

KAMSC'S



Senior Edition 2014

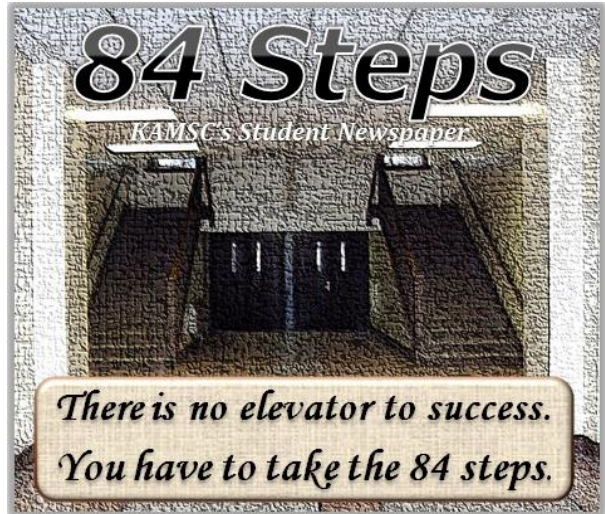
Cover by Genevieve S...

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# Letter from the Editors

As we all celebrate the end to another year of challenges, learning, and opportunities at KAMSC, it's time for members of the Class of 2014 to bid farewell to those daily 84 steps. Graduation is bittersweet – we will miss our friends, teachers, and the familiarity of these past four years, but we look forward to what awaits. To help ease that transition, we hope you will enjoy this Senior Edition of *84 Steps* with some special articles geared to our graduating class in addition to other articles you've come to expect over this past year.



Speaking of this past year, we owe tremendous thanks to the writers who contributed to six editions (including this one). KAMSC students are notoriously short on time with homework and all their other commitments, and we sincerely appreciate the effort and care put into the articles contributed by a great group of writers. Those writers who contributed to one or more publications for the 2013-2014 year are listed on the back page of this issue. (If you've missed an edition, check <http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com>.) We are also very thankful to our awesome advisor, Mr. Sinclair. Thanks to Mrs. Ingles for cheerfully distributing electronic editions of our paper to KAMSC students and families. Lastly, we owe Dr. Tanoff enormous thanks for his constant support, and for funding this publication as well as others this year.

We have thoroughly enjoyed bringing *84 Steps* to you. Thanks for a wonderful four years, KAMSC!

Your Editors,  
Genevieve Sertic, Humza Mirza, and Dhara Patel



# Book Review



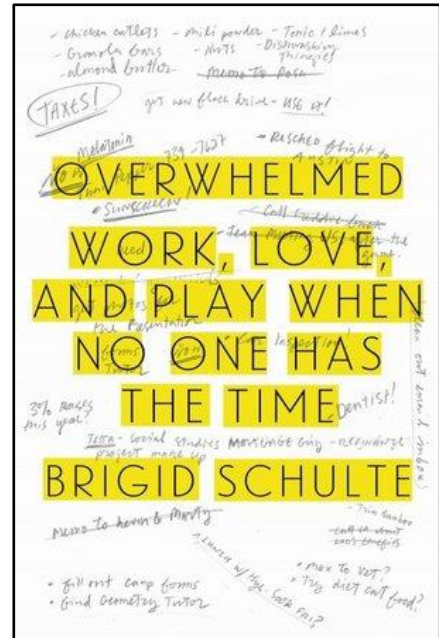
Lily Kitagawa

Literature

Near the end of the year, everybody seems stressed. There is seemingly no time for anything, but to-do lists continue to grow. Teachers try to finish the curriculum. Students try to keep up. Projects are due. Final exams loom on the horizon, terrifying everybody. Each week feels like a hurdle, with the students bounding toward the finish line. Every passing day seems to get more and more hectic. With all this stress and work, nobody has time to sneak in a good read. Or do they? What if that read promises a life with more free time?

*Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time* by Brigid Schulte

According to researchers, everybody has leisure time—around four hours a day. This seems like it can't be true; KAMSC students know all too well the feeling of too much work and not enough time. Brigid Schulte shared this disbelief. She decided to look more thoroughly into the concept of busyness and to share her findings in *Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time*. She begins by looking at the science of the feeling of being too busy. She explains that under stress, the prefrontal cortex of the brain gives control to the amygdala. The amygdala is known for triggering fear and anxiety. However, Schulte found that secretly, people like being busy. They like the feeling of importance that it gives them. The next portions of the book focus more on the busyness associated with being a



parent and the stress that comes from working. Though this book focuses on the lives of working parents, the lessons can be applied to a high school student's life. The first is that leisure time comes in many forms. Often, these are not activities that one generally associates with rest. But realizing that they can be classified as leisure prompts people to think about all the stressful "leisure" activities that bring them joy. And perhaps the next time they engage in that activity, it might be more enjoyable. The second is that sometimes, hard decisions must be made. Nobody can do everything. Understanding that and making wise choices can guide even KAMSC students to leading a full, balanced life. Learn more about feeling less busy in Brigid Schulte's *Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time*.

