

Cheverly STEM Buzz

Cheverly STEM Education Center Student Newspaper

Cheverly, Maryland
2015

February 10,



COURTESY: Associated Press

Third Winter Snowfall Blankets New England

Associated Press

A relentless storm that dumped more than two feet of snow on some parts of New England was finally expected to wind down on Tuesday but not before bringing the Boston-area public transit system to its knees and forcing some communities to consider dumping piles of snow into the ocean to help relieve clogged streets.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker gave another day off to non-emergency state workers who live in the hardest hit areas of the state and the mayor of Boston said schools would remain closed for another day. The storm on top of two others that hit recently has shattered snowfall records for a 30-day period in the city.

To make matters worse, forecasters said more snow was possible on Thursday. Still, some residents were taking it all in stride.

"Honestly, I'm OK with it," said Helen Ferullo, 70, of Weymouth, which had received 26.5 inches of snow as of late Monday. "You can't change it. The snow is there. You can't do anything about it."



COURTESY: Associated Press

Sam Smith Snags 4 Grammys

Associated Press

Sam Smith's soulful sound and heartbreaking songs resonated with fans — and his breakthrough was solidified when he took home three of the top four Grammy Awards on Sunday, though Beck earned a surprise win for album of the year.

"I want to thank the man who this record is about ... Thank you so much for breaking my heart because I have four Grammys," said the British singer, who won best new artist, song and record of the year for "Stay with Me" and best pop vocal album for "In the Lonely Hour." ###

Cheverly S.T.E.M. Buzz is a product of the Cheverly S.T.E.M. Center journalism class. All content contained is purely for educational non-profit purposes. These student newspapers are posted weekly to <http://www.cheverlystem.com/>



COURTESY: Always, Procter & Gamble

'Like a Girl' Should Not be an Insult

By Olivia Phillips

Most of us saw the Always commercial that aired during the Super Bowl. People were asked to do things "like a girl." Boys were asked first. They did things only partway, or failed altogether. When girls were asked to do the same things, they did it with power, putting everything they had into it. It ended with the message "Girls' confidence plummets during puberty." It's not that hard to change. Sometimes, girls do bad things. Everyone does. But girls need to rise out of their troubles. We need to show that girls are capable of lots of things other people, especially boys, don't give us credit for.

Girls should not judge themselves through other people's eyes. Girls should stop rating themselves from their popularity, their number of boyfriends, their beauty, or anything. They are human beings, loved by somebody, no matter what they look like or how popular they are.

Every girl is unique. Nobody's perfect.



COURTESY: Always, Procter & Gamble

Girls are targeted by a lot of bullies. They think girls aren't as strong as boys and will be an easy victory. Girls need to stand up to the bullies for themselves and others. Bullies take pride in seeing their victims suffer. Girls need to know that they are as good as they'll get, and if somebody doesn't like that, then it's that person who needs to change.

Girls should not be bullies. When kids bully other kids, especially girls to other girls, we gain bad reputations. If we get too eager to show we're as good as or better than boys, it could easily turn into bullying. Bullying is wrong. People just need to know that.

Some people think girls are "sissies." We need to show people we aren't. Lots of people undervalue girls. We are forgotten in many events. We are capable of most things boys are, and sometimes do things better than them. We need to show them that. We can't let what they think become what we think.

Girls are humans. Boys are humans. We are all humans. We are equal. We have the potential to do amazing things. We just need to do them. ###



The Case of the Missing Cookie

By Erin, Buzz Reporter

A few weeks ago, school was cancelled for a snow day. Since we didn't get enough snow to go sledding, I had a few friends over instead. We decided to make a movie and started with the trailer. Then it took us two days, Monday and Tuesday, to finish the movie.

The movie is fantastic, especially considering it was made by kids. But more than that, it was a lot of fun to make. This was my debut as movie editor. I got to cut scenes as well as add sound and special effects. The plot is simple — a cookie is missing — and three detectives try to find it. Currently, only the trailer is on YouTube, but soon the movie will be as well.

The trailer is posted on YouTube. It features my friends Ritzer and Alex. You can also see a little dog in this scene. There is also a dog in the trailer. We were dog-sitting him and he jumped into the production. My neighborhood friends, Conna and Astawa, are also in the movie. ###



COURTESY: LA Weekly

Why the Freakshow is the Best Show

By Zoe, Buzz Reporter

The Freakshow is located in Venice Beach. It has people from the Guinness Book Of World Records. Some of the cast members are: Creature, George, Asia, Phoenix, Daniel, Ali, Todd, Lobster Boy and Morgue.

