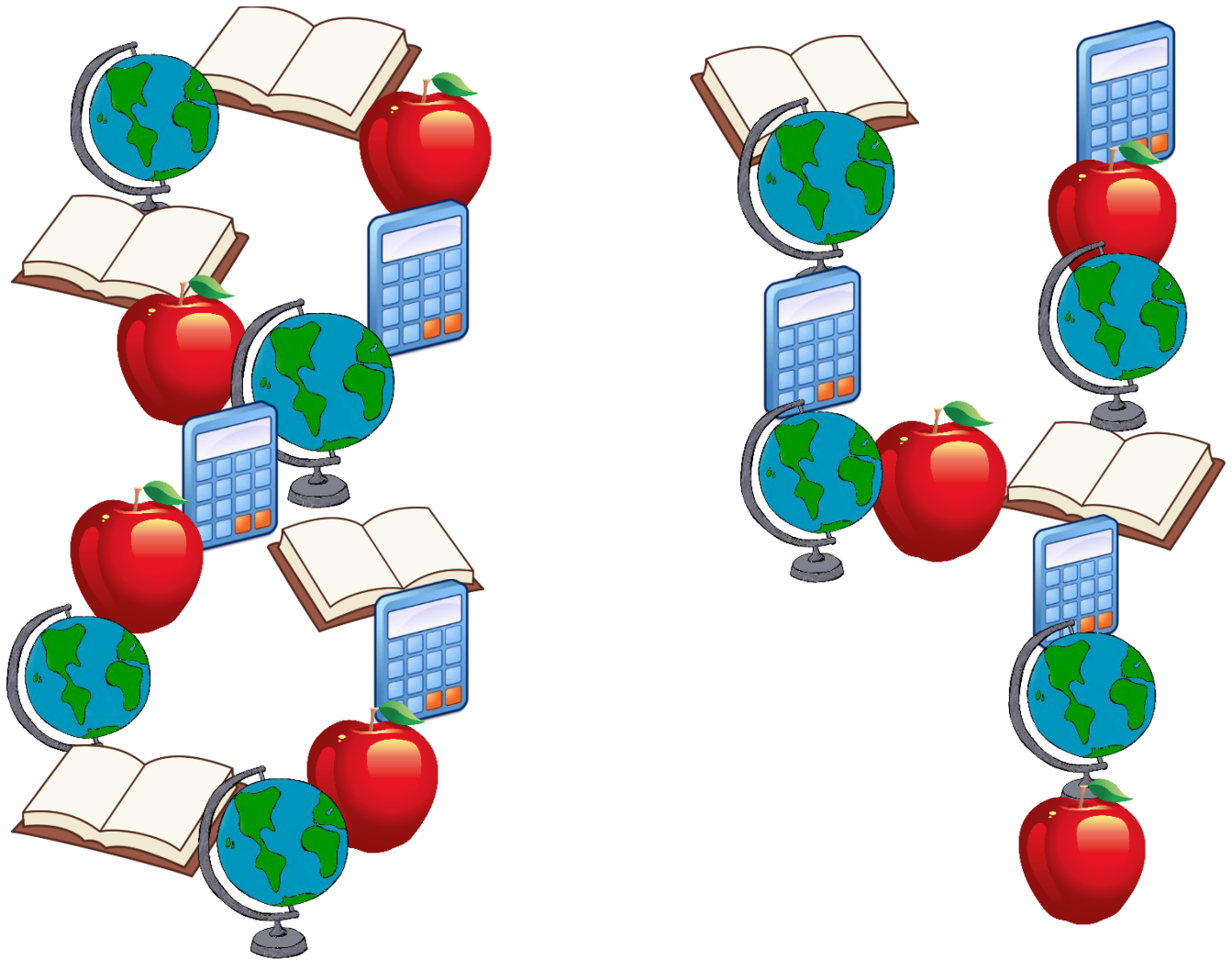


KAMSC's



STEPS

Back-to-School Edition 2014



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Letter from the Editors

Welcome back to KAMSC for the 2014-15 school year! We at “84 Steps” excitedly write this first issue as a warm welcome to all KAMSC students, teachers, parents, and affiliates both old and new! We all will miss the lazy, summer days adventuring, chilling out, and NOT doing homework! But coming back to KAMSC is certainly the best way to go back to school!



In this issue we have collected numerous unique articles ranging from back-to-school advice to surveys to student artwork and our writers range from sophomores to incoming college freshmen! Our new editors include Editor-in-Chief Colby Hanley, a senior from Portage Northern; Assistant Editors Miles Pruitt and Pete Schultz who hail from Kalamazoo Central and Schoolcraft; and Junior Editor Simran Singh from Portage Central! We hope to bring excitement to “84 Steps” this year and to continue our tradition of excellence as we provide fun info and entertainment for KAMSC!

We hope that everyone has an amazing start to their school year! No matter whether you are a first year or a senior, cherish the moments you have at KAMSC because they will soon be gone after four short years. We hope to encapsulate some of these awesome moments in this student newspaper, so please read and enjoy!

Our website has been updated for the 2014-15 school year! Head over to kamsc84steps.weebly.com for anything related to “84 Steps”! Not only would we love for everyone to stop by our website, we also would love more writers! Everyone is welcome on our “84 Steps” team, so please email us at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com. Happy school year from your 2014-15 “84 Steps” team!

Your Editors,

Colby Hanley, Miles Pruitt, and Pete Schultz





Student Senate Update

Written By: Colby Hanley

An exciting year is upon us here at KAMSC! A new year brings new students, classes, experiences, and a new Student Senate! Our new president is Colby Hanley (I am also writing this article!), vice president is Michael Tarn, secretary is Simran Singh, treasurer is Jawad Aqeel, senior representative is Isabell Haney, junior representative is Grace Beverage, and sophomore representative is Gerrit Rummel. Voting for the first-year representative will occur later this year! Now is time for a little preview of a few events happening this fall!

