

The Muckraker

What happens at the
ski trip stays at the ski
trip...

or not.

How the 8th grade got to see
two teachers in a new light

and what the students thought
of 13 days in Zillertal



SAT 2016

Everything that's
being changed
about the second
most popular test
for college

Sporthall

Have we been at
risk the whole time?
Why it is closed.
Again.

Lacrosse

The German
team's fight
for recogni-
tion among
other coun-
tries

BERMUN

A look inside
one of
JFKS's most
popular
after-school
activities

The Muckraker

1

Speaks

The Muckraker is back. With a new team of editors, we are revamping our student newspaper. In the past years, its circulation fell from 600 issues to a mere 200. With this number in mind, we are striving towards an ambitious goal: a rebirth of *The Muckraker*.

We have made layout changes and are trying to turn the paper around content-wise by giving more attention to school-related stories. With such articles, we hope to stimulate debate among students and address the controversies in our school. A crucial part of *The Muckraker's* mission lies in facing matters seen as taboo and in broaching questions no one else bothers to pursue.

To officially commence Issue VI, let us share some words from Alfred Tennyson's *Ulysses*:

*"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

With that, we are off to a new start.

Yours truly,
The Muckraker Editors

Final Note: A big thank you to the previous editors: Julia Chrampanis, Lenny Leass, and Polina Andreva. They laid a solid foundation that we want to build upon!



Index

<i>The New 2016 SAT</i>	2
<i>The Gym is Closed. Again.</i>	3
<i>Team Germany vs. the World</i>	4
<i>10 Tips to Getting the Grade You Want</i>	4
<i>Eighth Grade Ski Trip: Best. Trip. Ever!</i>	5
<i>BERMUN: What is it really?</i>	7
<i>Sexual Freedom of the Dance Floor</i>	8
<i>Honors Orchestra</i>	9
<i>Handy Hyperlinks</i>	9
<i>Weird Days of April</i>	10
<i>SCULLY Review</i>	10
<i>Literature & Arts Column</i>	11

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Join Us! Tuesday, 20 minute break, B122

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The opinions expressed here in no way reflect those of the John F. Kennedy School.

The New 2016 SAT

Note: All quotations are from the College Board website unless otherwise stated.

A STANDARDIZED TEST THAT plays an important role in US and UK college admission, the SAT usually comes onto JFKS students' radar at the end of 10th or the beginning of 11th grade. It's around this time that diligent students print out long lists of strange "SAT words," go online and order the Official SAT Study Guide, and start learning how to write a 25-minute essay response to the test's broad "prompt." This year's JFKS freshmen, however, may not have the same experience when they go to take the test in 2016.

The College Board, the US company that creates the SAT and AP tests, is redesigning the 2016 SAT. Their goals? "Support college readiness and success for more students, integrate with rigorous classroom instruction, and focus on the few things shown by current research to matter most in college and career."

As the SAT falls behind the rival ACT test, in terms of numbers sold, the College Board is making major changes to its 88-year-old test:

1. *Relevant Words in Context* – Say goodbye to memorizing obscure words. The new SAT uses subject-based words that will be useful in college and career settings. (Think "empirical" and "synthesis" as opposed to "encomium" and "symphonious.")
2. *Command of Evidence* – In the reading sections, students will be asked to select graphic information or text passages that best support their answers. In the writing sections, students will have to edit paragraph and sentence structure to better describe ideas in the material.
3. *Essay Analyzing a Source* – The essay will become optional, meaning the SAT will return to a "1600-point-plus-essay" scoring system. Furthermore, students will no longer respond to a broad prompt, but will read a passage and explain how the author builds an argument. This will require close reading, analysis, and clear writing.
4. *Math in Three Key Areas* – The math section will focus on three areas that research shows are "most important" in college and careers:
 - a. Problem Solving and Data Analysis will require students to use ratios, percentages, and proportional rea-

Credit: <http://paristampa.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/oldsat.jpg>

A Test of Knowledge or Income?	
FAMILY INCOME	AVERAGE SAT SCORE (OUT OF 2,400) FOR 2013 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS
\$0-\$20,000	1 3 2 6
\$20,000-\$40,000	1 4 0 2
\$40,000-\$60,000	1 4 6 1
\$60,000-\$80,000	1 4 9 7
\$80,000-\$100,000	1 5 3 5
\$100,000-\$120,000	1 5 6 9
\$120,000-\$140,000	1 5 8 1
\$140,000-\$160,000	1 6 0 4
\$160,000-\$200,000	1 6 2 5
More than \$200,000	1 7 1 4

soning to solve problems in context.

b. Heart of Algebra focuses on linear equations and algebra systems that students use to solve real-world problems.

c. Passport to Advanced Math focuses on complex equations students will use in subjects like calculus. Gone are the complex algebraic questions you will never see anywhere else.