# The Best of the Year



Jori Gelbaugh

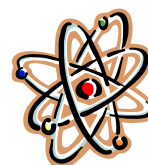
Survey

I asked KAMSC students what the best moments of the 2013-2014 school year were. Here are the responses:

“Finishing my research paper.” –Nika Buss, first-year

“Definitely the Sci-Fi Film Festival because it’s a great way to meet other students and I mean, who doesn’t love having dance-offs in a giant fort at three in the morning?” –Kim Romph, sophomore

“‘Physics is a win-lose situation; I will win, and you will lose.’ That was day one of physics with Mr. Sinclair.” –Hannah Meyers, junior



“Student Senate! Because it’s a lot of fun and the people are awesome.” –Ally Peirce, senior

“I’m going to go with the first day of baseball tryouts... ‘cause ball is life.” –Tyler Allyn-White, first-year (who forgot to mention that the best part of his year was actually math class because he got to sit next to Jessie and Jori, and clearly that’s better than baseball)



“Having a birthday party for Mr. Sinclair. He hit a piñata, on which Jawad’s face was taped, with his baseball bat.” –Sami Ahmad, sophomore

“Definitely in my Calculus BC class! Mr. Alshehri let us have a party the day after we took the AP Calc exam, and he let us order out for pizza and watch Mulan for an entire class period. He even let us sing!” –Betsy Strehl, junior

“On the way to MSU, when we had to stop at a rest stop just for Mr. Houtrouw. I mean, you gotta go when you gotta go.” –Lexi Roberts, sophomore

“Probably all of Mr. Cardwell’s jokes that never really made sense, but were usually pretty funny.” –Olivia Ballentine, first-year



“When it ended. And Mr. Milka’s cannibal rant.” –Tristan Greathouse, sophomore

"I would say... Sci-Fi Film Fest... It was a whole night with my favorite people at my favorite place! Mr. Sinclair is so sassy and hilarious with his movie commentary." –Colby Hanley, junior



"When Cody Simpson was found in the lounge." –Matt Ring, sophomore

"... This actually makes me feel really sad ..." –Shivam Gautam, sophomore

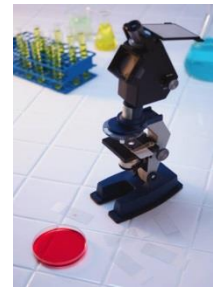


"The best part of my year was whenever the seniors would ride down the elevator with Mr. Sinclair after Senate and force him to take elevator selfies with us and then we would go out to Ansh's car and listen to "Nice Guys" in his minivan." –Cara Knasel, senior

"The greatest moment was when I went to Red Lobster with Mr. Sinclair. True story, you can ask him." –Jawad Aqeel, sophomore

"Sitting in the 'Physics Student of the Week' chair multiple times – what else?!" – Jessica Wile, junior

"My favorite part of the year was getting to be lab partners with Jawad, Finn, and Kento. <3" –Matt Ruge, sophomore



"Definitely gaining friendships in which we could all understand and comfort each other through one of the most challenging years in our lives so far." –Kristin Gustavson, first-year

"The best part about sophomore year was becoming closer with my classmates and making memories." –Lydia Swager, sophomore



"My friends are definitely the best part about the year. Day to day, they've never failed to entertain me and consistently are there for me. There is a lot I can say for each and every single memory I share with them, but that will probably be a little long. All I can do is thank them for each memory, hope to stay close through the years, and wish them the best of luck for college and the bright future ahead of them!" –Ansh Chaudhary, senior

***A big thanks to everybody who helped contribute.***

***... The best is yet to come.***

## Sustainable Earthlings



Genevieve Sertic

Environment

I've enjoyed working with Earthlings over the past four years, and encourage anyone interested in bettering our community to consider joining next year. Participating in Earthlings is a great way to care for our local environment!

When I was a first-year, the leaders of Earthlings launched a major initiative to acquire recycling bins for all the KAMSC classrooms and to undertake school-wide recycling. I'm happy that we have been able to continue that important effort. Earthlings will certainly appreciate a hand in continuing with the work next year. Recycling doesn't take long – with a few people helping at least once a month, it's usually just a half-hour job during Open Lab.

Two years ago, Earthlings reclaimed a garden area from weeds along Pearl Street and worked hard to plant low-maintenance, native plants – with the help of a generous grant from MSU's Project GREEN. In the summer months, Earthlings will place informational cards by the different plants so that students in KAMSC's Sizzlin' Summer Science program can learn more about them. While the area is low-maintenance, a little help from Earthlings is needed to combat the random weeds and to trim the perennials back at the end of the growing season. It's a great way to de-stress!

