

KAMSC's



84 Steps



Winter 2013-2014

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Letter from the Editors

The temperature is dropping while anticipatory spirits are rising here at KAMSC as we approach Winter Break! Settle into the snowy season with this Winter Edition of *84 Steps*. Gather some ideas on how to spend your two weeks off with some great music, movie, and book reviews. Discover more about what our fellow students and teachers are thinking through seasonal surveys. Cozy up with some KAMSC Top Ten lists, jokes, and song parodies. Enjoy some creative writing, artwork, advice, and tips. Use this Winter Edition to help you get through the long two weeks of winter vacation if you find you are experiencing symptoms of KAMSC withdrawal. The typical first warning sign is acknowledgement of the absence of seeing your KAMSC friends on a daily basis, usually coupled with the increasing appearance of free time. (Note: Research has shown there is no causal link between the two.)

Read this publication and others in color at our website, <http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com>. If you would like to contribute to upcoming editions of the paper, click on the "Contact Us" link there, or simply send us an email at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com!

Have a wonderful Winter Break and a fantastic start to 2014!

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



The 10 Best Things about Winter



Boemin Park

Top Ten

The winter months can be frazzling for some people. The apple cider is gone, the days turn dark very quickly, car windshields have to be scraped, and getting out of the shower in the morning can

be brutal. But I'm here to remind you why winter is still an awesome season!

1. Snow days. I mean, I don't know about everyone else, but I like getting to sleep in and staying in my pajamas all day. Anybody with me on this one?
2. Holiday music! Who doesn't like listening to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" over and over and over again...just kidding. Next!
3. Fuzzy socks. Need I say more?
4. Drinking hot chocolate. The drink just doesn't have the same appeal in the middle of July.
5. Snow is pretty.
6. That moment when you misstep and slide like crazy on a patch of ice, but manage to keep your cool and not fall. You can then walk all day feeling like you're a winter ninja.
7. Holiday cookies. Stuffing yourself with those delicious bad boys while doing your math homework is a must.
8. Getting to use that super-duper moisturizing lotion. Can't go around with dry skin!
9. The trees look a lot cooler. Seriously, your backyard becomes one intense winter scene after a good night of snow. (Gives you a great excuse to post a picture on Instagram so that people can go gah-gah over your amazingly beautiful backyard.)
10. Guess what? First semester exams are coming up, and we all love studying for those exams! (Get my sarcasm here?)



KAMSC Student Survey: Winter Edition



Colby Hanley

Survey

Winter is quickly approaching! With Thanksgiving done and many more winter holidays fast approaching, let's take a moment and find out what KAMSC kids love most about winter!

Kimberly Kwon, KAMSC Junior, loves grabbing a hot cup of tea during winter and cozying up with her laptop to code a nice program or two!



Sam Peters, KAMSC Senior, enjoys walking on the ice of Gull Lake during the winter while pondering deep thoughts stored in his head.



Favorite Holiday Drink:

- 59% Hot Cocoa
- 31% Eggnog
- 10% Hot Tea

Jori Gelbaugh, KAMSC Sophomore, really likes how coffee shops offer specialty flavors like peppermint and eggnog for the holiday season; it really brightens her mood!

Jessica Wile, KAMSC Junior, is an amazing skier! She and her family ski a ton during the winter and she is surely our resident skiing expert!

PJ Callahan, KAMSC Junior, steps onto the basketball court to play Vicksburg Varsity Basketball during the winter, one of his favorite parts of this season!



Katherine Wu, KAMSC Senior, has a special love during winter: she loves scraping off her frozen windshield and then feeling the toasty warmth of her heated car cushion under her chilled buttocks.



Favorite Winter Activity:

- 43% Skiing
- 29% Snowboarding
- 27% Sledding
- 11% Ice Skating

Favorite Holiday Movie:

- 71% "Elf"
- 14% "Polar Express"
- 8% "A Christmas Story"
- 7% "A Charlie Brown Christmas"



Michael Tarn, KAMSC Sophomore, really enjoys spending time with his family over winter break, especially without a textbook or sheet of homework in front of his face like usual!