Also in the math section, students will be presented with a scenario and asked several questions about it. This prompts students to assess a situation before modeling it with math.

5. *Science and Social Studies* – More often, the new test will require students to apply language and math skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies.

continued on pg. 3

2

The New 2016 SAT

continued from pg. 2

6. *Founding Documents and the “Great Global Conversation”* – The new SAT will include an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or some other text from the “ongoing Great Global Conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.” (JFKS kids might have to pay more attention in those 11th-grade US history classes.)

7. *No Penalty for Wrong Answers* – Gone is the minus $\frac{1}{4}$ point for every wrong answer. Can’t decide? Guess away! Finally, the College Board is addressing the perennial problem created by SAT-prep courses and \$100/hour test prep tutors: the link between higher test scores and family income, a connection established by the board’s own research. Simply put, low-income students are less likely to gain access to these high-quality test preparation programs. Therefore, the College Board is partnering with the non-profit Khan Academy to deliver free official test-prep resources to anyone with Internet access.

What does this mean for JFKS’s next generation of SAT-takers? Well, it means you’ll be seeing a test that is more grounded in real-world skills; you’ll have fewer abstract (and more concrete) essays; and you will have at least one free alternative to the expensive test-prep books and tutor programs. Personally, I wish I could have taken this test, and I know that many of my (senior) peers feel the same way.

The Muckraker invites you to share your opinions and comment on this article; do a Facebook search for “pages named “The Muckraker”” and comment on this article!

■ Max Sherwood

The Gym is Closed. Again.

AS MANY HAVE noticed, the sport hall has been shut down. In mid-March, the gym was inspected to see if everything was functioning properly.

During the examination by the Bezirk, something was found to be wrong with the roof of the large gym that was renovated just a few years ago. According to the inspectors, and what we have been told by the sport teachers, the roof of the gym has structural problems, including some missing screws, which have supposedly been missing since it was built. This means the roof could collapse if conditions worsen. Given that it did not break down in the past few years, this seems rather unlikely. Still, the gym has been shut down since Thursday the 20th of March, and continues to be so indefinitely.

As a result, the sport department has been facing complications for over two weeks now. Some of the teachers even had trouble getting into the office. Since classes aren’t able to take place in the large gym, they are held either on the field or in the old gym. So for those of you doing sport class outside, consider dressing a little more warmly seeing as the weather will be getting colder within the next few days; I’m sure none of you want to freeze.

Those of you with extracurricular activities taking place after school and on weekends may want to check with your trainers to see where practice will be held, if it is held at all. At this point, we are unsure of how long the process of fixing the roof will take, but seeing as there has been no definite solution yet, it may take a while. We hope the problems are fixed as soon as possible, so that everyone is able to enjoy the sport hall again.

■ Aqueena Crisp



Credit: Kilian Justus

3

Team Germany vs. the World

THE GAME OF lacrosse has seen exponential growth in Germany, and this fact can’t be stressed enough.

This summer, in Denver, Colorado, there will be the Lacrosse World Championship with an estimated 40 nations attending, including your favorite team, Germany. With a roster of 28 players, one of them being me, we look forward to an exciting and very intense two weeks. Now you’re all probably wondering how this is controversial, but here’s why Team Germany hates all the “big,” “important” lacrosse nations.

The World Games are divided into divisions, which one plays in in order to move on to the next rounds. Each of these divisions is assigned a color; it’s a bit similar to the World Cup. Anyway, the top teams in the world are the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, England, and the Iroquois (a Native American team), all of which play in the Blue division, which is the highest ranked.

In 2010, the world championships were held in England. Unfortunately, the Iroquois weren’t allowed to travel to England with their Iroquois passports and thus couldn’t participate. Germany was asked to take their spot in the Blue division, and were told that if they were able to stay in the division without being kicked out, then they would be allowed to start from there in the next world championship.

