Kindness Project
Leadership Group

In February, a group of three seventh graders (Ella Hultquist, William Tan and Téa Tamburo), along with teachers (Mr. Drogos and Mr. Taylor), went to the Illinois Holocaust Museum Leadership Conference. There, we devised a way to create a more positive impact on the school community. We decided to make a wall of sticky notes on which students will write kind acts they have seen or want to see. We hope to highlight and spread the practice of kindness and compassion that Lab students work to uphold. Hopefully, this project will inspire us to keep working hard to make Lab a better place. This wall is still a work in progress, but we hope to have it up somewhere visible and noticeable before the end of the school year. If you have any suggestions or want to provide support, contact us at jdrogos@ucls.uchicago.edu, dtaylor@ucls.uchicago.edu, ehultquist@ucls.uchicago.edu, wtan@ucls.uchicago.edu, or ttamburo@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Giant Gym Night
Taylor Patterson & Sophie Stern

Giant Gym Night was on Friday the 6th from 7-9. Gymnastics, swimming, basketball, volleyball, gaga and more were offered. Sienna Y. said, “I liked Giant Gym Night.” She played in the gymnastics room the whole time. Micayla H. said, “I liked Giant Gym Night, and it was fun.” She also went to the gymnastics room. If she could change anything about Giant Gym Night she says that she, “would make gymnastics and swimming go for the whole 2 hours.” Sophie said, “I liked Giant Gym Night, but I would like it to have other activities like Capture the Flag and German Football.” She also would like Giant Gym Night to be a little bit longer. Mary Bridget M., in her words, “did not go to Giant Gym Night because of soccer practice.” Taylor didn’t go because, in her words, she “had piano and ballet, but also because she thought it would be very crowded.”
A MathCOUNTS competition will often last the entire day, and it is a ton of fun. You will have to get there at roughly eight-thirty in the morning. Once everyone in your team arrives, you will check in and head to the competition zones. While the real competition starts at ten o’clock, there will be some time for to get together with your team to warm up with math games. At the opening ceremony, the announcer talks about MathCOUNTS. This includes what MathCOUNTS is about, its goals, and the importance of math in the real world. Then, after the opening ceremony is over, at ten, the individual competition starts.

The individual competition is split up into two parts, the sprint and the target. The sprint round consists of thirty problems in forty minutes, sort of like a quick sprint. Each problem is worth 1 point, and a calculator is not allowed. After the sprint round is over, the target begins. The target consists of 8 problems, but problems are only given two at a time. You get six minutes for every two problems, hence the “target”. Once the six minutes for one set of two problems is over, you are not allowed to change them during another set of two problems. Calculators are permitted for the target, and each problem is worth two points. So, in the end, the entire individual competition is worth forty-six points.

After the individual competition is over, the team competition begins. This usually happens at 11:30. You get in a team of four, and together you have twenty minutes to complete ten problems. Calculators and communication are both permitted, but you may only communicate with your own team. However, all the teams are in one gigantic room, so if you speak too loudly, other teams might be able to hear you. Depending on how well you do on the team, and how well your teammates do on the individual competitions is how your team score is determined. The average of your four individual scores added to twice your team score. This is how the ranking of your team is determined.

At roughly 12 o’clock, lunch is served. MathCOUNTS lunches are often very good. There is usually a buffet line, and you may get as you please. The only downside is the wait. There can be as many as two hundred people in a MathCOUNTS competition, not including coaches, parents, and volunteers. After lunch is over, at roughly 1:30, the countdown competition starts. The top 16 competitors participate in a 1 on 1 competition. Two people are given a problem, and the first person to answer it correctly on the first try gets a point. The person with the most points after 3 problems advances, and if there is a tie, it results in a sudden death. The countdown continues until a single mathlete is declared victor.

After the countdown, at roughly two o’clock, the awards ceremony and the closing ceremony begin. The closing ceremony includes all the things in the opening ceremony. The award ceremony gives out the trophies, certificates, and medals to the best scoring individuals and best scoring schools. By 4 o’clock, the MathCOUNTS s competition is over.

