



Great Vision Great coverage

The Gazette '19-'20

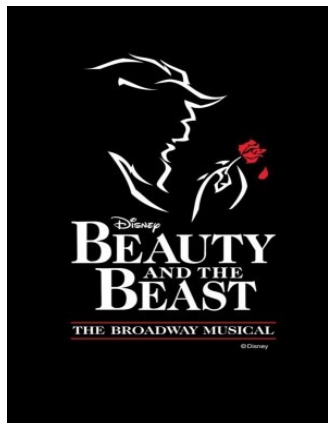
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A Disney Classic Comes to Franklin

By Jacob Sands



Are you ready to witness a tale as old as time? If you are, be sure to come see one of the most beloved stories of all time, Disney's *Beauty*

and *The Beast*, here in our very own auditorium. It is surely a production you won't want to miss.

To backtrack, auditions for this timeless classic were held, by Director Melanie Sala and Vocal Director Madeleine Larrimore, on Thursday, January 9th and call-backs were on Tuesday, January 14th. For auditions, students were asked to prepare a one-minute song as well as a one-minute monologue. In addition, each student was provided with a vocal test on their own individual range, meaning how high and low each student can sing.

For call-backs, students were asked to sing and/or read for specific roles that might fit them. This is a very long and tedious process, and it is crucial to forming the most effective cast. It is the actors' time to see if they can play that role effectively.

Auditions were very competitive this year. Just over 50 people auditioned for the production!

Then, the cast list was revealed! Some roles include Emily Signor as Belle, Jordan Greene as Beast, Dreshaun Reagan as Lumiere, Logan Dubel as Cogsworth, Jailah Weyhe as Ms. Potts, Jacob Sands as Gaston, Kaylah Harvey as LeFou, and many more!

Now, the entire cast will work very hard and diligently in rehearsals until Opening Night!

Everyone involved in this production is very excited to bring this classic story to the stage. "I have always loved *Beauty and The Beast* and was excited to experience the show with Franklin High Theater," stated student and actress Jailah Weyhe, who is playing Ms. Potts.

This is truly a show you won't want to miss! Performances will be held on March 26th and March 27th at 7:00 PM, as well as March 28th at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

The Final Days of Senior Year

By Chesnie Caster

Senior year can be very hectic with all the upcoming events. From the various college applications to other senior obligations, the year can be filled with a lot of chaos. This is the final year of high school, and this is the time where seniors celebrate all the hard work and dedication pursued throughout their academic careers. Although this year has been chaotic and frustrating for a lot of seniors, the senior year process has just begun. It is time for seniors to prepare for the end of year activities. Seniors must stay up to date on upcoming events so that all seniors will not miss their opportunity to participate in these significant and milestone events.

The closest upcoming event is the Winter Formal. It is a fundraiser for the senior class and will be taking place on January 25th. The theme of the formal is Red Carpet. Winter Formal coordinator Nada Abdalla states that "Students should show off their best styles and look Hollywood and red carpet ready." Nada Abdalla also states that "you should expect an

event similar to the atmosphere of homecoming". Since this event is similar to homecoming and a semi-formal event, homecoming attire is acceptable. As January comes to an end, the online apparel shop will close on January 24th and more importantly, February 1st is the last day to order your Cap and Gown before prices increase to \$30.

There are more important events to be aware of in the upcoming months of 2020. In third-quarter students will be able to purchase senior banners where your family can write you meaningful messages. All local scholarship applications are due March 2nd. Following March, the Senior Spring Assembly will be on April 23rd. Class advisor, Mrs. Vardoulakis states that seniors will learn more details surrounding upcoming senior events. The first major senior event will be the senior picnic which will take place after final exams. All final exams for seniors will take place from May 11th to May 20th. Make-up exams will be on the 21st and the 22nd of May.

The official last day for seniors will be May 22nd. The next major senior event will be prom which will be on May 23, 2020. This year's prom will be themed around the '20s. This event will be hosted at Martins Westminster. There will be great food, and this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the end of your senior year. Following prom, there will be an after-prom event. At this event, there will be games and prizes. The after-prom event will be located at the Reisterstown Sportsplex.

Class of 2020 advisor Mrs. Vardoulakis states that graduation will be the most exciting event because "It is the only time where the whole senior class will be together." Graduation is quickly approaching, and all seniors must stay up to date on graduation requirements. Graduation will be on May 30th at the SECU arena and rehearsal will take place on May 29th.



The Gazette Online: fhsgazette.com

Instagram: [@fhs_gazette](https://www.instagram.com/fhs_gazette)

Performing Arts Delight Students with Music and Dance

By Sydnee Hart

On December 18, Franklin hosted their annual Winter performing arts assembly. This assembly included performances from the dance company, chorus, band, orchestra, and percussion. The show opened with a beautiful performance by the dance company which showed off their ballet skills. The girls appeared in striking blue costumes which fit perfectly to the tone of the music.

One of the dancers, senior Hope O'Conner, spoke about her preshow rituals that she and her team do right before going on stage. "When preparing for a performance, dance company normally marks the number once or twice to get a feel for the stage and spacing but also to conserve energy." O'Conner then mentioned her favorite dance which was the hip hop piece. "The dance has a lot of high energy music and fun choreography." The dancers gave off amazing energy which reflected on the audience.

The show then transitioned into the choir. There was, however, a little twist that caught the audience's eye. There was a total of three soloists: junior Alicia Poling, senior Christine Hickman, and senior Kaylah Harvey who did a phenomenal job. Each soloist had a defined tune and helped the song flow with the rest of the chorus.

When choosing "Run Mary Run" as the song, Harvey explained, "It was the most entertaining, and the audience would enjoy it more." One of the audience's favorite parts of the show was "All I want for Christmas is you" performed by the treble chorus. Each student sang vibrantly and didn't skip a beat. Lastly, the audience was surprised with a marvelous performance by honors band, orchestra, and percussion. Holiday cheer was spread across the auditorium and had everyone excited.