Unfortunately, Germany was kicked out of the blue division by a vote from all nations. It was truly devastating and the manager from team Germany, Tim Gruenke, argued with the other nations to allow us to keep our spot in the Blue division. His arguments were that Germany was promised to stay in the Blue division, we were promised sponsorships to lower the expenses of equipment, as well as media coverage of our games, which have served to increase popularity and sponsorships.

As a result of our removal from the Blue division, all these offers were rescinded. The decision was unjust and unnecessary; it made the nations we look towards for guidance appear greedy and arrogant. For Germany, where the sport of lacrosse has been becoming more and more important throughout the past 30 years, the thought of having to start over again was infuriating. So, this world championship will be extraordinary, because Germany will return as a major threat with a vendetta to restore what was once ours.

■ Lukas Tophoven

4

How to Get the Grade You Want

1. FORGET ABOUT STUDYING. Teachers hate students who try to be the best in their class.

2.) No matter how corny, laugh at teachers’ jokes. Never keep a serious face when a teacher cracks a joke. It’s offensive. When you are the only student laughing, teachers will sense a special connection between you and them because you alone understand their humor. Treat this special relationship with care. It is a delicate pillar of the grade you want.

3.) Eye contact. When the teacher is talking, look at them. You don’t need to understand what they are saying, but when you make eye contact, nod.

4.) Sit next to dumb people. Not that there are any at this school, but when you do, the contrast makes you stand out.

5.) Don’t participate in class. Teachers will think you already know everything and are being polite by not giving away everything.

6.) After class, talk to your teachers. Make conversation and befriend them. It is only when you greet more teachers than friends in the hallway that you know you are getting there.

7.) When you don’t know an answer, bluff. Raise your hand just as the teacher picks a student. When they pick on you after the student finishes speaking, don’t claim to have wanted to say the same thing as that student. Say the same thing with different words.

8.) Go to Wikipedia and look up the topic you are doing in class. Then find a long word that seems sophisticated and mention it in class. To give an example, say your ethics teacher is looking for topic suggestions. Tell them you want to study the hedonist form of virtue ethics, Epicureanism, because you want to hear more about Epicurus’ Tetrapharmakos and its similarities with Democritean atomism. That’s a 1+ right there.

9.) Make them overhear you complimenting them. When you see your teacher walking by, pretend you didn’t see them, turn to your friend, and start loudly praising their class. Use phrases such as “life-changing”, “enlightening”, “mind-blowing”, and “mesmerizing”.

10.) Money. If all else fails, this is your last resort. After class, walk up to your teacher and casually slip a bill in their shirt pocket. Give them a suggestive wink when they look at you questioningly.

One last note – always remember that teachers were students as well. They themselves may have mastered these techniques at some point.

■ Anonymous

Eighth Grade Ski Trip

EVERY YEAR, A group of goggle-tanned 8th graders returns from two weeks of living in tight spaces with their classmates and teachers. Some years were better, others more strenuous. This year seemed to be a success for all taking the 9-hour bus ride to Austria. To find out why, we asked some 8th graders and teachers on their first day back in rainy Berlin.

Was this Ski Trip better than others? “It was just an average Ski Trip. It was pretty cool.” What were some good experiences? “When girls dressed up as male body builders. And seeing the guys in bras. We put all of the guys in bras.” When did you go to sleep? “It varied. One night, a roommate and I stayed up so late, we started hallucinating. We kept staring at each other and I thought her eye popped out of her head and she thought my smile kept growing bigger and bigger. That was around 3 a.m. Besides that, it was good though.”

Did you learn how to ski? “Yeah. I forgot it so I had to relearn it. Oh, and ... I saw Mr. Lang in booty shorts.” What? Yes, you read correctly. Booty shorts. Days before the 8th graders returned, amateur footage from the Ski Trip surfaced in Berlin. The clip shows a man standing at the end of a catwalk in pink shorts amid cheering students. Shortly after, pictures of a second man appeared. What happened in the Zillertal? What pushed the teachers to do what they did? And, most importantly, who are the two men seen on the pictures?

Who knows what teachers do at the Ski Trip after students are sent to bed. Perhaps the dress-up resulted from a lost drinking game. Or maybe teachers find as much thrill in the game of “Truth-or-Dare” as the youth does, and the challenger was very demanding. Possibly, one dared the other to a “Who’s the better woman” competition, and the other, to preserve his pride, just had to accept the challenge. After all, the pictures circulating amongst students’ phones, iPods and cameras show two supposed teachers: one with fabulous shorts, the other in a very demonstrative shirt.

