

The Howler



Dr. Augustine Ramirez

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Intermediate School

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NCAA

By: Rami Madani Kenneth Javier

The NCAA Tournament of Championships features the top two teams in the nation. Despite injuries, the championship was very intense. This year's championships took place in Atlanta, Georgia in the Georgia Dome. The Louisville Cardinals' roster for this year includes Russ Smith, Peyton Siva, Kevin Ware, Gorgui Dieng, Luke Hancock, Mangok Mathiang, Melbourne, Logan Baumann, Tim Henderson, Wayne Blackshear, Chane Behanan, Jordan Bond, Montrezl Harrell, Zach Price, Michael Baffour, and Stephan Van Treese. The coach of the Louisville Cardinals is Rick Pitino. The Michigan Wolverines' roster for this year includes Glenn Robinson, Spike Albrecht, Trey Burke, Mitch McGary, Eso Akunne, Tim Hardaway, Nik Stauskas, Matt



Tournament

Vogrich, Jon Horford, Josh Bartelstein, Blake McLimans, Caris LeVert, Corey Person, Max Bielfeld, and Jordan Morgan. The coach of the Michigan Wolverines is John Beilein. The 2013 NCAA champions were the Louisville Cardinals who won 82 - 76. The top individual stat performers for Michigan were Trey Burke with 24 points, Mitch McGary with six rebounds, and Tim Hardaway with four assists. The top individual stats performers for Louisville were Luke Hancock with 22 points, Chane Behanan with 12 rebounds, and Gorgui Dieng with six assists. The Most Outstanding Player (MOP) of the tournament finals was awarded to Luke Hancock who finished with 22 points, one rebound, three assists, and two steals. All in all, the finals were very intense from Luke Hancock being an MOP to Michigan losing by six.

NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR BATTLE

By: Joyce Zhong

North Korea is a powerful country ruled by Kim Jong Un. Now an isolated country, its sibling, South Korea, has warned the U.S. countless times to beware of threats and nuclear missiles. North Korea and South Korea have been brotherly enemies for a long time, but North Korea developed a new target- the U.S., the most thriving country with extreme military support. The isolated country has been hinting at missile tests that have the potential to reach the U.S. Not only has this situation affected South Korea and

U.S., but also the world. Ministers of London have claimed that Kim Jong Un; is a man who uses blackmail to threaten international peace and security. Fortunately, rumors have been heard and assumed that even China is sick of their aggressive attempts and behaviors. Reports have also noted North Koreans had been stealing Russian nuclear weapons which can be later used against other countries. Just last year, North Korea launched a failed satellite into space attached to a rocket. This action has

been criticized by America as a covert test of missiles. Though Obama has reassured the nation that he will do all that is in his power to protect American citizens, this cannot always be the true. Many doubt North Korea's position can actually carry out their plans due to the fact that the U.S. does have a lot of alliances with other countries which can result to disaster for North Korea. It has been heard that if North Korea fires even one missile into enemy territory's ground, it will be a World War III nuclear battle.

PRIDE CALENDAR

- STAR Testing-April
 23rd-25th and April
 30th-May 2nd
- April 26th-District Band Showcase
- May 3rd-End-of-theyear 7th and 8th grade dance
- May 7th-Club Live Talent Show
- May 10th-Choir Festival
- May 11th-SpeechCompetition
- May 17th-Career Day

THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

By: Haley Gomez and Atira Nopenkam

On April 15, 2013 a tragedy occurred in Boston, Massachusetts. It was supposed to be a joyous day with the 116th Boston Marathon race going on and it being Patriots Day. Instead, two bombs went off, injuring over 170 people and killing 3. When the race was going on at about 2:50 p.m., the first bomb went off near a trash can by the finish line. Then the second went off about 15 seconds after the first one. The two explosions were about 550 feet apart. Police found a mangled kitchen pressure cooker lid, and found out that one of the bombs was inside of a pressure cooker that was in a backpack. The bomb also had nails and BBs in it, most likely so that when it exploded, it would hurt people.