**Free Writing**

Micayla Hatcher & Alice Fan

Note: The winning story for the March competition will be published next month.

This is a writing competition for the Jammed Locker. Please share your piece with Alice Fan (afan@ucls.uchicago.edu) and Micayla Hatcher (mhatcher@ucls.uchicago.edu) via Google Docs. The writing pieces will be evaluated, and the winning piece will be printed in the next issue. If the piece is over 1 page, an excerpt will be printed.

Guidelines: You may work in a group of up to 5 people. You may only submit one piece. All work submitted must be original and typed. Submit your piece by **May 14th**.
The Details on Laptop Usage
Téa Tamburo

As stated by Mr. Allen this month, Lab has reinforced the laptop usage rules. These rules don’t permit students to use laptops before or during school without permission. During the seventh and eighth graders’ rundown of the rules, there were several groans and displays of disagreement.

I know that some of the rules were enforced to “build community,” by making students socialize in the morning, instead of using laptops. Still, I believe that this rule creates an obstacle for students, especially for those who do schoolwork before advisory; they now have to go to a designated classroom. That adds to the load of work they do at night. From the enforcement of laptop rules, students have been more social, but have had a harder time finding time to work before school, therefore increasing the amount of work they do at home.

Taxes: Why are they so difficult?
Jane Barnard

Taxes are a complicated thing for a lot of people to understand. People actually pay people to do their taxes for them! So since Tax Day (April 17) is coming up, I will tell you a little bit about how people find them so difficult to complete!

First of all, there is a lot of paperwork to go through. You have to know lots of things about yourself and your family. You also have to go through pages and pages of information. That’s why people don’t like to sit down and do them on their own.

Second, there are a lot of calculations. If you are not the best at math (like me), it is super hard to figure out how to calculate all the money you owe without the proper knowledge. There are online tax calculators, but they can sometimes do calculations wrong.

Lastly, if you get one thing wrong, you could be paying the wrong amount. This is self-explanatory, sense no one wants to pay more than what they should be paying.

Despite the difficulty it causes a lot of people, some people say you should do your taxes yourself! They say it helps you grasp the foundational principles of tax code and how taxes work.

What’s your opinion? Should people do their own taxes or not?

Loss of Advisory Time
Téa Tamburo

Since last school year, advisory time has slowly been cut back. Seventh graders had service learning projects these last few weeks, and due to a reshuffling of the schedule, advisory has been cut back. The students in Ms. Schmidt’s advisory believe that advisory is a time to de-stress and catch up on work. “Advisory is great,” said a student in Mr. Nekrosius’ advisory, pictured to the right. Without the advisory time, students can’t get everything done they have designated for the time period.
Religious Holidays in April
Clara Cui

In April, there are a couple very important religious holidays, both carry a big history- they are Easter, and Passover.

Easter

Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the rebirth of Jesus Christ. Easter was made an “official” holiday in 325 AD by the church council of Nicaea. According to Christian history, Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose on Sunday. The name Easter is unknown, but some believe it’s from a Teutonic goddess named Eastra or Eostre.

The Easter Bunny symbolizes fertility because rabbits often birth several offspring. People often set up egg hunts for kids on Easter. In Christian societies, eggs are a seed of life and symbolic of the rebirth of Christ. The Romans also believed that all life comes from eggs.

Easter, for sure, is one of the most popular religious holidays in the world.

Passover

Passover is a very sacred Jewish holiday. It retells and honors the story of the departure of Israelites from ancient Egypt.

According to the Hebrew Bible, Joseph, who is the son of a patriarch named Jacob, founded 12 tribes of Israel. Later, when Joseph and his brothers died, a quite mean pharaoh enslaved the first born sons of the Nile. One of the sons, named Moses, was rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter and was adopted into the family. One day, God commands Moses to free his family. Moses explains to him that God wanted the Pharaoh wanted him to leave for three days so the people can feast in the wilderness. Pharaoh refuses and God sends lots of plagues so everywhere is diseased and dark for three days. These plagues include the slaying of each first born son by an angel. The Israelites mark their door frames with lambs’ blood and the angel of death “passes over” each Jewish household. The Egyptians convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites so there will be no further punishment, but Pharaoh changes his mind and retrieves the slaves.