Throughout the year, Earthlings seeks to support local sustainability efforts, too – from participating in the Share the Warmth coat drive sponsored by the Salvation Army to participating in Earth Day events. Check out the Earthlings website, <http://kamscearthlings.weebly.com>, for more information in the fall!



## First-Year Suggestions



Sam Canfield

Survey

With summer vacation quickly approaching, we'll all have some free time (hopefully)! I surveyed first-years for recommendations they might have for any books, essays, movies, TV shows, etc. for the next few months:

**Sam Ratliff:** *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (science fiction book)



**Emma Scheller:** *Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin (both the book and the TV show)

**Max Amb:** *Legend, Prodigy,* and *Champion* trilogy by Marie Lu



**Chad Blackwell:** Watch *Sharknado*

**Vivek Parikh:** *Heroes of Olympus* fantasy book series by Rick Riordan (and don't watch the movie *Amazing Spiderman 2*)



**Aliya Patel:** A KAMSC campout would be an awesome KAMSC summer activity!

**Yequ Zheng:** *Three Body* by Liu Cixin (a Chinese science fiction novel)



## KAMSC Teacher Mock Election



Kitu Komya

Survey

In an effort to bid KAMSC farewell, 53 seniors estimated the categories in which their teachers would have been elected in *their* high school years. The percentage of students who voted for him/her in each category is indicated. Runners-Up are shown as well.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-Up</u>
<b>Most Athletic</b>	Mr. Cardwell (43%)	Mr. Chopp (36%)
<b>Best Dressed</b>	Mr. Chopp (43%)	Mr. Alshehri (21%)
<b>Class Clown</b>	Mr. Houtrouw (57%)	Mr. Sinclair (17%)
<b>Geekiest</b>	Mr. Milka (47%)	Mr. Alshehri (15%)
<b>Best Smile</b>	Mr. Alshehri (39%)	Ms. Hampton (15%)
<b>Most Mature</b>	Mr. Milka (43%)	Mrs. Kalnins (25%)
<b>Most Swag</b>	Mr. Sinclair (30%)	Mr. Alshehri (26%)
<b>Hardest Worker</b>	Ms. Hach (23%)	Mrs. Kalnins (21%)
<b>Most Social</b>	Mr. Cardwell (55%)	Mr. Sinclair (15%)
<b>Most Friendly</b>	Mr. Cardwell (43%)	Mr. Alshehri (28%)
<b>Most Cheerful</b>	Mr. Alshehri (51%)	Mr. Houtrouw (15%)
<b>Best School Spirit</b>	Mr. Houtrouw (38%)	Mr. Sinclair (36%)
<b>Most Charming</b>	Mr. Chopp (25%)	Mr. Alshehri (15%)
<b>Most Daring</b>	Mr. Sinclair (55%)	Ms. Hach (11%)
<b>Most Complimentary</b>	Mrs. Kalnins (28%)	Mr. Alshehri (15%)
<b>Best Hair</b>	Mr. Chopp (57%)	Ms. Hach (19%)
<b>Most Peaceful</b>	Ms. Hampton (40%)	Mr. Cardwell (26%)
<b>Best Attendance</b>	Mrs. Kalnins (36%)	Mr. Milka (25%)
<b>Most Sarcastic</b>	Mr. Milka (47%)	Mr. Sinclair (38%)
<b>Most Easygoing</b>	Ms. Hampton (28%)	Mr. Houtrouw (23%)
<b>Most Calm</b>	Ms. Hampton (36%)	Mr. Chopp (17%)
<b>Most Conscientious</b>	Ms. Hach (40%)	Mrs. Kalnins (19%)
<b>Most Likely To Be Caught Looking In A Mirror</b>	Mr. Chopp (38%)	Mr. Alshehri (9%)
<b>Most Likely To Become President</b>	Mr. Cardwell (36%)	Mr. Sinclair (34%)
<b>Most Likely To Become Famous</b>	Mr. Sinclair (40%)	Mr. Houtrouw (15%)
<b>Most Ambitious</b>	Ms. Hach (30%)	Mr. Sinclair (11%)
<b>Most Polite</b>	Mr. Alshehri (51%)	Ms. Hampton (13%)
<b>Most Proactive</b>	Mrs. Kalnins (30%)	Mr. Milka (28%)
<b>Least Likely To Become A Teacher</b>	Mr. Cardwell (23%)	Mr. Sinclair (19%)
<b>Most Likely To Become A Teacher</b>	Mr. Milka (23%)	Mrs. Kalnins (17%)



## First-Year Favorites



Sam Canfield

Survey

Now that we're at the end of the academic year, I surveyed first-years to discover what they like best about KAMSC so far. The results follow:

**Sam Ratliff:** Sci-Fi Film Festival

**Emma Scheller:** Extras (Sci-Fi Film Fest, Class Clash, KAMSC Dance)

**Vivek Parikh:** Dissecting the fetal pigs

**Aliya Patel:** Grade-adjustments/curves on tests, and the Lab Impractical IT

**Amirah Bin-Mahfouz:** The KAMSC environment – everyone is nice and cares about learning



**Max Ambs:** Bog week

**Olivia Ballentine:** KAMSC offers an opportunity to meet and get to know people outside of your sending school

**Jesse Pollens-Voigt:** Working with Finch in IT

**Megan Cardwell & Kadie Alpers:** The KAMSC dances

**Yeqiu Zheng:** KAMSC offers many educational opportunities that you can't get at a normal high school

**Maddie Mozina:** Enjoyed the size change lab in Math I, the goldfish lab in Biology, and Finching in IT

**Chad Blackwell:** The atmosphere of KAMSC is great... there is not the general negativity about learning you might find in a normal high school

## Top 10 Summer Activities for KAMSC Kids



Boemin Park

Top Ten

1. Hike to keep those leg muscles healthy and to employ your biology knowledge. (But some of us might run away in terror from bugs.)



2. Study, of course. Gotta prepare for next year's classes!

3. Bonfires! (Anybody up for burning some homework together?) Then gaze at the stars and impress buds with your astronomy smarts.

4. Sleep. Eat. Netflix. Repeat.

5. College campus tours! 'Cause why not?

6. Volunteer at the KAMSC Summer Sizzlin' camps and spread the KAMSC love!

7. USACO, USACO, USACO...we want as many cows as we can get. (Plus, it makes Mr. Houtrouw happy.)

8. Hang out with friends, of course! Make up for that socializing time you missed throughout the year and maybe hit up the theater to see some sci-fi films.

9. Go upstate if you're attending a camp at Michigan Technological University. Memories are waiting to be made with your friends!

10. Even though KAMSC can be hard, we're all going to anxiously yearn for the day we get to climb those 84 steps and go to our classes again.

# How to Be a First-Year Again



Jawad Aqeel

Top Ten

For many, ninth grade is a year to remember; however, most don't ever want to relive being a first-year. Sadly, after graduation, seniors must go back to the bottom of the food chain as soon as they arrive at college becoming first-years once again.

It is the "Circle of School"—the phenomenon of getting to the top of the hierarchy system in schools only to fall to the bottom after leaving. Just remember the term "*hakuna matata*" and use this advice from current KAMSC first-year, Anna Nordmoe, and your first year should be a piece of cake.

## *Anna Nordmoe's 10 Rules to follow:*

1. Make friends with those in the higher grades.
2. Talk to other groups – sometimes teachers forget to tell all the groups the same things.
3. Talk to your teachers if you need help.
4. Don't just do assignments; think about what you are doing- try to absorb the information, and don't just focus on getting it done.
5. Spread out the homework so that Sunday night or the night before a class is not a struggle. Read the chapters assigned in the textbook early in the week so that you understand what is going on in class.
6. Be active in class and ask questions if you don't understand things. Don't be afraid. This might be the most cliché teacher quote, but remember, "No question is a dumb question."
7. Make study groups for big projects; it's usually easier to stay focused if there are people around you who are working.
8. Don't spread yourself too thin; try to leave time for sleeping and having a life, because these years should be an enjoyable time for you.
9. Don't sweat the small stuff. For most assignments, spend time on grasping main ideas and don't worry about insignificant details.
10. Keep some perspective. As hard as it may seem sometimes, remember that school is trying to help prepare you for the future. Your teachers are human and they make mistakes. Just keep in mind that they are trying to help you be the best student you can be.



# Fun Facts about KAMSC Teachers: Summer Edition



Nikita Bhatia

Survey

A big thanks to all the KAMSC teachers who answered these questions!

## What are your plans for the summer?

**Mr. Sinclair:** I'll be working at Notre Dame in a joint appointment with the Departments of Math and Physics; I'm designing and constructing a website to introduce teachers and students to mathematical modeling of biological systems.



**Mr. Chopp:** I am working at MSU in the engineering department for six weeks on a bioengineering project. I also hope to participate in a triathlon.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** Finish another master's degree.

**Mr. Cardwell:** No grading! Ride my bike 1000 miles. Make a 3D Printer with Mr. Milka.

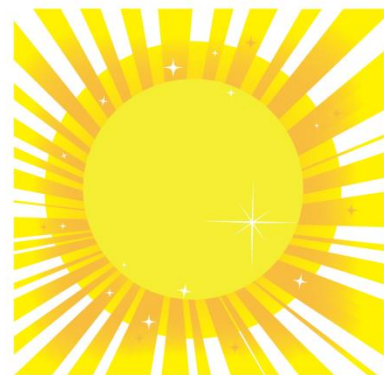
## What do you love most about the summer?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Time off to read, write, and relax. A break from grading, and baseball!!