The other bomb was in a metal container, but has not been identified if it was also a pressure cooker, or not. One law enforcement official said that the bombs were probably controlled by timers, but they are not sure yet. Investigators think that they have found a suspect on surveillance videos. Sources identified the suspect as a man wearing a white baseball cap that was backwards, a light-colored hooded sweatshirt, and a black jacket. As far as they know, the suspect has not been identified. Hopefully, investigators and police find out who caused this horrible tragedy to happen to these innocent people that were just running or watching the race. Let's keep the families that were affected with the bombing in our prayers.

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Kík Messenger

By: Jocelyn Figueroa and Atira Nopenkam

Have you ever just wanted to message somebody, but you had no phone or just didn't want to raise your bill? Well, whip out your iPad or iPod and download the Kik Messenger app! Kik Messenger is a new instant messaging app used on mobile devices available for free. Kik Messenger uses available Wi-Fi to receive and send people's messages instantly. It's a great replacement for texting.

Kik enables a person to send and receive messages and share photos. It uses a username instead of a phone number for privacy. Some fun settings on Kik is that you can change the color of your text bubble for example from blue to yellow or purple! Kik was founded in 2009 by a group of students from the University of Waterloo who wanted

to create new programs on smart phones. It only took 15 days for Kik Messenger to reach one million users! Kik has become one of the most popular messaging app's ever. It's fast, efficient, and easy to use. So if you're worried about your phone bill or looking for fast and easy messaging, try Kik Messenger today! Do you have a Kik?





SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEWS



Ms. CLEVERINGA

By: Vickey Rodriguez



She is funny, kind, and an amazing language arts teacher. The teacher I'm talking about is Ms. Cleveringa. Ms. Cleveringa's favorite thing to do in her spare time is photography. Whenever she has time to spare, she says she like to whip out her camera and snap away. She also goes to Disneyland, she visits the Magic Kingdom at least twice a week. I asked Ms. Cleveringa if she had a million dollars, what she would do with it. She said, "I would buy a house on a cliff or hill overlooking the ocean and spend my time relaxing, shopping, and traveling." Her biggest fear is failure. "I don't like to fail and when it does happen, it drives me to work even harder."

she answered. Ms. Cleveringa's favorite things to do are spending time with her family, going to Disneyland, traveling, scrapbooking, and finding awesome places to eat. She loves to travel to different states and countries. Her favorite restaurant is Baja Fish because she loves Mexican food and seafood. She doesn't know what they put in their food, but she says it's so addicting and delicious. She especially loves their spicy salsa. Ms. Cleveringa enjoys teaching language arts since she loves words and all the different ways she can manipulate them. "I got a job tutoring kids during college and that's

when I discovered a love for helping others and expanding their knowledge." She wanted to become a teacher because she enjoys helping others, she loves learning and she finds a great deal of pleasure working in an academic environment. "I love exercising my brain! I love my teacher friends. Everyone is kind and generous. The students are fun and full of life, just like the school." In conclusion, Ms. Cleveringa has a wonderful and interesting background. She is super fun, funny and smart. I encourage you to go out and get to know your favorite teacher. You would be amazed at what you find out.

MR. GRAY

By: Bailey Caras and Jocelyn Figueroa

There is a substitute on campus that everyone is talking about. I know you have had him for a substitute...It's Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray is an amazing substitute teacher here at our school. He is so awesome that he makes every subject fun to learn. His favorite subject to sub for is science because not only does he love science, and knows a lot about it, but students get pretty interested in science so it makes for an easier class. After he retired 5 years ago from the police department, he began to golf more and do more of his hobbies.