There are people that are born different, but then others do piercings, tattoos and tricks to be different. I'm not sure if it is a good thing or bad to use or show the different people to make money.

Continued "Freakshow"



Cheverly STEM Education Center students in art class painting together

Are the Arts as Important to Teach in School as Math and Science?

By Bena, Buzz Reporter

Three years ago I made the decision to go to public school (not for the first time, mind you, but that's a different editorial) for seventh grade. In retrospect, I sincerely believe that this was an awful choice; for me, at least. In my family, everyone has the choice on where they want to go to school. My oldest brother homeschooled, and my middle brother went to public school. I sort of flip-flopped around, until finally deciding homeschooling was right for me, for a multitude of reasons. One reason is I don't respond well when surrounded by a lot of people, but more importantly, I did not feel as though I was learning as much as I could and as many subjects as I wanted to.



Cheverly STEM Education Center students in a science class.

I chose the middle school I did because it advertised its specialty in creative arts. That sounded like me; I was never a math or science person. However, I soon learned I could only choose one creative elective, and even then I would only go to that class every other day.

Being the multifaceted and well-rounded individual I am (not to brag), I was interested in music, writing, media arts, and even acting if I tried hard enough, but I was restricted to only one option. I don't feel as though it's fair for public (and some private) schools to offer a limited amount of creative arts programs because they don't think they're worth it. I understand, however, needing to cut back programs due to a small budget, but if you have the budget, why take out subjects that some students dearly need? If I was brought up in a household where excelling in math and science was severely expected of me, I would be the wrong person.

Continued "Education"

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COURTESY 'My Little Pony'

Top 3 'My Little Pony' Episodes

By Sydney, Buzz Reporter

Here are the top episodes of the TV animation series *My Little Pony*.

#1 - Rainbow Falls

We see Rainbow Dash, a fast, colorful, female Pegasus as the main character in this episode and her friends that are also ponies. Rainbow Dash is playing in The Rainbow Falls Games, and she thinks her village's team is not good. Her dream team, The Wonder Bolts have an opening on their team for her because one of their teammates broke a wing.

The decision to leave her team is very hard for Rainbow Dash. She pretends that she is hurt because she cannot decide which team to be on. She later feels bad about lying and decides to rejoin her village's team. Her team wins and they get a gold medal. The Wonder Bolts give Rainbow Dash something special too, a Wonder Bolt Badge of Honor.



Twilight and Rainbow in the library in the "Testing, Testing 1,2,,3" episode. COURTESY 'My Little Pony'

#2 – Testing, Testing 1, 2, 3

Another popular episode is called Testing Testing 1, 2, 3. This episode includes Rainbow Dash and her friend Twilight, who is a smart, unicorn that loves to read and study about the world. Rainbow dash wants to be admitted to the Wonder Bolt Academy boarding school, but she must pass a test to get in.

Rainbow Dash is an athlete. She is not the best at studying and taking test. Twilight helps by making flashcards, and her other pony friends try to help by acting out a play and making a rap song about the history of The Wonder Bolts. But Rainbow Dash still has trouble. Everyone thinks their way of teaching is the best.

Soon Twilight notices that Rainbow Dash multitasks and that she learns in her own way, while doing the things that she is good at, like flying. In the end, Rainbow Dash takes the test and scores an "A."



"The Wonderbolts Academy" episode. COURTESY 'My Little Pony'

#3 - The Wonder Bolts Academy

The last episode I will share is titled The Wonder Bolts Academy. In this episode there is Rainbow Dash and her new classmate from the Wonder Bolt Academy, named Lightning Dash. Lightning Dash is exactly like Rainbow Dash, but extremely competitive. She will do anything to win even if it hurt others.

The Pegasus in My Little Pony are responsible for keeping the clouds away so the sun can shine on their village and give them energy. During practice Lightning Dash pressures Rainbow Dash to clear the clouds away faster than the rest of their classmates in order to earn a leader badge, and they create a terrible tornado. The tornado causes a hot air balloon that is carrying Rainbow Dash's friends, to burst.

When the friends begin to fall out of the balloon, the classmates notice and they all fly down to rescue them. Soon after Rainbow Dash quits the academy. But before she leaves, the academy coach asks Rainbow Dash to stay and then she promises to teach differently. She then gives Rainbow Dash the leader badge. ###



COURTESY: Fullmetal Alchemist

3 Must-Watch Anime Shows

By Madison, Buzz Reporter

My three favorite anime shows are Full Metal Alchemist, Sword Art Online, and Fate Zero.