By the looks of the performance, you could tell that the students really trained themselves to perform these difficult pieces. "It took about 2 months to prepare, 40 minutes a day," said Lichtenberg, which was proven by the song's impeccable tune. "Sleigh Ride" was incredible. Not only did the students enjoy watching, but you could tell the band had a fun time performing it. You can definitely say the students ended the year with a bang!

Young Franklin Musicians Earn Recognition

By Justin Magaziner



Logan Dubel and Alicia Poling

The Franklin performing arts program has a rich history, full of recognitions and awards on both the county and state levels. This year, Franklin Senior Kara Poling won the young soloist competition, an honor reserved for a few highly gifted youth musicians. When asked about this significant accomplishment, Poling stated it is "very exciting," and she looks forward to getting the opportunity to perform where "no one from Franklin" has before. She will play the Oboe Concerto in One Movement by Goosens alongside the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on February 25 in Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in downtown Baltimore.

Another huge accomplishment for the music department came thanks to the achievements of Alicia Poling and Logan Dubel, who were selected for the all-state

chorus, the first Franklin students to receive this honor in several years. When asked about their selection, Dubel said, "It's a great honor! I am glad all of my hard work paid off, and I was able to improve my performance from county auditions."

Good luck to Kara, Alicia, and Logan as they continue to represent the Franklin community well!

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FHS Cadets Get Involved with Toys for Tots Drive

By Simone Tillman

Franklin High School's MCJROTC program is involved with the Toys for Tots drive every year, and it continues to bring an overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude to the program annually. But alongside the cheer and ecstasity, there's a burden of hard work and dedication that forces even the most giving cadets to think twice before helping out.

The holiday season of 2019 might've proven to be one of the most successful years for the Toys for Tots organization. But with its success came the overbearing amount of work that is required. One of JROTC's 12th grade cadets, Elizabeth Law, was asked what the most difficult part of the whole thing was. To this, she replied "The counting was definitely the hardest part. Like, there were hundreds, maybe even thousands of toys. And I was only counting one age group imagine trying to tally up them all. I couldn't." And she was right. Thousands of toys were donated to each and every age group and

gender, posing quite the challenge to those who volunteered. But luckily, no one was discouraged. If anything, it made the charity even more worthwhile to know that so many people played a part.

While difficult, volunteering provided more than just mere stress and diligence. It also proved to be a fun experience as well. Another senior cadet, Malachi Jones, said "It's awesome. We go there, and while it's tiring separating all of the toys, it's really rewarding. Like, it feels good to help." And he wasn't the only one to leave with this sense of accomplishment. Almost all who volunteered or donated left the site with nothing but smiles. When asked what the best part of the drive was, one of the chaperones and MCJROTC Drill Team Boosters, Ms. Kari, shared, "If I had to choose, it would be the end. Like the look on all the kids faces. Not the kids we were giving to, but the ones that volunteered. Oh my gosh, they were so happy."

Toys for Tots is a pivotal organization when it comes to the Marine Corps and their community involvement. And while it proved to be quite the challenge at times, it made it all the more rewarding. Volunteering has always been a necessity in the Franklin High School community, and Toys for Tots is no exception. The MCJROTC program will continue their annual involvement with the organization, and they'll continue to enjoy every second of the adventure.



Photo of Toys for Tots Marine Corps poster image taken from wtfv.com

Brrr! Put Your Spirit Week on!

By Thomas Warrington

Another year, another holiday spirit week. Recapping the jolly events that unfolded last month.

Spirit week hit Franklin once again in typical exhilarating fashion as the students and staff began to unwind for winter break. This spirit week had a clear theme: Holidays. Around this time of year it's common for people to loosen up, forget the stress of the normal day, and celebrate



Franklin High junior and seniors wore all white attire during Holiday Spirit Week.

the upcoming holidays. Here at Franklin High School, the students and faculty did just that as Holiday Spirit Week went underway.

As many of the students know, the week consists of five differing occasions. This year consisted of Holiday Pajama Day, Holiday Hat day, Winter Wonderland day (White Out Wednesday for Juniors and Seniors), Festive Thursday, and finally, Flannel Friday. Talking to peers around the school, we saw that every single day had a tremendous turnout. Jalen Seriki, a Student Government Association member, even said, "Most days were about what you would expect in terms of the amount of participants, but Flannel Friday, the simplest day, had an overwhelming number of participants. It was exactly what you want from something like this, a time for people to laugh, relax and take pictures with each other."

Senior Vedant Yadav also had some things to say on the matter. "It was more relaxing this time around. Last time, the school was buzzing because the time of year was higher energy, and the week lead up to Homecoming, which is a huge deal at this school. Everyone was stressing about trying to find a date, purchasing something to wear, and overall people have a higher energy that early in the year. Now it's different; people are low energy. There's no giant party coming up at the end of the week, and the holidays are customarily a time to unwind and be with the ones you love: friends and family."

This year, holiday spirit week was an outright accomplishment; it sent everyone home for the holidays in both high spirits and energy. It made the final days of treading through the halls bearable.

Student of the Month – December 2019

Junior Per'rys Brown

Freshman Carly Dincher

Freshman Kaya Garris

Senior Zoe Gimbel

Freshman Ja'uel Hunter

Freshman Eric Morgunov

Sophomore Kelly Pham

Freshman Kashaf Zohra



Principal McCusker awards the students of the month with certificates.

FHS History Moments

By Ann O'Neil of BCPL Reisterstown Branch



Franklin high school in 1930, now known as Franklin Middle School.