The Jews flee through the Red Sea and God causes the sea to part allowing Moses and the Israelites to cross the sea. The Egyptians drown in the Red Sea.

During Passover, the Jews who observe it don’t have any leavened food in their home, and instead of bread, they eat matzo because it’s said that the Hebrews had no time for their bread to rise. The first two nights of Passover, there is a big feast called the sedar. There’s often a hunt for a piece of hidden matzo for young people, too.

Passover is a very important holiday for all Jews.

Sources:
https://www.personalcreations.com/blog/history-origins-of-easter-holiday
Viewed April 10th

https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/passover
Viewed April 11th
A Memorial to Stephen Hawking

Anna Calegari

On March 14th, at age 76, Stephen Hawking died. Stephen Hawking was an amazing physicist, so I decided to honor him with a timeline of his life.


1963- Stephen is diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. He starts having difficulty moving and talking.

1970- Stephen proves that black holes emit radiation.

1988- Publishes A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes

1993- Publishes Black Holes and Baby Universes

2001- Publishes Universe in a Nutshell in the UK

2002- Publishes On the Shoulders of Giants and The Great Works of Physics and Astronomy

2004- Hawking solves the Black Hole Paradox

2013- Publishes memoir entitled My Brief History

2018- Dies on March 14th, 2018 at the age of 76

If you are new to the world of Stephen Hawking, here are some of his ideas (I know you can’t click the links, so search the words in parentheses if you are interested in him):

http://www.hawking.org.uk/into-a-black-hole.html (Into a Black Hole - Stephen Hawking)

https://www.usatoday.com/videos/tech/2017/11/03/stephen-hawking-robots-replace-humans-completely/107294198/ (Stephen Hawking: Robots will replace humans completely- USA today)


Stephen Hawking was a wonderful physicist and a great man. He proved that black holes emit radiation, and solved the Black Hole Paradox. He was a believer in the Big Bang, and took large steps to proving its occurrence. Despite his condition he kept his sense of humor. He is one of my personal heroes.

Timeline source: https://www.theguardian.com/science/2004/jul/21/spaceexploration-science1
Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie Recipe

Mary Bridget Molony

Chocolate strawberries. Chocolate pretzels. Chocolate caramel. Chocolate peanut butter. YUM! But for my mom, one of these flavor combos is better than all the rest. My mom loves the flavor combination of chocolate peanut butter, so my dad had the amazing idea for us to make her a chocolate peanut butter pie for her birthday! So, I went searching for a recipe, and I found this delicious looking recipe online from Spicy Southern Kitchen. Here it is!

Ingredients:
1 refrigerated pie crust
1 ½ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup and 3 tbsp butter
1 tbsp water
½ cup powdered sugar
2 tsp corn syrup
1 tbsp milk
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup peanut butter
1 12 ounce container of frozen whipped topping (essentially cool whip)

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

2. Put the pie crust in the bottom of a 9 inch pie pan. Prick bottom all over with a fork, then bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until golden brown.

3. In a small pan over low heat, melt ¾ cup of chocolate chips, 1 tbsp water, and 1 ½ tbsp of butter. Whisk continuously until smooth. Stir in powdered sugar, and spread evenly in the pie pan. Refrigerate.

4. To make peanut butter filling, melt 1 cup butter and 1 cup brown sugar in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring frequently, until butter is completely melted. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.

5. After it has been refrigerated, put brown sugar mixture in a large bowl and beat together with the peanut butter using an electric mixer. Add whipped topping and mix on low speed until just combined. Pour over chocolate layer in pie shell. Return to refrigerator.

6. Melt remaining chocolate chips, butter, milk, and corn syrup in a small pan over low heat. Stir continuously until smooth. Spread on top of pie, and refrigerate until you are ready to serve it. If you want, you can put whipped cream and peanuts on top. Enjoy!
Animals Saving Humans

Sygne Stole

Animals can be unexpected in good and bad ways. Here are some strange but amazing stories about heroic animals saving humans.

