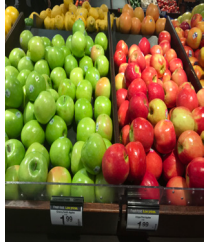




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Serving the students and staff of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park

# The Perspective

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## Big Change Coming: Arts Academy Leader to Assistant Principal

**by Lilli Keehn  
Staff Writer**

The Arts Academy at the Park is for students who see the world from an artistic perspective. These students can range from artists, musicians, photographers, actors and more. The Academy was founded back in 2012 by Amy Willacker-Brown, who has been the official Arts Academy Leader ever since. Recently, Willacker-Brown has been informed of the open position at Plymouth High School for assistant principal via email from HR sent to all faculty members. After doing some thinking, she decided to apply.

“When the chance to work with counseling and growth programs came up, I felt like it was worth submitting an application,” Willacker-Brown said.

Willacker-Brown expressed that she really loves learning new things. She also went on to say, “I have been thinking for a while that I should be considering what my next steps might be, but Arts Academy is really in a good groove and I was very much loving my students and their projects right now, so I planned to wait a few years before making a switch.” That was not the case however, because she will be starting her new position as Plymouth High School Assistant Principal at the beginning of the second semester.

Willacker-Brown said she’s loved working

in the Arts Academy and that her favorite parts have been building relationships with students and teachers around making and exploring the arts. “There are so many talented and interesting people here,” Willacker-Brown said. “Sincerely, I feel like I find someone to be impressed and inspired by every single day.”

With the many responsibilities that come with being an assistant principal, a major one is caring for students and wanting to help them grow. With the time and day we’re in now, all three schools at P-CEP have been very focused on dealing with the issue of mental health. Willacker said that this is something that she thinks about a lot.

Willacker-Brown said, “I care very much about supporting kids in building a vision of a hopeful future and in gaining the psychological skills they need to get there.” She continued, “I think that counseling and growth programs (formerly alternative ed) are right on the front lines of this work, and I’m really honored to get the chance to support them in a leadership role.”

Students in the Arts Academy have also come to share their thoughts on this upcoming transition. Avery Hall, Canton senior, said, “I am very happy for Mrs. Willacker and her new position at Plymouth High School. I have no doubt she will do an amazing job as an assistant principal, as she is an extremely

hardworking individual.”

Canton senior, Dalton Barthold, explained how Mrs. Willacker-Brown has impacted him throughout his high school experience and how she has allowed him to grow as a person and an artist. “I am very happy for Mrs. Willacker and her new job, but it’ll be a difficult transition because of her constant dedication to the Arts at P-CEP. She will be an amazing [assistant principal] and she will continue to positively impact students’ lives.”

As one can imagine, it can be hard to completely walk away from a job you’ve done for seven years and not continue to think about what will become of it. With that, Mrs. Willacker-Brown has expressed that she wishes only the best for the Arts Academy after she switches job positions.

After explaining that the community in the Academy has “great momentum and exciting ideas for the future,” she continued on to say what she wishes for the Arts Academy after she leaves, “I’d like to see the mentoring relationships we have with local universities and community arts organizations continue to flourish. I hope that the senior capstone experience will stay strong and spread to other disciplines. Mostly, though, I hope, and believe, that P-CEP artists will keep supporting and encouraging each other to do quality work - work that expresses their experiences,



**Portrait of Mrs. Willacker-Brown  
Photo by Amy Willacker-Brown**

work that pushes them to refine their respective craft, work that inspires others and work that helps all of us to gain deeper perspective on what it means to be a person in the world.”



**Portrait of Hal Heard  
Photo courtesy by Focal Point**

## New Director of High Schools

**by Isabelle Fessler  
Staff Writer**

Last summer, the position of Director of High Schools was created for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The position entails overseeing the coordination and cooperation of the three schools on the Park’s campus and Starkweather Academy.

Hal Heard, the previous principal of Canton High School, is now the Director of High Schools. He says that the position was created mainly to provide a support and oversight role that the 4 high schools in the district were missing. Previously, there had been a director of elementary

schools and a director of secondary education, which included both middle and high schools. Now, each level has one person overseeing all schools within it. His responsibilities include providing leadership, supervision and support to the administration, staff and students at each high school. So far, this looks like meetings with administration to discuss how the goals of district are being accomplished and any improvements that could be made.

Heard has also worked with students to learn what their priorities are and how they think their experiences at school could be improved. This past summer

he and a group of students traveled to Boston to attend an educational conference where they learned about alternative methods to teaching that better support students. He expressed an interest in applying these methods to the Plymouth-Canton school district to create a better learning environment for P-CCS students.