#1 - Fullmetal Alchemist

Fullmetal Alchemist is number one because it is just so cool. I love the whole story. It is pretty complicated. There are 2 brothers. Their father goes away to practice alchemy, and they are left with their mother. Their mother dies and they try to use human alchemy to bring her back.

younger brother starts to get pulled into a black hole when they are performing the alchemy. The older brother, Edward, has to sacrifice his arm to save his brother's soul. He puts it in a suit of armor near by. They go to their grandmother's house next door, where their cousin Winry lives. Grandmother and Winry make a robotic leg and arm for Edward. The brothers become state alchemists and go on crazy adventures.

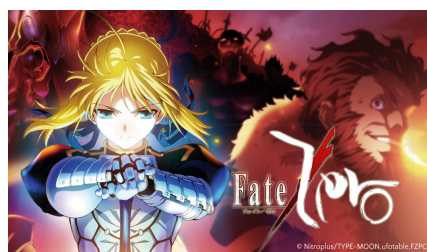


COURTESY: Lost in Anime Land: Swords Art Online

#2 - Swords Art Online

Swords Art Online is number two because it is just so sweet and interesting. There is a boy named Kiriko. He plays a video game where you put on a headset and get loaded into the game. The guy who created the game locked it. Anyone who tried to escape, died in the real world. Kiriko has to defeat the boss level to escape. He meets Asuna and falls in love. They get married in the game and go to live in the safe zone where no one can kill them. They meet a little girl in the woods and realize she used to be a guide to the game. She thinks they are her parents. People formed guilds.

If you die in the game, you die in real life too. I've seen 2 other ones like that where they could not escape from a video game.



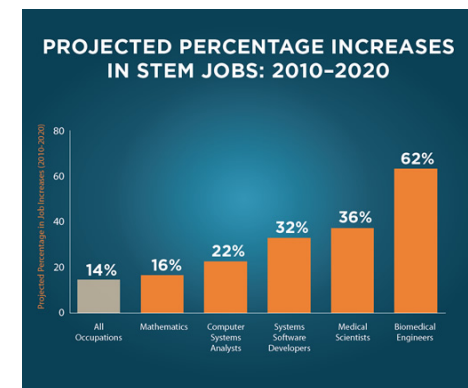
COURTESY: Fate Zero

#3 - Fate Zero

It is very hard to choose number three. I love Vampire Knight, Black Cat, Okime San and Her Seven Companions, Fairy Tail and Soul Eater, but number 3 is Fate Zero. It is just cool and there is a big twist at the end. There are magic users called Mages. Mages have special signs on their hand. They can use the symbol on their hand to call heroic spirits from fairy tales like King Arthur or Sir Lancelot. There are only boy heroic spirits except King Arthur who was actually a girl dressed in disguise.

Her name was Saber and all of the boys fall in love with her. Everyone is trying to get the Holy Grail because it can give you your every wish and desire. They quote a lot from the Bible. ###

For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to be a writer, and a musician, among some other things, but never anything involving math. But at public school, I've always been refined to picking one or none of these interests.



COURTESY US Dept of Education

That is not to say I don't want to be good at math and science; I do. I just wish public (and private) schools would understand the limitations they place on creative students when they put more emphasis on mathematics and science. I may still be at public school if they catered to more creative arts classes. Public school taught me that math and science will get me to college, and college will get me a well-paying job. That's great...for students who excel in math and science. I'm not asking math and science to be pushed less, but for an equal push to artistic classes.

The Benefits of the Arts in the Curriculum

Why the arts have a dramatic impact on learning abilities and the school environment



COURTESY: Johns Hopkins University

So, in short, yes, the arts are as important to teach in school. And as a side-note, now that I'm homeschooling for ninth grade, I write, practice drums and piano, and explore my other hobbies every day. Take that, public school. ###

"Freakshow" continued

One of my favorites is Morgue. He was home-schooled all his life. He was pretty much living in his cabin all of his life when he was younger. When he came to Freakshow he was a little weird and he did not like a lot of people.

Now he goes out with Asia, one of the performers at the Freakshow. He is still not a big fan of new people, but when he performs he loves for people to clap for him and cheer which is weird because he doesn't really like people. You should watch the show because it is cool and you get to see people's differences and what they can still do. ###

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