First is the event that we already celebrated: First-Year Orientation at the Kalamazoo Nature Center! There was fun had by first-years, volunteers, and teachers! A little twist was thrown into things when everyone had to take cover because of thunder and lightning, but that only momentarily interrupted the fun. We are so happy to have our new first-years officially part of our KAMSC family and Student Senate welcomes all first-years to become part of our fun organization!

One of the first events for the school year will be a new event to KAMSC: singles ping pong tournament! This tournament will take place during Open Lab during the first three weeks of October and sign-up will begin soon in September, we hope that everyone signs up to show off their ping pong skills! Admission to play will be \$5 at the door when you arrive at the tournament!

Occurring during September is the First-Year Mixer. We are excited that the first-years will get another chance that Wednesday night to meet one another and representatives from Student Senate will be there to advertise Student Senate because we absolutely love first-years joining Senate! Another exciting element of the new school year is a new first-year mentoring program that has been put in place by Student Senate and was created by Kimberly Kwon and me, Colby Hanley! At the mixer, first years were given note cards with their mentor's name on them and they can feel free to contact these mentors however they would like with any questions they might have during this new and exciting year! If you lose your notecard for any reason, Mr. Cardwell will have a spreadsheet with all of the mentor/mentee names on it!

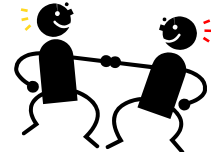
Student Senate is extremely excited for the new KAMSC school year! We have two main goals for this year: we want for as many KAMSC students as possible to be involved in Senate and we want to create a variety of activities and opportunities outside of our two dances for the year! A few events happening later into this year are KAMSC Clash, Gull Meadows trip, KAMSC Ski Trip, Gospel Mission volunteering, and KAMSC Formal!

Remember, ANY KAMSC student can join Student Senate and our meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:00 right after Open Lab! Our first meeting will include Sweetwater's donuts and a special incentive, so please come and join us!





First-Year Survey



Written By: Colby Hanley

This year two members of our "84 Steps" team headed to First-Year Orientation and asked them a few fun questions to get to know our incoming first-year class a little better!

Coke or Pepsi?



Coke: 49 Pepsi: 21

(It looks like our new first-years are huge fans of Coke! Any party-planning at KAMSC had better keep this in mind!)

iPhone or Android?

iPhone: 54 Android: 16

(Our massive amount of iPhone fans are going to be making quite the ruckus at KAMSC when the iPhone 6 comes out very, very soon!)

Favorite type of music?

Pop: 19 Rock: 23 Rap: 6 Country: 3

(Our KAMSC kids apparently like to rock out in their free time! Although it's been proven that classical music is best for studying, apparently our first-years prefer a little more hardcore musical stylings!)



Star Wars or Star Trek?

Star Wars: 49 Star Trek: 21

(It looks as though Mr. Sinclair may have a nice Star Wars following headed in to his Physics class one day, but remember that in your Algebra 2 class, STAR TREK IS KEY.)

Michigan or Michigan State?

Michigan: 33 Michigan State: 30





(Indicative of residents of Michigan, we are split almost exactly down the middle! East Lansing and Ann Arbor are both great cities and apparently we're half and half on the issue!)

Favorite foreign language?

Spanish: 16 French: 18 German: 6 Latin: 15 Java: 11

(KAMSC first-years are apparently lovers of the romance languages! Although Latin squeaked in there closely behind and we even have some Java lovers for Mr. Houtrouw!)



Most highly-anticipated KAMSC subject area?

Math: 17 Science: 29 Computer Science: 20

(The science won this one! Mr. Chopp would be happy to know that his incoming first-years are pumped for his class! We have interest in both math and computer science also, and luckily all of our first years get to experience all of these subjects!)

Initial reaction about getting into KAMSC?

“excited”, “sad”, “happy”, “whoo!”, “darn”, “yay!”, “cool”, “ok”, “idk”

(There were mixed initial reviews about KAMSC and even a few comical ones not included here, although we know that once our first years get a taste of KAMSC they'll love being a part of our great school!)

Most exciting part about starting KAMSC?

“new people”, “biology class”, “Cardwell’s class”, “I don’t have to spend the whole day at my home school!”, “the stairs”, “great education”, “Colleges like KAMSC!”, “cricket”

(Our incoming first years are excited about a variety of different aspects of KAMSC which is great! We here at “84 Steps” agree that there are many exciting aspects of KAMSC!)



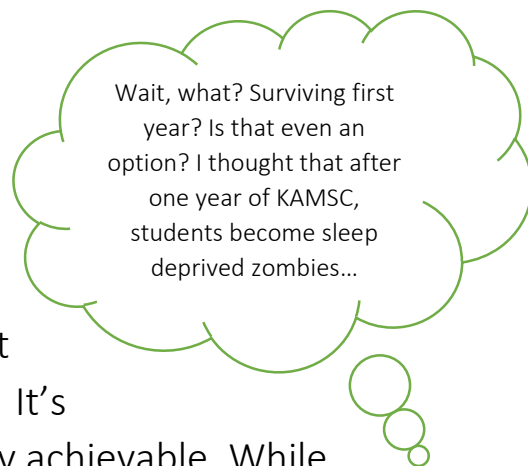


How to Survive Your First Year at KAMSC

By: Aayushi Priya

During your first year at KAMSC, you face a decision. You choose to become a stressed sleepless zombie or you remain a happy healthy human.

With a handful of tips, you can walk out of freshman year as a happy healthy human. It's indubitably not an easy task, but it is certainly achievable. While attaining commendable grades, you can still maintain a social life, partake in activities, and manage an acceptable amount of sleep. To put it simply, I'll break it down by class.



Biology: This course is notoriously known as the most difficult class of first year. It is challenging, but receiving an A is possible!

First off, it is essential to finish your homework and fully comprehend homework content. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask Mr. Chopp in the morning or at Open Lab. In class, make sure that you take useful notes on all lectures and powerpoints. Every other night or so, review your notes and read the section in the textbook that pertains to what you've been learning in class. The key to success for lab practicals and tests is to study, study, study, and keep studying. Make flash cards, study guides, productive study groups, or whatever else you feel necessary for obtaining that 100%. READ THE TEXTBOOK. If it's in one of the textbook chapters you cover, you should know it.

