

ACADEMY TIMES

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Academy of Aerospace and Engineering

Volume 3 issue 2

Swimming with Sharks



Seniors began their Shark Tank presentations on October 17th and 19th. Students presented their ideas for their capstone projects to a panel of administrators, teachers, and representatives from industry.



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'Creatures Crawl in Search of Blood to Terrorize Your Neighborhood'



Check US Out AAE's New Website

<http://aaen.crecschools.org/>

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Editorials

Unlocking the Key to Communication Between Students and Staff

A student speaks up in order to implement change in the building

Opinion Articles are usually ones that come in the form of constructive commentaries about AAE that can be perceived as negative complaints by some individuals. However, this article is not about highlighting issues with our school. Rather, it is a reflection upon an important realization.

This reflection is made not just for the faculty of AAE, but also for the student body. As my peers already know, I complained regularly about how the high school's 2nd floor boy's bathroom was a total mess, as students had somehow broken all the locks in the stalls and the border between the urinal and sink, making privacy in there difficult.

It was then one day that I came into the bathroom to find that secure locks were put in place and that a new border was installed. However, I later found that one of the locks in the bathroom was put in reverse, where the latch would not move into the slot to close the door.

So, while discussing this issue with my teacher, she advised that I tell Mr. Johnson himself. While at first I was hesitant, as I saw it as a trivial issue and not worth wasting time on, I finally decided to speak with Mr. Johnson up front.

He led me to the head custodian, who I showed the locks to in the bathroom. The custodian said, "Wow, you've got a good eye, I didn't even catch that."

I did not expect that response, or that the lock would later be fixed. While going back downstairs with Mr. Johnson, he told me that because faculty does not regularly use the bathroom, no one except the students would know about the locks. And that's when I realized how vital communication between staff and students really is.

Now, obviously, a problem so small as a fixed bathroom lock isn't earth shattering, but it definitely made me reflect on an important solution.

For students who don't feel like they have much say in what goes on at our school, please speak up. The staff is willing to hear what you have to say, and they would be more than happy to work with you on the issue.

A major part of finding resolutions is in establishing the relationship between staff and students. I mean, take it from me, a person who managed to fix a bathroom stall lock. Imagine what more we can accomplish.

Student Support Saves Lives and Touches Hearts

Making lives a little better for those in need

It's been about two months since hurricane Harvey first made landfall in Houston. Since then, it's been a rather traumatic time of tragedy and loss for the people unfortunate enough to live in one place where either Harvey, Irma, or Jose hit.

While the stories have died down in most of the media, I am proud to say that AAE has not forgotten. Since the very beginning, we have been doing what we can to help through fundraising.

Clubs, sports teams, and NHS are banding together to help the less fortunate, to make someone's life a little bit better. Since the beginning of the year, this school has raised a great deal of money for the victims of this tragic event, but after witnessing the compassion of this school first hand, I'm certain the generosity will only increase.

Are We STEM or Starting to Lose Momentum?

A Student Reflects on AAE's transition

The Academy of Engineering. We saw so much potential to grow in a new space. Rather than sharing with other schools, rather than teachers having to switch classrooms all the time, we finally had a location to ourselves.

We saw the state of the art labs, the "maker spaces" in the common areas, and the high tech resources available to us and saw a bright future for our school. However, now, we seem to be no further than we were at our old location - the maker spaces are off limits, the media center for research is closed and locked. Even worse, we seem to be straying from our original vision as an engineering school with excellence in mathematics and science, and taking on the characteristics of a traditional public school.

We have seen an increase in administration's support of sports, which seemed like it would be a good thing, if it was not reflected in a general disregard for other scholastic ventures, whether it is for biology olympiad, physics bowl, math team, or computer science competitions.

We came to the Academy of Engineering from various school districts, sacrificing time we could have spent elsewhere on transportation (often in the form of hour-or-more long bus rides), for a high quality education with an emphasis on STEM subjects. Three years after our shift to this new building, the education just isn't what we were expecting.



Cartoons retrieved from Hartford Courant 17, December, 2014

Study habits...



At the Movies

The Snowman



By Isaac Stachkunas
Staff writer

The *Snowman* was originally a crime novel by Jo Nesbø. The film adaptation was released in theatres October 20th, of this year.

The story itself follows a detective, who has long fallen from grace, as he tracks a series of murders pieced together by a recent transfer to his division.

The visible pattern was that each victim was raising a child, and at every location someone initially went missing a snowman of similar construction was made. With each one of the victims having children this would not be a completely preposterous occurrence. But neither the children, nor their parents, bear any recollection of making such and thus it becomes apparent that this is the killer's marquee.