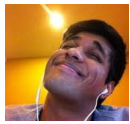
Krissy Darling, KAMSC First-Year, says that she loves wearing ugly holiday sweaters without being judged on days like KAMSC Ugly Holiday Sweater Day!



Favorite Nerdy Gift Idea:

- 68% KAMSC Lanyard
- 18% Holiday-Themed Calculator Cover
- 14% Red and Green Note-Taking Pens

Student Senate Update



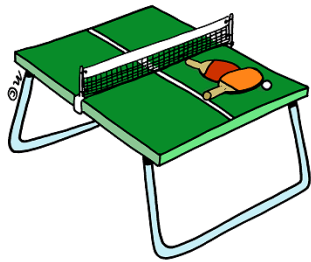
Humza Khan

Student Senate

Class Clash was a blast!

On behalf of the KAMSC Student Senate, I would like to say thank you to all of those who came – you really made it fun! The First-Years, displaying strength in numbers, conquered the other classes in tug-of-war. However, the Seniors bounced back in the relay race, scavenger hunt, and dodge ball. The Sophomores received their one win in the pie-eating contest. Overall, the Seniors won first place, the First-Years in a strong second, the Sophomores won third place, while the Juniors rounded out the bottom in last place.

As many of you know, the student lounge is going to be renovated. We recently received



clearance from the facilities manager to add a few items such as a coffee maker, a new air conditioner, et cetera. But that's

not even the most exciting part. We're also getting a ping pong table! Get ready for fiercely competitive matches and lots of intense battles.

As part of the renovation, there is also going to be a mural painted in the student lounge. If any of you have ideas for a design, do not be shy! Feel free to contact Sam Peters at

samp805@gmail.com or you could come to a Student Senate meeting as well.

With the winter holidays just around the corner, it's time for our annual food drive.



This year it will be held the week after winter break. The food will be donated to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. Some teachers also offer extra credit for donating cans.

Do you like playing in snow? I guess an easier question is – are you human? If your answer is yes, then the KAMSC Student Senate Winter Fest is perfect for you! Come join us for snowball fights or just about any other winter activity you could imagine. As everyone



knows, the best time to play in winter is with good packing snow. Unfortunately, no one can easily predict when packing snow will fall. Therefore, the date for this event is still to be determined. In fact, this whole event is still to be determined, so come to the next Senate meeting to help us decide on the final outcome for the KAMSC Student Senate Winter Fest!

The TASS Experience



Miles Pruitt

Seminars

In the summer of 2013, I attended TASS, the Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar at the University of Indiana. When I first arrived, I was not sure what I would learn or who I would meet. I expected boring workshops and dreary instructors who would take us through the typical grind of writing a paper day after day. At our first meeting, I learned that the other students came from all over the United States, even from as far away as South Korea and Macedonia, and the first day of TASS was very awkward as everyone settled in. That first evening, though, introductory group activities quickly broke the ice. By the fourth day, everyone was talking together and feeling much more comfortable. At the end of that first week, I felt I knew my roommate Jarrett very well, and had made friends with all the others in the program. TASS was the cure for the shyness and self-consciousness that I had felt going into high school (which have decreased each year as I have opened up more to my friends, classmates, and even acquaintances). As TASS progressed, I enjoyed long conversations about life and our struggles with Rudolph. I joked with Bill. I played basketball with Rudolph, Bill, Nate and Holiday, and then relaxed in the comfort of the house. TASS helped me to break out of my shell of shyness, and helped me build more self-confidence.



Writing is a large component of TASS. I felt a nervous knot in my stomach as I read each paper aloud, but the instructors' positive feedback allowed me to refocus my next piece using the advice from previous work. I

felt safe to make mistakes, because we all made mistakes or mistook the material or read something wrong in our papers along the way. Even though we occasionally argued or disagreed during class discussions, my peers and I enjoyed each other. Along with the work came late night socializing, and some crazy jokes and skits that Bill and I made up in our free time in the computer room. However, TASS was more than the joking, the fun, and the laughter. The program emphasized that we should always strive to do our personal best because not putting in effort will negatively influence our future work ethic. When I entered TASS, my writing skills were excellent, yet through the program, I learned to be more concise and more descriptive in my writing and in addressing the prompt at hand. The friendships I made at this program are enduring, and the memories stay close even though another busy school year is underway. TASS is a metaphor for time flying away from great experiences, yet those experiences and relationships can carry into future work. The idea that strangers from all over the world can become so close after only six weeks of living together speaks strongly of the evolution of communication. In 16 years,



many things have been good in my life, but TASS has been the most rewarding and beneficial.