Math: Depending on your prior math experience, you will be placed in Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus, or Calculus. Don't be so immersed in the world of Biology studying that you don't have enough time for





math. You still should be studying about as much. Homework can take longer than expected, thus make sure you have enough time set aside for it each night. Furthermore, doing optional homework and textbook problems can certainly enhance your knowledge of the subject.

IT: This is an enjoyable class in which you'll create some very fun projects. As long as you don't spend too much time socializing in class, you should be fine! Question your classmates or Mr. Cardwell if you need help on a project!

Lastly, do not procrastinate at KAMSC. For the research paper and board, start the day it's assigned and do a little each day.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk to me! Good luck! 😊

How to Survive Your Sophomore Year

By Nikita Bhatia

Congratulations, you made it through your first year at KAMSC and now you are back for round two. You have become used to KAMSC, and your study habits and time management skills have improved. However, that doesn't mean this year will be any easier than last. So, as a KAMSC student who has been through her sophomore year, I am here to give you some tips on how to survive your second year!

Let's start with Chemistry! In this class, you are expected to learn at an accelerated pace now that it is your second year at KAMSC. I know it may be tempting, but do NOT cram! It will do you no good. Instead, keep up with your homework, look over tests and quizzes, and maybe even read over a chapter or two from your chemistry book. Even studying at night for twenty minutes can help you greatly. There is a lot





of material you will need to memorize in Chemistry, so don't put off studying until the last minute. Similar to last year, you will have to complete a research project; however this time you will be researching in groups of four. For this year's project, you will be designing and conducting an experiment, so make sure to ask Dr. Goudie if you have any questions. Once again, start researching and designing your experiment early, so you won't have to rush to complete your project the night before Project Day. Chemistry is an overall challenging course, but with the help of these tips, you are guaranteed for success. In Mr. Cardwell's class, you learned about computer applications. Now, in Mr. Houtrouw's CS class, you will dive into the world of programming, and learn about coding languages, like C++ and HTML. Unlike what some of you have imagined, CS isn't all about programming. In this course, you will also learn about different computer math topics. For the majority of you, computer science is a subject you haven't much exposure too, but don't worry! If you don't understand a topic, ask Mr. Houtrouw; he has lots of energy to spare and is always willing to help out his students! Also, you can complete practice computer math and coding problems online in order to better improve your skills. If you do find yourself taking a liking to this course, make sure you try to complete USACO problems and attend a few CS competitions! They will help you along the path to become a better programmer.

As a student who was in a higher level math class, I don't know much about taking Algebra 2 with Mr. Milka. However, I do know that my tips can help you out, no matter what math class you are in. Just like in all your other classes, make sure you are completing your homework and revising a little bit each night! Additionally, study your notes and homework at home in order to prepare for a test or quiz. For any of the





different math classes, success is yours as long as you stay dedicated to fully understanding each of the topics covered.

Surviving sophomore year shouldn't be too difficult, especially since you have already made it through one year at KAMSC. Still, make sure you put in the time and effort that you need in order to succeed. If you found your study habits from last year beneficial, keep using them. Remember that sophomore year is going to require a lot of dedication and hard work.

How to Survive Your Junior Year

Written By: Pete Schultz

Up until this point, I'm sure all you've heard from your teachers, friends, and family regarding junior year is it being your hardest year of high school yet. Between the ACT and Honors, AP, and IB classes, there are times where stress is at an all-time high. Even though this year will be burdensome at times, it's all what you make of it. Opportunities will sprout everywhere and the year is only as tough as you make it.

As you very well know by now, juniors are free to pick their own electives. Regardless of your elective, it is vital to keep on top of your work and don't let yourself fall behind. Ask questions when you have questions, make use of open lab, the teachers are more than happy to help you get back on track with your work.

Most of the junior class will have Math III with Mr. Cardwell. "And why?" will be the most heard phrase in Math III, and this question really helps solidify the concepts. Mr. C is super helpful with making real life applications to problems and really getting you to understand why all the math works the way it does. This class will also give you useful college prep information and help prepare you for the math section of the ACT, which is vital to success. And on a closing note, make sure you





always complete your homework because Mr. C will randomly check for accuracy and those points add up.

This year, every junior will be in physics with Mr. Sinclair, who is notoriously the most intimidating, yet lovable teacher you will ever have. The subject is no light task, but the invigorating lectures make you leave craving for the next class. Without a doubt, the class will be tough at the beginning, but it will become easier for you. The key is to spend time every night on some practice problems, even though they may not be assigned. And this part is vital, if you are not understanding the material **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO SEEK HELP!** Mr. Sinclair will be extremely happy to see you after class or at open lab.

Junior year will have you at the verge of breaking, and feeling as good as you ever have before. It's going to be easy and hard at all the same time. The most important thing to do is stay on top of your work, but not to overstress yourself. Keep, and even add, your extracurriculars and pick classes and activities that make you happy as they help reduce stress. Even though there are certainly pressures this year, junior year has been one of my favorite years in high school. Good luck this year and give it your all!

How to Survive Your Senior Year

Written By: Genevieve Sertic

It's finally senior year. You've taken so many tests, conquered so many lab practicals, and spent so many long hours into the night on homework that your classes this year will be nothing you can't handle. At the same time, though, you've got to make those last three years count. Put in your best effort and if you get down, know that you're almost finished.

Senior year has a few added challenges on top of your classes. The first of these is writing college applications. This can be a stressful time as





you and your friends try to meet deadlines. Be supportive and encourage each other to write your essays. Before you even start writing, though, ask the teachers from whom you'd like recommendations. The earlier, the better. Every teacher is very busy, especially at the beginning of the year, and needs a good amount of time to write a solid recommendation. Right after you've asked for recommendations, start your own essays. Especially for your main essay (if you're using the Common App), focus on a passion and explore it, maybe through a story if your prompt allows it. The topic doesn't have to be anything academically impressive (but it can be if that's part of your passion), and it doesn't have to relate to the field you'd like to explore in college. It's a good idea to have a few people read your essay over, but make sure you maintain your voice and your message. Your essay shouldn't become a list of the achievements on your resume; instead, it should show who you are. Prioritize displaying what you can contribute to the college's student body.