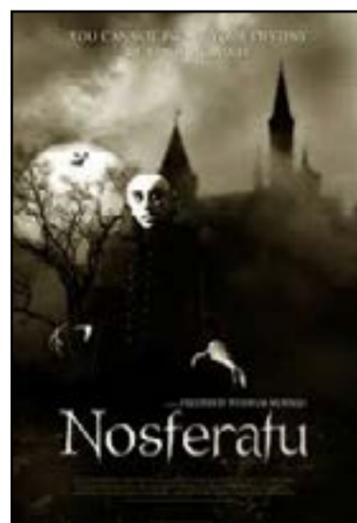
As more murders are uncovered, as well as discovered the truth slowly begins to more itself more visible.

In terms of production, as well as just the method of story-telling, this film is by no means poor.

Where it does fall rather short though is in creativity. This movie by no means brings anything new to big screen cinema.

The plot just follows the simple idea of a troubled childhood reciprocating later in life in the form of violent crime.

Nosferatu



By Isaac Stachkunas
Staff writer

Nosferatu is the 1922 film adaptation of *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.

In this particular telling of the story, Thomas Hutter is sent from Germany to a nearly unknown castle, cast in shadows and Carpathian mountains.

Specifically, he is tasked with the selling of various estates in the German town of Wisborg to one Count Orlok. As Hutter passes through the closest town to Orlok's residence, the mere mention of the Count's name divulges a fear and aversion of the locals, which can be equated to that of a devil's grasp.

As night falls while Orlok and Hutter's first meeting progresses, Hutter cannot help but begin to get a sense of deep dread as the darkness grows. Soon after though, he learns of Count Orlok's nefarious nature and existence as a vampire. Hutter is then faced with protecting his beloved, from Orlok's decrepit grip.

It's worth mentioning that this is a silent film. While it bears heavy similarities to that of most other renditions of Stoker's novel, this version most notably highlights the plague and general evil that envelopes and follows Orlok's presence.

While it is not the pinnacle of films, it is none the less a notable milestone in its history as being one of the most famous silent vampire films, and one of the most famous vampire films period.

Do You Know Who Is In Your Wallet?



By Michael Bachand
Staff writer

If you have a credit card, then it is very likely that you may be one of over 140 million Americans whose information was released in a data breach at Equifax: one of America's most prominent credit reporting companies.

Equifax has stated that the breach lasted from May through July of 2017. Through this breach, the hackers gained access to many names, birth dates, Social Security numbers, and home addresses.

The hackers also managed to steal the credit card numbers of over 200,000 people and nearly 160,000 documents. Along with this, the hackers managed to get the information of many people within the U.K. and Canada.

If you or anyone in your family are concerned about your security, check out on Equifax's website for help on how to assess the situation.



Blackbelts for Butterflies

Mr. Johnson is active in a martial art and self-defense system called Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

He recently participated in "Blackbelts for Butterflies" which supports and raises money for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

This event was able to raise well over \$10,000 for Dylan's Wings of Change. www.dylanswingsofchange.org

Opinion Editorial

Common Areas No Longer Commonly Used

A student expresses frustration on the inability to take a seat

Collins' Dictionary defines a chair as something that someone can sit on, typically having a back and four legs.

By this logic, the things in the commons areas must be chairs, right? That's where you're wrong. A chair, by definition, is something you can sit on, but thanks to the new rules imposed, you can't sit on the "seats" in the common areas without risk of a referral. And therefore, the right to sit as you please is lost. And what makes this worse? The fact that they are STILL THERE. That's right. You can't sit in them, but they're still there, mocking you as you pass them in the halls.

In order to make this situation as efficient as possible, the school has to take one of two options. The first is to remove the chairs. This, however, may turn out to be a pretty bad idea. Because those chairs, however use-

less they are, DO still serve a purpose, which is for college meetings. And that's about it.

Not only this, but the school can't just whip out their phone and try and sell "used couch chair things" on LetGo. So we're kinda stuck with them, meaning that's clearly not an option. There is, however, another option available. The school can allow the use of the commons areas.

For years, students have relied on commons areas due to their proximity to printers, comfortable environment, and place to simply get things done. But now the students are forced to look at something that once was. Was there ever really a problem though? Why would the school take them away?

Well, according to the school, people would skip class to go there and people would talk there and get

nothing done. But here's the kicker: the school has done nothing to fix it.

First, if someone is determined to skip class, then a larger action has to be made than simply taking away one place where they would reside. Sure, now the students can't skip and go to the commons, but they do have a variety of other places, and it seems like the commons areas were the most favorable, as they could be easily surveyed.

Next, the school is convinced that taking literally everyone that has a free block, and putting them in the same room will somehow reduce distractions and talking. This is actually quite the opposite, as there are MORE people, and therefore MORE talking and distractions. So, it seems like it would be in the best interest of the school to put the commons back to the way they were, back when things WORKED.

Math Team Scores Add Up!