I will take this experience with me through my last two years of high school and on to college and beyond, where I will realize my dreams and my true passion. When I left TASS, I cried a little inside, but I know that one day, I will see everyone again; when I need a favor or a helping hand, I can always

call up my friends from TASS. TASS was meaningful because it taught me friendships can last much longer than what the untrained eye can see. Bill and I still keep in touch everyday on Facebook and Twitter even though we are both busy as Junior Year has begun to live up to its difficult reputation.

Talking with Bill also makes me realize that what is on the outside means nothing once you really get to know a person in depth. Bill allowed me to believe in my capabilities more as a social and academic student – I am more confident in being in a class full of Seniors, realizing I know just as much as everyone around me. TASS assessed my organization skills, and allowed me to step back before school started to reassess my goals for the year and what I want to accomplish. These goals will guide me

through my Junior Year of high school, and following these goals is key to succeeding this year and in the future. TASS has taught me that I can always seek knowledge, comfort, and someone to talk to when I have a problem or feel alone.



In the six weeks I spent at TASS, I built an unbreakable bond with 17 strangers from all over the world. Being around people like Holiday, Nate, Kristine, Bill, and others has taught me that life should be fun, exciting, and enjoyable. However, to be successful, work must balance fun. TASS was the greatest program I have attended and I will never forget the experience.

Top 10 Things KAMSC Students Anticipate over Winter Break



Chang Yang

Top Ten

1. Pretending final exams do not exist.
2. Using the vacation time to get some well-deserved sleep.
3. Just kidding. Staying up all night on the internet.
4. Resurrecting your dead social life.
5. Using science to disprove the existence of Santa Claus.
6. Volunteering for the less fortunate.
7. Stuffing yourself until you get a “food baby.”
8. Finding the secret location of your holiday presents.
9. Procrastinating until the last night of break to do homework.
10. Pretending, yet again, that final exams do not exist.



Music Reviews



Lily Krone

Music

For this issue’s music reviews, I decided to recommend albums from a range of genres to help you all make it through the cold winter months. When I’m studying for exams, winding down after a day of sledding with my friends, or just feeling the winter blues, these are my go-to records.

***Tidal* by Fiona Apple (1996)** **Alternative Rock**

Fiona Apple’s Grammy-winning debut is one of my top choices on a cold winter day. No matter how many times I’ve listened to the album, Apple’s contralto vocals never cease to fascinate me. In her hit single “Criminal”, Apple sings that she’s “been careless / with a delicate man,” while the chorus of “Pale September” declares “my winter giving way to warm as I’m singing him to sleep.” Paired with cool, simple piano and the occasional violin, her frank lyrics about manipulation, love, and betrayal make for a realistic, if a bit pessimistic, take on relationships. That being said, the music itself is relatively sparse and relaxing. Definitely worth a listen when you’re feeling overwhelmed by school or stressed from being inside all day and want to chill.



Favorite Tracks: “Shadowboxer,”
“Never Is A Promise,” “Criminal”

***Man on the Moon: End of the Day* by Kid Cudi (2009)**

Hip-Hop/Rap

This debut concept album released in 2009 has been hailed as one of the most innovative in recent rap history. Its introspective and autobiographical, if somewhat simple, lyrics and subdued beats are closer to spoken-word than rap, and make for a mellow listen on your morning drive to school. The latter half of the album picks up the pace with three of Cudi’s hit singles: “Day ‘n’ Night,” “Make Her Say,” and “Pursuit of Happiness.” The second of these features Kanye West, who acted as Cudi’s mentor through the composition of this album, and Common, who narrates a story about Cudi in 15-second chapters at the end of several tracks. Surprisingly, Yeezus’ influence is hardly noticeable in the majority of the tracks on this record, despite his involvement in many of them, which allows Cudi to forge his own unique style.