The other additional challenge of senior year is writing scholarship applications. Most have deadlines after College Application Season, but some as early as the end of September! If your school has a database of scholarships, that's a useful place to start looking for scholarship opportunities. If not, talk to your counselor or search online. Some scholarship applications are quite time-consuming – only apply if you know you have the time to complete a quality application. These also often require recommendations. Again, try to ask as soon as you can.

For any recommendations – college or scholarships – always thank your recommenders and let them know the outcome, no matter what it is.

As you wait for college decisions, you'll have your extracurriculars to keep you busy. During your final year in your extracurriculars, set a good example for younger members and try to have as much of a positive effect as you can on the group before you leave. Make the transition as easy as possible for anyone taking over your responsibilities in the group, maybe by documenting how your responsibilities worked and providing tips for the future.





Possibly the most stressful part of senior year is when colleges start sending admissions decisions. Respect each other's privacy and be kind and compassionate. Being modest about good news and graceful about bad news goes a long way in being a good friend. If you're having trouble deciding between colleges, use your spring break to make another visit if you can. Ultimately, you'll make the decision that's right for you.

At the end of the year, it's not easy to say goodbye to the friends you've made while blueprinting a machine to pick an apple or searching for the vagus nerve in a fetal pig, but that sadness will be mixed with excitement when you start a new chapter in your life and have the freedom to more rigorously pursue your passion in college.

Keep climbing those 84 steps. You're almost there.

A Chat with Mr. Cardwell



Written By: Colby Hanley

3D printing. Little programmable robots. Excel spreadsheets. All of these activities can be found in Mr. Cardwell's 9th grade IT class! Sinusoids. Wave frequency labs. An intro into the mysterious world of Calculus. All of these can be found in Mr. Cardwell's 11th grade Precalculus class! Mr. Cardwell is an enthusiastic, awesome teacher here at KAMSC and you'll find a few interesting tidbits of information about him so that we can all know our teacher better!

Q: *What is your favorite part of back-to-school at KAMSC?*

A: The kids! I really like to get back and meet the new first years and reconnect with the upperclassmen!

Q: *What is your favorite childhood memory of going back to school?*

A: Sports and friends! We didn't have intense sports schedules like kids do now so there was huge excitement for the first games and practices of the year once school started!

Q: *Any advice for incoming first years for this new school year?*

A: Believe all of the advice that the other students and teachers give you in the first month.





Q: *Any advice for incoming seniors (like myself) for this new school year?*

A: Do your apps EARLY. Get your letters EARLY. Try to put senioritis off until AP tests! (I know people who began senioritis during junior year, I do not recommend this.)

Q: *Any plans for your 9th grade IT class for this year that you would be willing to share?*

A: 3D printers! Two of them! We'll be exploring 3D designs this year and otherwise it'll be the usual.

Q: *Any advice for your incoming junior class Pre-Calc students?*

A: Do your homework, ask a lot of questions, and get help early!

Q: *What is your favorite part of teaching here at KAMSC or in general?*

A: Working with the students! It's why I'm here, I don't come here to grade papers, I come to work with awesome KAMSC kids!

Q: *What did you do before you came to teach at KAMSC a few years ago?*

A: I started as an R&D guy at Bell Labs. Then I moved to business side and eventually became a business executive for Telecom for 18 years in Chicago, Korea, Hong Kong, and New Jersey. Then I was a financial analyst in New York and London for 10 years and then I moved here to teach!

Q: *What was your favorite class back in school?*

A: I took my first ever computer class as a senior in high school, the first ever computer class in my school! Really fun, we all learned together!

Q: *What was your favorite activity outside of school?*

A: I always played three sports no matter what and did boy scouts! I DEFINITELY loved sports and backpacking during high school.

Q: *Where did you go to high school?*

A: Went to school in New Jersey along the coast.

Q: *Pop culture back when you were in high school?*

A:

- Bruce Springsteen was brand new
- Billy Joel
- Michael Jackson
- Prince
- STAR WARS was definitely the biggest thing! Summer after my junior year I was standing in line to see it and the line wound all around the building!

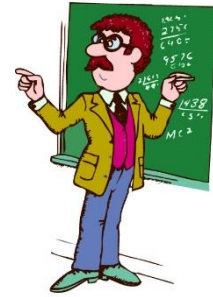




- original Jaws
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind (alien movie)
- Clint Eastwood was HUGE
- SNL original cast

Thank you Mr. Cardwell for chatting with “84 Steps”!

Fun Teacher Facts



Written By: Jawad Aqeel

What is your favorite book?

Mr. Cardwell: Too many from which to choose. Here are a few: The Poisonwood Bible, LOTR, Africa: Biography of a Continent, Chaos, Paper Towns, Einstein: His Life and Universe, Journey Through Genius

Mr. Sinclair: Beowulf (trans. by Seamus Heaney).

Mrs. Kalnins: I really don't have a favorite book. I enjoy many books from a variety of genres.

Mr. Houtrouw: The Bible.

What is your favorite food?

Mr. Cardwell: A vast variety of Asian food from the Northeast, Southeast, and the Indian subcontinent.

Mr. Sinclair: Bacon cheeseburger and fries.

Mrs. Kalnins: I enjoy Indian and Thai food.

Mr. Houtrouw: Cheese.





What do you like to do in your free-time?

Mr. Cardwell: Anything but grading.

Mr. Sinclair: Read. Write. Watch baseball.

Mrs. Kalnins: I enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, hiking and skiing.

Mr. Houtrouw: Going to the movies.

Do you have any little-known talents?

Mr. Cardwell: Not grading.

Mr. Sinclair: I am an excellent marksman and enjoy shooting rifles and pistols.

Mrs. Kalnins: I am a very good polka dancer and I make amazing birthday cakes.

Mr. Houtrouw: Tetherball.

What is your dream vacation destination?

Mr. Cardwell: The Space Station.

Mr. Sinclair: Scotland...closely followed by Ireland.

Mrs. Kalnins: I would like to travel to the Antarctic.

