appearing perfectly natural.

One might think that such a costume would be impeding, but, if anything, it makes his movements more pronounced, seeming more like a second skin than a costume. The only explanation that science can offer is that he might actually be a penguin in a human costume every other day, and that only today can you witness his true form.

Rishika Maitra Wins As A Woman In Innovation

By Kayla Fearn
Guest Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 28, senior Rishika Maitra was selected as a winner in the Youth Innovation & Leadership category at the Connecticut Technology Council Women of Innovation awards ceremony at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

AAE Gay-Straight Alliance held a Bring a Friend event on Monday, March 26 that included great food, good friends, and fun activities. The event was held to help students learn more about GSA and its mission to create an accepting school environment for all students in a casual and stress-free environment. During the meeting, there was a puzzle to learn more about sexuality and gender and a Kahoot that quizzed on everyone’s knowledge of LGBT history. Everyone who attended is welcome back for regular meetings on Mondays, 10:50 - 11:50 in room 331.

A Living Museum
Art Comes Alive

Students in Mr. Wright’s class made art come alive

By Jean Pasato
Junior Editor
Starting this Spring, AAE’s baseball team embarked on a journey unlike any tried before.

After a rough beginning to last year’s season, the team began to turn it around in the back-half of their 2017 schedule. Winning three of their last five games. With this in mind, the athletes will look towards tougher competition this year alongside Bloomfield High’s Warhawks. Because both groups lacked the numbers to field a complete team, they will move forward with the self-proclaimed “warjets” combining the players and the mascots of both schools.

Moving up in division from class S to class M the team will now face opponents from both New Britain and Hartford with their first game against Bulkeley Weaver starting at 3:45 on April 2. The season ending on Monday, May 21 (playoffs not included).

This is an exciting opportunity for the Jets who have yet to play on a homefield, as the team has only existed for the past two years. Combining players, budgets and ideas, the team will be under the leadership of Coaches Poland and Cantebury using their combined leadership to help the team to their first state championship in the past few decades.

Dynegy’s donation to CREC athletics for third consecutive year keeps middle school sports programs running

NEW BRITAIN - As the end of the school day neared Tuesday afternoon, some of the brilliant minds and future leaders gathered in the large lecture hall at the Academy of Science and Innovation.

There was after all, plenty of celebrate. For the third consecutive year, Dynegy Inc. - an energy company based in Houston with power generating facilities throughout the U.S.- contributed $100,000 to the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) in order to save the middle school sports programs from being cut due to budgetary limitations.

Five students from different CREC high schools were also recognized and received awards for their contributions as student-athletes - Chriseny Perryman (Innovation), Celia Chacko (Aerospace), Emily Godeck (MLC), Sajae Willis (PSA) and Natalia Mularzuk (Innovation). While the other four were honored for their individual schools, Mularzuk was the recipient of the first ever Dynegy Citizen-Athlete Scholarship Award.

Her dad, Ireneusz, and mother, Boguslawa, were in attendance to see their daughter rewarded for her hard work. The two came over to America from Poland years ago before Natalia was born. She plans to study biomedical engineering and enter the pre-med track. She is still undecided on where she will attend college.

“[My parents] came here in order for me to have a better life and to be able to do more,” Mularzuk said. “This generous scholarship represents not only the work I’ve done but the effort my family has put in and those that have looked up to me.”

There was another first in the building as Chacko will be the first athlete from a CREC school to compete at the Division I collegiate level. Chacko will be attending UConn and running track.

While Mularzuk and Chacko are both representing firsts for CREC schools, the other three student-athletes being recognized also have done great things.

“It means everything,” Winer said of the donation. “It means we’re doing our job here. We impress upon our student-athletes and coaches that winning championships is not our objective here. It’s more of a product about doing things the right way, teaching kids about character and building lifelong productive members in society. Our coaches use athletics as an advocate for that.”