A 12-year-old girl in Ethiopia was kidnapped when walking by herself. However when the kidnappers were trying to move her, three lions arrived. They chased off the kidnappers. The lions did not harm the girl at all. In fact, they waited by her side until the police found them. Many believed it to be a miracle. Some scientists thought that maybe the girl’s screams sounded like the mews of a lion cub.

A young orphaned boy named Rheal Guindon was out in the wilderness of Canada by himself after losing his parents. He fell asleep on the ground. He was very sad about his parents. He remarked that he felt a warm fuzzy thing curl of next to him. He ignored it, thinking that it was a dog. But three wild beavers had come and comforted him greatly. At night when temperatures dropped below 0 they kept him warm. The beavers had saved his life.

2 stories, 2 boys, 2 gorillas. 2 times very similar events take place: boys falling into gorilla enclosure and being saved. When a boy fell off of the fence of a gorilla enclosure in Illinois at the Brookfield Zoo (nobody knows why he fell) he was seriously injured from an 18 foot drop. A gorilla named Binti Jua came to the boy’s rescue. She cradled him and brought him to the enclosure gate where he was transported to the hospital. At a New Jersey zoo another boy fell into the gorilla enclosure (why does this keep happening?). A silverback gorilla watched over the boy (who was unconscious). He led the rest of his troop away and stood by him when the paramedics arrived. So maybe these gorillas didn’t necessarily save their lives but they certainly made it easier for the boy to get to safety.

Once a woman named Brenda Owen was walking her athletic and obedient dog Penny. Then they spotted a wheelchair on the riverbank and a woman floating in the water. All Brenda Owen did was cry “Fetch, fetch!” Penny jumped in the river and dragged the woman to shore.

When there was a fire in a house a shrieking cat named Oreo alerted a family. It raced up to them and soon they discovered the fire. They all made a safe escape. After that event took place one of the family members commented, “We love it now. This thing is getting some tuna!”

These are all sweet stories that help us remember that humans and animals all live on the same Earth. Therefore, as we live together, we should protect one another.

I am Princess X - Book Review

Mary Bridget Molony

As many of you know, I am Princess X was one of the Lab Caudill winners. It is a suspenseful mystery, and it starts with two girls who are best friends and partners in writing comics about Princess X. Then Libby dies in a terrible car crash. A few years later, May sees a sticker that looks just like the character in Princess X, her and Libby’s comic. She traces it back to a website with Princess X comics! Princess X looks just like Libby, and her car goes off a bridge. However, it tells a different story about what happened to Princess X after that. Read more to find out!
MLAB: A Place to Discuss Making the Middle School Library Better

Jane Barnard

On Friday, March 30th, I went to MLAB. MLAB stands for the Middle School Advisory Board, and it is really cool! The purpose of this club is to make the library a better place. MLAB coordinates with librarians Ms. Oakes and Mr. Andracki to make these things happen. The leader of this club is Grace Cruise, and she leads most of the meetings in the club. The club lasts all of the lunch period so if you would like to come, then buy (or bring) your lunch to the room in the back of the library. Since the club is mostly made up of 8th graders who will be leaving MLAB this year, the club NEEDS more 7th and 6th graders! So come on in and enjoy the library!

RONNYJLISTENUP’s OMGRONNY:
Compilation of Throwaway Songs

Kajus Nakas

RONNYJLISTENUP is the Florida rap scene's best producer. (I’m excluding Nick Leon because even though his work on The Underachiever’s Evermore: The Art of Duality was phenomenal, his only work in the Florida scene was producing ULT by Denzel Curry, which was also co-produced by RONNYJLISTENUP.) Ranny produces everything in Florida, from Denzel Curry’s Houston-inspired Nostalgic64 to everything in xxxtentacion’s early screamo discography. Everyone knows RONNYJ is an excellent producer, so why does he choose to pollute his debut mixtape with his worst production? Anytime he is producing for another artist, RONNYJ’s production is rich, textured and heavily looped with strict patterns and a drop before his hook. On OMGRONNY, after the first 4 mediocrely produced repetitive “new school” songs, his production is tropical and lush, almost straight out of Wiki’s No Mountains In Manhattan or xxxtentacion’s ? album. THIS DOES NOT COMPLIMENT RONNYJ.