Mr. Houtrouw: Hawaii.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Mr. Cardwell: Originally physics, then I discovered computer science.

Mr. Sinclair: Math. Absolutely positively.





Mrs. Kalnins: I enjoyed all of my math and science classes.

Mr. Houtrouw: Math.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Mr. Cardwell: A baseball player. Then, an architect.

Mr. Sinclair: An astronaut.

Mrs. Kalnins: I wanted to be an airplane pilot.

Mr. Houtrouw: Older.

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Mr. Cardwell: Alan Turing.

Mr. Sinclair: Kate Beckinsale. Oh...yeah!

Mrs. Kalnins: If it was possible, I would like to meet Eleanor Roosevelt.

Mr. Houtrouw: John Wooden.

If someone were to make a movie about your life, who would play you?

Mr. Cardwell: Seth Meyers would be fun. Maybe Tina Fey, that would be interesting.

Mr. Sinclair: Johnny Depp.

Mrs. Kalnins: Jodie Foster or Renee Zellweger.

Mr. Houtrouw: Nicholas Cage.





What would you name the autobiography of your life?

Mr. Cardwell: *Cardwell Was Here*

Mr. Sinclair: *Teaching Nuclear Weapons: My Love Affair with the Bomb and High School Physics.*

Mrs. Kalnins: *I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo!*

Mr. Houtrouw: *Shannon*





Technology News

Written By: Aayushi Priya

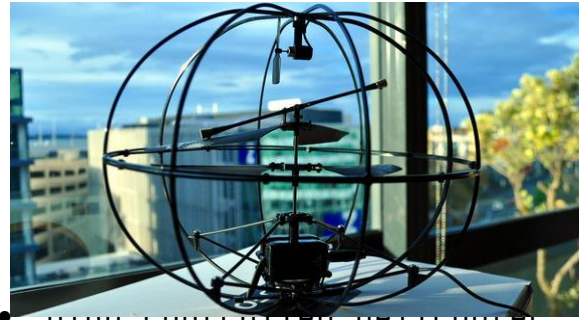
New, fascinating innovations!

Chairless Chair



- An exoskeleton attached to legs
- With a click of a button, you can sit anywhere
- Designed mainly for production line workers

Puzzlebox Orbit



- Mind controlled helicopter
- Reads concentration levels of brain with EEG sensors
- Open source for tweaking

Smartphone or Smartwatch?



Though a flexible phone is not possible yet, Google has created a futuristic visualization of what it might look like. It would include a rotating tube camera, fingerprint scanner, heart rate monitor, WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC, and more.





Cricket Update

Written By: Nikita Bhatia

Calling all Cricketers:



No high school is complete without their fair share of sports: basketball, football, volleyball, tennis, soccer, etc. KAMSC is no different; however, here at KAMSC we do things a little differently. At KAMSC, we play cricket, and we are the only school in Michigan to do so.

Even if you don't know how to play, you are still welcome to join the cricket teams! Joining the KAMSC Cricket Team is a great way to participate in a sport alongside your fellow KAMSC peers, stay fit, and have fun. The season consists of various practices that are either held in a park or during open lab. Although captains will make an effort to schedule practices that work with everyone's schedules, it is understandable that you will miss a few practices due to prior commitments. For the first few practices, captains will strive to teach newcomers about cricket and the rules involved. By the end of the season, the teams will be ready to face one another at the State Championship Match.

If you are interested in playing cricket, ask your friends to sign up with you! The more people playing cricket, the more fun practices will be. If you have any questions about joining the team, send an email to kamsccricket@gmail.com. There will also be an informational meeting held on October 15th at 7:00 during open lab. See you at practice!





KAMSC Sports Corner



Written By: Jawad Aqeel

With fall coming, and the school year starting, another very important season is beginning: Football season. Football is the largest grossing sport in the United States and many of its fans avidly watch the sport every Sunday to cheer on their favorite teams in the hopes that they will eventually make it to the Super Bowl. The journey to the Super Bowl does not start at the beginning of the season; instead, it starts in high school, then continues on with college, and then finally these players start their journey in the NFL.

High School Football:

High School Football Season has finally started! These games are a great way to meet new people and hang out with friends that go to your homeschool or even KAMSC! These games happen every Friday until the middle of October. It could last even longer if the football team makes it through the playoffs to a State-Championship. Make sure that during high school you watch at least one football game because the experience will be worth your time even if you don't know anything about football! Rivalry games can be some of the best to attend like Kalamazoo Central v. Loy Norrix, Portage Northern v. Portage Central, or Schoolcraft v. Constantine!

College Football:

College Football season has also started; however, a hoax is what caught headlines just before the season started. Josh Shaw, a player from the University of Southern California, sprained both of his ankles the weekend before the season started. Instead of telling his coaches that he fell and sprained his ankles, Shaw ended up lying and creating a story stating that he was at a family reunion party over the weekend and that he jumped off a second story balcony to save his nephew that didn't know how to swim. He said that the jump sprained both of his ankles, but that it was worth it because he saved someone's life. This is all fine and dandy; however, it was all a lie. After two days of basking in the glory of this "feat" an investigation began on the validity of this story. Shaw wanted to avoid the larger embarrassment of having people find out it was fake from the investigation so he





came out and stated that it was all a lie, and that he just fell. Shaw, who was a candidate for a team captain spot, was suspended indefinitely. The moral of the story: Don't lie in any situation because it will come back and bite you.

NFL

How would it feel to be apart of a championship football team? The closest a fan can get to this experience is winning a fantasy football league. Fantasy football is a new pass-time sweeping the nation. In fantasy football, there is a league of anywhere between 8-16 people. The people in the league draft their teams from a list of players in the NFL and must have a certain number of players playing every position. Then, these teams that are created from the draft end up going head to head and playing each other. Now you may be wondering, "How do they keep score?" Well, they use stats in order to do this. Points are accumulated through yards gained (or lost), touchdowns scored, etc. Based on the number of wins a certain amount of teams end up making the playoffs. This is similar to the NFL's system where teams vie for a championship. In the end, one team is left standing and they become champions of their league with a year's worth of bragging rights over their friends. Fantasy has become a great way for people to become more interested in football.