Favorite Tracks: “Enter Galactic (Love Connection),” “Pursuit of Happiness,” “Make Her Say”

***This is Happening* by LCD Soundsystem (2010)
Electronic**

At close to an hour and a half in length, *This is Happening* seems like something of a commitment in terms of time. However, this record, which serves as the last of three released by the now sadly disbanded LCD Soundsystem, will not disappoint. There is a wide range of sounds throughout the album and even in the songs themselves, some of which are over 9 minutes in length. Despite the length, none of the tracks are boring. The heavy synths lift up the fairly simple melodies, which are heavily inspired by such musical icons as David Bowie and Daft Punk. The lyrics range from confused to deranged to depressed, as when in “All I Want” frontman James Murphy croons, “All I want is your pity / All I want is your bitter tears.” However, this record is far from gloomy. Rather, the ‘70s glam aesthetic of many of the tracks is upbeat and danceable, particularly in “Drunk Girls” (not nearly as offensive as the title suggests) and “I Can Change.”

Favorite Tracks: “Dance Yrself Clean,” “I Can Change,” “Pow Pow”



***Save Rock and Roll* by Fall Out Boy (2013)
Pop/Punk**

The music video for this album’s hit single “My Songs Know What You Did In The Dark (Light Em Up),” which star’s America’s sweetheart 2 Chainz immolating Fall Out Boy’s instruments and albums and, in the last few seconds, the band members themselves, was enough for this album to catch my attention. The majority of the songs lives up to Fall Out Boy’s reputation: catchy pop hooks that will stick in your head for days, the angry vocals of Patrick Stump, and the softened punk sensibility that allowed the band to achieve fame and widespread recognition. The lyrics of each song start out sounding like a joke, but when listened to carefully betray the sentimentality and even romanticism of the cynical frontman Patrick Stump; in “Miss Missing You,” he croons, “you were my picket fence,” then shouts just a few lines later, “the person that you’d take a bullet for is behind the trigger.” When you’re looking for a pick-me-up after a long week of exams, this is a fun, fast-paced, and highly danceable record.

Favorite Tracks: “Just One Yesterday,” “The Mighty Fall,” “Miss Missing You”





FABULOUS FIRST-YEARS



Boemin Park

Survey

A good chunk of the school year has passed and the First-Years have had time to adjust to high school life. Here are some of their thoughts on KAMSC:

"My spirit animal is Spongebob AKA Boombox Ronnie. (If you don't know him, look him up! He has his own documentary.)" -Vincent McNelis



"I believe we should get gym credits for having to travel 84 steps twice a day."

- Lucas Corey



#truth

"A good thing about KAMSC is that you can go to the bathroom whenever you want."

-Aaron Lenning

"The water from the fountain here tastes...interesting."

-Anna Nordmoe



"I personally like being a First-Year, especially since upper class students think I am older than I am."

-Lucas Corey

"I go to KAMSC not only to see my friends and learn but to get my thighs toned and my stamina up walking up and down 84 steps."

-Cortney Chow

"My charm? The one and only: TI-89 TITANIUM!"

-Anna Nordmoe



"The most important thing that I've learned is how to manage my time."

-Aaron Lenning



"I like them like children." (in reference to Mr. Chopp's snakes) -Chad Blackwell



Thank you to all of the First-Years who contributed!

Cricket Update: The Season is Approaching!



Humza Mirza

Sports

KAMSC's cricket season is just about to begin! All cricketers are welcome to join the team. All students are welcome to join. In fact, even if you can't see, are vertically challenged, and hand-eye coordination is one of your greatest weaknesses, you are welcome to come and participate in a friendly scrimmage and drill at Open Lab for cricket practice.



KAMSC is known for holding an annual state championship cricket match that really challenges all students and faculty to prove which team can work together most efficiently. Cricket is an interesting sport compared to traditional high school physical activities. You don't have to be able to bench press a two-ton Hummer or run as fast as Hermes. Cricket is all about skill and honing in on your strengths while concentrating on your opponent's weaknesses.