The question of the origin of the feminine clothing, the reasons for it, and whether one of the two models wearing it is really Mr. Lang, evokes heated debate among students. Mr. Lang, the alleged teacher, denies the assumptions. “Just because there’s a feminine form that looks like me, doesn’t mean it’s me. Some say denial, I want DNA evidence.”



The other – supposedly Mr. Calhoun – only smiles and says, “Oh, Shanaynay” (what a lovely name!) when we address the mysterious female’s curves.

So, Mr. Lang, how did it feel wearing those shorts? “I refrain from answering that question. However, I am quite disappointed how much attention was paid to the pink shorts rather than the well-groomed hair on female model’s legs that would have been the distinctive mark at any other respectable catwalk.” With that, there only remains one question. Why?

Mr. Lang, do you have any idea why “the female” that resembles you wore this alluring outfit and presented it on the tables? “When you have a social event, you want to make kids laugh and enjoy it. Particularly when it’s in good spirit, it’s what makes life worth living.”

Ski Trip

Voices of the Eighth Graders

For all of us JFKS students, one of our greatest memories is the famous 8th grade Ski Trip, an exciting two-week trip, in which 8th grade students and many of our teachers travel to the Austrian mountains. Although we, as upper grade students, enjoy the free periods, we also miss the great experiences we had during that trip.

Here is what some of the 8th graders this year have to say:

"MR. LANG! He dressed up as a girl!"

"Fun, loud, crazy"

"On the first day I crashed into a stand while trying to brake."

"On the last day we were allowed to shop at Schlitters after skiing and we were in three buses and the people in the first bus who had already been shopping were walking home and the third bus passed by and we stopped and they wanted to get in and the teacher was like, 'you're not allowed to get in because you weren't walking on the left side of the road' and then they just closed the door in their face and went on. That was the funniest moment for me."

"I think the best moment was, personally, when we jumped while skiing"

"...and it was very disturbing because they started stripping and the guys had balloons as boobs"

"We had a gender switch fashion show where the guys dressed up as girls and the girls dressed up as guys... and the teachers participated!"

"Amazing, fun, tiring"

"Best. Trip. Ever."

"Teachers who you'd think are stricter act differently on the Ski Trip. They were easy-going and joked around."

"While skiing I was surprised that falling down was actually so fun because a lot of us are actually really clumsy people and I expected it to be a pain and embarrassing but falling down is kind of the best part while you're skiing. Like, waiting for your friends and getting back up, and you just keep on skiing."

BERMUN: What is it really?



WITH MORE THAN thirty students attending weekly debate and simulating the UN, our school's Model United Nations (MUN) is perhaps the most popular after-school activity among the student body. Founded in 1992, MUN has played an important role in JFKS history for 24 years, being organized by and for the students.

Every Wednesday 9th and 10th period, "delegates" from all high school grade levels assemble to engage in rigorous discussions about various political topics. These arguments are known to not only increase skills in speech and debate, but also to increase self-confidence. drops you somewhere in the world, and you have to guess where you are. Using Google Street View, you can explore the place you have landed, and after making a guess on a world map, you find out where you actually are.

Twice a year, our school hosts the annual BERMUN and BERMUN2 conferences, which generally take place in November and March, with an approximate number of 700 and 200 delegates attending respectively. However, BERMUN has more to offer than merely delegations and discussions; organs such as the Press Corps and the Administrative Staff play key roles as well. The Press Team, lead by Mr. Robertson, provides information about the conference to the participants. Consisting of about 20-25 students, the group is divided into reporters, photographers, layout editors, and digital producers. Currently, BERMUN press is eager to recruit younger and interested students from lower grades into the team. The Admin Staff is also part of the backbone of the conference,

and contributes vast time and energy to make it run as smoothly as possible.

This year's BERMUN2 took place in the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from March 6th to 8th. The central topic of the conference was "The UN's Road Ahead: Realizing Global Human Rights, Peace, and Sustainable Development." Each organ covered a different aspect of this major theme. Debate took place in the Economic and Social Council, UN Women, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Environmental Program, the Security Council, and the Historical Security Council. As always, the conference was organized by the student officers (chairs and secretariat) and the admins, while the Press Team reported on the events.

BERMUN2 commenced with opening ceremonies on Thursday the 6th of March, which included introductory words from the members of the Secretariat and short speeches from selected delegates who represented different countries. The next day, all forums split up into their different committees and after short icebreakers, went into session and began debating. Saturday ended with the Closing Ceremonies.

