Deck the Halls and the Doors for the Holidays

By Neha Kataria
Staff Writer

AAE’s holiday door decorating contest is a “great annual tradition that our school started to bring our staff and students together during the holiday season”, said Ms. Guay, the head of the Cheer Committee.

The door decorating contest, which is held each December, brought exceptionally great designs this year according to Guay. On the first floor, Santa was created by the security team, and there is a huge Grinch in the front office done by Mrs. Stowe and Mrs. Grégoire. On the second floor, there are elves and cutout snowflakes falling. Finally, on the third floor, this competition got serious with with the Grinch overlooking a lighted scene of Whoville, a three dimensional recreation of The Polar Express covered in snow driving right off the wall, and students running through AAE Land. Students, staff and administration agree that walking around the school and seeing all the lights, drawings, and pictures creates the festive and cheerful feel for everyone.

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The Menorah that Lit the Darkest Hour

By Theodore Colbenson
Staff Writer

As the holidays come rolling around, different religions are celebrated and have traditions that are unique for each family and passed on for generations to come.

For eight days in December, Hanukkah is celebrated. During this holiday of lights, each night, one additional candle is lit by the shamas until all eight candles are lit together on the final night of the festival.

Here, this soon to be lit Menorah sitting on a windowsill in 1932 has become symbolic of this artifact that has been through the worst and lives to show the tale all these years later. So, the man that held it for so long now lights only this Menorah in memory of those dark times that will never be forgotten and the memory has been passed on this day.

Even the image speaks tones due to photographer writing on the back, in German, “Death to Judah’ so says the flag, ‘Judah will live forever’ so the light answers,” said by photographer Rachel Posner.

Special Council Findings

Muller investigation uncovers unlawful deals made

By George Castillo
Staff Writer

"I take full responsibility for each act that I pled guilty to: The personal ones to me and those involving the President of the United States of America,” stated Michael Cohen amid a three-year sentence for finance contributions during President Trump’s campaign.

Cohen also stated that in his job as personal lawyer of the Trump administration, he was responsible for covering up Trumps “dirty deeds.”

These violations, were discovered by the Mueller investigation in the midst of the Trump administration and the Republican party’s insistence that the special council is useless and a waste of money.

This sentencing along with the fact that the Mueller investigation has seized around 46 million dollars acquired unlawfully by Paul Manafort in shady deals made between the Trump administration.

Furthermore, critics say, the discovery of Russian elements have proven that the Mueller special counsel is a remarkable success and should be continued with bipartisan support. Only time can tell what further developments will unravel as a result of the highly successful Mueller investigation.

Vests Spark Riots In Paris

By Brian Sinclair
Staff Writer

It all started on May of 2018 when a petition was posted online for a decrease in gas prices. But it was unnoticed until October of 2018, when someone posted it on Facebook and it spread like a wildfire.

It first spread to the suburbs and rural areas where cars were heavily used for transportation. Then, to Paris and other big cities. Soon it became known all around France and supporters began to wear yellow vests, put them on their car, and even on the highway where people started waving their vests everywhere. This was their symbol of protest against the government.

One protester said “We are very much deprived, It’s like Monetized slavery. We work and work and work only to be appropriated. This is why I support this movement.”

About a week into December now the protests have begun to become more and more violent. With more than hundreds injured and 7 people dead and over 1,400 arrested.

Even though Paris’s government suspended the fuel tax things hasn’t quieted down. This went even beyond fuel tax and sparked more concerns about the working class from the high cost of living to the overall taxes.

Some want to negotiate and some want Macron, the president of France out of the government. Macron who has been silent about this whole thing is expected to publicly address the whole situation next year in January.
Feeling the Burn
Why it isn’t worth it to pack everything into your senior year

As a current senior who decided that it would be best to attempt to do as much as he could during his senior year, I have the unique perspective to tell you off about the path that I put myself on. However, before I do so, I would like to address those who would simply dismiss this piece as one that attempts to give me an edge or to provide students who travel down a similar road that I have chosen. I would argue that the edge is actually angled in your direction for you have more time to plan and work as well as maintain a healthy relationship with sleep.

This, in turn, allows you to be able to place more effort into your work and be able to produce a higher quality of work. Anyways, I would like to tell you all that balancing four Advanced Placement classes, participating in varsity athletics, studying for the SAT, managing a club, AND attempting to apply to eleven universities all at the same time is an experience that I would not wish on anyone else.

While the SAT and AP classes may not appear difficult on their own, knowing that those grades and that score is your last chance to make a good impression in the application process makes everything weigh heavier. I went from waking up every morning to working all day long and practicing for hours and not being able to start my homework until around eight every night tired, which, let me tell you, makes it hard to focus. I started entering a cycle I will only further reference as the “workaholic cycle”.