There will be an informational meeting for captains coming up in the beginning of December to organize practice schedules. In the meantime, grab a pair of wickets from Mr. Sinclair's room, request a rubber cricket ball or two, and head down to Alshehri Alley and throw a quick pitch with some of your friends. Captains for each grade level will arrange meetings for the teams so don't worry about conflicts with your sending school's sports. For now, feel free to drop by and see one of your captains during Open Lab and ask him or her a few questions on how to throw the ball, what the rules of the game are, and ask about the upcoming state championships.

An informational email will be sent out soon to all the cricketers who signed up outside of Mr. Sinclair's room. Bring your questions to the Open Lab scrimmages and practice your googly!



Cheesy Winter Humor



Aayushi Priya

Jokes

Here are some “cool” jokes that will make you smile!

🌲 *What eight letters can you find in water from the Arctic Ocean?*

H to O!

🌲 *Where did the penguin put his money?*

In a snow bank!

🌲 *What do you call a slow skier?*

A slope-poke!

🌲 *What's the opposite of a somersault?*

A winter pepper!

🌲 *What do snowmen call their offspring?*

Chill-dren!

🌲 *Does Rudolph the reindeer go to public school?*

No, he's elf taught!

🌲 *What time is it when snowflakes fall past the classroom window?*

Snow and Tell!

🌲 *What do you call an old snowman?*

Water!

🌲 *How does a snowman travel?*

By icicle!

And several knock-knock jokes...

🌲 Knock knock
Who's there?
Freeze!
Freeze who?
Freeze a jolly good fellow!



🌲 Knock knock
Who's there?
Icy!
Icy who?
Icy a big polar bear up ahead!

🌲 Knock knock
Who's there?
Emma!
Emma who?
Emma bit cold out here, let me in!

🌲 Knock knock
Who's there?
Blue!
Blue who?
Blue your nose—the cold is making it run!

🌲 Knock knock
Who's there?
Guitar!
Guitar who?
Guitar coats, it's cold outside!

And a few puns...

🌲 Me? Ski down the mountain? Snow way!
🌲 They top the charts every January...the Black-Ice Peas.
🌲 Those who play poker in a snowstorm must carefully shovel their decks.



In honor of the 50th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*, here is a quick drawing of Rose Tyler!



Rose Tyler from *Doctor Who*

by Aayushi Priya

“Smarties”

(Song Parody of “Royals” by Lorde)



Ansh Chaudhary

Music



I’ve never seen an A+ on a test.

I come home disappointed on the daily,

And I’m not proud of all my grades.

What am I doing in a place like KAMSC?

And every class is like, know this, know that, literally know everything.

If you know the whole book you won’t really have a problem.

Even if I study, my exam grades don’t really improve,

But everybody else is getting such good grades even if they don’t study.

They come to class unprepared, and leave the class happy.

They’re so smart, they aren’t caught up in being like me.

And I’ll never be a smartie (smartie),

I wasn’t born like that.

That kind of knowledge just isn’t me.

I need to stay up all night and study.

I hope to get an A (A)

On any upcoming test.

And baby I’ll rule, I’ll rule, I’ll rule, I’ll rule.

Let me ace that test.



Dear Katherine

Do you have issues? A secret that's burning you up inside?
Send your questions to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com to get
them answered anonymously!



by Katherine Wu

*Dear Katherine,
So the Seniors keep talking about
how much work applying to college
is...I'm starting to get nervous about
it. Do you have any advice to make
college applications less scary?*

-Uncommon App

Dear Uncommon App,
I'm sure if you ask any Senior, they will all
tell you one thing: start early! Seriously,
do not procrastinate. Also, try to have fun
with them! You're writing about yourself
and all of the things you've accomplished,
not about the Revolutionary War. College
application essays are about the one
subject you should really know. Just be
yourself, and don't stress out too much!

*Dear Katherine,
On Twitter, these kids take pictures
of mentally challenged students and
Photoshop their heads onto silly
pictures. Some people say it's not
bullying because it's not really
intended to be mean, but it still
doesn't seem right that everyone's
laughing at these poor students who
will never know. Should I do
something to stop them?*

-Cyber Bystander

Dear Cyber Bystander,

It seems that bullying is no longer so
black and white, where the strong football
player steals the scrawny nerd's lunch
money. Social media allows anyone to say
anything online. It's hard to draw a
definite line. I would say that a good rule
of thumb is that if you were the person
being taunted, how offended would you
feel? If you would be pretty darned
offended, confront the people who are
doing it, and if that doesn't work, tell a
"trusted adult," as they say.