First of all, RONNYJ isn't very good at producing this type of instrumental, and second, no lyrics on this album compliment the instrumentals. Maybe Ronny could loop it into a tropical house album, but that wouldn't be Ronny. Tropical Beats are almost impossible to rap over, mainly because this is a Florida album, and not Ty Dolla Sign's. Ronny has always been a producer, and for his second rap song ever to be the first song on his debut mixtape means he will not be very good. He isn’t. Every feature surpasses Ronny, and with the exception of Ski Mask The Slump God on the first track, every feature is very out of place and boring. Not as boring as Ronny, but still boring. Ronny also killed the very thing that made him good in the first place: He was everywhere. He was producing Denzel Curry, Fat Nick, and xxxtentacion, without being intrusive at all. On OMGRONNY, (someone actually had to think that was a good title?) RONNYJLISTENUP tries to make all the featured artists his; he kills everything that made them good rappers, and instead makes them boring trophies for him to say he had on his album. Ronny basically decided to learn an entirely new production style a few days before his mixtape release, and honestly, if he doesn't make a great new album within a year, this mixtape will catapult him into has-been status.

5/10
What Did You Expect From Logic On Bobby Tarantino 2?

Kajus Nakas

Logic’s new album is here, and it is not good. The first track, “Grandpa’s Spaceship”, was a spoken intro voiced by Justin Roiland as Rick and Morty. It’s a cool concept to fuse cartoons with rap, but the song basically turns into Rick and Morty (in character?) yelling at you that anyone who doesn’t like Logic is a bad person. This is made worse by the fact that Logic actually told Justin Roiland to say this.

The next track, “Overnight”, is enjoyable at parts, but not at all because Logic is a good rapper. It’s strangely catchy and the beat, though mediocre, is memorable. The track after that, contra, is just as much a mixed bag as “Overnight”. Boomtrap Protocol is the best named track on the album, but still the worst overall track. Rappers brag all the time, but Logic is able to brag in ways that make you think that is actually Logic’s true view.

The best thing about this album is that, in some places, it feels like Bobby Tarantino 1’s true successor. Most of the time it doesn’t, but those occasional moments when producer 6ix’s ear for samples reminds me of the first mixtape. That saves it from being a total trainwreck, but I still wouldn’t recommend.

4/10

An Interview with Illinois Senator Dick Durbin

Kajus Nakas

Me: How long have you held office?
DD: I was first elected in 1982 to the US House. I served 14 years, and in 1996 I was elected to the US Senate.
Me: What first got you interested in politics?
DD: In college, I worked in the office of a US Senator and loved it.
Me: What is your advice to young people who want to be politicians?
DD: Be informed, get involved, and volunteer for campaigns.
Eraser Shavings
Alex Fogel

April Crossword Puzzle
Leo Pratt-Thomas

1. April Fool's Day is on **Sunday** April ______.
2. **Easter** is also on Sunday, April ______.
3. Passover is from Sunday to the first Saturday the ______.
4. ______ day is on the twenty-second.
5. Tax day is on the ______.
Easter Jokes
Jane Barnard
Now, I know Easter has past, but no matter the situation, everyone wants to hear jokes!

What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?
Hot cross bunnies!

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
Bugs Bunny!

Why shouldn’t you tell an Easter egg a joke?
It might crack up!

How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?
With a hare-dryer!

What did the rabbit say to the carrot?
It’s been nice gnawing you!

How did the Easter Bunny rate the Easter parade?
He said it was eggs-cellent!

How does the Easter Bunny travel?
By hare-plane!


APRIL 2018

The calendar was compiled by Jane Barnard.