One reason he likes to substitute teach is because he claims he is not a very good golfer, so it gives him something to do. Instead of full-time teaching, he subs because he enjoys touching the lives of many new kids every day. He used to full-time teach, but many don't realize how much work really goes into being a teacher. His most memorable teaching moment was when Mrs. Holland's class performed their skits. Along with teaching and golf, Mr. Gray likes to write and produce music, garden, and spend time

with his son. Sometimes at lunch, you can catch Mr. Gray playing basketball on the courts. He thinks he's a much better coach than a player though. Watching college and pro football is another hobby he has. His favorite team for pro is the New York Giants and for college is the University of Michigan. Hopefully, the next time you need a sub for your class, you will get Mr. Gray. He will for sure light up the room with his witty jokes and his sense of humor.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Ms. Cleveringa

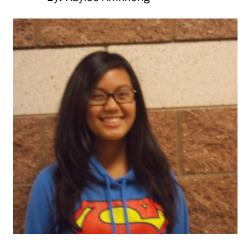


"The problem is not that life is too short, the problem is we sometimes wait too long to live it.."

Mr. Gray

Місан Таттао

By: Kaylee Amkhong



She's one of the newest breakout stars on our campus, she's Micah Tattao. Micah was just in the hit production Grease, and now she is getting ready to perform Anastasia in May. Her favorite hobby is to listen to music. Her favorite artists are One Direction, Bruno Mars, and Ed Sheeran. History and science are favorite subjects in school. Mrs. Christensen is her favorite teacher because she's very encouraging and makes science easy and fun. She does not have a favorite restaurant because she loves any kind of food. She looks up to her mom because she is a hard worker and does all the hard work to make Micah happy. When she grows up, she is thinking of being a marine biologist, writer, or maybe a professor. Micah Tattao is in all Pre- AP classes and is very smart. She is going to work hard to become what she wants in the future.



By: Ashley Wilson



What's that I see? It's a golden eagle. It's not really a golden eagle; it's a song that Kylie plays in band: The Golden Eagle March. Kylie plays the flute and the baritone and is working hard to get these songs perfect for festival. Now, here are some facts about Kylie. Kylie's favorite class is band because she likes playing music. Her favorite hobby is drawing because she gets to express herself. Her overall favorite teacher is Mrs. Geist, the music teacher. She says that Ramirez is different from her other schools because there is technology and advanced classes. One thing no one knows about her is that she got an electric toothbrush for Christmas. She thought it was a strange gift, but she sure likes it. If she could travel anywhere right now it would be the Philippines. She has family there that she would like to visit. If she could have any super power it would be invisibility. She would want to be invisible because she could scare people! She would love to have the power to heal, because then she could keep people from dying. When she grows up she wants to have a career in the medical field, which will give her many opportunities to help heal people. If her house was on fire, and she only had time to grab three things, they would be her phone, some food, and some money. She is obviously very practical. Kylie is a great friend to everyone, and you should definitely get to know her, if you don't already.

JOYCE ZHONG

By: Kaity Williams



Joyce Zhong is the most interesting person you'll ever meet! Her favorite subject is history, and learning about the Greeks and the Romans, and her favorite teacher here is Ms. Coltey because she explains things clearly, and gives good lectures to help understand the lesson. Joyce isn't just an eighth grader here at our school, she also has a life outside of it as well. Joyce's favorite hobbies are; traveling, writing, and film making. She says her lifelong dream for a career is to travel the world, and take new adventures, and discover new things.

She recently went on a trip to Europe with Mr. G. and a group of friends. She had a blast, even though the time they spent there was a bit crunched. She also enjoys hanging out with her friends, and having a good time. Overall, Joyce is a very outgoing and fun person to be around, and if you are looking for a fun way to spend your time, your time needs to be spent with Joyce Zhong!