Heard hopes that the creation of this position and his role in it will positively affect student lives. He has great optimism for what this new position may bring to the district in the future.

## Plymouth’s Water Blues?

**by Cora Wallen  
Editor-in-Chief**

Oct. 11, 2018, Plymouth B-Pod teachers went to get water for coffee from the sink in room 200B. However, the warm water they filled their pot with had a mint blue tint.

According to the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), water coming out blue from taps is a rare occurrence, but it is due to new copper plumbing corroding.

Michelle Davies, Plymouth teacher who discovered the water, said, “The water wasn’t like this at 6:00 AM when I filled up my coffee pot and kettle, but it was blue when I filled it up for the second time around 10:30 AM.”

The DWI says that copper at high levels can be harmful and can cause copper poisoning, in which instance, there is a obvious discoloration.



**Coffee pot containing the tinted water  
Photo by Scott Milam**

Following the discovery of the water, Scott Milam, Plymouth Chemistry teacher, noted, “We filtered blue water out with a coffee filter, and then I tested the sediments, and narrowed down to copper alloy of either copper hydroxide or copper carbonate. We did some flame tests in the lab,” and he described the water as, “highly unusual.”

Arch Environmental Group is the organization that performs routine water testing for the Park, and they keep an eye on levels of copper, iron and lead in the district’s water. According to Director of Maintenance and Operations, Michael Peterson, following the Flint water crisis in 2015, water testing increased in order to ensure the

safety of students in PCCS.

After the reported incident of the most recent blue water, Arch Environmental provided a report that indicated that copper levels from 200B were abnormally high. They also recommended steps for treatment of the blue water, which included flushing the location to coat the copper pipe lining.

According to Nicholas Brandon, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, “We completed all four of the suggested remediation steps by the consultant in December 2018. In addition, in the coming days we are sampling and testing the entire district for lead and copper. The results will be forthcoming.”

It is recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that only cold water is used for preparation of food and beverages due the fact that contaminants like copper or lead are more easily dissolved by hot water.

For more information on water standards, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-testing-fact-sheet>



# Government Shutdown

by **Amanda Mancuso**  
*Staff Writer*

On Dec. 22 President Donald

Trump declared a partial government shutdown. Trump requested 5.7 billion for a wall to stretch across the US-Mexican border. Democrats and even some Republicans failed to agree on Trump’s wall. Due to this disagreement, Trump has declared a partial government shutdown for the

third time in 2018. Since the United States government declared a government shutdown, nine federal agencies and departments have been affected. According to CNBC, these agencies and departments were affected: Department of Agriculture, Department of Justice, Department of Treasury, Department of Commerce, Department of Transportation,

Department of State, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Interior, and Homeland Security Department. These workers cannot be paid until the shutdown ends. If the government shutdown continues, tax refunds will also be affected. In other words, it will take longer for taxpayers to get their money back if they paid more than they owed.

Workers who work for these federal agencies and departments are not showing up in protest, even though they are expected to work they are not being paid. As of now, the government shutdown is expected to continue, as it is currently the longest shutdown in the history of the United States.

# Plymouth Ice Festival Comes to Town



by **Amanda Mancuso**  
*and Lilli Keehn*  
*Staff Writers*

The Plymouth Ice Festival returned once again this year for a fun and festive Plymouth event. The festival took place Jan. 11-13, starting at 5pm on Friday evening in downtown Plymouth. Every year family and friends gather around and observe intricate ice sculptures and admire these artists’ hard work.

The festival, while its main theme is ice, had much more

“Every year family and friends gather around and observe intricate ice sculptures and admire these artists’ hard work.”

*The horse sculpture coming to life at night with a bright pink light, lighting it up.*

than just your basic ice sculptures. Interactive sculptures surrounded an area by the Kellogg Park fountain. They gave the opportunity to take photos and stick your head through some of the holes in the ice, similar to a photobooth you would find at a carnival.

Occurring only on Saturday, the “Dueling Chainsaws Competition” took place. In this event, ice carvers were given 15 minutes to sculpt something amazing out of only a few blocks of ice, using only their chainsaw.

Another activity at the Plymouth Ice Festival was

the tubing hill that was set up on Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street. The hill was made of piles of snow with an added staircase was at the end so that riders could climb to the top. Next to this tubing hill, there was an area set up for cross country skiing. These two activities seemed to be the biggest attraction among viewers, as they were especially common for younglings.

As always, this years Plymouth Ice Festival was highly populated. The Plymouth Ice Festival has been a tradition in Plymouth for many decades and always attracts viewers. The artists’ works were left at Kellogg Park and will only hold up if the weather allows so. Be sure to catch this remarkable festival next year!