By Rishika Maitra
Staff writer



The AAE Math Team is off to a great start for the new season! So far, **Zirui Hao**, senior, **Jocelyn Gartley**, senior, **Benjamin Keilty**, sophomore, and **Rishika Maitra**, senior, have gotten a perfect score of 18 at a CAML meet, with other team members also doing well. On November 11, five AAE girls competed at the inaugural Girls in Math at Yale Competition. Good luck to the math team in their future endeavors!

AAE's First Ever Blood Drive

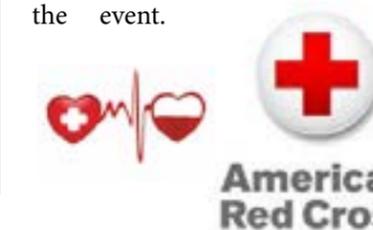
By Preksha Gupta
Editor-in-chief

On Thursday Nov 9, AAE had its first ever blood drive. National Honor Society members ran this committee and offered individuals above 17 years of age to donate blood.

Students, staff, and even parents were able to sign up for appointments between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Overall, this event was a roaring success, donating 25 pints of blood. These pints of blood is equivalent to saving about 75 lives.

A big thanks so **Sreenidhi Nair**, a GHAMAS senior, who coordinated the event.



www.redcross.org

A Walk to Remember No CRAL to the Finish Line

By Sabrina Porter
Guest Staff writer



AAE students walk for juvenile diabetes

Blood sugar swings, finger pricks, and insulin shots are just a few things you may not have to deal with, but for someone living with Type One Diabetes, these responsibilities and factors play a major part of their daily lives.

Type One Diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease, where your immune system destroys your body's pancreas, an organ that produces a hormone called insulin.

Without insulin, your body cannot regulate its blood sugar. People with T1D wear insulin pumps or take shots of insulin whenever they eat to help regulate their blood sugar and have to constantly monitor it with sensors or finger pricks.

Living with T1D is more than a challenge, but JDRF has been able to make unbelievable advancements in technology and treatments to make the lives of Type One Diabetics a lot easier.

JDRF stands for Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund which funds the research to find a cure for

Type One Diabetes (T1D).

On the morning of Sunday October 15, 2017, students and staff from the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering gathered at the entrance of Six Flags New England where they danced to music, posed with characters, listened to speakers, and learned more about Juvenile Diabetes and the advancements being made.

During the weeks leading up the walk, students and staff were able to fundraise a total of \$3,331 for JDRF! At 10:00, the walk kicked off and AAE's team, Sabrina's Strikers, along with dozens of other teams walked around the park showing their support and spreading awareness of T1D.

Although there is no cure right now, students at AAE have helped JDRF get one step closer to turning Type One into Type None.



By Vivian Ngo
Staff writer



2017-2018 AAE Cross Country Team

The 2017 fall season has been one full of hard work and dedication from the boys' and girls' cross country team here at AAE. The hard-earned result of the CRAL Championship Meet was the culmination of every step, every stair, and every hill the runners overcame together.

The junior varsity runners represented AAE well in the JV race. Sam Kavouras (freshman) ran 30:09 and Juan Garzon (freshman) ran 31:30, both setting personal records. Jessica Wachs (freshman) also ran well with her time of 37:42. The varsity boys faced tough competitors from the Academy of Science and Innovation, Parish Hill, and Metropolitan Learning Center. From the boys team Jibril Traore (sophomore) and Chris Rinaldi (junior) made all-conference. Traore set a new school record and placed 3rd overall at the meet with a 5k time of 18:08. Rinaldi placed 5th overall with a PR of 18:49. Jacob Karvelis (freshman) ran 19:48, Bryan Richiez (senior) ran 20:24, Andrew Hall

(junior) ran 21:40, Dontay Batchelor (sophomore) ran 23:15, and Ben Hernandez (junior) ran 24:41, all setting personal records.

The varsity girls took 1st place overall with all five girls placing in the top seven. Emily Ngo (sophomore) and Nya Bentley (sophomore) placed 6th and 7th, respectively. Captain Sydney Rochette (senior) placed 3rd with 21:23. Vivian Ngo (senior) took 2nd with 21:02. Captain Celia Chacko (senior) ran away with 1st place. Chacko also set a league girls' record with her PR of 19:23. Chacko, V. Ngo, and Rochette will be graduating in the spring, leaving big shoes to fill for next year's girls' cross country team.

The coaches, Ms. Peabody and Ms. Manby, are proud of every one of the runners for their CRAL and overall season performances, and the entire team thanks the coaches for their unwavering motivation and support. The varsity teams compete in States at Wickham Park on Saturday, October 28th.

A Sensory Experience

By Grace DiCicco
Staff writer



AAE students take a trip to The Museum of Contemporary Art in Amherst, Massachusetts



The term "modern art" is a form of expression that isn't taken as seriously as others due to its many abstract qualities.