**Mr. Chopp:** Longer days, and spending time at the beach.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** No grading and lots of blue skies.

**Mr. Cardwell:** No grading! My family. Reading without guilt. Catching up on TV series I can't justify watching during the school year.



## What book would you take with you to the beach?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Tough question; I'm partial to The Seamus Heaney translation of *Beowulf*, James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and Larry Niven's *The Smoke Ring* and *The Integral Trees* books...but for the beach, probably a "light" read...maybe something like Trevanian's *Shibumi*.

**Mr. Chopp:** *Kitchen Confidential* by Anthony Bourdain.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** *The Bible*, and maybe an audiobook or two.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Last summer I read *Where Does the Weirdness Go?* by David Lindley and a biography of Einstein, among about ten or twenty other things. This summer, it's time to read *Brave New World* and *1984* again because I haven't read them in 35 years. I'll read a lot of other things, too.



## What will you miss most about KAMSC during the summer?

**Mr. Sinclair:** The students. The pace. The synergy of bright, motivated young people excited about learning.

**Mr. Chopp:** The sweet smell of fetal pigs.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** The students, of course. 😊

**Mr. Cardwell:** The students and my colleagues. Not grading (have I mentioned that?). Also, not the smell of pigs and cats in the bio labs.



## What will you miss most about this year's senior class?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Their camaraderie, enthusiasm, and great sense of humor.

**Mr. Chopp:** Their smiling faces.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** The 2014 class set a new level of passion for CS excellence and enthusiasm.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Seriously. Great people are easy to miss. But, hey, I can always play 2048-TheTomVersion, right?



# “Happy” by Pharrell Williams - with KAMSC Senior Twist



Ansh Chaudhary

Song Parody



It might seem crazy what I’m about to say.  
KAMSC for 4 years, it’s not the same.  
I’m a bit sad it’s close to being over –  
The memories, friends, and teachers.

Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you seniors generally feel this way,  
Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you are closer to KAMSC than any other place.  
Because I’m not happy,  
Clap along if you’re gonna miss those all-nighters with your friends.  
Because I’m not happy,  
Clap along if you feel very, very nostalgic.

Here comes senior tea, luncheon, and this and that.  
Well, I won’t forget those projects and all those tests.  
They brought me closer to the rest of my grade.  
No offense to other schools, they just aren’t the same –  
Here’s why:



Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you seniors generally feel this way,  
Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you are closer to KAMSC than any other place,  
Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you’re gonna miss those all-nighters with your friends,  
Because I’m not happy.  
Clap along if you feel very, very nostalgic.



# Funny Quotes at KAMSC



- “Could ‘Houtrouw’s cackle’ be a quote?” –Michael Tarn
- \*Houtrouw’s cackle\* –Mr. Houtrouw
- “I wouldn’t stop sneezing during the calculus exam today, and I’m pretty sure someone threw a pencil at me.” –Spencer Henning
- “Do you really want to put your money in the hands of a Russian Justin Bieber?” –Jawad Aqeel
- “Do you have any funny quotes?” “There’s this one death quote by a man I can’t remember and it was something like, ‘Don’t let it end like this! Tell them I said something!’” “Oh sorry, I mean for KAMSC’s *84 Steps*.” “Oh...” –Gerrit Rummel and Boemin Park
- “Pretend to have Anshzheimer’s and forget my name.” –Ansh Chaudhary
- “Don’t put that in the *84 Steps* quotes section!” –Mr. Houtrouw
- “I’ve decided we need a lot more bird emojis...birds come up a lot more in a conversation than you would think...” –Jori Gelbaugh
- “There was a girl at Open Lab yesterday, and she kept misusing the word ‘literally,’ and even said, ‘You are literally a beach ball.’ How can anyone literally be a beach ball!?” –Mr. Milka
- “*Star Wars* will ALWAYS beat *Star Trek*.” –Mr. Sinclair
- “I bet my flesh would not taste as good as bacon.” –Anna Nordmoe
- “Haha, is that a joke?” –Abhay Goel
- “Do you want to hide a dead body? Don’t put it in the bog...” (sung to the tune of ‘Do You Want to Build a Snowman?’) –Michael Orwin
- “I will die yelling at a student in class and then transcend into his cell phone to haunt him.” –Mr. Sinclair



## Advice from the Seniors: Class of 2014



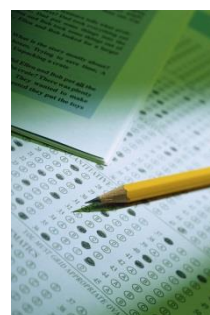
Simran Singh

### Advice

I asked members of the senior class to share some advice with the rest of us as they look back on their high school years. Read their suggestions below:

Don't be afraid to ask questions in class. Sometimes everyone's just waiting for someone else to speak up. That's not productive. If nobody asks, you all lose. Stop worrying that your classmates will judge you. If you're generally soft-spoken and can't bring yourself to ask in class, take the time to ask your teachers, if not in person, by email. Take initiative for your own success. Otherwise, relax. You'll all be okay.