Photo courtesy of Ashley Quinn

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# Fentanyl: Deadliest Drug in United States

by **Emma Bali**  
*News Editor*

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center (CDC) have confirmed that fentanyl is currently the most commonly used drug associated in drug overdoses.

According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is increasingly stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl’s main intent is to manage the pain treatment of cancer patients. Due to the drug’s powerful opioid properties, it is scrutinized for abuse and misuse in the United States.

As stated by the CDC, death rates involving synthetic opioids (other than methadone), which includes drugs

such as tramadol and fentanyl, doubled from 2015 to 2016. Using the latest numbers, the CDC has found that the rate of drug overdoses involving fentanyl increased by about 113% each year from 2013 to 2016. Along with other commonly used analgesic opioids, such as oxycodone, fentanyl produces effects such as respiratory depression, dizziness, confusion, vomiting, and pain relief. Fentanyl has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as an analgesic and aesthetic. The drug is also legally manufactured and distributed in the United States.



# CRISIS PREGNANCY HELP

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# P-CEP Lawsuit

by Cameron Lindsay and Cora Wallen  
Editors-In-Chief

Recently the Detroit Freepress reported on a 31 page lawsuit that was filed against Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. According to the Detroit Free Press the suit was for lack of action in a case of harassment and bullying to one of the Park’s students.

Nick Brandon, Plymouth-Canton’s Executive Director of Communications & Marketing, has said, “The district does not tolerate harassment of any kind. All allegations of harassment are taken seriously, are investigated thoroughly, and responded to with appropriate action.”

The student claims she had been harassed by a fellow Park student for over a year in which time she had reported the student to her counselor on several occasions. The school had assured the student’s mother that the situation was being held appropriately.

With time passing and the harassment continuing the student attempted suicide. The student recovered and went back to school where the harassment continued and went on the next school year.

In Oct. 2017, the student’s mother filed an official police report to the Human Resource Officer at the Park. Later the next month, however, the case closed investigation due to lack of evidence. After issuing a complaint to Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights a formal lawsuit was conducted.

Nearly a year after the suit had been opened it was made public.

The case was marked as a Title IX violation, a federal law which states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance,” according to the Education Amendments Act of 1972.

The student now is taking online classes provided by the school district and is prohibited from participating in the Marching Band program here at the Park.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or are struggling, please communicate with your counselor, Assistant Principal or another trusted adult.

If you are in crisis call the Suicide Hotline:  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

# Opinion

# Which Grocery Store Is The Best?

by Fiona Hughes and Cora Wallen  
Editors-In-Chief

While sometimes shopping may be a pain, the Perspective visited local chain grocery stores to determine which store would make shopping the easiest and least painful it can be.

We visited three grocery stores: Kroger (Ford Rd.), Meijer (Ford Rd.) and Busch’s (Canton Center Rd.). We graded the stores based on four criteria, including the price of the store brand’s bread and eggs, customer service, atmosphere and organization of bananas in the produce section.

Our first stop was the Kroger off of Ford Rd. The original price of a dozen of eggs was \$1.99 and Kroger brand bread was \$1.19. The customer service really sold us on this grocery store, though. We asked a worker to point us in the direction of capers, and even though she wasn’t sure what capers were, she directed us to the right aisle. There was also an amazing worker who used his store benefits to get us three hot chocolates when we were struggling to get

our wallets out. The customer service was excellent, and Kroger workers overall had an upbeat attitude and good hearts. The atmosphere was welcoming and clean, with no debris on the floors. In the produce section, the bananas were lined up neatly in a line underneath the overhead lights, giving them an angelic glow. Kroger had a wide selection of apples, having nine different types that were presented nicely.

Next stop: the Meijer on Ford Rd. In Meijer, the store-brand eggs were \$1.49 with their bread being \$1.29. When we asked a worker where capers were located, he was very friendly and helped us find them by walking up and down the aisles with us. Meijer’s atmosphere was less welcoming than Kroger’s, and their produce section wasn’t as organized. The floors were quite dirty in some spots, as if someone began to sweep up but left the piles of dust in the middle of the produce section. Not very appetizing when you’re buying food. Meijer did have more apple options than Kroger, with a whopping

twelve types, but the presentation was lacking. Busch’s tied up our grocery store escapade. Busch’s had no store-brand bread, but the eggs were \$1.29. We enjoyed seeing a weirdly wide selection of egg choices, from regular eggs, to quail eggs and even peeled eggs. By the time we got to Busch’s they basically had a skeleton crew working, and there was no one around to ask about capers. This grocery store had a hipster vibe to it, with metal and wood decorations. The organization of the store was a little disconcerting, since everything seemed spaced out and on opposite sides of the store. When we checked out the produce section, the bananas were presented nicely and they had nine types of apples to choose from. The apple selection was awesome because they also included lunchbox sized apples and organic options.