In the first several years of the Academy, classes were held in the home of Miss Mary Richardson (where 218 Main Street is today), followed by the Lutheran Church. Townspeople recognized the need for a better and more permanent school house. The Franklin Academy building committee was formed in 1824. The minutes of one of the meetings is presently in the school's archives (front office hall showcase). More than \$1200 was collection by public subscription for the new building, subscriptions ranging from \$1.00 to \$50.00. Those not able to contribute money donated building materials and their labor. In 1825 there was an attempt to move the site of the new school to the Worthington Valley, near St. John's Church, but it was not successful. The building site, originally called Spring Garden, was on the south side of Cockey's Mill Road. The new school house was completed and occupied in 1826.

When the new schoolhouse was nearly finished in 1826, a barbecue was held and funds were raised for the construction of the cupola and bell, the same bell in front of the present Franklin High School farther south on Reisterstown Road.

It is said that the bell was rung for the first time on July 4, 1826, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United States. The bell is still rung to signal the beginning of each school year by the faculty with the most tenure at Franklin. (Goodwin, Louise Bland." "The Franklin Academy, the Reisterstown High School and the First Franklin High School." January 1956.)

Since Franklin Academy was one of very few quality schools in the greater Baltimore area, students attended the Academy from out of town, from as far away as Baltimore City, Carroll County, and even Pennsylvania. A number of students boarded with respectable Reisterstown families during the school week and returned to their own homes on weekends. The cost to board was originally \$75 to \$80 dollars per year.

A popular story passed down, which was recently proven true, says that Edgar Allan Poe applied to be a teacher at the Academy in 1831, but his application was not accepted by the trustees, despite the fact that he was a colleague and friend of the current principal Dr. Nathan Brooks.

Beginning in 1835, the Board of Trustees ordered that two charity students, called "pauper scholars," were to be taught for six months and then replaced by two more at that time. (Notes typed on index cards, some appearing to have come from minutes of the Board of Trustees)

Until 1847, the principals and teaching assistants were men. In 1847 a radical departure was made when the first woman was elected to the teaching force. Mrs. Eliza M. Soper was designated as a "female teacheress." ("The Academy Forerunner")

As late as 1849, there was no well at the school for water. Boys were sent with two buckets (one for boys and one for girls) to carry water from the Yellow Tavern, located where Cockey's Mill Road dead-ends at Main Street (now a former gas station). At this time, there was only one girl in school, the principal's daughter.

In 1848 the General Assembly of Maryland passed legislation establishing public schools in Baltimore County. The first step toward making Franklin Academy a part of the newly organized school system was taken January 1849 when the Trustees rented the Academy and its premises to the County for a small annual sum. Because of unsettled conditions brought about by the Civil War, the school did not come completely under public control until 1874. (Pollack, Carol. *Franklin's Century of Progress, 1878-1978*. 1978.)

In 1874 the school property was conveyed outright by the Trustees to the Baltimore County School Commissioners for the purpose of making it into the finest public schoolhouse in the County. Now it was known as Reisterstown High School, the first public high school in Baltimore County.

When the County School Commissioners took over the Academy building in 1874, it had become almost uninhabitable. Eighty students were on the roll; the attendance varied from 30 in the summer to 60 in the winter. The Commissioners renovated the original brick building and added a large two-story addition. Upstairs had a large assembly hall while downstairs there was one large room with two teachers, one at each end. Also at each end were fireplaces, later replaced by stoves

The Franklin Gazette Process

By Douglass Ditto

The Franklin High School Gazette has a long history, just like the school it covers. The oldest known copy of *The Gazette* is from 1935, although the school newspaper existed under a different name before that. The world has undergone significant change in the past 85 years, but *The Gazette* has consistently been present in the Reisterstown community. *The Gazette* is written, edited, and formatted by students along with the help of journalism teacher, Ms. Hodskins.

Each *Gazette* starts with a brainstorming process, in which students discuss current events and decide what they will spend the next few weeks writing about. Each issue of *The Gazette* typically covers a wide array of topics, reflective of the interests of students in the school. Senior Thomas Warrington, a first-year member of the Gazette staff, said, “The different topics we pick show our different interests as a class, and picking your story idea allows for everyone to talk about topics that they care about.”

After each student has their story idea, they move on to the researching stage of the process. This process varies depending on

the topic, but typically entails some research to make sure each journalist is knowledgeable and prepared to write an informative article.



Gazette staff hard at work

Senior Jacob McCarthy, a three-year Gazette staff member, believes this step is the most crucial, saying “*The Gazette* stresses accuracy, and it’s important to know what you’re talking about so that you are not spreading false news.” This process also requires interviews to be conducted with people informed/involved with the story topic. Each writer is suggested to interview three people. This often requires students to leave their comfort zone, as they speak

to students and faculty that they have never met.

Using their research and interviews, students complete a rough draft of their articles. Each draft is suggested to be about 350-500 words, with 3 possible headline ideas. These drafts are then edited by fellow Gazette staff members. Senior Justin Magaziner, a two-year Gazette staff member, stated “The editing process is the most important piece because it is crucial to remove all errors, as it makes *The Gazette* appear more credible.”

Articles are then formatted into *The Gazette* layout, with stories assigned to sections such as Franklin news, Franklin sports, and student interest. After being formatted, each page is edited for any mistakes that may have occurred in the transfer process, or any inconsistencies in the formatting process. With these finishing touches completed, *The Gazette* is then printed and given to each journalism student. Additionally, *The Gazette* is sent to all Franklin High School faculty, members of the alumni association, as well as uploaded to the school website at : franklinhs.bcps.org/forstudents/clubsactivities/fhsgazette

Franklin Mock Trial Continues Legacy of Excellence

By Matthew Rubinstein

Coming from success in two national competitions, the Franklin mock trial team had high expectations heading into the 2020 Maryland mock trial season. Following their fifth-place finish in Atlanta, and second-place finish in New York, the mock trial team returned home in October to begin preparation for a new case, Wolf v. Shepard. Along with the returning veterans of these national mock trial competitions, the Franklin team boasted a brand-new assortment of members, nearly a dozen underclassmen who joined the team for the first time this year.