By: Vanessa Hayes

Most parents know that their children watch TV as much as they can. However, does everyone REALLY know the effect that TV has on kids? Soon you'll find out! Almost every child in the whole world absorbs every kind of technology they can get their hands on no matter if they're 2 or 20. Research has confirmed that children watch at least 2 hours of TV per day. Many think that children are regular passionate viewers when, in reality kids only glance at the content of TV shows. Although, the latest research shows that kids tend to understand more of the content of TV shows when there is a lot of action and dialogue. They also pay more attention if the show is related to children's experiences. Certain studies have also proved that the more time children spend watching TV, the slower they begin to develop. Several researchers have begun to investigate the effect of media on children's violence and behavior. Albert Bandura's social learning theory was based on the fact that children tend to easily learn and model the behavior they see on television. After many studies, researchers found that children were mostly affected by the following: Context and messages of violent movies; System of punishment seen in these movies; Reinforcement of the filmed aggressor; The presence of an adult in the viewing context; and Real life situations. In conclusion, television has a bigger impact on children than people realize. The next time you go to turn on your TV think of all of the many ways it would help you to

not hit the power button and tune in to

activities with the rest of the world.

STUDENT VOICES

You Have A Chance

By: Ashley Wilson

Do you have bad grades and have to miss going on a field trip? You should take advantage of Saturday school so you can improve your grades and go to fun activities. For example, if the students had Saturday school their parents would get involved because they would help the kids get there. This would let the parents know that their students need help. This might trigger the parents to encourage their child to attend Saturday school. Next, if the kids are told that they will miss the activity no matter what, they wouldn't care about completing the assignment. This would make their grades fall unless they had another way. Finally, at Saturday school if you have questions you can ask them. This would be a good opportunity for students who don't get a lot of help at home or can't go to tutoring. Overall, this would help students improve their grades and still have fun. This way parents and teachers will know that all their students have the chance to get good grades. Clearly, students should go to Saturday school instead of having to miss activities.

BACK TO SCHOOL

By: Kayla Alvarez

Are you ready to come back to school? After the wonderful spring break, I'm pretty sure everyone is having a hard time getting their minds back on track to learn. Even though the school year is almost over, we still need to hit the books hard and pull off some great grades. When you go back to school, you definitely want to get organized for the rest of the school year, especially the 8th graders. Some ways you can do that are: making an organized list of school supplies you need, get everything ready the day before you go to school, and even just remembering to finish your homework. Those are some key things to keep you on track and make the school year fly by quickly and smoothly. Clearly being organized and concerned can help you do great during the school year. Obviously coming back from spring break is going to make us a little crazy and excited for the end of the school year, but always remember to keep your head on straight and to do your work!

APPLE Vs. ANDROID

By: Vanessa Hayes

Over the last six years, there has been a boiling controversy between long time rivals Apple and Android. Since 2007, these competitors have flourished and reinvented their products many times, but not just for their consumers, but also to one up each other. Apple Inc. has been around since 1977. Last year, in 2012, investors calculated phone sales and in the U.S. Apple reigned supreme with their highest share of smartphone sales. The iPhone took 53.3% which, according to Kantar Worldwide ComTech, was a 17.5% gain from a year ago. The researcher firms give credit to the new iPhone 5 for the boost in sales. On the other hand, Android's sales in the United States have slipped by almost 11%. Unfortunately for Apple, Android has lower prices on their products, which has increased their sales everywhere else. In Europe's 5 biggest countries (Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain) Google's (Android) operating system stood at 61%. Another victory goes to Android in Spain with an outstanding 84.1% in sales and for Apple a pathetic 4.4%. Again in Australia and Brazil. Android dominates with 58 and 60.7% and sadly again for Apple who fell below the bar with 36 and 1.6%. Two newbies that have joined the world of smartphones are Nokia and Windows 8, and don't forget about Samsung (whose jaw-dropping Galaxy S3 just came out). Clearly, Apple produces amazing products, but may begin to be overshadowed by the latest and the greatest names in smartphone technology.