Earthlings Update

Written By: Simran Singh

Do you care about the environment? Do you want to help keep KAMSC green? If so, consider joining Earthlings! Earthlings is KAMSC's environmental club which meets on a weekly basis at open lab.

The largest focus of Earthlings is recycling. You may have noticed the recycling bins in the classrooms; Earthlings collects and sorts the recycling every month.

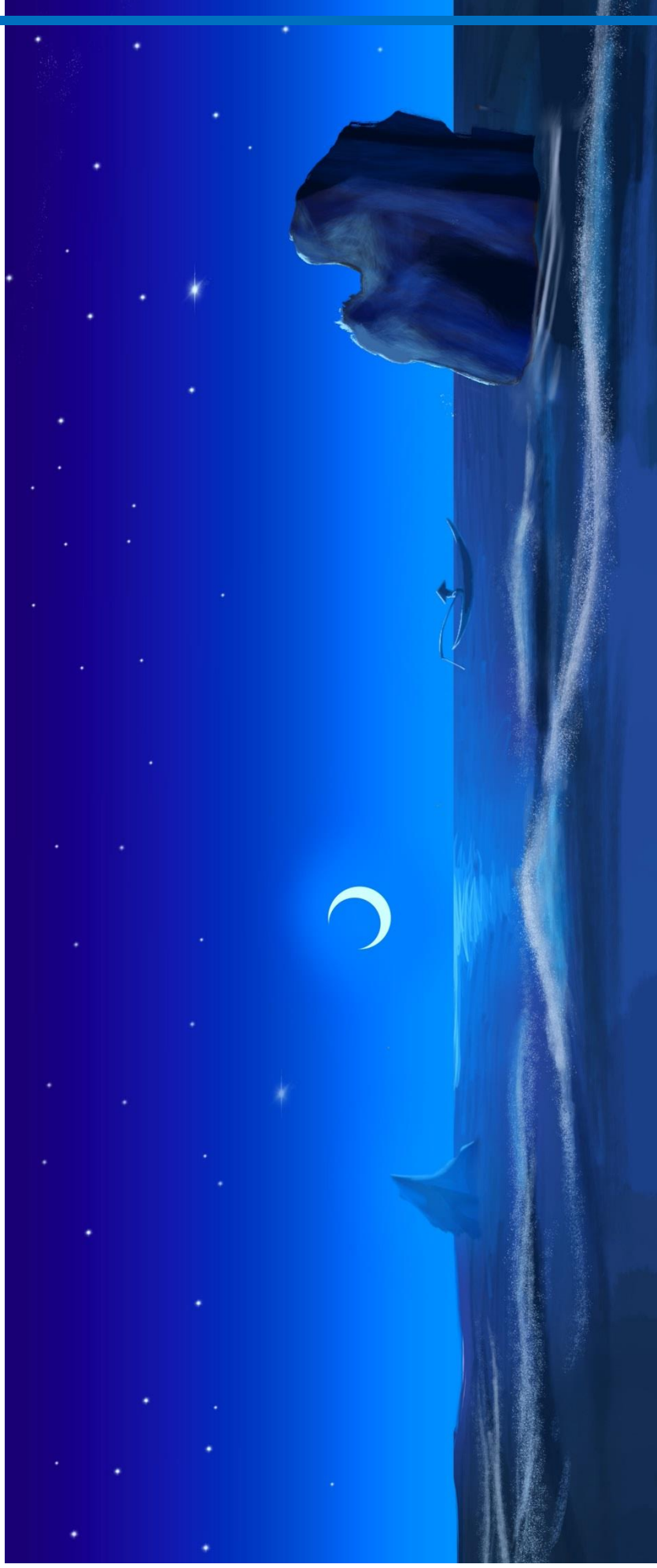




This year, Earthlings plans to hold special activities for Earth Day and also participate in Portage's Greenathon.

Earthlings welcomes new members! Meeting times are to be determined, but will be during open labs in Ms. Hach's room, room 418. These meetings will last approximately 30 minutes. Keep an eye out for signs for the first Earthlings meeting! For more information, email kamscearthlings@yahoo.com. Sam Camfield and I, co-presidents, would love to answer any questions you may have!





Student Art by
Ziyan Mo





Music Reviews



Written By: Lily Krone

Despite brand new folders and freshly sharpened pencils, September can be a tough time for students not yet over the glow of summer. What follows is a list of tracks and albums to get back into the swing of school, sports, and waking up to an alarm every morning!

Beyoncé ft. Nicki Minaj - *Flawless (Remix)**

It is not an overstatement to say that this track is perhaps the greatest piece of music to grace the world's ears this year. I, along with many others, have been hoping against hope for a Queen Bey/Nicki co-op. This exceeds all expectations!

Andrew Jackson Jihad - Christmas Island

Having recently seen AJJ in concert recently, it would be remiss not to include them in this list. Christmas Island, their latest album, is a bit of a departure from their earlier works whilst remaining firmly in the folk-punk genre. While it does feature some of the duo's characteristic sloppy, fast riffs and angry lyrics (e.g., Temple Grandin), it also includes more melancholy tunes and is riddled with references to the movie *Bad Lieutenant: Port Of Call New Orleans*, starring Nicholas Cage. What more could a person want?

Death Grips' Entire Discography

Death Grips formed in 2010 as an experimental hip hop group based in Sacramento, California. Few were sadder than I to learn of their breakup earlier this year, although their reasoning behind it is noble. Death Grips is not for the faint of heart. They are a self-described "conceptual art





exhibition”, which can sometimes make their music difficult to listen to, although undoubtedly worth it.

Furthermore, your friends and family may soon grow tired of you angrily shouting the lyrics to “You May Think He Loves You For Your Money But I Know What He Really Loves You For It’s Your Brand New Leopardskin Pillbox Hat.”

Joni Mitchell - Coyote

I cannot begin to thank Joni Mitchell enough for simply existing. Her gentle voice and soft acoustic riffs are the perfect thing to fall asleep to after an exhausting day back at school and will make your insides feel like it’s summer again, no matter how cold the weather may get.

