

Cheverly STEM Buzz

Cheverly STEM Education Center Student Newspaper

Cheverly, Maryland

March 10, 2015



Buzz Reporter Sydney with American Ballet Theatre ballerina Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland: Born to Dance Ballet

By Sydney, Buzz Reporter

The idea of being a ballerina as a profession is possible. Misty Copeland has been a ballet dancer since 1995. She is the first African American female ballerina soloist at the historic American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in New York City. According to the ABT, ballet, is a theatrical work or entertainment in which a choreographer has expressed his or her ideas in group and solo dancing to a musical accompaniment with appropriate costumes, scenery and lighting. In my opinion, a ballerina is the most important part.

It takes many years to be a professional dancer. Dancers start as early three years old taking dance classes. But Misty Copeland became interested in dance at the age of 13. To be a dancer you must be flexible, have great posture, and be graceful.

I had a chance to meet Copeland at Enoch Pratt Free Central Library's Baltimore Book Lover's Breakfast held in January. Here she talked freely about why she was born to dance.

"You have to have discipline and be focused," said Copeland. This is so the dancer can learn more and prevent injury.

To be a ballet dancer you must learn many dances like "Firebird" which also is the title of the children's book she has written to inspire young brown girls, like herself to dance. To be a ballet dancer you must know the French vocabulary for ballet positions very well.

Ballet dancers are athletes. Misty said she struggled with her weight as a dancer and that a nutritious diet is important. Misty also stated in that interview that she sees herself in the profession of dance for at least another 10 years. She is currently 32 years old. I think Misty is not only a great dancer but a great role model for all young girls.

Continued 'Hip Hop Tops Dance Poll'

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/>



Choir director Chris Fominaya with music students

Making Music the Soundtrack of Your Life

By Erin, Buzz Reporter

When I grow up, I want to be a singer or musician. Choir director Chris Fominaya shares some inspiration about his career path and advice for future singers. Fominaya knew he wanted a career in music from very early on. Although neither of his parents are musicians, he remembers growing up that his house was full of music. Fominaya said he realized he wanted a career in music when he found out that he was better than his brother at music and performing.

Fominaya teaches music at a local middle school and is the director of two youth choirs, College Park Youth Choir and Vocetti – an audition based choir for young singers.

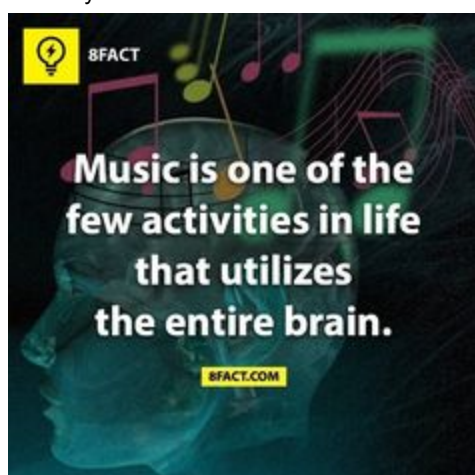
"My favorite part of teaching music, is the moment when what I'm teaching clicks in the students' mind, and they suddenly understand what I'm teaching," said Fominaya.

The singers in the College Park Youth Choir are mostly elementary students. Many of those singers graduate to Vocetti.

"Directing depends on the age mostly, the older kids from Vocetti understand more of what I'm trying to teach than the little kids in the youth choir," said Fominaya. But he insists he still enjoys teaching the youngest of singers. Fominaya says that singing isn't always about the singer's voice.

"I think the best advice I can give about singing, is that it has little to do with the voice of the singer, and more to do with word pronunciation and breath control," said Fominaya. He said he loves his career choice.

"I wouldn't do anything else with my life, singing and music are my favorite things," Fominaya added. ###

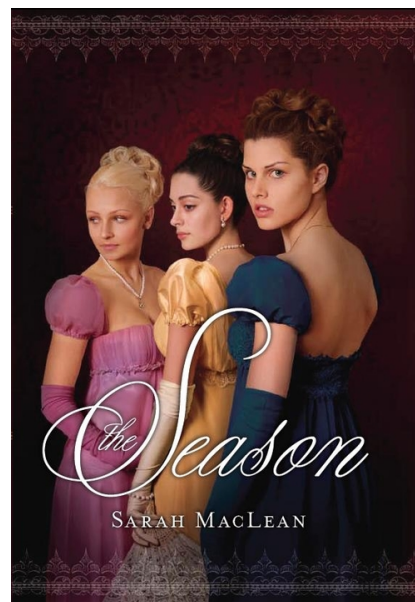


Professional novelist Sarah Trabucchi talks with The buzz about what it takes to become an 'extreme novelist.'

