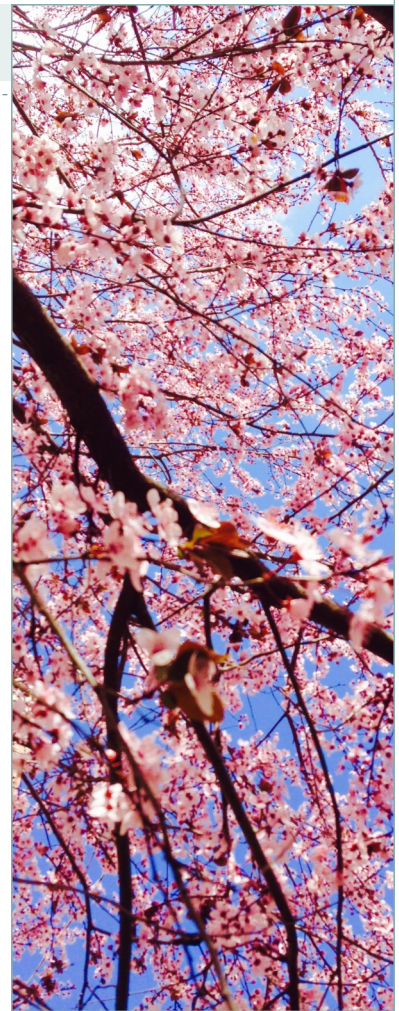


SHOWING SPIRIT FOR THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB

BY ZAHIRA SHAHEEN AND CHLOE KAPLAN

Mrs. Alloway has created a club surrounded and inspired by the art that is Shakespeare. Shakespeare Club is one of the most popular clubs at South Orange Middle School. The club consists of playing games to improve your improvisation skills and to warm up your acting. The members put on skits and dress in costumes from Shakespeare plays such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *Julius Caesar*. The Shakespeare Club performs at school gatherings such as School in Action Night. At this school event the Shakespeare Club ran around the school and performed different skits at random times. Putting on the skits was fun for the performers and the viewers.

When asked why she started the Shakespeare Club, Mrs. Alloway responded with "I thought it would be fun. I thought students would like it, and I thought that was a win-win." She was right. Students love this phenomenal club. Last year Mrs. Alloway devised "Shakespirit Day" where CHS Shakespeare students came to South Orange Middle School to lead middle schoolers in Shakespeare related acting games and activities. Students were asked to dress up as any Shakespeare character of their choice and could take part in a costume contest for each grade. Each activity draws students closer to Shakespeare and his magnificent works of art.



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STUDENTS SPEAK ABOUT SHAKESPEARE

BY CHLOE KAPLAN AND ZAHIRA SHAHEEN



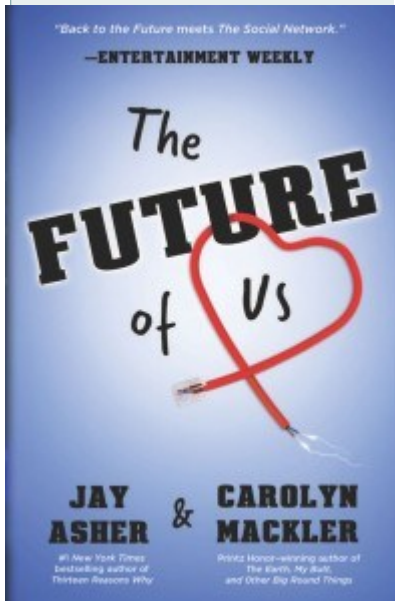
School in action night 2015, Daisy Andrejco (left), Carrie Hill (middle), Zahira Shaheen (right)

SOMS student, Jonah Smith said what compelled him to join Shakespeare club and why did he stick with it. "I wanted to join because a lot of my friends were doing it. They said that it was really fun and I would like it a lot. Also it was good that I knew Ms. Alloway. It turned out that it has very fun so I stayed." Charlie Baker, a 7th grader was asked, "What is your favorite part of Shakespeare club and why?" He responded with "My favorite part of Shakespeare club is the environment that it is supported

and enabled by Ms. Alloway and the people in the club. This environment allows myself and other members of the club to express ourselves through Shakespeare's plays freely without fear of being judged or laughed at." Ty Rances, another SOMS student reflects on how Shakespeare club impacted his time at SOMS, "I know more about Shakespeare than the other students so I get to teach them."