“Coyote” was the first Joni Mitchell tune I ever heard, and remains my favorite. Give it a listen.

P.S. I recently picked up a sweet gospel record from 1952 by a local group known as the Michigan Nightingales. I highly recommend a listen if you happen to come across another copy like this.

Film Reviews

Written By: Miles Pruitt

“TMNT”

Some good action sequences, but overall a generic plot with cliché written all over it. (2/5)

“Into the Storm”

A rip off of “Twister” (1996). A visual spectacle with generosity. (3/5)





“Hundred Foot Journey”

Slightly tasty, but with a little more salt, the taste could be better. (3/5)

“Step Up: All In”

Hooooooooorible! (0/5)

“Guardians of the Galaxy”

Spectacle worth waiting for: 5 thumbs up! (5/5)

“Deliver Us From Evil”

The idea of a film following a police officer and a rogue priest expelling the forces of hell from the streets of New York is a great premise. But *Deliver Us From Evil* takes the safest, most generic path possible. Perhaps this is to blame on the source material, the real Ralph Sarchie’s book “Beware The Night.” If that’s true, then the filmmakers should have had the wherewithal to make the necessary creative adjustments. (3/5)

“Lucy”

Tasty and very entertaining. (4/5)

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”

It is greeeeeat!

5/5

“Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit”

Compelling, edge of your seat ride. (4/5)

“The Purge: Anarchy”

Crazy, chilling, cliché. (3.5/5)

“Planes: Fire And Rescue”

Okay movie. No real action or intrigue. (2/5)

“Jack Reacher”

Compelling. (4/5)

“Transformers 4: Age of Extinction”





Long and boring. A couple good action sequences but it was too long! (3.5/5)

“22 Jump Street”

Mildly funny but too cliché. (3/5)

“A Million Ways to Die in the West”

Because of how much I enjoyed *Ted*, high expectations had me laughing quite a lot in the first act of *A Million Ways To Die In The West*, but it’s surprising how quickly the worst elements of the film began to stack up. Seth MacFarlane has shown us that he is much funnier than what’s on display in his second directorial effort, and it’s a significant misstep. (2.5/5)

“Godzilla”

Godzilla is everything you want out of a summer movie. It's got a world and story so big that it demands to be seen on the biggest screen. It is anchored by performers who treat the narrative with incredible respect. It has some of the best visual effects this year, and is electrifyingly thrilling. All in all, *Godzilla* is the best disaster movie since *Independence Day*. (5/5)

“Boyhood”

This is one of the best films I’ve seen so far this year. The year’s only half over, and I fully expect several incredible films to come along and try and beat it. But at the moment, this is the most ingenious, most experimental, most unpredictable, most demanding, most rewarding and most enjoyable movie I’ve screened. (5/5)

Film Review Special Edition: Robin Williams

Written By: Emma Scheller

Robin Williams is now, more than ever, a household name. William’s work was always recognizable, he became *his* characters. Many believed that when he was playing more of a serious character he would grow out his beard. This was later debunked, when he stated in an interview (that I read via Time Magazine which published a





magnificent article shortly after his death) declaring he only did what he felt embodied the role he was taking on. When *Night at the Museum* came out in 2006 I was in the second grade; my mother took my sister and I to see it and I fell in love with his character. I wondered if the real Theodore Roosevelt was as wonderful of a person as Robin Williams made him out to be.

His filmography is vast, totaling at about forty-four movies. From stories dealing with powerful messages like “Dead Poet’s Society”, and “Good Will Hunting”, to stories that were light hearted along the lines of “Night at the Museum”, and “Flubber”.

Ironically, a week or two before William’s passing I had been visiting my family in a different state. My older cousin, my aunt, and my family were watching “Aladdin”, and discussing different Robin William’s movies. My cousin nearly went home to get her copy of “Mrs. Doubtfire” when she found out my sister and I had never seen it.

Before I wrote this article I watched the movie for the first time, in many ways feel William’s in a way plays himself, or at least the film readily takes advantage of his talent to mimic many different voices. It deals with the issue that is pertinent to many, divorce, Williams’ character struggles to win at least partial custody of his children. In the past he had been a stay at home dad; working part time as an actor. Struggling to find steady work and a good home environment he finds himself stacking film rolls part time and living with his make-up artist brother. Meanwhile he can only see his children on Saturdays in his less than adequate home environment. In an attempt to spend more time with his children with assistance from his brother he becomes Mrs. Doubtfire, filling his wife’s ad for a housekeeper. I laughed slightly more than I cried while watching this. In my opinion after watching it I think it





is a classic much like his other family-friendly films that touched many like “Hook” and “Jumanji”.

During his career, Williams won one Academy Award for best Supporting Actor in “Good Will Hunting”. The film was nominated for a total nine academy awards, winning two as well as receiving critical acclaim. William’s played the part of a psychologist who helps a brilliant but troubled young man while dealing with his past demons. “Dead Poet’s Society” is another movie in which Robin Williams serves a mentor, this time as a teacher at a boarding school. He challenges his students to find themselves, leaving an imprint on his students much like the one his real life persona has left behind.

My favorite performance from him by far was the Genie from “Aladdin”; without him I feel the movie would not be the memorable classic it is today. Across from their recording studio was the set from “Schindler’s List” and after William’s wrapped up every day he would go visit the set to make those who were acting about such a heavy subject laugh. Robin Williams was our favorite uncle that none of us ever met, and I’m thankful for the dedication he put towards making others smile.

Horrorscopes: Secret Talent Edition

Written By: Emma Scheller

Aries (March 21-April 19): A creative genius lies inside of you my friend. The prose you are capable of creating makes you capable of bringing forth emotion that one would think words could never suffice. When you see a sunset, you see a *sunset*. Maybe even try wooing someone





with poetry that is even more decadent than Gatsby's mansion, what do you say old sport?