After comparing all three grocery stores, we decided Kroger was the best. Their fantastic customer service and cleanliness gave us an easy and fun shopping experience. Happy shopping!

# Letter to the Editor

by Bassil Syed As we wrap up college application season and head toward decision season, one fact is clear. This year, P-CEP is seeing a record number of seniors applying to top colleges and universities. Last week, Restrive Early Action decisions were released for the 11 P-CEP seniors who applied to Stanford University. This group included presidents of student leadership organizations, varsity athletes, 4.0+ GPAs, National Merit Semifinalists, and myself. On Friday, December 7th, each and every one of us opened our portals to read, “I am very sorry to let you know we are unable to offer you admission to Stanford.” 11 applied. 11 rejected. 0 deferred. 0 accepted.

Reading that letter broke my heart. For the 10 other seniors who applied, it was no less painful. Feelings of imposter syndrome kicked in immediately for me. All of us had worked our butts off for years and spent hours and hours writing not one or two but eleven supplemental essays for the same result. However, this got me thinking: why? This had to be the most qualified pool of applicants ever sent from P-CEP. I was confident we would see someone from our school secure that elusive 5% acceptance letter, but to no avail.

I put “no longer matter” in quotes because you obviously need good grades and test scores to be admitted to these schools. However, schools like Stanford, Harvard, Duke, Penn, and Columbia see a vast majority of their applicants applying with 4.0 GPAs and perfect or near perfect test scores. So good stats alone are not good enough to get admitted to these schools. Unfortunately, this is where our school stops with our students. If you

have above a 3.5 and 80th percentile test scores, no matter where you want to go, counselors will smile at you and send you on your merry way. Counselors meet with seniors in September and tell them they have plenty of time to finish their applications, not realizing how many schools require a myriad of supplements which have to be crafted to perfection.

You also need great extracurriculars and leadership to get accepted to top schools. Our school doesn’t emphasize this enough, or at all. However, it still didn’t hinder this years applicants, several of whom boast incredible extracurricular accomplishments.

It may surprise you to learn this is the reality at our school. P-CEP consistently fails to send its best students to top-20 colleges and universities. Two years ago, one of my close friends, a Plymouth High School graduate, applied to Harvard University. He boasted a 4.3 GPA, perfect 36 ACT, 3-sport varsity athletics, varsity captain, and president of the National Honor Society. Ivy Day rolled around and the decision was the same: rejected. It can’t be a coincidence. What is our school lacking? We are one of the largest in the country, with dozens of AP courses and even more extracurriculars. Why do we keep getting rejected when there is no shortage of opportunity here? extremely prestigious leadership roles.

The fact of the matter is, good grades, test scores, and extracurriculars aren’t good enough to get accepted to top schools. Every applicant has these, and it won’t set you apart. This is something I learned far too late, something no one at this school will ever teach you.

What is a “hook?” It just so happens the hook is the dirty little secret of college admissions. A hook is anything that sets you apart from thousands of other applicants with great test scores, grades, and extracurriculars and usually reveals itself in your essays. There are hooks you can’t control: if you are a member of a URM (underrepresented minority), your sexual orientation, whether you are a first generation college student, or your family income. But there are hooks you can control and these are the ones our counselors need to encourage students to seek out. Being an outstanding athlete, having a very unique academic interest which you have pursued, or starting a

business. Basically, a hook is a very unique aspect of yourself that you have pursued. Something that’ll add to the diversity of a college campus. Mine is that I’m interested in studying medicine and business, which isn’t a typical combination. However, I didn’t spend enough time developing and pursuing my hook, and I got rejected.


P-CEP has an annual graduating class of almost 1,500 students. Take Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL. A public school, graduating 919 students, sent 9 students to Ivy League schools in 2016 alone. Or Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, NY, which sent a whopping 31 students to Ivy League schools from a graduating class of just 394. These numbers seem to suggest a dramatic underlying problem in how P-CEP students approach applying to top schools. Why is our school underperforming compared to schools with smaller graduating classes? It’s not like our students are any less talented or accomplished. It’s because there’s a huge piece counselors and staff aren’t teaching our students.

Let me explain. Most people, including many of our own counselors and administration, fail to understand how competitive admissions to the t20s actually is. When you get to hyper-selective schools (schools with acceptance rates of <10%), you get to a point where stats (test scores and GPA) “no longer matter.” Yourself that you have pursued. Something that’ll add to the diversity of a college campus. Mine is that I’m interested in studying medicine and business, which isn’t a typical combination. However, I didn’t spend enough time developing and pursuing my hook, and I got rejected.