To start off this new season, the Franklin team played their first match against a strong team from Dulaney High School on January 9th. This match saw Franklin’s first mock trial win of the season, and, according to team co-captain Daisy Oberfeld, “was a strong way to start the season.” This first match was won by Franklin’s defense side of the case, attorneys Ethan Selko, Jacob Epstein, and Daisy Oberfeld, and witnesses Zach Hermann, Rosalind Marfo, and Matthew Rubinstein. According to Oberfeld, the team “came a long way from the first scrimmage a few weeks ago.”

Following a successful start to the regular season, Franklin showed the strength of its mock trial program once again at the UMBC underdog invitational tournament. This tournament, hosted by the UMBC mock trial program on January 11th, featured 17 top mock trial teams from across the state, all of whom would be competing in two matches that day. In this field of impressive competition, Franklin once again showed its strength by winning both of its matches as well as an outstanding attorney award won by Jacob Epstein and an outstanding witness award won by Zach Hermann. Franklin’s strong performance earned them third place in the competition, and according to senior Lily Fleischer, “we learned a lot from the experience. We played some good teams, and it was really beneficial to our case.”

As the team looks toward the rest of their season in Maryland, the team’s newest members look to show their skills elsewhere. While the upperclassmen compete in the Maryland mock trial competition, the team’s new underclassmen members have been preparing a separate case for a statewide competition in Pennsylvania. Freshman Priyanka Saini, an

attorney for this competition, reflected on her first year on the team, saying “right now it’s a little like crunch time, so it’s a little stressful, but ... the upperclassmen are very welcoming.” The freshman and sophomore team will compete in Pennsylvania on January 18th and looks to continue the legacy of excellence that older students have begun.



Students at UMBC mock trial tournament

Purpose, Vision, and Accomplishments of Franklin's GSA

By Justin Magaziner

While it is perhaps one of the most important and meaningful clubs at Franklin, few people know and appreciate the Gay-Straight Alliance. With meetings held every other Thursday in room 34B, students of any sexuality or gender identity are welcomed in a safe and comfortable environment. GSA still has a relatively small group of 15-20 active members, but as senior Alix West said, it quickly becomes "a family." Many meetings are relaxed and are "just a bunch of teenagers hanging out." However, the meetings can sometimes have more serious topics, whether that is helping a peer through some-

thing in their life or talking about current events influencing the LGBTQ community.

The club has begun to make an impact outside of their meetings as well. In recent years, they have participated in nationwide protests and events, including Ally Week which encourages people to be more accepting, day of silence (national day of silencing bullying against members of the LGBTQ community), and youth prom which is a gay/queer prom held in Baltimore City for LGBTQ students across the area, and they have recently instituted two gender-neutral bathrooms (one near the office and



one by the nurse). Ms. Bennett, who started the club at Franklin and is still the advisor, says she wants to bring awareness that everyone (including faculty and staff) need to be sensitive to students' gender identity by asking for their preferred pronouns and being understanding of their identities.

Black Student Union Spirit Week

By Jacob McCarthy



Image from Studybreaks.com

BSU is an after-school club here at Franklin High that digs deep into the African-American roots. Next month is Black History month, and the black student union is celebrating by having a spirit week to help raise awareness for Black History Month. The first day in spirit week involves BSU T-shirts, members of the club will be wearing these to remind everyone of the month. On Tuesday, there will be a throwback day, and students will dress old-school. On Wednesday, it will be HBCU day, students can wear their HBCU gear to school and represent historically black colleges and universities. Thursday will be professions day, and

Friday will end the week with a movie night. At the movie, there will be concessions, T-shirts, and prizes.

Valentines Day will be exciting as well thanks to the Black Student Union. They will be selling Valentine candies to people, so that they can give it someone on the day. Senior Chesnie Caster said, "Along with all this, BSU is having a mental health day to raise awareness regarding mental health issues to cap off the month."

How Does Social Media Affect Teenagers' Mental Health?

By Nakira Boyd

Social media has always attracted teens and led them to be addicted in indescribable ways. Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat are the 3 major platforms teenagers log into everyday to check on their favorite social media sites. According to pediatrician and journalist Gwenn Schurgin O'Keeffe and Kathleen Clarke-Pearson, M.D., FAAP, 22% of teenagers log on to their favorite social media site more than 10 times a day, and more than half of adolescents log on to a social media site more than once a day. 75% percent of teenagers now own cell phones, and 25% use them for social media. 54% use them for texting, and 24% use them for instant messaging.

Senior Tahir Macastena said, "Social media forces teenagers to act a certain way. In this generation, they see a trend going on, and they can't be honest with themselves. I'll admit we are obsessed with social media, and it ruins our life. But it is to the point where I feel like social media should be monitored by guardians, so they can see how social media affects their children."

An issue that compounds the problem of addiction to social media is cyberbullying. According to Schurgin O'Keeffe and Clarke-Pearson, "Cyberbullying is quite common, can occur to any young person online, and can cause profound psychosocial outcomes including depression, anxiety, severe isolation, and, tragically, suicide."

Former student Daevidon Adams said, "Social media isn't necessarily the problem. I feel like it's the people on the app. People hide behind a screen and then try to verbally abuse children that are happy to knock down their shine!" Young adults and particularly teenagers tended to be unaware of just how much time they really spent on social networking sites as well as the effect this might have on their academic performance and social interaction with other people. According to writers Perth Singh Meena, Pankaj Kumar Mittal, and Ram Kumar Solanki, "there may be a correlation between low self-esteem and a sense of social inadequacy and social network addiction."