Sound interesting? Find out more on the website www.bermun.de, on the BERMUN Press Team Facebook Page, by looking for the BERMUN2 newspaper, or by asking the conferences' directors Frau Hövermann, Mr. Robertson, Dr. Peterson, or Mr. Lang. BERMUN is an exciting and enjoyable experience and a huge part of our school!

■ Clara Frick & Simone Koch

Sexual Freedom of the Dance Floor



SOCIETY DICTATES OUR behavior. Jane Austen's romantic novels during the 18th century speak of grand social gatherings, in which the rules of courting were clearly defined. A woman had to be very careful during courting. Not only did she have to remain calm and poised, but also stay interesting, witty, and flirtatious. It all came down to pleasing the man, gaining his acceptance, and possibly even acquiring his liking.

Nevertheless, she also had to know where line was between what was socially acceptable and what could be considered too intrusive. The man on the other hand was not plagued by such various demands. Of course, he too had to be polite, but due to gender inequality, he was able to get away with pretty much everything.

Even nowadays, courting rules exist in liberal environments, in which men and women are allowed to flirt and dance together. However, the question remains if a fine line exists between what is socially acceptable and what is considered provocative.

When a woman and a man dance at a party they get closer and closer, they embrace each other, look into each other's eyes, and then enter a ravishing make out session. Many students have found themselves in this situation or will find themselves in such a situation in near future. However, the reaction to this scenario is entirely dependent on men and women and still relates back to gender roles.

A guy is celebrated as a "player", a "womanizer", or even a "b*tchhunter." He took on another chick due to his amazing moves, good looks, and flirting abilities. The girl on the other hand is plagued by her moral code and self-esteem. Was she the one who let herself go and was seduced by some classmate or even a complete stranger? These worries will follow her for another week or two along with the worry of potential rumors about her being a tramp or someone who is easy to get.

However, in the end, it all comes down to the attitude. A woman can go out of a make out completely confident just like a man can nervously enter one. Ladies can obviously be players, and who hasn't heard of the term "manwhore"? Despite rumors and gossip – and the JFKS student body is admittedly a gigantic, well-functioning rumor mill – outside opinions should never influence one's decision of entering a relationship, a brief affair, or even a make out at a club. It comes down to oneself and the question if one can accept having a good time by openly living out one's sexuality.

■ Christina Lennartz

Honors Orchestra

DO NOT THINK I am unusual to consider travel one of my greatest passions and desires for the future. This, in combination with music and friendship, as cliché as it sounds, plays a major role in my time at JFKS. London, Vienna, Brussels, Shanghai, and, most recently, Düsseldorf, are all wonderful cities that I have had the absolute privilege to explore, thanks to the highly inspiring and enjoyable AMIS music festivals.

AMIS, the Association for Music in International Schools, truly lives up to its striking acronym; since 7th grade I have formed lasting friendships with students from all over the world, ranging from London to Cairo to Singapore. Now, why am I telling you this? Well, simply put, I want to encourage as many of you as possible to also seize opportunities to use your hobbies and talents to travel the world.

This year, I was yet again lucky enough to be part of the AMIS Senior Honor Orchestra, which, along with Honor Women’s Choir, took place in Düsseldorf at the beginning of March. To be completely honest, when I discovered the location of the festival, my heart did sink slightly. Although Düsseldorf is a friendly and pleasant city, to me it hardly seemed as glamorous and exciting as Shanghai, China, where I had been the year before. However, it definitely turned out to be one of my favorite festivals.

Now, I don’t know how many other classical music lovers will be reading this article, but the orchestra program was incredible. We played four pieces including Samuel Barber’s *Adagio for Strings*, a heart-wrenching anthem which was played at John F. Kennedy’s funeral, and Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, definitely one of my favorite classical string pieces.

The choir’s repertoire was also fantastic; one of their more unusual pieces consisted entirely of the word “Shh!” Our conductor, Peter Stark, a successful British musician, was amazing, as was the choir director Gary Weidenaar, a former JFKS music teacher. The concert turned out to be a fascinating, rewarding, and adrenaline-filled experience, one that I shall forever treasure.