*Dear Katherine,
I'm really bad at shopping for
presents! I never know what to get
my parents or my siblings! Also,
when should I get gifts for friends?*

-Sheepish Shopper

Dear Sheepish Shopper,

Parents usually prefer a personal gift that
you made them or something they've
been asking you to do for a long time, like
cleaning the garage. Just don't buy your
mom cleaning supplies. Siblings vary a lot,
but if you've got the money for it, go to
Best Buy and get something nice. For your
friends, you could make them all a nice
holiday treat so there's no obligatory two-
way gifting, or if they are really near and
dear to you, of course you should give
them something!

SCI-FI MOVIE REVIEWS

These reviews are rated K for KAMSC Students.



Nikita Bhatia

Film

Every year, KAMSC hosts its annual Sci-Fi Movie Festival. For the whole night, we watch different science fiction movies. Few of the movies are actually worth watching. For the bad movies, KAMSC students have a

good time making fun of them. The following are reviews for some of the movies that might appear at the Sci-Fi festival.

After Earth

Rating: 1/5

This is one of the worst Sci-Fi movies I have ever seen. It does not manage to hold the audience's interest at all. One of the main reasons why this movie is lacking is because of Jaden Smith's bad acting. If this movie does appear at the Sci-Fi Movie Festival, KAMSC students will have a good time making fun of it.



Ender's Game

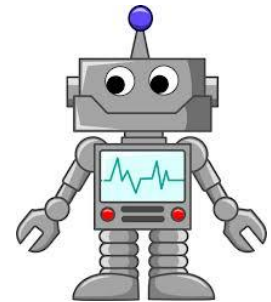
Rating: 4/5

The first day that *Ender's Game* came out, I rushed to Celebration Cinema to see it since it is one of my favorite books. With award winning actors like Ben Kingsley and Viola Davis and the Sci-Fi legend Harrison Ford, the acting in this movie is amazing. However, like other movies, it is missing some of the background information.

Pacific Rim

Rating: 3.5/5

Again, this movie does not have an immersive story plot or good character development, but the visuals and the robot fights make it an enjoyable show. The robots are visually pleasing and the fights are very entertaining. Who doesn't love robot fights?



Gravity

Rating: 5/5

If there is one good movie that should be shown at the Sci-Fi Movie Festival, it is *Gravity*. It is one of the best Sci-Fi movies I have ever seen. The whole movie is like a thrill ride and it even follows some of the laws of physics!

Top 10 Ways a KAMSC Kid Should Study for Exams



Simran Singh

Top Ten

1. Go over your notes, reread the textbook, and look at old tests.
2. Read #1, be overwhelmed, and give up.
3. Have a study party with your friends.
4. If you are not able to do #3 due to your friends' lack of availability, make a snowman – he'll keep you company while you study!
5. Going sledding? Take your textbook with you and read as you're going down a hill!
6. Get advice from someone who has already taken the class. Make sure to recognize sarcasm. (I've definitely told some First-Years about how "ridiculously easy" the biology exam was!)
7. Watch all the sci-fi movies you can!
8. Wait until Sunday evening before exam week and cram!
9. Busy on Sunday night? Start studying the morning of your exam!
10. Don't! Wing it – how hard can they be?



You Know You Go to KAMSC When:



Miles Pruitt

Musings

- Video games are your addiction.
- A "B" feels like a wound to the heart.
- Studying is your life.
- You actually have to think.
- You stress every minute of every day. (Note: Being stressed stinks but once you are in the real world, you will handle it like a boss.)
- Your only physical activity is walking up 84 steps.
- Your backpack weighs approximately 60 tons.
- Your neck hurts.
- You have 4 million pencils stashed in a secret drawer.
- You type at a million words a minute.
- Your guys are "The Geeks."
- You drink Mountain Dew.
- You don't go to bed.




Resolutions for a Green 2014




Genevieve Sertic


Environment


When making resolutions for the New Year, it's never a bad idea to think about how you can not only help yourself, but our Earth as well. The following ideas are relatively easy to implement, and they can help make a world of difference!