It is a state where you lose track of time, because every day is work day — including weekends, holidays and sick days — and you reach a point where you are on the edge between giving up and working harder. The best way I can describe the cycle as is a cyclone with everything moving so quickly by and things happening that you are expected to manage while managing everything else, and it’s awful but it’s what I chose.

See, the thing about this is that it is all a choice, which is why students at our school feel no pity for those who have made it. However, they don’t understand that for me it wasn’t a choice because I felt as though I needed to have it in order to even be looked at as an applicant for the universities which I was applying to.

But, in reality, this isn’t the case at all. I would have still been looked at for other things and did not need to take extra classes to attempt to look better. The cycle has managed to drain a lot of energy from me, and I am still reeling from it although sports ended about a month ago.

When I made my decision, I did not know that it would consume my life and give me no room to just breathe. Everyone said it was hard, but hard is relative, so I did not trust it. I am here to inform you that it is possible to do what I did, but know that if you do and are not diligent and planned out that you are destining yourself to crash and burn because once you start slipping there is no time for recovery. The moral of this story is simple. It is a warning to not cause what is commonly referred to as the burn which strikes students in both junior and senior years right around the holidays and lasts, uncomfortably until the end of April.

Take care of yourself, and underclassmen, be warned.

Fight or Flight

Students should be allowed to defend themselves without the fear of consequences

Should you hit back if you are being attacked? Unsurprisingly, CREC says no, but I say yes.

According to the student handbook, there is no mention of the repercussions for engaging in a fight with another student. And, it is my opinion that no one should be prohibited from defending themselves if they feel they really may get hurt whether it be in the lunchline, on a bus, or in the hallway.

Less than two weeks ago, two students in the lunchline got the same punishment for fighting. However, one started the fight, but the other was just trying to defend himself from someone slapping and pushing him around.

How can this be seen as fair or even just? What message is being sent to both students? When a student is prevented from hitting back because of repercussions, they aren’t “protected”; they are neutered.

It is a well known fact that more often than not, students are ridiculed by their peers for not fighting back, and they hate feeling powerless in these situations. I am in no way saying that students should be starting fights to prove themselves or to have fun, but what I am saying is if a student is attacked by another student, I am calling upon those in charge to let them be more than a punching bag.
Winter Break Work Load
Students are exhausted from work even before winter break ends

What did you do over the holiday break? You probably started your first day by lounging around and watching Netflix. On Christmas Eve, you probably went to a fun holiday party at a friend’s or family’s house. And, on New Year’s Eve, you likely counted down and cheered as you welcomed in the New Year. Overall, you no doubt had a restful and exciting break. At least, that’s what most teachers may think.

In reality, most AAE students could not de-stress completely because of the work that teachers chose to give even when they were requested not to. This request came from the principal, Mr. Johnson, when he sent out an email, before the holiday break, advising teachers to refrain from assigning homework. This would ensure that students could have ample time to unwind and enjoy the holidays.

Teachers even tried to work around the request by setting due dates to two or three days after break ended. That way, they could justify the work because the students had time after the break to finish.

However, the workload assigned for most students was not feasible to complete within a 48 hour period, forcing them to start within the break. This caused most students to burn out even before school started.

During spring break, I hope that teachers do not make the same mistake. If they do, students will not be able to recharge and refresh for the final stretch of the school year.

Beloved by all, and yet, not included all. This is the problem with Hamilton. More specifically, the issue with the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering's December excursion and the people involved.

Initially, it was announced that only Mr. Sirois' AP U.S. History class would be going on the trip for $5, but as it was found there were more seats, certain teachers were informed that if they were interested, they could bring their classes.

At first, it was the freshmen and sophomores who were granted permission because the musical aligned with their curriculums in American Literature and English, but then it was offered to upperclassmen in AP classes.

Firstly, the problem here is that only students currently enrolled in AP classes could enjoy the play, despite students all across this school who would have benefitted from

HELP WANTED!

Cartoonist Openings For Newspaper
A Knack for Drawing
Desire to Make Students Laugh
Must Be Dependable
No Prior Experience Necessary
Contact Quinn For More Information
Advice from Lyla:

It depends on how close you two are and how long you guys have known each other. If you think she likes you back, and is showing you signs that she likes you, then you should tell her. I think you should tell her in person to see her reaction to your question instead of through a text.

As for approaching her, make sure that you guys are alone and not in front of other people because she might feel pressured. You should go up to her and tell her you have something important to tell her and let her know how you feel. Ask her if she feels the same way. I hope this goes well for you.

Good luck, I hope this helps!