Perhaps two of the most remarkable things about these festivals are the fun and friendship along the way. Playing an instrument or singing your heart out for three days from dawn till dusk is tiring and difficult. However, it is definitely worth it. Whoever came up with the overused phrase, “Music is the universal language” may have received an eyeroll from many, but sure did have a point. At these Senior Honor Orchestra festivals, I really have come

to realize the power music has on people and the connections it builds. It is through music that I have met some of my closest friends who live in countries all over the world, played some incredible pieces, and explored vibrant, wonderful cities.

Whether you like playing in an orchestra, band, or singing in a choir, I would really recommend auditioning for any of the AMIS ensembles. Next year, the orchestra and band are both going to Singapore, and the choirs are going to Luxembourg. Think about it! (Although, before you think about auditioning, ask yourself if you can stick to a curfew ... I have been punished because of this before – JFKS will show no mercy!)

■ Eleanor Kelly

Handy Hyperlinks

1. THE NICEST PLACE on the Internet (<http://thenicestplaceontheinter.net/>): Everyone feels lonely at times. If you do, visit this website and watch people hug you on your screen until you feel better. If you start spending too much time on this page, consider seeing a therapist.
2. GeoGuessr (<http://geoguessr.com/>): GeoGuessr drops you somewhere in the world, and you have to guess where you are. Using Google Street View, you can explore the place you have landed, and after making a guess on a world map, you find out where you actually are.
3. WhatTheFont (<http://www.myfonts.com/WhatTheFont/>): Submit a screenshot of some letters to find out which font they are written in!
4. Spreeder (<http://www.spreeder.com/>): Most people read at about 200 words per minute. Spreeder lets you practice reading quicker, and thereby silence your inner voice. You can submit a text, choose a speed at which you want to read it, and by setting this speed faster than that of your inner voice, you can improve reading comprehension and read at greater speed.
5. UNICEF Tap Project (uniceftapproject.org): Visit the website on your phone and start the challenge! For every 10 minutes you do not use your phone, 1 Day of Water is donated. To provide even more clean water, you can donate as well. \$1 can provide 40 days of clean water.

■ Kilian Justus

Weird Days of April

APRIL FOOL’S DAY isn’t the only eccentric day of the month. Apparently just about anything can go on a calendar. Here are some of our favorites:

April 7th – No Housework Day

Spring cleaning will have to wait until the next day (or maybe the day after if you take the next calendar date into consideration) because no household chores, including homework, have to be done on the 7th of April. A teenager must have created this day, because it actually encourages procrastination. Unfortunately, since it’s not a national holiday, your teachers have probably never heard of it.

April 8th – Draw a Bird Day

This began in a British hospital in 1943 when a young girl visited her uncle, who was a wounded war veteran. To cheer him up, she asked him to draw a bird for her. The resulting image was crude, but, laughing, she told him she liked it anyways. Other wounded soldiers heard the anecdote and held contests to see who could draw the best bird for her. A few years later, she was tragically killed in a car accident, but the bird drawing competition continued and at her funeral, her coffin was filled with pictures. The tradition kept by the patients, doctors and nurses that worked at the hospital.

April 14th – Look up at the Sky Day

This day is an opportunity to go outside and explore the sky; who knows what you might see: an airplane, funny shaped clouds, birds, meteor or maybe even a kite. You can even explore the night sky, finding stars, seeing the Milky Way or a UFO.

April 29th - April New Moon

This 29th of April the moon reaches its minimum brightness (called new moon). New moon is the lunar phase that occurs, when the Moon lies between Earth and Sun. This new moon, known as dark moon, occurs because the moon’s smaller diameter, in comparison to that of the Sun, blocks most of the Sun’s light, giving the Sun a ring shaped appearance and resulting in the first Solar Eclipse of Saros 148.

April 30th - Walpurgis Night

Walpurgis Night is a traditional spring festival on the 30th of April to the 1st of May, exactly 6 months before All Hallow’s Eve, celebrated in large parts of Central and Northern Europe, with dancing and bonfires. In Germany, Walpurgis-

nacht is the night when witches supposedly gather to celebrate the arrival of spring. In rural parts of southern Germany, it is mostly celebrated by playing pranks or spraypainting private property.

■ Alexandra von Anhalt & Elsa Kienberger

SCULLY Review

RECENTLY, QUITE POSSIBLY the best album ever was released. Well, not necessarily the best, or even a full album, but it sounds fast and keeps me on my current powerviolence phase. SCULLY, formerly known as Tiger x Woods, hails from Santa Cruz, California and takes part in its current powerviolence scene. Powerviolence sounds like extraordinarily fast, dissonant, distorted music. Recently SCULLY released their first extended play called EPND // EP.