Ear Buds and Hearing Loss

By: Kaylee Amkhong

Summer 2013

By: Kaelyn Gordon

Who's ready for the beach, the bikinis, the tanning, the free-will to do whatever you please and not worry about school? Summer is almost here and some of us don't have plans yet. It's official, summer is practically around the corner. You probably have the first month planned about but what about the second month. How about classes at the community center? I know, lame right? Actually, you may be surprised. They have cheer, sports, singing, acting, and music lessons. They practically have everything. Plus more of an excuse to spend time with your friends and you get to learn something fun too. What are you waiting for? Sign-ups are until June 1st. Don't be that one at home posting pictures on Instagram about being bored when you could be with friends doing cheer or tennis or singing. See you there!

How loud do you turn your music up on your ear buds? Most adults, teenagers and kids turn their music up to loud. The hearing loss occurs in the ear or eardrum. The hearing loss happens when the music is turned up at the 70% mark of the highest volume of the device. Listening to music too loud on ear-buds can cause, lasting human hearing loss damage. 1 out 5 American teenagers already suffer from hearing loss. What makes this even more disturbing is that hearing loss is not reversible.

The longer it goes unrecognized and untreated, the faster it progresses. Chainsaw and motorcycle engines create 100 decibels of sound. That much sound can start to damage a person's ears after less than 1 and a half hours. An MP3 player at 70% of it top volume is about 85 decibels. Hearing loss from ear buds is an example of a condition called noise-induced hearing loss. This kind of hearing loss is becoming more of problem among kid and teens.

WOLF PACK PRIDE

STAR TESTING

By: Bailey Caras

Testing Dates: April 23rd-25th April 30th-May2nd

To proficiency and beyond! That's our school's motto for testing this year. To help us reach our goal, make sure to try your best on this year's STAR test. Even though it might be long and tiring, don't get discouraged. The score you earn will help with your class placement next year especially for advanced classes for the outgoing 8th graders. Make sure to get a good breakfast and a good nights sleep the night before to ensure that you do well on the test. And most important, study. Help meet your personal goals and the school goals. Good luck everyone and your STAR test!!!



ANASTASIA



By: Skylar Harris

You guys ready for Ramirez's next musical, Anastasia? Well I hope you are because Paul-Dean Martin's at it again. After directing our school's production of Grease, he's decided to come back and help us produce Anastasia, a story about the young grand duchess who loses her memory after the evil Rasputin attempts to kill off all the Romanovs. Will Anastasia be reunited with her family? Will Rasputin succeed in killing the last of the Romanovs? Be sure to get your tickets for \$6 and find out at the musical production on May 24th. Show times are at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

8TH GRADE PROMOTION SPEECH

By: Mrs. Scott

Attention all 8th grade students. We are having an 8th grade promotion speech contest. Would you like to be chosen as the student who presents the promotion speech at the 8th grade awards assembly? The requirements are out. If you are interested please see your Language Arts teacher or Mrs. Scott in B6. All speeches are due May 1st by 1:30pm. The theme this year is "Excellence is not a destination, it is a journey!" We look forward to hearing about the past two years you have spent at Ramirez and the inspirational thoughts about what lies ahead for the future of our 8th grade students. Be sure to incorporate our wolf pack pride in your speech. Our school was founded on PRIDE and strives to give each of you the greatest learning experience. You have all achieved so much in the past two years and we are proud to call all of you wolves! Good Luck!

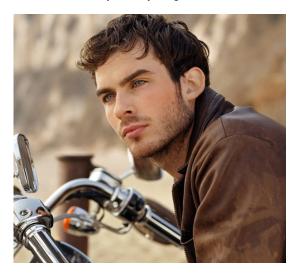




Are you a crazed vampire fan? Then you must know this guy: Ian Joseph Somerhalder was born and raised in Covington, Louisiana, born in 1978 and is the son of Edna, a massage therapist, and Robert Somerhalder, an independent building contractor. He was raised Catholic, so he attended St. Paul's, a private Catholic school in Covington. He embarked on a modeling career from age 10 to 13, and by the age of 17 he decided extend his career and flourish in the acting business. Although, lan was known for his good looks and charm, he is also known for playing two of the most amazing characters in television history. He is known for acting as Boone Carlyle in the hit TV show Lost. The televised series began in 2004 and ended in 2010, with the counting of six entire seasons. Another amazing role he is currently playing, the one that is making his career brighter than it ever