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts, His acts being seven ages." - William Shakespeare

BOOK REVIEW: THE FUTURE OF US BY JAY ASHER By JANE FLEETWOOD



The Future of Us by Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackler is a novel about teenagers in 1996 when the Internet was starting to become popular. When Emma Watson logged onto her computer for the first time, her Facebook account, from when she was an adult, was right in front of her. She soon realized that by logging on she somehow had the power to see her life in the future. Now Emma has to make a choice. Is she going to use what she learns online to try to make her future self happy? Or is she going to let her life play out the way it's supposed to?

Emma couldn't help but read through her future Facebook posts after logging on, and she was shocked by what she saw. She posted personal thoughts like "you know why I need comfort food? JJ hasn't come home for three nights. His trip was only supposed to last one day. I feel hopeless," (31). She was putting things on Facebook that she would usually only share with someone close to her. So that's exactly what she did. She called up her best friend, Josh Templeton, so she could talk to someone about it. They then figured out that Josh, a quiet, average high school boy, had married the prettiest girl in school! He was thrilled, but Emma and Josh decided to keep their futures a secret from everyone else, to try to get back to their regular lives, and to let their lives play out as if they did not know their futures. Josh, at least, sticks to the plan.



SOMS Goes Crazy for High School Musical!

By: Lexi Sachs

More than 150 students participated in South Orange Middle School's school play, "High School Musical," for three incredible performances April 1-3. Students from all three grades were in the play. The mu-

sic was performed by a group of teenagers, who do not go to our school, but who were outstanding. The orchestra was led by our band teacher, Mr. Tighe.

The lead roles were played by: Gabriella was played by 8th grader, Claire Sullivan. Troy was played by 8th grader Jonathan Minor. Sharpay was played by Anna Pettigrew. Ryan was played by 7th grader, Alex Ferrandiz.

The students practiced several times a week for five months, beginning in November. Seventh grader Alex Ferrandiz, who played Ryan, Sharpey's brother and sidekick, gave an outstanding performance. He says that he's going to miss the play practices and all of the excitement leading up to the show. "Every day that I went to rehearsal I was looking forward to spending time with my play family. They were very loving and made me happy," Alex said.

Alex says that being a part of the production was an incredibly meaningful experience for him. He bonded with the other cast members and created special relationships. Alex feels sad that the play is over, and he says it's even more of a let down knowing that all of his 8th grade friends from the play won't be there with him next year. Alex already has decided that he will audition for the play in 8th grade. He said that the 8th grade year by far is the most emotional, meaningful, and special year to be a cast member. It is the kids' last year at SOMS and they do a "ritual," Alex tells me.

"We have a very special tradition that we play called 'Red Rover.' Another one is called 'the circle' is where the full cast sits in a circle and all the 8th graders take turns saying speeches about the show. Everyone cries and I mean EVERYONE, I was balling by the end of it all," Alex said.

Not only did students turn out for the play but hundreds of parents attended as well. Everyone was impressed with the talent and high quality of the production.

"You would never expect such an incredible show by middle schoolers. From the set to the choreography to the acting and the singing," I was blown away, says parent, Wendy Sachs.

Model UN Club's Trip to NYC is Picture Perfect



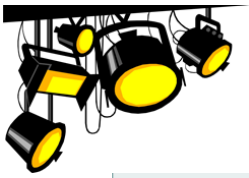
The Model UN Club



Abby Ratner and Hazel Allison Way win *Honorable Mention* for their research on the Czech Republic.