A very short EP, it finishes somewhere around the 8-minute mark, leaving enough time for the listener to keep the songs on repeat for two or three plays. The four piece is comprised of a “vocalist”, guitar player, bass guitarist, and drummer keeping the distortion and volume turned up to eleven. Even though the singer, Cody, literally screams into the microphone the entire time, the rest of the band steers clear of traditional “punk” or “hard-core” three power chord riffing. The bass usually keeps a simple chord progression separate to the guitar, while the guitar player creates a dissonant and emotive sound. All the while, the drummer, like the rest of the band, tends to play isolated; either playing incredibly fast or, in most songs, plodding along with a rhythmic chugging.

Although they generally keep a serious attitude within their music, reflecting the struggle of a sedated world literally entertaining itself to death, SCULLY utilizes large amounts of sarcasm and humor. Their jocularity can be seen during the time of their formation, when they called themselves Tiger x Woods. Even the song names and lyrics steer away from the typical earnest nature, with names like *Don’t Let the Turkeys Get You Down*, *Nothing is Left // My Dad Watches Porn*, or my favorite, *Drown the Fixies*, a song about drowning hipsters.

Keeping it short, just like their songs, just give this band a chance. They have their first EP on Bandcamp.com free to download. Maybe you should try some music manufactured by the artist for once?

■ Lafayette Vanderkin-Jus

Literature

FLOWERS BLOOMING, BIRDS singing, sun shining, rain and umbrellas, people smiling. Yep, it's spring. And with spring comes growth, change, a fresh beginning, and – books! It is the perfect time to give something new a chance, for example some of these new young adult novels:

1.) *Great* by Sara Benincasa

This book is based on the eminent classic *The Great Gatsby* (if you are not familiar with this book, then you should stop reading this article and read it! Watching the movie with Leonardo DiCaprio does not count). It takes place in modern times instead of the Roaring Twenties, and the characters are gender swapped. We are excited, and you should be, too.

2.) *The 57 Lives of Alex Wayfare* by M.G. Buehrle

Science fiction, action, humor and a touch of romance... what could one possibly want more? This book introduces us to the life of Alex Wayfare, a time-traveling 17-year-old.

3.) *The Winner's Curse* by Marie Rutkoski

Reasons you should pre-order and read this book:

- A quick-witted, kickass heroine
- Kestrel (the kickass heroine) buys a boy at a slave auction, with whom she just might fall in love...
- Political intrigue
- Star-crossed lovers, the way we like it

4.) *Ignite Me* by Tahereh Mafi

This is the third and final book in the dystopian *Shatter Me* trilogy. We are fortunate to have all three books in the library, so don't hesitate to check them out. Why? Because they have a creative, individual writing style, you won't forget them, and they are refreshing. Juliette, the protagonist, hasn't been touched by anyone in 264 days; her touch is fatal. Also, there will be a love triangle, but not in the first book.

So, happy reading, dear bookworms!



Music

DEAR MUSIC FANATICS,
Lights turn off. Screams echo all around. The bass turns up. Oh, the feeling of a concert to start.

On March 20th 2014, the infamous rock band Bastille decided to pay Berlin another visit after almost a year of dreadful anticipation. Finally, the swooning fans of the British band were rewarded with a concert in the Columbi-ahalle in Berlin!

They started off with the song their album is named after; Bad Blood. Naturally, Bastille finished off with their most prominent songs, such as *Pompeii*, *Flaws*, and *Rhythm of the Night*. Compositions from the old and new albums were performed, and the crowd went wild.

Now, if you feel like you have missed out: don't worry, they'll come back. And until then, you can rejoice in joining the crowds on their way to...the next Imagine Dragons concert maybe? It takes place on the 20th of August 2014!

Wholeheartedly yours,
Mary Poppins & The Wizard of Oz



We Want You!

Are you a writer? Submit an article! Whether you are fed up with a class and writing an anonymous commentary filled with satire, reporting on a matter which frustrates you at our school, listing the reasons your class trip was terrible, or have come up with a conspiracy theory about who truly runs the JFKS, *The Muckraker* exists to publish what you feel you need to say!

We are bound by nothing, there are no set lines which determine what is appropriate in *The Muckraker*, or what is not. Enjoy some freedom of the press! Join us!