Since this is coming up soon for some or is already relevant, I might as well say a little about the ACT. No matter how convinced you are that EVERYBODY did better than you, it's probably not true. Go retake it if you're not satisfied. Take it twice, thrice, and as many times as you need to afterwards to be happy with your score. (A score of 36 is not the only one that merits a happy reaction, by the way.)



People always say "don't sweat the small stuff," but I've found myself stressing about the bigger stuff like finals, college, and the future on the whole much more than all the little things. Stress about one thing at a time if you can. Or don't stress. Good for you if you can avoid stress.

There's my overly generic advice, take it or leave it, but most importantly, take a deep breath and try to open your eyes to the world around you. You were, are, and will continue to be a very impressive and intellectual individual. It'll all work out. I'm always open to talk to anyone about anything else.

Just a Facebook message away,

*Naveena Thota*

Make sure that stressing about school doesn't dominate your life. A lot of great things are happening constantly that you could miss if you spend all your time stressing and don't take some time once in a while to sit back and appreciate how far you've actually come. As for struggling through Physics, join a study group. It's extremely helpful!

*Tom Sandell*

Teachers will, most of the time, tell you about an upcoming test at least a week in advance. Spending 15-30 minutes a day studying for that test, for an entire week, is a much better idea than cramming everything in on the last day.

***Ansh Chaudhary***

Work hard at things you care most about. That way, you won't disappoint yourself.

***Sam Peters***

Be authentic, from your extracurriculars to your individual pursuits. Don't spend your time doing what you think you "should" – spend it being who you are and honoring what matters to you.

***Genevieve Sertic***

Most high school students suffer from FOMO: Fear Of Missing Out. Don't get me wrong – it's good to hang out with your friends and go to fun events, but don't worry if you miss out on something. Chances are, one event won't make a huge impact on your life anyway.

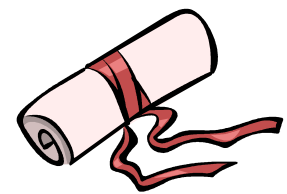
***Katherine Wu***

Don't let numbers and statistics confine your identity...let your mind travel beyond the norm.

***Kitu Komya***

My first two years I always avoided things like Senate and KAMSC dances because I thought KAMSC kids were weird and nerdy... Junior year, I got more involved and realized KAMSC kids are in fact nerdy and weird... but I love them to death and wouldn't trade my experiences with them for anything. My one regret is not getting to know everyone sooner. Get involved as much as possible and I promise if your class is anything like mine, you won't regret it. Oh, and don't drop out. Dropping out is not swag. You wanna be swag.

***Cara Knasel***





Take your senior year to build on your old friendships and make new relationships. This is not the time to “yolo” but to “*carpe diem.*” Never question the future or the past, but listen to the present and pursue it.

***Humza Mirza***

Be genuine and curious. Delve deeper into what you are passionate about, while exploring other topics. It’s a great time to learn as much as you can, especially at a place like KAMSC.



***Dhara Patel***

1) Cherish your friendships with others at KAMSC. Take every opportunity you have to spend time with them. These friendships will make the hard times ahead much more bearable.

2) Take advantage of social events, like school dances, Sci-Fi Film Fest, and everything else. It's important to work hard, but the memories you make at these events are what you'll remember most in the end.

3) Thank those who've helped you along the way. If you appreciate someone, let them know. It truly makes a difference in the lives of others.



4) When things seem overwhelming, and you are just too stressed to handle everything, take a moment to think of all the wonderful things you have in your life.

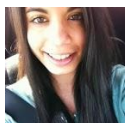
Be thankful for every moment and every person that has helped you to be happy.

5) Lastly, be accepting. It can be hard to relate to people that are vastly different from you. It can feel uncomfortable to be around people whom you view as less or more fortunate, whether that's in terms of intelligence, income, anything. But everyone deserves respect, and if you give people the respect that they deserve, they can help you in ways that you never would've imagined.