CAPTION CONTEST

we provide the cartoon - you make it funny

Top Submissions:

“Where’s break?”
“I just finished my last application”
“Today is only Monday”

Quick and Easy Christmas Treat

By Yek xenie Morales
Lifestyle Writer

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.
Hamilton Headlines At Hartford Stage

By Bella St. Laurent
Editor

This past summer, 11th grade history teacher, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Johnson applied for a grant from the Gilder Lehrman Foundation. This foundation promotes and celebrates the accomplishments in American History education. However, they didn't hear back until the week before the play. Then, Mr. Johnson received an email that tickets were available to take 250 of our freshman and sophomore students as well as students currently enrolled in AP US history and AP Lang to attend the play Hamilton, a coveted event on December 13th. The program began with students from over 10 different high schools performing a historical rendition of a historical event related to Hamilton's life. Then, students were mesmerized for the next three hours by the outstanding acting and singing that has made this play known as a must-see nation wide.

Student Takes Out Take-Out

By William Hobson-Rhoades
Staff Editor

Some days just aren't very good. Maybe your alarm didn't go off. Maybe you're sick. Maybe your college financial aid package was sent out. Physics and Capstone teacher Mr. Wollins was having one of those days on December 6th. As usual, after a long day of teaching, Mr. Wollins decided to relax a little bit, and have his Diet Coke. This turned out to be majorly problematic, as the can promptly exploded as soon as he opened it. And if that wasn't enough to ruin his day, maybe this did. After the Diet Coke incident, Mr. Wollins, decided to eat his lunch, probably thinking something along the lines of “Wow, I finally get to sit down and enjoy my take-out”. But, AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism and AP Physics C: Classical Mechanics student Chris Rinaldi had other plans. He made the decision that, while talking with Mr Wollins, he should practice his kung fu. As it turned out, Chris’s impressive karate chop fell straight onto the take-out. The rest of the physics department has yet to determine what could have prompted such an action, and when consulted, the student responded with, “laughter” “compass” “laughter” *high pitched laughter*. Leading many to believe that the student needs some milk.

Jazzy Christmas Concert

By Jean Pasato
Editor in chief

Mr. Pertesis’ high school band students play jazz related pieces on December 14 in the auditorium as part of their winter concert.

In Remembrance of Karlonzo

By Avery Martindale
Staff Writer

Karlonzo’s service was well attended. Many friends and family gathered at the church. There was standing room only. Students had a words to share with everyone about how great Karlanzo was. There was a huge turnout from the school’s faculty who went and paid their respects. Assistant Principal Ms. Brown said a couple of words. “Karlanzo was a very respectful person that always looked out for people. There this one time a student in the hallway, and his shoes were untied, and he stopped him to let him know”.

Karlanzo was an individual who managed to touch everyone he came into contact with in a positive way. He was the type of person that you could rely on when it came down to it. In the church, there was gospel singing, and everyone could be heard singing along. There was also a slideshow of pictures of Karlanzo on the wall to remind us all of his smile. Shortly after the service, everyone had a short drive to the burial site, where friends and family took one last opportunity to say their final goodbyes and reminisce.

The family hosted a repast locally in Hartford immediately following. Karlonzo, we will miss you.
Teachers Celebrate Holiday Break Countdown

By Ben Parke
Editor

On November 30th and December 1st, the Model United Nations Team competed in the annual CT World Affairs Council conference at the University of Hartford.

Debate team Coach, Mr. Williams, received “multiple compliments about how our students conducted themselves and performed.” The students who took part in multiple different committees represented France and worked to pass resolutions.


In addition, Meghana Kandarpa and Ben Parke represented AAE as officers for their respective committees and the team had 17 students participating as a whole.

On December 8th, the Debate Team travelled to Pomperaug High School for the third debate competition of the year. They debated under the resolution that, “Internet companies should not moderate users and content unless such content is illegal.”

AAE had the top three varsity speakers with Meghana Kandarpa, Ben Keilty and Chris Levesque finishing in 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Also, the team competed in the exhibition round for the first time and Ben Keilty and Ben Parke went 3-0 finishing second at the competition, after Keilty and Jonathan Bell narrowly lost in the final round.

Overall, AAE had 6 Varsity Speakers in Top 20, 4 Teams in the Top Ten and a Varsity Record of 12-3; while Samantha Boreland, Rufus Abraham, Joshua Bell and Kyle Bechard fought exceptionally hard in the Novice division. It was a great showing by all participants!

Bake Sale and Beyond

By Ashawn Morris
Staff Writer

Parent/teacher conferences were cancelled as a result of the tragic death of Karlonzo Taylor. So, the student council and Mrs. Guay when out of their way to supply students with the leftover cookies for free from the bake sale on Friday December 7.

This was to end the school week in a positive manner and increase happiness.

“Because of the unfortunate death, we wanted to do a good thing and end the week on a positive note!” Senior Advisor Mrs. Guay said.