Advisors: Ms. Karis and Mrs. Tsioni



SPOTLIGHT ON SOMS STAFF: MRS. IRBY

What do you like the most about SOMS?

Being back home!
The students have a real thirst for knowledge that is refreshing. They are super bright and incredibly talented. We have strong, highly skilled teachers who are experts in their field of study.

What are your fondest memories of attending SOMS when you were a student here?

I absolutely loved everything about the school!
Favorite memories include being in the plays: *The Boy-friend* and *Leave it to Jane*.

When you were in school, what was your favorite subject and why?

English with Mr. Shertzer
He made the learning come alive, and I loved reading and creative writing.

What subject did you teach when you first started?

English Language Arts
Grades 6-8, but 8th grade was my favorite.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I don't have free time. LOL.

I still teach dance Ballet and Modern on the weekends. I love to read, journal writing, but most of all I love being with my family!

RECIPE FOR SPRING

Pesto

INGREDIENTS

2 cups fresh basil leaves (no stems)

2 tablespoons pine nuts or walnuts

2 large cloves garlic

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

PREPARATION

Combine basil leaves, pine nuts or walnuts and garlic in a food processor and process until very finely minced.

With the machine running slowly dribble in the oil and process until the mixture is smooth.

Add the cheese and process very briefly, just long enough to combine. Store in refrigerator or freezer.



<http://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/2653-basic-pesto>

ADVICE FROM MISS INFORMATION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

I have Spring Fever! I keep forgetting about homework and important dates. Help! What can I do?

-Head in the Clouds

Dear Head in the Clouds,

You sound like you are distracted by the warmer weather. You are not alone. Try setting reminders about important deadlines on your phone. Make a list of the things you need to accomplish each day. Most teachers use Edmodo or Google Classroom to post assignments. Get into the habit of checking these sites at the same time each day.

Sincerely,

Miss Information

BOOK REVIEW: THE FUTURE OF US BY JAY ASHER

Continued . . .

By Jane Fleetwood

One of the best parts in *The Future of Us* was reading about how Josh and Emma's actions in high school, even the small things, really affected their futures. Josh talked in school more with the prettiest girl, after becoming more comfortable given his knowledge of the future, and he ended up getting married and having kids with her. Emma signed up for a harder course in science, and she ended up becoming a marine biologist. Other times, when Emma made a wrong decision, like when her and Josh got in a fight, her future changed for the worse. Josh was removed from her future because Emma said one mean thing to Josh. The book made me think about how my actions now, even in middle school, might affect my future. I think this lesson is a good one for all middle schoolers to think about.

Despite the interesting plot and the lessons present throughout the book, I didn't love everything about *The Future of Us*. I thought it was weird that Emma's and Josh's families' and friends' futures were only mentioned once or twice. If two teenagers had a whole Facebook of the future, they would care about other people's future lives as well.

In conclusion, *The Future of Us* is a great book for middle schoolers. Middle schoolers can learn from the characters mistakes.



Scientific Spring

By: Kirah Tianga

Plants need water, light, warmth and soil to grow. During spring they get all the things that they need. When the days are longer in spring, they get a lot more time getting the things they need. During autumn and winter, after the leaves are gone, there is a little hardened bud. This protects the tissues from the bad weather, and they are setup to grow back during spring, when there is better weather for the leaves.. This year, spring officially began on March 20. This is due to the Vernal Equinox. The Vernal Equinox every year shows when Spring begins. The March Equinox marks when the Sun crosses the Celestial Equator (an imaginary line above the Earth's equator) from south to north.

Spring Photos

by Kirah Tinga



Odd Orange Journal



Code Corner: Caesar Cipher

To decode the message below, figure out what each letter stands for.

wkly lv d vhfuhw phvvdjh.

This issue's staff members:

Lexi Sachs

Jane Fleetwood

Zahira Shaheen

Chloe Kaplan

Kirah Tinga