Attending the trip to see The Museum of Contemporary Art really showed us what the meaning was behind many pieces of modern and contemporary art. We even had a chance to explore the grounds beforehand, experiencing multiple different exhibits as well as an abandoned factory, giving everyone the opportunity to take photos, sketch or just enjoy the incredible space they were in.

Once we got inside we had a jam-packed tour, where we saw too many amazing pieces to even count. One of the more memorable designs was an enormous exhibit focusing on the idea of how using phones and other technology keeps us from experiencing things in a way only our senses can provide.

This enormous exhibit was three separate caves made from wooden pallets and within the three were representations of our senses: touch, hearing and smell.

The one for touch was filled with a dark rough fabric and was one of the rare pieces of art that observers can actually touch and interact with.

The next was sound or hearing. In it there were two recordings of people talking playing simultaneously- one from a speaker and one from a record player.

The final cave was for scent and in this one there were more than a dozen handmade containers, each with a different scent. Each cave was a beautiful representation and one could really understand what the artist was trying to say, despite the various interpretations one might have.

This trip was an excellent choice to try to possibly broaden students minds and to give them an experience different to the one that they have everyday in a classroom.

Senior Celia Chako Makes CREC Athletic History



Senior Celia Chacko made CREC Athletics history at the Connecticut State Open Cross Country Tournament at Wickham Park.

Chacko ran her best time yet (19:52) on this tough hilly course in Manchester, coming in 8th place out of the 176 best female athletes in the state. In doing so, Chacko qualified for the New England Regional Tournament in Belfast, Maine!

The Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Athletics are sending their first athlete to a Regional tournament,



Girls Soccer

PSA/AAE 2

Hale Ray 0

The PSA/AAE girls soccer team travelled to Hale Ray to earn a 2-0 victory.

The game started off a little shaky, but the girls were able to come together as a team to play solid defense, led by Junior **Desaray Chapman** (AAE) in goal. **Victoria Cooper** (AAE) got the Eagles on the board first, scoring on a breakaway started by **Tori Pilletere** (PSA). Anchored by defense from **Nashae'ya Johnson** (PSA) and **Bahati Constantine** (AAE).

The game went into halftime with AAE/PSA leading 1-0. Continuing their strong play in the second half, PSA/AAE added an insurance goal early from **Corrin Pruitt** (AAE) to make the score 2-0. Strong plays in the middle of the field from Pilletere and Cooper helped finish the game as a shutout.

Chapman had 11 amazing saves in the victory and Sarah Haentjens had 8 saves for Hale Ray.

Cross Country



The Varsity Jets got to run on a new course while competing against Prince Tech and Grasso Tech at Elizabeth Park. The new trails were no deterrent, and the Aerospace runners showed their strength with strong performances overall.

The Jets girls took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, AND 5th.

Senior **Celia Chacko** led the pack at 20:44, followed by **Vivian Ngo** at



21:57 and **Sydney Rochette** at 22:38. Sophomores **Emily Ngo** and **Nya Bentley** were right behind them at 24:37 and 26:25, respectively.

The Aerospace boys ran in a large pack and still prevailed. Sophomore **Jibril Traore** held on to his 1st place streak, finishing with a season PR of 19:33. He was followed by Junior **Chris Rinaldi**, in 2nd, with a time of 19:56, also a season PR.

Girls Volleyball

In Volleyball action, the Royals of Achievement First traveled to the home of the Jets for their second match-up of the season.

The Jets took the match 3-1 (25-16, 17-25, 25-11, 26-4) but not before the Royals displayed some of the skills they have been developing over the course of the season.

The Royals played a fast paced match thanks to the help of Jah'Shae Newman 2 kills, 2 digs; Asja Grace-Pearson 11 digs; Alexis Waugh 6 digs, 1 ace, 1 kill

Meanwhile, the Jets were led by **Adriana Mulet Ramirez** 9 aces, 15 assists, **Kaitlyn Murphy** 3 points, 8 hits, 16 assists, 2 digs, and **Rebecca Nowinski** 6 aces, 4 hits. This improves the Jets record to 6-7 for the season.



Boys' soccer team at UHart game

CRAL Championship

Sydney Rochette was a girls team of one when she started running XC her freshman year. It takes 5 girls to score as a team, and this year, in her last race of the league's season, Captain Rochette and her teammates brought home the 1st place trophy, after scoring those well-deserved points as a tiny team of 5.

Senior **Celia Chacko**, Rochette's co-captain, led the team to victory, securing a personal record, a school record and a league

record, with her time of 19:23.

Senior **Vivian Ngo** was right behind her, taking 2nd place with a time of 21:02, and Rochette in 3rd with a time of 21:23.

The girls team was capped off with Sophomores **Emily Ngo** & **Nya Bentley** securing 6th & 7th place, with times of 23:42 and 24:02.



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