Writing My Destiny as an 'Extreme Novelist'

By Bena, Buzz Reporter

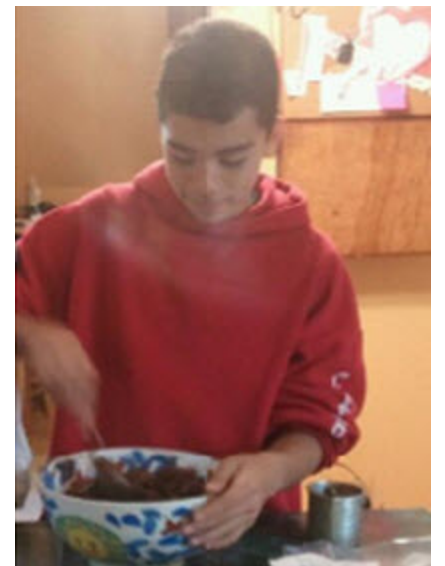
When I think about what I want to be when I grow up, the first thing that comes to mind is becoming an author. I have loved writing since before I knew how to read, and would use squiggly lines and drawings to convey a story. This is why I jumped at the opportunity to interview a professional novelist, Sarah Trabucchi, for my journalism article. She uses the pen name Sarah MacLean for her novels.



Trabucchi has written several romance books, including her historic teen novel, *The Season*. Her responses to my questions have already become a help to me when I write, and I hope they will do the same for you.

When asked why she chose to become a writer, Trabucchi responded, "I think writing chooses you more than you choose it. Writers write. We're compulsive storytellers. We write the books and plays and scripts and short stories we want to read and the characters we want to meet. Those of us who are very, very lucky get to make a living doing it." **Continued "Extreme Novelist"**

Continued, 'Extreme Novelist'



Christopher Escobar prepared food at the Cheverly Swim and Racquet Club.

Culinary Dreams: My Future Working in Food

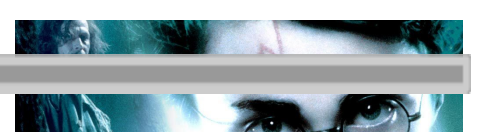
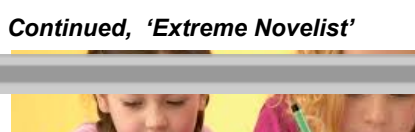
By Girls, Buzz Reporter

Foodies often enjoy well-cooked meals, and dining in a fine establishment is the butter on the bread. I have always enjoyed food, especially if I cooked it. I'm interested in being a chef or owning a restaurant when I get older.

To learn more about the food industry, I interviewed a local, successful teenage cook, Christopher Escobar. He prepared food at the Cheverly Swim and Racquet Club Snack Bar, during the summer of 2014. Here he learned to cook chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and many other items. Escobar's favorite thing to cook is the quesadilla and snack wrap.

"It is customizable, and you can put whatever you like in it. The customers seem to really like them," said Escobar. He said he was inspired to learn more about food when he was seven years old.

"My mom was teaching me how to cook pancakes, soup, and eggs," said Escobar. "It was interesting learning the recipes and switching them around to make a tasty lunch for my family. In this moment, with my small hands clutching the spoon shaking, smiling and approving, I knew that I wanted to cook," Escobar added. ###



Cheverly STEM Buzz

Cheverly STEM Education Center Student Newspaper

Cheverly, Maryland

March 10, 2015



COURTESY: MyKidList.com .

Play the Music, Not the Instrument

By Olivia, Buzz Reporter

"Music is my life, this is what I have always done; music brings me joy," said piano teacher Lonna Cropper. She is a friendly woman who teaches local children how to play the piano.

"Teaching other children to love music and find the joy in music and the peace and comfort that it brings, even when times are hard is important to me. I wanted to be able to do that," Cropper said.

"I love watching the joy when a student realizes that a piece of music can describe what's happening inside of them, like this little quote 'Music is what feelings sound like.' When I see a student have a light go on - especially during recital time - and they learn the joy that come from putting their heart and soul into music, that's what I like the best."

But there are some drawbacks to teaching piano.

The worst thing, according to Cropper, is if a family doesn't give her a warning and doesn't show up after she's gotten ready for them, or if they don't pay.

"If the kids don't practice, the parents are still putting out money to pay me and I believe the children should do their part and practice and make that money worth it for them," Cropper said.

On an average day, Cropper teaches nine or ten students a day, sometimes as many as six days a week. Cropper teaches people from age seven and up. Her oldest student is in their fifties.

Her motto is: "Play the music, not the instrument. I can teach the students to play a song technically correct, but if their heart and soul isn't into it, they're doing it how a robot would do it," she said.

"Sure, it would sound nice, but it could be twice as good if they felt the music." Her advice to future pianists is to repetition.