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Even though you get lost in Ikea almost every time you enter the store and the employees most likely just wandered into the store and decided to 'pretend' to work there; you are awesome at putting Ikea furniture together. You exhibit potential as an engineer, or as an employee that actually might appear to work there and did not, in fact, wander in by accident!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Cooking is something you admit to being no pro. But put noodles into the equation and you could be a five star chef. Whether you take on a box of Rice-a-Roni, Kraft mac and cheese, or ramen noodles it will turn out fantastic with you behind the stove.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Not only are you an amazing cake decorator, you make an amazing buttercream. Your artistic talent expands to lettering, I mean, have you seen your bubble letters? They put photoshop fonts to shame!

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Computer apps are easy as pie to you. No matter what photoshop platform you use you create awesome gifs of kittens getting stuck in vases and Jennifer Lawrence professing her love of pizza.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Although you may never admit it, you know all the words to the rap from Iggy Azalea's begrudgingly catchy song "Fancy" and Nicky Minaji's "Starships". This is because you have a talent many aspiring artists envy; to memorize song lyrics in a flash. The next time your friend sings a song that they just cannot get out of their head, only to get it stuck in your head. Sing it again and again to them, they will revel in your talent and of course not get annoyed at all! Because you'll get it right and prove it is not 'I've been abducted by the man in the mirror' thank you very much.





Libra(September 23 - October 22): When you were younger you were the kid that didn't so much 'play' soccer as you did sit in the field and look for you four-leaf clovers. What made you different is that you actually found them. No wonder you were the most popular kid in the class you had luck on your side (almost as if it was written in the stars)!

Scorpio(October 23 - November 21): You do well with drawing, if you choose to make a stick figure (because we all know you are capable of so much more) it is *the best* stick figure you will ever see. For more advanced artists you can easily draw faces and even enjoying drawing as a pastime. More often than not you're chosen as the director for projects since you are an *awesome* leader. You excel with doing makeup (eyeliner is your strong suit), plus your eyebrow game is always strong and that is not an easy task.

Sagittarius(November 22 - December 2): Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and you see the beauty in everything. Your Instagram account not only has a lot of followers (not to brag or anything but you take awesome selfies) but your images are awesome. Dare you say it but you have real talent even if it never comes to fruition. You may love America's Next Top Model like it's a religion but there is absolutely nothing wrong with that!

Capricorn(December 22 - January 19): If you were an animal you would be a wildcat, because you are nimble on your feet. When you see a tree a fire burns inside to climb it and stand at the top and scream to the heavens professing your talent. So what if you have problems getting down? What's the difference between getting a child down from a tree versus a cat, really?

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Presenting is easy for you, giving speeches always goes well, no matter how much you panic. Especially when you can find visuals and statistics that prove your point. Also you,





losing a debate? Pssshhh, that'd never happen! You are a boss, defeat is not in the dictionary you use to emphasize your argument.

Pisces(February 19 - March 20): When people challenge you to Mario Cart they have no idea what is in store. I mean there's a reason you pick rainbow road when they hand you the remote. You're no amateur and you'll show your opponent quickly.

10 Things We Will Not Miss About Summer

Written By: Chang Yang

- Inability to remember what day it is.
- The dreaded sock tan line.
- Hot, humid days that make you feel like you live inside an armpit.
- When you hear the neighbors setting off fireworks in August.
- That one day you don't put on sunscreen and get roasted alive.
- The food baby you know you're steadily nurturing.
- Coming down with a bad case of Christmas Syndrome.
- Back-to-school commercials (why do they remind you about school when you've still got a month left to go?)





- The spiders that think it's okay to show up in your house. And in your shower.
- The fact that even after all this, summer's still too short.

Happenings in Kzoo!

Written By: Simran Singh

- August 21-September 21, Speed Bump Exhibit, Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- September 5, Movie in the Park (The Hunger Games), Arcadia Creek Festival Place
- September 6, Sayonara Summer 5K Run, Mayors Riverfront Park
- September 6, Haunted History of Kalamazoo Tour, Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo
- September 13, Night of Destruction, Kalamazoo Speedway
- September 13, Peacock Strut at Celery Flats, in Portage
- September 20, Light the Night Walk (A Walk for Leukemia and Lymphoma), Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo
- September 27- Ultra .1K Run, Downtown Kalamazoo



- September 27 & October 4, Kalamazoo Astronomical Society Public Observing Session, Kalamazoo Nature Center
- October 3 & 4, Jekyll & Hyde Musical, Miller Auditorium
- October 11, Art Hop, Downtown Kalamazoo





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Thank you to Mr. Sinclair (faculty advisor) and Dr. Tanoff (director)!

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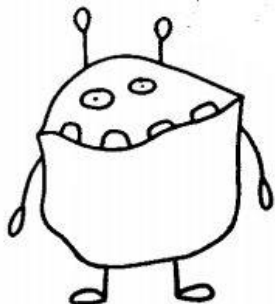
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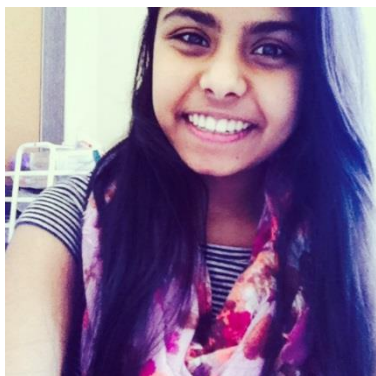
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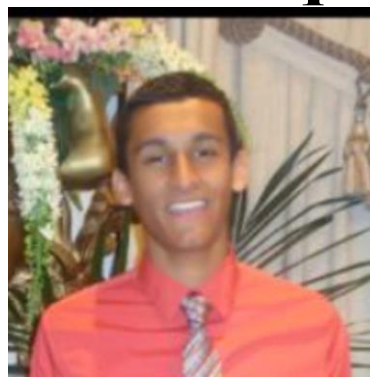
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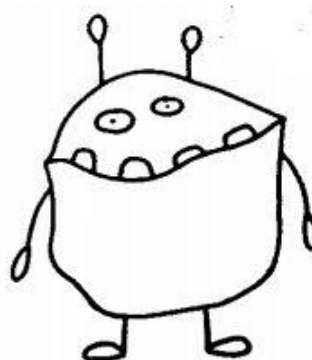
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