Single Person's Guide to Happiness on Valentine's Day

By Christina Okoli

To all those single people out there in the world who are going to celebrate Valentine's Day solo, we have found the best way to do it. First, if you are going to be single on Valentine's day, you aren't alone. Nearly half of the U.S. population identifies as single. Businesses are trying to refocus the spotlight on singles. There's even a holiday after Valentine's Day named *Single Awareness Day*. Students who are not in a relationship were asked their position on Valentine's Day, and here are a few of their responses.

Key

Q- Question

F- Fatima Del Castro (grade 10th)

S- Simone Tillman (grade 10th)

J- Jasmin Spruill (grade 10th)

B- Benjamin Rares (grade 12th)

M- Michael Lyakhovetski (grade 10th)

Q: Do you feel that we need to celebrate Valentine's Day?

F: "I think Valentine's Day is more of a celebration of love, not just like your significant other, but your friends and family and just anyone you love."

S: "I don't think we need to. I think all holidays are like a snack. They're nice to have, but you don't need one."

J: "Yes, I do, so the people of United States of America can feel loved and wanted from their friends or family because some people don't have friends or family. So, we need to spread that love so they know they're loved."

B: "No, the whole entire reason this thing started is because of some guy who couldn't marry the jailor's daughter. How does it affect us today? It really doesn't."

M: "Only those that are a couple or are married."

Q: Is being single on Valentine's Day a bad thing?

F: "No, it's just personal preference"

S: "No, it's kind of like being gift-less on Christmas. I mean it's just what happens. It might suck though"

J: "No, it's not. If you're single, you're ready to mingle with other people who are single on Valentine's Day."

B: "No, not necessarily. I mean, it does hurt that you see other people and feel like they're enjoying Valentine's Day to the fullest extent, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun as well."

Q: Do you think that Valentine's Day is only meant to be celebrated with people who are married or are in a relationship?

F: "No, I think we're taught as we grow up that Valentine's Day is more about people you love and care about. In elementary school, we're taught to give cards to our friends. It's about friendship, love, your significant other, as well as people you love in general."

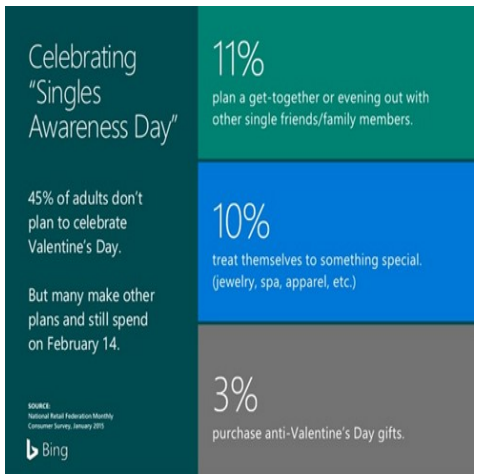
S: "No, I think anybody can celebrate it. It's obviously directed towards love, but I mean if you want to make it a self-love day, go for it."

J: "I feel like it's meant for all. All people deserved to be loved."

B: "Yes, if you're single, you're not going to be able to enjoy Valentine's Day to the fullest extent. Valentine's Day is reserved specifically for couples and stuff of that nature because it's easier to tell each other without thinking. When you're single, you don't really have a direct focus to do that."

If you're looking for ways to enjoy your Valentine's Day or just don't want it to be boring or lonesome, experts from a variety of online

to celebrate all of your wonderful qualities and accomplishments. "Go to a comedy show or a play with your posse. In short, put your attention on the loving friends you do have. Have fun and enjoy the love you share with them." Dr. Kirshner also explained that women who are single can have a great life equal to those who are married. "There's little doubt that Valentine's Day can be tough on singles who are subjected to this culture's fairy tales about love, rampant commer-

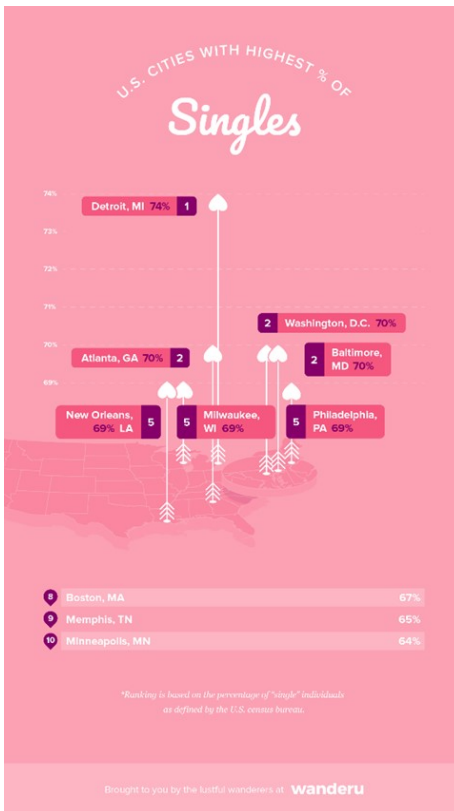


Singles still spend money on Valentine's Day

cialism and Hollywood movies. Taken together, these cultural forces have created unrealistic expectations for what's supposed to happen on this day. Couples are portrayed as so much happier than singles. While it's true that happily married couples enjoy greater health and happiness than any other group, in many studies the findings show that singles, or at least single women, are just about as happy and healthy as their married counterparts when they have a strong and supportive social network. So, if you are single, try to remember that the grass is not always greener for those who have partners."

Dating coach James Preece suggests treating yourself. "Main advantages of not having a partner at this time of year is that you're completely free to do what you want to do. You don't have to spend money on flowers, chocolates, presents, cards or meals that suddenly seem to cost twice as much as usual! So, why not buy yourself a gift instead? Even a small gesture such as a haircut, new top or takeaway can make a real difference to your day." Lastly, he said to prepare for the future. "It can be easy to think back to when you were last in a relationship and to wish you still had that. The truth is that it didn't work out for a good reason. Everything that's happened to you in the past has helped to make you the person that you are today, so be proud of that. You have no control over the past, but you can make sure your future is amazing."