The problem is no one is here to tell you what you need to do. At no time in school are we taught what to do other than (we assume) get good grades and test scores. At no time in school (unless you take a specific class) are we taught how to write those perfect supplements. At no point are we informed on being leaders in out school.

I’ve met so many students at this school who deserve the world. Extremely smart, talented, and brilliant students who aren’t afraid to dream big. These students deserve the world, and by letting them passively go through four years, we’re putting attainable dreams out of reach. Simply put, we’re failing our students. That’s why we need to do better.


12/7/18



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# Student-Athletes are Already Fit

by Cora Wallen  
Editor-in-Chief

In order to graduate from P-CEP, all students know that there are certain courses and curriculum required, such as geophysical science, basic english classes and health. There are exceptions to taking these courses, such as being part of an academy or personal necessities.

One required course that often gains complaints is personal fitness.

The course catalog outlines that in this class, “Students will participate in many activities that will improve their social development, holistic fitness, agility, coordination, speed, strength, (sic.) and cardiovascular fitness.”

After examining the characteristics of both team sports and the required personal fitness classes, I found that the goals of both lined up almost identically.

I reached out to students on the Perspective’s Twitter (@PCEPPerspective) asking whether or not student-athletes should be

required to take personal fitness. In total we received 142 responses, with 23 percent saying, “yes,” they should be required and 77 percent saying, “no.”

From my experience I believe that students involved in Michigan High School Athletics Association (MHSAA) defined sports or club sports of the same rigor should have the opportunity to waive the personal fitness requirement.

Just this past year during cross-country season, I ended up having the personal fitness final running exam and my final meet of high school on the same day, which made for a long day.

A possible solution I see is allowing student-athletes who have demonstrated commitment to a sport (receiving a varsity letter or being on the team for two seasons) and maintained academic standards should be allowed to waive the requirement of personal fitness.

There is currently a 1993 Board Policy in place which allows for student-athletes to waive a physical education credit requirement

with a coach’s verification of participation of two seasons in a sport. However, this is no longer applicable, as it was written before Michigan Merit Education (MME) curriculum came into place and existed when the school required a half-credit of personal fitness and another half-credit physical education elective. To put it into perspective, this policy hasn’t changed since my parents were in high school.

Despite this, according to Angel Lett, Salem Assistant Principal, there are plans for incorporation of social and emotional health standards into the class in August, which may change some of the content of the personal fitness class.

Although there seem to be some positive changes coming up for this class I still believe that student-athletes should be given the opportunity to waiver the personal fitness requirement.

# Who’s the Best Spiderman?

by Morgan McCotter and Maria Angelosanto  
Promotions/Distribution Manager  
and Staff Writer

Sony’s “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” recently took home a Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Feature Film, (whoot whoot!). If you haven’t seen “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” we’ll give you the quick break down: the storyline is about Kingpin, Spider-Man’s arch nemesis, accidentally ripping a hole in the space-time continuum, joining six universes into one. Six universes, six Spider-Men (and women), one animated masterpiece.

Before we dive into this list, as per usual, there will be a ton of spoilers in this piece. If you’re not into that, relax, go read our “Aqua-

man” review - don’t worry, any joke made here won’t be as big of a joke as that movie was - but, anyway, back to our point: with the newest installment in the spiderman canon, we’re all pondering the same question: “Who is the best Spider-Man?” If you don’t have a mind for yourself, or perhaps you just want to hear a new “Perspec-tive,” we’re here to show you.

We’ve spared ourselves the grief of giving our opinion on the Maguire vs. Garfield vs. Holland Debate (because we appreciate having our lives) and instead, will just be ranking Into the Spider-Verse’s new Spider-People lineup.

And without further ado, we present to you, Sony’s “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” roster, ranked worst to best:

In our sixth position, we have: Peni Park-er, voiced by Kimiko Glenn. Peni Parker, wielding SP//dr, a Spider-Man-esque mech suit, was never quite given the onscreen spotlight she deserved. Her character almost felt unnecessary to the story’s plot line, but could have been so much more. We found the animation and the relationship between her and SP//dr endearing and cute; however, this was not enough substance to boost her up a rank.

Next up is Peter Porker, voiced by John Mulaney. I know person-ally we were both looking forward to having John Mulaney portray Spider-Ham - I mean, we’re pretty excited to see John Mulaney do anything, really, but he just didn’t have enough screen time for me to actually care about him. He had only a few lines, and unfortunately, for the few lines he actually had, he really “hammed” it up.