Ian Somerhalder

By: Jocelyn Figueroa



was, is Damon Salvator from the C&W hit series The Vampire Diaries. This awesome show aired in 2009 and is still going throughout 2013. He and his cast mates, Nina Dobrev, Paul Wesly, are currently filming season five of this heart racing, adrenalin pumping, sitting on the edge of your seat series. The Vampire Diaries airs every Thursday with a brand new episode every week! Ian Somerhalder, overall, is a very good looking, chill, laid back sort of guy. He enjoys hanging out with his cast members and visiting family every now and then. In conclusion, lan is one of the most amazing actors there is out there today. He might just nail every role you give him. I am a huge fan of his work and I am sure many of you are too! Ian still has a

lot more time to entertain millions and millions of fans around the world, go team Damon!

MOVIE REVIEWS

MEAN GIRLS

By: Joyce Zhong

Directed by Mark Waters, Mean girls is a teen comedy produced in 2004. This movie is based on a nonfiction book by Rosalind Wiseman, who solves the puzzle of how female high school students form cliques and alter personalities. Cady (played by Lindsay Lohan) is a 16-year old high school student transferring from being home-schooled in Africa to a public school. The new environment takes her away. Clueless and naïve to the atmosphere, she seeks help from Janis and Damien. They warn her to stay away from the three girls known as the Plastics. The Plastics surprisingly take sudden interest in Cady, and Janis takes advantage by using Cady to dig into their secrets. Cady has always been a genius in mathematics, but after being accepted in the Plastics and falling in love with her friend's ex-boyfriend, she fakes her knowledge and drops her grades. The trust between Janis, Damien, and Cady are being tested, and she finds herself stuck between who are real friends and who aren't. A hilarious movie that brought tears to my eyes, this movie teaches the importance of realizing who true friends are.

SKY FALL

By: Cassandra Gonzales and Brianna Oropeza

If your friend was being haunted by people of their past, how far will you go to put all of it to a stop? On November 9th, 2012 the thrilling, action-packed movie "Sky Fall" was released in the U.S.A. It was directed by Sam Mendes and produced by Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli. The movie was filmed mostly in the UK and had a budget of \$150-200 million. The Directors hard work and dedication paid off. "Sky Fall" made it in the top 20 movies for 2012. "Sky Fall" made 1,108,561,013 in the box office. James Bond is investigating an attack on M16. M is tragically killed and now Bond is on a mission to find the chip M lost and seek revenge on her killers. Throughout the mission Bond suffered through a lot to find and recover the chip. "Sky Fall' is a must see action packed, thriller, that will make you want to see it over and over again. It is a definite recommendation. If I were to recommend a movie to anyone "Sky Fall" would be it.



GAME REVIEW

TEMPLE RUN 2

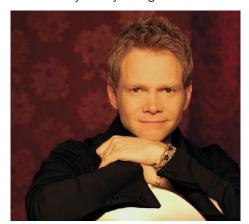
By: Brianna Oropeza and Cassandra Gonzales

Are you tired of all your boring apps? Well no need to fear Temple Run 2 is here! From the developers and publishers of Imangi Studios comes a new and improved version or the original Temple Run. On January 16, 2013 Temple Run 2 was released for IOS and again on January 24, 2013 for Android. Temple Run 2 is a "never ending" game with several obstacles. The point of the game is to get a high score and try to get better and better. In order to get this high score you must pass the obstacles. Some are the fire blaze, Water River, rope slide, tree branches, and the turns. With Temple Run 2 you try to get green gems to buy your life again. While you are playing you also want to try to collect these coins. Why? These coins can buy you some abilities and new characters. What are these abilities? They may also be known as power ups. Some of these abilities or power ups are the coin value, shield duration, coin magnet, boost distance, pick-up spawn, and more. What about the characters? To begin you get Guy Dangerous but as you earn more and more coins you might want an upgrade. For example if you want another guy there is Barry Bones at 1500. Now if you want a girl you have two choices, one is Scarlett Fox at 5000 or Karma Lee at 25000.