In conclusion, you can have a great Valentine's Day, or any holiday for that matter, while being single. Single life is great so long as you have your trusty friends or family to make your single-ness something to be proud of.



Best locations for singles

sources gave their answers on how to have a great time on Valentine's Day. Dr. Diana Kirshner suggests getting together with friends

The Effects of Internet Trolls on Social Media and Its Users

By Yaroslav Shalak

Internet trolling means something different to everyone. Some see it as harmless fun while others see it as a serious issue. However, if it gets to the point where the victim's well-being is at risk, then the state will consider it assault. While most trolling attempts to harm someone result in nothing, the rare cases where it is successful in harming the victim sets an example for future trolls. It causes a chain reaction of harassment.

There are many examples of internet trolling, even with those that cause harm to the victim. One recent attack was conducted in December 2019 on Twitter users who followed the Epilepsy Foundation on Twitter. The hackers sent strobing, flashing lights to the users in an attempt to cause a photosensitivity induced seizure. Seizures are potentially lethal if the victim is not helped quickly. This attack was most likely inspired by the attack on Kurt Eichenwald back in 2016. Marine corps veteran John R. Rivello sent Eichenwald an image of a strobing light on Twitter, and as a result, Eichenwald suffered from a seizure. Steven Lieberman, Eichenwald's attorney stated: "He was unresponsive, and he probably would have died but for the fact that his wife heard a noise –



Image from Cornell CIS

she's a physician – and pulled him away from the screen and got him onto the floor." Rivello was arrested after this when Eichenwald's wife filed a police report. Eichenwald's incident served as an inspiration for similar internet attacks.

When hearing about horrible attacks such as this, most people think internet trolls are social recluses who do bad things to people for fun, but when asking the students of FHS and adults, there was a variety of answers. Senior

Jonathon Shkolnikov described one as "a loser who makes other people angry because they're sorry for themselves." Senior Jacob McCarthy described one as "someone who makes fun of someone online because of their appearance or other qualities." The descriptions varied, but they all agreed that it had something to do with insulting someone or interacting with someone with mal intent. Another thing not agreed upon by people is whether or not trolling was considered harassment. While people did agree that the case involving Eichenwald was very much harassment, more mundane stuff was not considered harassment. One example people brought up was the Lizzo situation. Lizzo recently left Twitter due to constant trolling on Twitter and Tik Tok making fun of her size. Some people didn't consider it harassment.

The loose definition of an internet troll leaves any attempt at making any legislation against it basically impossible. Plus, trolling online, to an extent, is protected under the first amendment. According to John Rampton, former contributor at *Forbes*, the best way to avoid a troll is to ignore them. They only want a reaction out of you, and if you don't give one, they'll stop annoying you on their own.

The Importance of Emotional Intelligence

By Gabe Kinstlinger



Image from Educba.com

As we enter the new decade, the world continues to become more and more dependent on technology. This allows us to access any amount of information at any time we please and talk to anyone at any time. Unfortunately, as society becomes more technologically dependent, there are negative effects as well. One of these negative effects is that we are becoming less emotionally intelligent. Many people spend lots of time online without interacting with anyone offline. Because of that, people are losing the ability to understand others' emotions, and therefore interact poorly with other people. Senior Aiden Guzovsky says, "Emotional intelligence is integral to

society, and without it, we cannot prosper."

Emotional Intelligence has been an essential part of human interactions since the beginning of time. It is important to understanding emotions, and since humans are social creatures, it is one of the biggest needs for success. Senior Anthony Lockner says, "It has helped me gain better relationships with people, because I am able to tell what they are feeling, which will help to create a tighter relationship."

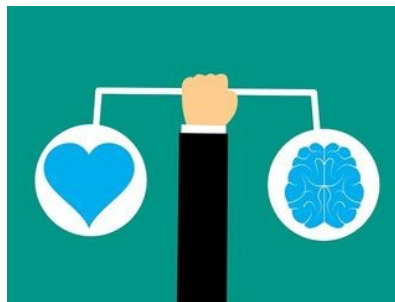


Image from Psychology Today

Senior Ashley Caplan adds "If you have more emotional intelligence, you can be more sincere with people, if people need your help, you can help them out, and it's just beneficial in knowing how to help others." Emotional intelligence has been proven to lead to more success in adulthood, as many occupations require you to interact with other people. Also, not knowing how to interact can prevent you from getting and maintaining relationships, and without relationships, you will become lonely.

With the world becoming more technologically based, people are able to talk to anyone in the world at any time they would like. One way you can do that is via text message. While texting has become an everyday thing for most people, it can be harmful. Since when you text someone, you don't see their face or listen to their tone of voice, it isn't as easy to tell what they are feeling. Guzovsky says "It is extremely hard to tell what other people are feeling via text message, so you need to interact with people outside of phones." If this phenomenon keeps happening, our generation will lack the communication skills necessary to succeed.

HEADLINES FROM AROUND THE TELEVISION NEWS INDUSTRY

By Logan Dubel



Ed Henry hosting Fox and Friends. Image by John Lamparski from People.com

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE ANCHOR DESK: FOX NEWS BEGINS 2020 WITH ANOTHER SHAKEUP

Fox News Channel has named the current co-anchor of *America's Newsroom*, Bill Hemmer the new anchor of the 3PM ET timeslot, replacing former chief news anchor Shepard Smith. Smith, who left the network abruptly in October, left behind the Fox News Desk which houses the breaking news division. Now, Hemmer, who has been with the network since 2005 after arriving from CNN, has taken the reins with his new program, *Bill Hemmer Reports*. Current Chief National Correspondent, co-host of *Fox & Friends Weekend*, and anchor of the lunchtime weekend program, *America's News Headquarters w/Ed Henry*, will replace Hemmer and leave his previous roles. Fox News Media President and Executive Editor Jay Wallace said "Ed is one of the best all-around journalists in the field and his ability to transition from breaking news to anchor has made him a valuable addition to the team. I have no doubt he'll excel alongside Sandra Smith as co-anchor of *America's Newsroom*." Sandra Smith has been with the company since 2007, and co-anchored the program since 2017. Henry has significant experience covering breaking news. He covered the White House for both Fox News and CNN. For the last couple of years, Henry has been part of both the news and opinion programming at Fox but will now only work for the news division. No replacement has been named for Henry on the weekends, however, frequent guest anchors Griff Jenkins and Dean Cain are front-runners to fill the spot.