Taking our fourth position on this list: Spider Noir, voiced by none other than Nicolas Cage. I guess you could say Spider Noir is the most dramatic of the bunch and most likely to be in a film “noir.” He’s kinda like an “X-Man” because he just has so much “Mystique” (okay, okay, sorry sorry, back to the list). Though adding virtually nothing to the movie’s story (besides the fact that he’s Nicolas Cage), his character was interesting, deep and intriguing. We quite enjoyed his animation style and his childlike wonder of the new-fangled technology of Miles’ universe.

Pirouetting her way into third position is Spider-Gwen, better known as Gwen Stacy, voiced by Hailee Steinfeld. Let’s get this out of the way first: Gwen is dope. A ballet-dancing, tragic-backstory- having, drummer girl, who thwarts her enemies with grace. Her

character melts into the movie so well and the way her and Miles’ relationship flows is easygoing and natural. She will dance her way into your heart, as she did with ours.

Ah, yes, our final two vic- I mean Spider-Men. Sliding his way into the number two slot is Peter B. Parker, voiced by Jake Johnson.

Peter B. Parker is the laziest, grumpiest, most rundown Spider-Man on this entire list - and we absolutely adore him. Although rough at first, his spider-mentoring and his and Miles’ father-son-like bond was one to cherish. His character development is flawless. But although his more-relatable-than-we’d-like-to-admit attitude and lovesick pining for his paral- lel universe love interest Mary Jane Watson was endearing, he’s ultimately a Spider-Man that’s

seen better days... and we have seen better Spider-People.

Making his way into our number one spot is (not really a sur-prise) Miles Morales, voiced by Shameik Moore. Let’s face facts, Miles is the most relatable Spider-Man we’ve seen on the silver screen. There’s many hardships Miles struggles with, including at- tending a new school, not being able to control his powers, and even witnessing the death of both his uncle and beloved hero: Spider-Man (at least, Miles’ universe’s Spider-Man, voiced by Chris Pine). Miles must overcome his doubts about himself and his powers, not very easy to do. He, with the help of his inter-dimensional Spider-Gang, must step up to the plate to protect his city and his universe. A bit much for a regular teen, huh?

Now, with a “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” spinoff and sequel rumored to be in the works and Marvel’s “Spider-Man: Far From Home” trailer recently released, us fans will definitely be get- ting more spider-content in the (near) future. From Tobey Maguire to Shameik Moore, we’re excited to see what Marvel has in store for us- just how many universes we can touch and just how many Spider-People can wear the mask.



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# The Psychology of Coaching

by Madeline Justice  
Sports Editor

In sports, a coach is the leader of the team. They give directions to better enhance the performance of their team. They will instruct and train the members on an individual basis, as well as a group basis. All coaches have a different style of coaching, whether it is to be more authoritative with the team members or to support them no matter the outcome of their seasons. Most coaches will continue their way of coaching even if they receive criticism for their methods. However, if every coach understood the importance of sport psychology and how it could positively affect their team, they would start to see the results they desire.

Sports psychology is how the mind influences the per- formances of an athlete’s chosen sport. During a practice or workout, if the coach is not applying the correct methods to help improve the team, then the team is set to fail. Coaching can be divided into three methods: autocratic, democratic and holistic. Autocratic is the dictatorship style of coaching. It focuses around the coach being the only one with input as to what they do. Democratic style focuses around commu- nication and team involvement. The coach is still the leader and gets the final say, but the team has to talk and work to- gether to achieve their goals. Holistic style is where the coach creates an individual relationship with every player on the team inside and outside of the sport.

Each style has its positives and negatives. Autocratic can stifle the creativity of passionate athletes, while also showing authority on the coaches part. Democratic and holistic both can be tiring on the coaches; they have to create relationships with each athlete and constantly find compromises within the team. These compromises can make the coach lose their authority. However, these styles of coaching make individu- als on the team feel important.

The way to achieve one’s goals is to have them set in stone with someone there to push you to get the results you desire. That someone in sports is the coach of the team. They set the standards and have to keep the team members accountable during the practices and games.

Overall, an autocratic leader gets the best results when coaching in sports. They demand complete respect and will not stand for anyone undermining their authority. Although these coaches are not always well liked by the team, they will get the results they are looking for. This does not mean that these types of coaches punish uncontrollably, it just means that they keep their private lives separate from the team.

I believe that if all coaches chose to coach in a more auto- cratic way, then all sports would become more competitive because most teams would be strong enough to reach their goals.

# Talent or Hard Work?

by Emma Bali  
News Editor

Previous Secretary of State of the United States once said, “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of prepa- ration, hard work and learning from failure.” Success is something that just about everyone wants, but not nearly as many people do what it takes to achieve that success. Multiple people aim to chase after a key or secret to success, when in reality, there is no such thing. You have to work, and you have to work hard.