 **Unplug.** Phantom power or vampire energy results from devices drawing energy while plugged in even when they are unused. You can curb 10% of your household energy costs by unplugging electronic devices when not in use. Use a power strip to make it easy to cut power to multiple items with the flick of a switch!

 **Buy local food.** You'll eat fresher, healthier food with fewer preservatives, and you'll also reduce the need for packaging and transportation costs. We have some great local markets in the area, including the People's Food Co-op of Kalamazoo!





 **If you haven't already, fill up reusable bottles of water at home instead of buying pre-bottled water.** Save money and reduce packaging waste!

 **Recycle, reuse, repurpose!** Most of us recycle, and that's a great start. Repurposing is beneficial in reducing landfills, too, and it's fun to give new life to something you've had – turn crates into shelving, make a pillow out of a favorite old T-shirt you've outgrown but with which you can't bear to part, turn received greeting cards into gift tags, convert an old birdbath (or just about anything) into a flowerpot – you get the idea. Check out <http://www.boredpanda.com/creative-reuse-upcycling-repurposing-ideas/> for some interesting suggestions – from turning a drum set into overhead lights to using an old TV set as an aquarium!

 **Eat a meatless meal once or twice a week.** We can each reduce our carbon footprint significantly by eliminating meat from our diet on a regular basis, and widespread lifestyles like this increase the global food supply.



 **Throw a cloth bag in your car or bike basket and use it for shopping instead of bringing home disposable bags along with your items.**

 **Switch to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) to save energy and money.** Today's CFLs are softer on the eyes and do not flicker like the first ones to hit the market. You can even buy dimmable CFL bulbs. CFLs outlast their standard counterparts by ten years and require much less energy to shine, so there's every reason to make the conversion!



"My Electrons Stay"

feat. Humza Mirza

(Song Parody of Rihanna's "Stay" feat. Mikky Ekko)

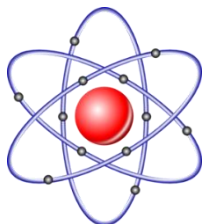


Humza Mirza

Music

All along it was a beaver
A cold sweat mole-headed believer
I threw my test tubes up there, said, "Show me something,"
He said, "If you dare, come a little closer."

Round and around and around and around they go
Oh now, tell me now, tell me now, tell me now you know.

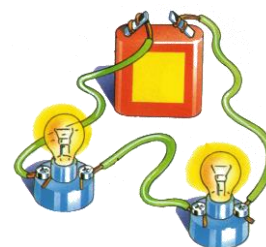


Not really sure how to feel about it.
Something in the electrons move
Makes me feel like I can't live without them.
They orbit all the way.
I want them to stay.

It's not much of a life you're living
It's not just some energy absorbed—it's given.

Round and around and around and around they go
Oh now, tell me now, tell me now, tell me now you know.

Not really sure how to feel about it.
Why do they always move?
Makes me want to jump into their orbit.
They rotate all the way.
I want them to stay.



Ooh, ooh, ooh, the reason protons hold on
Ooh, ooh, ooh, 'cause I need this mole gone.
Funny they have no mass but I'm the only one who stays floating
'Cause when you're a proton, electron lights are hard to keep from bloating.

Not really sure how to feel about it.
Electrons always move.
Makes me feel like I'm staying in place.
They orbit all the way.
I want them to stay, stay.
I want you to stay, oh.

Technology News



Kitu Komya

Technology

Shopping for presents is always a challenge when you don't know the latest gadgets. Assembled below are the perfect presents to give.

eyn – *iPhone Storage Case*

\$30 – <http://tinyurl.com/eyncase>



Purchase a stylish, durable iPhone case with hidden storage for cards and money, saving you the need for bags...so convenient.

Anelace – *Binary Clock*

\$25 – <http://tinyurl.com/01clock>



This clock uses binary by adding the values of the lit LEDs in each column...a perfect nerdy gift.

Glove.ly – *Touch Screen Gloves*

\$30 – <http://tinyurl.com/glovely>



Stay cozy, insulated, AND be able to use your phone while wearing gloves...an ingenious creation.