DEMOTED: MSNBC MOVES ANCHOR FROM WEEKDAYS AND MULLS YET ANOTHER LINEUP CHANGE

MSNBC has announced changes in their daytime lineup. Ali Velshi, current anchor of *MSNBC Live* has been moved to weekends. Velshi will host a program on weekend mornings from 8AM ET to 10AM ET. Velshi currently hosts the 1PM ET hour of *MSNBC Live* with Stephanie Ruhle and the 3PM hour solo. He will remain a primary substitute anchor on week



Former ABC Anchor Barbara Walters hosting 20/20. Image by ABC News from 6abc.com

days, while Ruhle will supposedly keep her own solo hour at 9AM ET. She was also recently promoted to be Senior Business Correspondent for NBC. Radio host Joshua Johnson will eventually make his debut as Velshi's replacement for his solo hour. Current anchor of the weekend morning program, *UP*, David Gura, will be moving to anchor *MSNBC Live* on Saturday afternoons, and new anchor Alicia Menendez will host two weekend shows. There are also rumors of more changes to the weekday MSNBC lineup. Former Bush White House assistant Nicole Wallace and anchor of *Deadline: White House* at 4PM ET is a rising star at the network and could be given an extra hour. This move could result in the end of Chuck Todd's program *MTP Daily*, or a possible move to mornings. Todd and his staff are reportedly angered by these rumored changes. We hope to learn more about these changes in the coming weeks.

"THIS IS 2020": LEGENDARY JOURNALIST BARBARA WALTERS PLAYS HUGE ROLE IN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS ACROSS AMERICA

Former ABC News Anchor of 20/20 and Creator/Co-host of *The View* Barbara Walters was surely a part of many New Year's celebrations this year. Walters, who is famous for her distinct interviewing style, hosted the news-magazine 20/20 from 1979 to 2004. Her famous line, "This is 20/20" was trending on all social media platforms nationwide, as fans pleaded for Walters, who is now 90, to appear in Times Square to ring in the new year. Walters retired in 2014 and was last seen publicly in 2016. Although Walters did not make an appearance, ABC, which produces *Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest* did air a tribute to Walters featuring celebrities taking a stab at her famous line at approximately 11:57PM ET, just before the ball drop. The video featured Seacrest himself along with his fellow *Live* co-host Kelly Ripa, Moderator/Co-host of *The View* Whoopi Goldberg, 20/20 anchors David Muir and Amy Robach, Sofia Vergara, and *The Bachelor* host Chris Harrison. After Goldberg's segment she asked, "Do I get the job?"



Ali Velshi hosting MSNBC Live. Image by MSNBC from Deadline.com

CNN EARLY MORNING ANCHOR ABRUPTLY EXITS

Dave Briggs abruptly left CNN on December 20th. Briggs, who co-hosted *Early Start* with Christine Romans joined CNN in February 2017. He wrote to his twitter followers, "Today I say goodbye to CNN...Thank you to my incredible family, awesome audience, and talented staff." Briggs is also known for his work with NBC Sports and Fox News. He has not hinted at what his next adventure might be or why he decided to leave CNN.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: CHANGES IN THE WORKS AT ABC NEWS

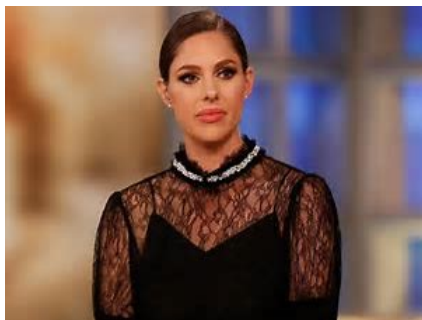
The studio used for David Muir's *World News Tonight* on ABC and the overnight program, *World News Now* is undergoing changes behind the scenes. According to industry insiders, the set will be overhauled in the upcoming months. However, ABC's plans are somewhat unclear since the building which houses this studio in Lincoln Square was sold in July 2018 and there are plans to move operations to Hudson Square in the next three years. Regardless of what ABC's intentions are, viewers should expect noticeable on-air changes in the coming months.



CNN Anchor Christine Romans and former CNN Anchor Dave Briggs. Image by Michael Locciano from zimbio.com

HEADLINES FROM AROUND THE TELEVISION NEWS INDUSTRY

By Logan Dubel



Abby Huntsman co-hosting *The View*.
Image by ABC from upnewsinfo.com

HEADED BACK TO UTAH: ABBY HUNTSMAN EXITS THE VIEW

Abby Huntsman, 33, the daughter of former Utah Governor and U.S. Ambassador to both China and Russia, John Huntsman, is out at *The View*. Huntsman, who joined the ladies at the hot topics table in September 2018, is going to become a senior adviser for her father's bid to take back the Governor's seat. She arrived at ABC from Fox News, where she served as a general assignment reporter and co-host of *Fox & Friends Weekend*. Huntsman told her co-hosts that "ABC will always hold a special place in my heart, and so will all of you." As for whether Huntsman will return to the show after the primary election in June or the general election in November, she said that there is always a chance that she will end up back in her seat. Her announcement brought on a mountain of criticism for the show, with reports surfacing that Huntsman was really leaving due to the toxic work environment. For now, ABC plans to have the fifth seat handled by rotating personalities, however, Friday co-host Ana Navarro is reportedly being eyed to take the seat. Navarro brings a conservative anti-Trump perspective to the table, but as a Floridian and newlywed, she may not want the job. Navarro would be required to split her time between New York City and Miami. All eyes will be on ABC in the coming weeks!