Talent almost serves as a cheat sheet for not having to work as hard as others. As a matter of fact, talent is an inborn equality that gives individuals a smarter way to achieve. In other words, hard work is more beneficial than not putting work or any effort in the work you do. As Tim Notke once said, “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.”

Hard work and perseverance will beat out pure talent any day. Talent can get you a head start, but hard work takes you to the finish line. Some may believe that talent is more official, but I disagree; talent can only get you so far in life. Hard work can get you places, such as a scholarship to a good college, whereas talent is sometimes not enough. For clarification, in most cases hard work overcomes talent in the long run because talent is not always beneficial. Hard work can also be seen as a talent, which is often underrated.

Whether talent or hard work is more important when it comes to succeeding and achieving life goals, here is the answer to the question: who is most likely to be successful in life - a talented person or one working hard - is still unclear. Although, I can come to the conclusion that if you desire to win the race, hard work is the pathway to success even if you are not lucky to have been born talented.



# Bird is the Word

by Fiona Hughes  
Editor-in-Chief

There are two kinds of people: cat people and dog people. What they don't tell you is that there are many more people in the world. I'm a bird person.

Birds are the best pet by far. No matter the kind of bird, they are beautiful creatures that have personalities, likes, dislikes and some even show their affection for you. Their chirps are just as endearing as their screeching in the morning.

Unlike cats or dogs that require you to actively play with them daily, birds are completely content creating their own fun around your house. They could find some earbuds to nibble on or a stray piece of string hanging off the couch and be entertained for hours. Dogs will give you sad puppy eyes and guilt you into that hour-long walk you dread every day, but birds love just being in your presence. Put them on a windowsill so they can listen to the other birds calling to each other, and they're entertained for hours. They create their own exercise flapping their wings and playing with you.

Just like cats and dogs, birds also have big personalities of their own. Some are picky eaters, some want to go to bed early and get crabby at

night, some sing their hearts out in the morning. I have a parakeet named Oiseau and he loves hanging out on my shoulder like I'm a pirate. He's infatuated with my dog, a pit bull who is deathly afraid of him, and will follow her around the house while she runs away cowering. My bird loves looking in mirrors, because he can't comprehend that he's looking at himself. He'll sit in a mirror for hours screaming at his new "friend."

Cats and dogs may provide some companionship, but birds are also capable of loving you and snuggling up next to you when you have a bad day. Sometimes hugging a big dog after a horrible day at work is comforting, but it's more therapeutic to hold a gentle little creature like a bird in your hands to wind down after a long day. Birds put so much trust in you, a creature so much larger than they are, and that's a bond you can't get with any other animal.

Overall, birds rule, dogs and cats drool. Those are the facts.

# Birds are the Worst

by Cora Wallen  
Editor-in-Chief

Now, let me start off with this: I don't hate birds. I love animals. BUT. But, I don't think birds are the ultimate, incontestable, best pet. That title belongs to dogs, but that's a whole separate article; I'm merely arguing against the idea that birds are the superior pet.

Let's start with this: you walk into your house from a long, tiring day at school or work, and you're excited to see your pet. If you have a dog, most likely your dog will come running over to you, tail wagging and licking you with affection and genuine love. If you have a cat, it may stop by to greet you with a purr (well, sometimes— cats can tend to be temperamental). If you have a bird...it will happily squak or tweet? Maybe? And I can't imagine birds being the most comfortable to pet or hug. I have a dog named Buddy and have had other pets in the past, and he gives me actual hugs by resting his chin on my shoulder. How comforting is that? It would be difficult for a bird to do that with their size and anatomy.

Birds are also noisy. And not in an endearing way. While sometimes their melodic chirps can be pleasant to the ear, that's only for a short period of time. Compared to the purr of a cat or the cute "ruff" of a pup, the shrill noises of birds can get annoying after a period of time. I've never personally owned a bird, but I have close friends

and family that do, and whenever I visit, I have a slight headache from the squaks and screeches of the avian creatures by the time I leave.

Also (sorry bird lovers), birds are not that cute. Dogs and other fur-covered friends have this "aw"-inducing ability to draw people in. Birds on the other hand—well—their beady eyes, sharp talon-like feet and rough feathers aren't exactly what I imagine as adorable. Not to say that birds can't be cute, but most, especially the kind kept as pets (like budgies and cockatoos), are not.

Also: bird poop. Gross. Just think of the seagulls in the P-CEP parking lots.

According to the CDC, "Bird owners should be aware that although their pets might be highly intelligent and clean companions, they can carry germs that make people sick."

That's not to say there can't be dangers with other pets, but the extra level of maintenance needed for that aspect of care is another drawback.

In conclusion, feel free to buy whatever pet you want; birds are not the worst pet. They're not a goldfish from Meijer, or an endangered species that shouldn't be kept as a pet. However, in no way are they the best pet, due to their lack of comfort and cute factor, their noise and extra hygiene maintenance. Bird is not the word.