***Hanna Rumora***





# What If...?



Dhara Patel

Musings

- **What if you could somehow meet every single person in the world?** – Say that we use the estimate that there are 7 billion people on the planet (besides yourself) and that you had the chance to meet each person for just 10 seconds. In one day, there are 86,400 seconds, allowing for a total of 31,536,000 seconds in one year. Therefore, it would take approximately 2,220 years for you to meet every person, assuming that you do not take time to sleep nor eat. Now, that’s definitely not plausible, but still cool to think about. 
- **What if every person had their own personal scribe and photographer and when they died a book about them would be published?** – These books would certainly be the most detailed biographies ever written and would solve many unanswered questions.
- **What if one year of school consisted of everyone having the opportunity to try new things?** – By this I mean, what if we all spent a year attempting unique activities such as underwater rugby or acrobats? It would be an exciting way to coax hidden talents into light and an efficient way of determining what you despise doing or about what you are passionate.
- **What if our world is a deterministic universe and what we do is dictated by our dream state?** – The idea of free will exists as a highly debated topic among philosophers and curious others. The difficult thing about free will is that even if we have no free will, we might still think we do and that does not differ from if we actually had it in the first place. The idea that we don’t have free will, but control what we do through dreams would be interesting, although not very realistic. 
- **What if we attended KAMSC all day and took classes that fell outside of the realms of math and science?** – Might as well make KAMSC a boarding school at this point (which I think would be super fun). I wonder how different the student population would be if this were the case?
- **What if “what if” questions did not exist?** – What if we did not have the ability to think theoretically? I guess I would not be asking this if that were the case, but if it were true, many axioms for different mathematical or scientific topics could not exist and much of what we know also would not prevail. Continuing with the same idea, what if our mindsets could only focus on the present and we did not have the ability to think about the past or future? That not only eliminates theoretical musings, but forces us to live completely in the present. Having no regrets or worries would probably make me take more risks considering that there would be no consequences.

# Technology News



Nikita Bhatia

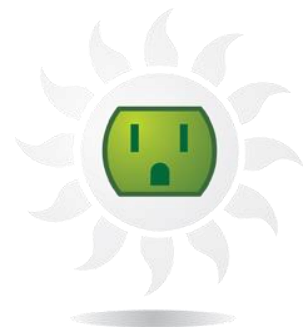
Technology

**H**ere are a few tech gadgets that will help you enjoy summer break!

**SwiMP3:** Take your music underwater with these waterproof headphones! For all the people who love to go to the beach and swim during the summer, this is the gadget for you. This device can store up to 1GB of music and can last up to eight hours. This device transmits sounds by sending vibrations through the cheekbones to the inner ear.



**Freeloader Solar Charger:** You are hiking with your family, and you want to take a picture of the beautiful view you have. However, your phone just died. With the Freeloader Solar Charger, you can keep your phone fully charged wherever you go. This charger runs small devices, like phones or iPods using solar energy. It comes with eleven adapters for phones, cameras, and GPS devices. This charger is perfect for the people who are always on the go during the summer.



**Action Shot HD Camera:** Summer break is full of outdoor adventures and what better way to capture these moments than by using the Action Shot Camera? This camera can be attached to any helmet, bike, or skateboard. It shoots in HD, 1,280-by-720 HD video at 30 seconds per frame, and in standard definition (640-by-480 resolution). Just to make sure you never miss capturing a moment, this camera comes with a rechargeable lithium polymer battery. Additionally, it is equipped with a helmet mount, adhesive mounts, a memory card, and a USB to USB connector. For capturing underwater footage, it is also sold with a waterproof case.





# Top 10 KAMSC Grad Party Themes



Jawad Aqeel

Top Ten

With this year's senior class moving on and summer quickly approaching, graduation party season is coming. Here are some great ideas for themes that can be used to wow those in attendance.

1. Star Wars- A top ten list wouldn't be the same without having anything related to *Star Wars*. How great would it be to have an R2-D2 ice cooler for drinks and a "Hutt Dog" station for guests?
2. Ping Pong- When in doubt ping pong it out. No need for any cool theme, just include a ping pong table and food and guests should be able to have a great time. Just think about what the ping pong table did for KAMSC.
3. Harry Potter- Butter beers, cupcakes decorated with owls, and quidditch-themed cake pops will make a perfect assortment of goods and make people feel like they are at the grad party of a student who attended Hogwarts. 
4. Mario- "Boo" ghost balloons and piranha plants would make perfect decorations for this grad theme. Due to the sheer amounts of games, the possibilities for food ideas and decorations are close to endless.
5. Silicon Valley- Although this is Michigan, make guests feel as if they are in California. Great items to use in this theme would be a "genius bar" for food and balloons with all the different companies in the Silicon Valley.
6. The Big Bang Theory- Bazinga! This idea is perfect for any *Big Bang Theory* enthusiast. Pick a character and theme for graduation the way they would and incorporate all of them into one giant theme.
7. Math Theme- Various flavors of pie, cupcakes laid out to form the buttons of a graphing calculator, and a Rubik's Cube cake are just several of the *numerous* ideas that one could use in this theme. 
8. Pokémon Theme- Ash Ketchum was a great role model, so why not show some gratitude and thank him by having a Pokémon-themed grad party?
9. Superhero- Batman, Superman, and Spiderman! These superheroes could save the day and make a graduation party really enjoyable.
10. Lord of the Rings- Have guests take a trip to "The Shire" with hobbits, goblins, and gold as adornments at the party, creating a fun environment for any *Lord of the Rings* enthusiast.