"Practice. Practice. Practice... That's the best way to have skills," said Cropper ###

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/>

'Show Me the Money!' Why I Want to Become an Entertainment Manager

By Zoe, Buzz Reporter

One of the things I want to do when I grow up is become a manager for entertainers.

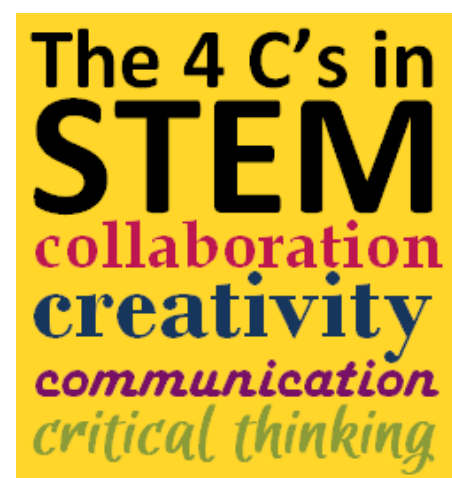
I want to be an entertainment manager because I like to manage people, and see them grow into better musicians and entertainers. I would like to get most of the credit of helping them, and then I will get a lot of money (Who doesn't like getting money?).

"I always wanted to be involved in sports and entertainment (music and movies) and being an attorney was the best way to learn the ins and outs of those industries while being able to work within them until I retire," said Ricardo Jackman, a local sports and entertainment lawyer.

He underwent four years of undergraduate school with a double major in business management and criminal justice, plus three years of law school. Jackman also passed the bar after law school.

"My typical day varies, which is why I love my job so much. Each day is different. I may have to travel one day. I may have to draft or review an endorsement deal the next," said Jackman. "Another day may require me to set up a business for a client or file a trademark for a client. My days are always different, thus making my job exciting and new!"

I want to become a manager even more, knowing that you can travel so many places. ###



"[The most challenging part about being a writer is] sitting in the chair and actually writing. It can be very lonely knowing that the whole thing is on you. I like working with other people and brainstorming and talking about plots and characters and stories...but when it comes down to it, the book gets written by me alone and the chair is a lonely place. [The most fun part is] hearing from the readers. Knowing that your book has made a difference in someone's life and knowing that someone has loved (or hated!) it." I asked if being a novelist was what Trabucchi thought it would be and she said,

"Here's something no one tells you: Even when you have your dream job, it's not always perfect and it's not always fun. It doesn't always pay a lot and it doesn't always come easy, but when you have your dream job, you do it anyway, because you know that at the end of the day, when you finish your work, you know you're doing the thing you were meant to do. That said, I think I expected writing to get easier. In everything else in life, practice makes the work easier. But every time I start a new book, I have to learn how to do it all over again. Every book is an entirely different process, start to finish, and that's still a surprise for me."

"My typical writing day involves way too much procrastination. I try for 1000 words every time I sit down at the computer, but I'm often down the rabbit hole on email and Twitter and Facebook too fast to measure, and I'm lucky if I get any words at all if the Internet is on. I write from 9:30-1:30 everyday, and then spend the afternoon researching, emailing, and doing general author stuff on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and so on."

If any of you desire to be authors as well, this is the advice Sarah Trabucchi has for you, "Read all the time, anything you can get your hands on. Read memoirs and classics and mysteries and sci-fi and romance and picture books--ideas come from everywhere. Read books by writers who are better than you. When you read a book that makes you feel something, go back and reread it to figure out how the author did it. Talent is innate, sure, but craft is learned. Do everything you can to learn from the writers who came before you. And when you aren't reading, write." ###

Buzz Survey: Harry Potter, Comedy and Mystery Books are Best

By Bena, Buzz Reporter

Buzz reporter bena surveyed ten people to find out which types of books are the most popular among local readers. Participants were allowed to vote on all the genres they identified with.

Favorite Book Genres

100%	comedies.
80%	mysteries.
60%	dramas
60%	historical/classics
60%	poems
20%	romances.

Favorite Book to Movie Interpretation:

50% of people like Harry Potter.
30% of people like the Hunger Games.
0% of people like Lord of the Rings. ###



COURTESY: ATimeToDance.net

Buzz Survey: Hip Hop Tops Dance Poll

By Sydney, Buzz Reporter

Buzz reporter Sydney polled ten people about four genres of dance to find out which is most popular.

Hip Hop	4 people
Tap	2 people
Jazz	2 people
Ballet	1 person
None	1 person

Sydney also asked participants if they ever took dancing classes.

Yes	4 people
No	6 people

###

Cheverly STEM Buzz

Cheverly STEM Education Center Student Newspaper

Cheverly, Maryland

March 10, 2015