30 FOR 30: DISNEY CELEBRATES ABC ANCHOR ROBIN ROBERTS

Disney celebrated broadcasting legend Robin Roberts this month. Roberts, 59, has been with the company since 1990. Her first assignment was with ESPN, where she covered sports including the NFL and the WNBA for 15 years. In 2005, Roberts moved to the news division of ABC, co-anchoring *Good Morning America* alongside Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer. Roberts has inspired many young journalists not only with her class and emotion, but her battle with cancer. Roberts was first diagnosed in 2007, and was off the air for several months in 2012 and 2013 due to treatment. She helped



NBC Anchors Hoda Kotb and Jenna Bush Hager on set. Image by NBC News from Today.com

helped spread awareness ever since her diagnosis. ABC aired a special 30 minute tribute to Roberts and created special celebratory graphics.

HODA & JENNA & FRIENDS: NBC ADDS NEW ELEMENT TO TODAY

NBC has announced that the fourth hour of today will soon have a new co-host – a live studio audience. Co-anchors Hoda Kotb and Jenna Bush Hager made the announcement on January 16th. The show will broadcast with an audience on Thursdays and Fridays, beginning on February 6th. Currently, *Hoda & Jenna* is produced from Studio 1A, the same studio that is home to the first three hours of *Today*. Now, on Thursdays and Fridays, the show will originate from Studio 6A, the old home of *Megyn Kelly Today*. The studio has been used for special MSNBC and Comcast productions since the firing of Megyn Kelly back in October 2018. Now, it will have a permanent use. Tickets can be purchased online for the live shows, and are already sold out through April 30th.

WELCOME TO THE WEEK-END: NBC NAMES NEW SATURDAY MORNING CO-ANCHOR.

Kristen Welker has debuted as the new co-anchor of *Weekend Today*, which airs Saturday mornings on NBC. Welker replaced *Third Hour* co-host Sheinelle Jones, who for the last year, had been working six days a week. Welker is a White House correspondent for NBC News during the week, and joins fellow Washington correspondent Peter Alexander at the anchor desk. Dylan Dreyer also contributes to the Saturday morning program as weather anchor.

MORE LOCAL NEWS: CBS ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF A 10PM NEWSCAST ON CW AFFILIATES IN SELECT MARKETS.

Viewers in the Atlanta, Detroit, and Tampa television markets will soon get an extra hour of news. The CW stations in those markets,



Robin Roberts hosting *Good Morning America*. Image by Getty Images from goodhouse-keeping.com

which are owned by CBS, do not currently air their own newscasts. Now, those looking for a newscast at 10PM instead of 11PM will have an option. Multi-media journalists will be hired to contribute to these newscasts. This move comes as CBS is continuing to add more local coverage through its digital operation. CBSN, which launched in 2014 nationally, is now on a local level in select markets. CBS hopes to have all owned and operated station debut their digital operations this year.



The CW logo. Image by The CW from cwtv.com



NBC Anchors Kristen Welker and Peter Alexander on set. Image by NBC News from Today.com

The Pathway to Victory

By Vaughn Everette

The Franklin tournament is an individual wrestling tournament, but also it can be won as a team. It is also called the “Franklin invitational” or the “Warpath”. It is not an easy tournament to win, however it is possible. It’s a 16-man brackets and double elimination. The teams that have a chance of winning the team aspect in Coach Crocker’s eyes are “Glenelg High School, Mt. Herron, Bishop Monanara, and Georgetown.” Franklin’s team has lost some people, so their numbers smaller than the other schools, but our quality is just as good. We have a wrestler who has placed in this tournament every year of their high school career and another who went to the finals last year. For example, Rion Tyler, in his first-year wrestling for Franklin High achieved second in this tournament. He lost to a 4-time state champ who was ranked first overall at the time, that

included private schools. Another wrestler that has always done well in this tournament is Jamal Everette. His freshman year, he was the first to wear the finals singlet. His goal for the Franklin tournament is to “make the finals and win.” He will be wrestling the weight 138lb. On a scale of 1-10, he says the Franklin tournament is a 7. Coach Crocker said that schools from all over the East Coast will be here in this tournament. Another said it’s one of the hardest in the county. The Franklin wrestling team practices everyday, and they are continuously working for the goal of winning this season. But only a few of the hardest working wrestlers can place in this tournament.



Coach Crocker works individually with a wrestler

The tournament will be held at Franklin High School on January 17th 6pm.

AP Information Week

By Markell Hill

What is AP information week you ask? Franklin AP information week was from December 16th to December 20th, the week before winter break. At Franklin, student AP information week is when students are invited into AP classrooms with AP students held by AP teachers.

Students are given the opportunity to get a peek into the AP student world and were explained the importance of AP classes. Students were shown a bit of the work they would have to

do if they were to enroll in a class. Mrs. Stiffler, the brains behind AP information week noted that the biggest benefit to AP information week “is students know exactly what they are getting into.”

Not only were students introduced to classwork and homework during the week, but in most classes, students were shown how to fill out a college application, a very useful skill when it comes to a student’s future in school. Students

describe the biggest plus to taking AP classes is “They look great for colleges.” Students are so often finding themselves wanting to take AP classes, and with AP information week at Franklin, the student no longer has to guess at whether they want to take the class. Instead, knowing what they are getting into, they can make an educated decision and take home new useful academic skills.

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