# The Chloroplast

## Interview with Ms. Hach



Dhara Patel

### Interview

In a plant cell, chloroplasts capture sunlight and exist as crucial components for the organism to survive. If KAMSC were analogous to such a cell, then Ms. Hach could certainly represent the chloroplast of the Math & Science Center, a necessary element for its functioning. It's hard to imagine walking down the hallway without catching a glimpse of the rainbow of Ms. Hach's signature tie-dye lab coat. In her interview, Ms. Hach shares some of the things that pops her twitzle.

*Q: What were you like in high school and did you play any sports or participate in any extracurricular activities?*

A: My high school extracurriculars were mostly not school sponsored, but I did play field hockey for a couple of years. I was also in choir. I mostly hung out with the kids who were plotting mayhem!!

*Q: What is the strangest dream you have ever had?*

A: I once had a lovely dream that had me exploring a beautiful house. Each room was very different, but I felt that I really belonged there and that it was perfect. Every time I opened a new door, people from my life were there to greet me. My parents, long dead, were in one of the rooms, my children were there as youngsters, and friends that I hadn't seen for a long time were there and we visited. It was a wonderful experience and I wish I could dream it again!

*Q: If you could learn anything, disregarding any potential restrictions, what would you choose?*

A: I wish I knew more about wildlife.....I would love to know more about birds, butterflies, trees and nature. When I grew up I spent a lot of time outside, but not with anyone who knew the details about what we saw. Maybe I should have stayed in Girl Scouts.....

Q: *What are your top five most enjoyable things to do, (besides teaching, of course 😊)?*

A:

1. I like to spend time with my family and friends.
2. I like to float and read in my pool on warm summer afternoons.
3. I like to go to the movies.
4. I like to watch documentaries.
5. I like to spend time with my animals.

Q: *If you could meet any person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?*

A: I would like to meet Maya Angelou, but only if we could have a long conversation. There are many things I think she could teach me.

Q: *What are some things you feel you cannot live without?*

A: I suppose it would be my children and pets.

Q: *When you were in high school, what career did you envision yourself pursuing?*

A: In high school, I decided to become a medical technologist. I actually pursued that career for many years.

Q: *If you were an organelle, which organelle would you be and why?*

A: I would like to be a chloroplast. They are at their best in the sun and can function independently of the rest of the plant body.

Q: *Who is your favorite author and/or what is your favorite novel?*

A: My favorite fiction is *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*.....maybe it's more than a single novel, but I love it just the same.

Q: *What is something you are looking forward to, whether it is in the near future or many years from now?*

A: I am eager to continue thinking, learning and working on a project involving canine genomics.

Q: *Please complete the following sentence: I \_\_\_\_\_ teaching at KAMSC because...*

A: I love teaching at KAMSC because it allows me to learn so much and bring such exciting activities into my classroom!

**I would like to thank Ms. Hach for answering these questions!**

# “The Center Where I Used To Go”

Song Parody of “Somebody That I Used To Know” by Gotye feat. Kimbra



Genevieve Sertic

Music



Now and then I think of all the hours I spent on homework  
Getting pumped about all the things you can do with  $\pi$ .  
Realized the possibility  
That science, math and tech could hold the key  
To great careers in the not-so-distant future.

You can get addicted to a certain kind of learning  
Like QED-ing at the end. What a great end.  
So after years climbing eighty-four steps  
Alongside all my other KAMSC friends,  
I'll admit that I was sad it was over.



Thank you, teachers, and Dr. Tanoff.

We've spent four years together learning from you and each other.  
And our classes were all pretty tough, but with help at Open Lab they didn't feel so rough.  
And we never really felt alone

With good friends from different schools supporting one another.  
I think you might already know – I'll always love the center where I used to go.

I'll always love the center where I used to go.  
I'll always love the center where I used to go.

Now and then I think of what I'll miss most at KAMSC.  
Friends, teachers, classes – it's hard to choose a single one.

And I don't have to choose today  
But just be grateful for the company  
Because we all already know

That we're sure to miss the math and science center where we used to go.

Thank you, teachers, and Dr. Tanoff.

We've spent four years together learning from you and each other.  
And our classes were all pretty tough, but with help at Open Lab they didn't feel so rough.  
And we never really felt alone

With good friends from different schools supporting one another.  
I think you might already know – I'll always love the center where I used to go.





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