Auditions for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee wrapped up the week before Holiday Break. This year, students had to showcase their acting and vocal abilities. Small pieces of the play were provided to act out, with Mrs. Friday or Ms. Lattarulo reading as the other characters. The songs that people could sing ranged from a simple Happy Birthday to a well known pop song, whatever the person auditioning was comfortable performing. Updates on the final cast should come out in the weeks following Break.

Spelling Bee Auditions

By Bella St. Laurent
Editor

Auditions for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee wrapped up the week before Holiday Break. This year, students had to showcase their acting and vocal abilities. Small pieces of the play were provided to act out, with Mrs. Friday or Ms. Lattarulo reading as the other characters. The songs that people could sing ranged from a simple Happy Birthday to a well known pop song, whatever the person auditioning was comfortable performing. Updates on the final cast should come out in the weeks following Break.

Team receives packets to prepare for the debate.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Williams

Senior class advisor, Mrs. Guay, distributes holiday cheer and cookies in the hallways.

Photo courtesy of Ashawn Morris

Homeroom teachers have been cranking up the cheer this holiday season with hat and cookie decorations for their classes. Students have enjoyed festive music, simulated fires burning on Smartboards and hot cocoa. There was even carolling through the hallways. Photos courtesy of Neha Kataria
CREC Colts Senior Game

By Mauri Castro and Anaiah Smith
Sports Writers

The Crec Colts played their senior game on October 27th at 11:00 am against Lyman Hall at CLHS. For the seniors that been part of the team, this was their last home game that they were playing in a Crec Colt uniform. As much emotion and excitement that was going through the players, they knew that they were going to be facing a tough opponent as soon as they stepped onto the field making them realize that the only way to win was going to be playing as a team. The Colts ended up taking a tough loss against Lyman Hall, but they still had a couple games ahead of them to redeem themselves. The season for the Crec Colts ended up coming to an end on November 17th where they played their final game against Farmington High School. The Colts are excited to get back on the field next season to learn from their mistakes that cost them a couple losses last season.

Boys Basketball

AAE Jets 57 MLC Dragons 43

The AAE Jets defeated the MLC dragons with the score of 57-43. The dragons were led by Jaden Walker with 14 points and Chael Gillespie with 11 points. The Jets got 25 points and 5 steals from Jon Jacobs and an additional 11 points from Jordan Thomas to go with 4 assists. Jermaine Figeroua had 8 point and 10 rebounds. With that 25 point game Jon Jacobs became the 2nd all-time leading scorer for a single game in AAE history only behind Marquis Hawkins. The Jets are now 2-1 on the season and tied for second in the conference.

Alumni Night: Past and Present Players Face Off

By Anderson Delgado
Staff Writer

On Friday, December 15th, current and past varsity boys basketball players faced off against one another in their first game of the year before they officially start their season. During this historic homecoming event, AAE Alumni players included graduates Jonathan Jacobs, AJ Williams, Marquis Hawkins, and Larry Okonya in addition to many others who showed up to lend their support. Tickets were sold at the door $2.00 per student and $4.00 for adults, along with other food and drinks at the concession stands. In the end, the current varsity boys basketball players won 67 to 65 against this legendary all-star alumni team. AAE Athletics t-shirts were thrown into the crowd to keep the fans amped. Proceeds from the game are going to support Karlonzo Taylor and James Harris’ families, as well as the victims from the recent Park Street Shooting.

Girls Basketball

Jets 2-0-1 (Wins-Ties-Losses)

By Desaray Chapman
Sports Writer

On December 14th, the Jets played their first home game against the Gladiators of Goodwin Tech. The Jets came out strong with a 39 to 25 win against the Gladiators after a tough loss on the 10th against HMTCA. On December 17th, the Jets played against the Eagles of Civic Leadership. The Jets won against the Eagles 60 to 29. Players who had particularly outstanding performances were: Senior Captain Lilly Pittman who had 24 points and 7 rebounds, and Junior Eden Hyatt (KJ) who had 16 points and 12 rebounds; Senior Captain Desaray Chapman who had 8 rebounds.

Indoor Track

By Jordan Jenkins
Staff Writer

The Indoor Track season has started off amazing so far. On December 16th, the team took 1st place at their first meet at Hartford Public Development, and Senior Thomas Ross made a 2 second PR in the 300m sprint. On December 23rd, they placed 3rd in the 4x2 relay. Runners in this meet included Juniors Jude Watson, Edgar Rodriguez, Brendon Hunter, and Jamall Peart. Overall, the 4x2 team already qualified for states. Senior Captains Jyheim Cooke and Jonathan Spafford would like to shoutout Junior Nya Bentley for giving it her all during practice despite her own injuries. We can’t wait to see the team’s future progress!