Temple Run 2 is an amazing game that will never get boring until you have achieved the best score out of all players. If we had to recommend a game it would be Temple Run 2 because when you're bored out of your mind you can always have fun with Temple Run 2. If you have a smart phone, you need to download Temple Run 2 now. Trust me, your going to love it!

Steven Curtis Chapman

By: Vickey Rodriguez



You may not know who he is, but you really should. He is Steven Curtis Chapman. Steven Curtis Chapman is a contemporary Christian singer who was born on November 21, 1962 in Paducah, Kentucky. Steven Curtis Chapman is the artist who wrote "Cinderella". The song is really pretty and touched my heart and will touch yours too. Something you probably didn't know is that Steven Curtis Chapman starred in "The Apostle", "The Live Adventure", "The Best of the Doves Marathon", and "Christmas Child". Not only was he is movies, but has received a ton of awards like 56 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and seven "Artist of the Year" Dove Awards. You may say "big deal", but that is a huge accomplishment and he has more awards also. In conclusion, Steven Curtis Chapman is one of the greatest singers of all time. He has beautiful music and they are all about God. What is there not to love about him?

BOOK REVIEW

THE LOST CHILDREN

By: Ashley Wilson

Imagine if you could be named after yourself, and go back in time. Well that's exactly what happens in this book. The book The Lost Children was written by Carolyn Cohagon. She is currently working on a sequel called Ida and The Unfinished City. She is also working on a new series called Time Zero. The main character Josephine is looking for the truth about her life when she finds a young boy named Fargus. When Fargus disappears, she finds a picture in his bag of herself, Fargus, and others. She then goes looking in a shed for him...the shed where she first found him. However, as she enters the shed, she also enters a mysterious land called Gulm. There she finds Fargus, and she also meets a girl named Ida. The three of them go on a journey to find Fargus' parents and all the lost children of Gulm, and to free Gulm from the ruler, "the Master." This book is very exciting and is definitely filled with suspense! I recommend this book to anyone who loves adventure. In addition, if you like mysteries, books that suddenly give you new information that changes what you thought was the plot, this book would be perfect for you. Don't miss out on this exciting journey to find the lost children.

CREATIVE

PROLOGUE

By: Joyce Zhong

It has been approximately three hundred years since I have stayed in the white asylum. That makes me about four hundred years old. White was the only color I remember, and maybe a faded yellow of the light. Every day I woke up at ten 'o clock. The bell would ring and breakfast would be served. I ate, then danced around the white room and sometimes sang. Talking to inanimate objects began when I realized that preserving my speech would be important. Most of the time, I'd read the pile of books that were ex changed every month. They were situated in the corner. I didn't have anything to write with, and I longed for a pen and paper. Constantly reading books helped maintain my knowledge about what was outside of the asylum. I heard there were machines on four wheels named cars and a black president. Women were treated more fairly now, and slavery was

The tenth of January was the day I was pulled out. Seeing color again made me so happy I shook. I had yet to feel the stream of sunlight beaming on my skin. The first thing the people in white coats did to me was insert needles into my skin. It stung and took a long time. My fingers gripped the cold chair. They then led me into another room, and I panicked. It looked like the asylum I've been stuck in, only with tables and chairs. The reminder of that place was scarring. They had to call a very strong man to sit me down. When they did, the people left me alone with a man. His skin was dark and smooth. He had a big forehead and thin lips that didn't match his ginormous nose. His eyes were grey like winter, as if all the happiness was stripped from him. When he spoke, his voice was nearly monotone and empty.