## Fashion Everywhere

By: Olivia Blackburn Staff Writer

Fashion is a huge part of today's society and many people don't understand why there are many pieces of questionable clothing. Fashion is a very abstract way of expressing yourself, which means you may have your idea of what you're wearing, but another person might assume something different.

Fashion has been around for plenty of years, but it still seems to be changing each day. Everyone is entitled to their own sense of style, I know some people might not like it, but as long as you feel confident in what you're wearing, that's all that matters. Fashion is a way people have expressed themselves by for a long time, even though you may not think you have a sense of fashion, you are not like everyone else. You wear the clothes you feel comfortable and vibrant in. Abby Siddall, current Salem sophomore, explains what fashion is to her. " Fashion, to me, is the biggest way I can express who I am. I think fashion is the one thing society can't pinpoint one style as being 'perfect' and where people can appreciate when you dress different and put your own spin to it."

Fashion isn't how you wear your clothes; it's the way you feel and express yourself in your clothes. In high school years, people tend to change their style, even if it's something small like dying your hair, getting a new pair of shoes or anything else. Tommy Flis, current sophomore at Stevenson High School, expressed how he felt about fashion. " Fashion to me is breaking stereotypes and it sounds cliché, but not caring what others think of you."

In my opinion, fashion is what makes me feel confident. Fixing my hair in a certain way, mix-matching my clothes together or just thinking outside of the box on what I want my outfits to look like. I feel very strongly about the way your attitude fits the style of clothes you wear; this is what gives me confidence in what I wear, having a positive mindset and positive

attitude. My biggest influence of fashion is a mixture of seeing and admiring other peoples outfits at school and social media. I can bet this goes for a lot of you reading this too.

Not everything that makes up fashion has to be designer made, expensive pieces such as 'Gucci,' but people do tend to take the more expensive route of fashion. Not everyone is going to have a high class fashion sense like others, but everyone is entitled to their own style.

Fashion influencers are everywhere; it doesn't even have to be somebody famous. You could see someone at school and admire their fashion and try something like that yourself. Three of the most influential places to get fashion ideas is from either social media, music or interactions in your daily life. On social media and the internet, there are many ways to get fashion ideas, maybe someone you follow on Instagram is wearing something you admire and you ask them where they got it and try it out yourself. Maybe one of your favorite Youtubers or band/ musicians just made a video with clothes you admire, and you want to try it out. So, you can go searching from store to store until you find an outfit that looks slightly like it, and you feel overjoyed to see it fits.

Personal interactions are personally my favorite types of fashion ideas. You could see someone you don't even know and admire their outfit; you could either go up to them and ask them where they got it and compliment them on it to make someone's day, or you can scavenger around the nearest clothing stores around you such as The Salvation Army, the mall or any other places to find something of your liking.

Not everyone wears the same thing which is the beautiful thing about fashion itself. There are about 7.53 billion people in the world ranging in all ages, and not one of them has the same way of wearing their clothes because everyone has their own style of their

liking. Personally, if you travel out of state or not there are still ways to be exposed to unique styles. If you are a traveler type, pay attention to stores you pass and go inside: you might just find something you might want to bring back home. I've traveled some bit, and I would always go somewhere and keep an open eye for shops that catch my liking and go inside. Also, when traveling, keep a sharp eye out for peoples style, maybe you'll like it enough so when you get home you can try to put something together. If you don't travel, you still have the same opportunities as the person who does travel. Maybe your family goes to a new restaurant in Ann Arbor, and you guys walk around. You still can keep an eye out for shops and styles of any passer byers that you find interest in. There's always a way to find ideas on what to wear and how to mix it up.

I know trying new things, such as clothes and hair can be scary, but some people can try new things out fast while others like to take their time to choose what they want. Being the fashionista I am didn't just come to me one day. I started to try new clothes and styles I never thought I'd like while also being influenced by social media and traveling, but there was one big problem: How am I going to get this confidence to wear these types of clothes outside and to school? It took me awhile to really build up to the confidence I have now. Awhile meaning about 4 years. Nothing's impossible, taking time to feel comfortable and confident isn't a bad thing; it'll help you in the long run.

Many people may have their different perceptions of what style is, but style is what you make of it. Fashion has positively impacted me as a person to finally feel comfortable in what I wear and bring me the confidence I need, to be myself in and out of school. Fashion is contagious.



Abby Siddall rocking her denim dress  
Photo by Krista Siddall



The Style of Tommy Flis  
Photo by Christian Peters



Olivia Blackburn's vintage style  
Photo by Emma Lennig





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