IDAPT – *Universal Phone Charger*

\$80 – <http://tinyurl.com/univ80>



The base charges a family of four's phones and can charge 5000 tech devices...so compact.

A KAMSC Story



Zoe Folsom

Wintry Tale

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house rang the sounds of shuffling paper and my computer mouse. I'd been studying for hours, and I couldn't quite see straight anymore, but the paralyzing fear of midterms overruled any desire for sleep. The subjects had begun to blur together, theorems became programming codes and one cup of coffee turned to five, but I simply couldn't seem to keep my eyes open.



All of a sudden, I heard a shuffling downstairs. I was almost completely sure it was just my sleep-deprived brain trying to drag me anywhere but in front of the computer, but my incessant need to blink without glare led me to quietly walk downstairs. I didn't turn any lights on, for fear of blinding myself, but the soft glow of the lights on the Christmas tree helped enough that I didn't run into anything.

I walked into the living room, and there, next to the tree, was a man. He was, admittedly, a little on the heavy side, but he wasn't dressed up in a Santa costume. Initially, I assumed he just wasn't real. I rubbed my eyes for a few seconds, but when I reopened them the man was still standing there. My second reaction told me he was a robber, but the sleep deprivation had drained me of all of my sense so I didn't yell upstairs. I just sat there, staring at him.

He stared back, for a moment. Then he just shrugged and turned his back,

reaching into what I could vaguely tell was a large sack. He pulled out some boxes, laying them under the tree in a quick, haphazard sort of manner, while I just sat there watching. He spent about two minutes unloading the gifts, and before he left (out of the front door, I might add, probably because my family doesn't actually have a chimney) he walked over to me, said "here," handed me some papers and walked away with a mysterious smile on his face.

I couldn't see what the papers were with only the tree as a lamp, so I trudged back up the stairs to my room and sat at my desk. Unfolding the papers, I discovered that I held in my hands all of the answers to my upcoming exams. This meant no more studying! I could enjoy my winter vacation, and laugh at all of my KAMSC friends who couldn't enjoy any of their breaks because of looming midterms. I tried to look out the window to thank this Santa-like character, but he was gone. After carefully setting the papers on my desk, I turned off my lamp and climbed into bed, smiling.



"Wake up!" I heard, slowly opening my eyes. I discovered that I had fallen asleep at my desk, and I was sure that my face had the imprint of a computer keyboard tattooed on it. Still, I was hopeful, and began to look for the papers that the mysterious man had handed me, my golden ticket. I rummaged through everything, making a complete and utter mess of my already unfathomably messy workplace, but the papers had disappeared. Groaning, I realized that it had all just been a dream.

Winter Fun Facts about KAMSC Teachers



Chang Yang

Survey

Thanks to the KAMSC teachers who answered several questions I asked about the winter season! Here are the questions and responses.

What is your favorite winter holiday tradition?

Mr. Chopp: My mom painted a nativity that would always be up in the house, complete with camels, shepherds, wise men and donkeys. My little brother would steal the baby Jesus in the manger before Christmas because He wasn't born yet, and then my brother would wake up in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve and put baby Jesus back in the manger. As an adult, my brother still goes over to Mom and Dad's house and steals baby Jesus, and then puts Him back on Christmas morning.

Mr. Cardwell: You mean besides winter break at school, right? ... I like warm apple cider with cinnamon and fresh coffee cake.

Mr. Houtrouw: Hands down...two or more weeks off of work/school! You can never have too much vacation.

Mr. Alshehri: Visiting with friends and relatives.

Mr. Sinclair: Taking a Christmas Eve walk through Bronson Park and driving around Kalamazoo looking at the decorations.

Ms. Hach: My favorite holiday tradition is baking cookies with my daughter-in-law. My mother, when she was alive, and I would pick a night and stay up until the wee hours baking all our cookies in a 24-hour period. We had such fun! Even though I bake many more cookies than I'll ever eat or need to give as gifts, it just isn't the holiday until I've done it!



What is one New Year's resolution you've made?

Mr. Chopp: I've resolved to not make any more resolutions.

Mr. Cardwell: Learn to play the guitar.

Mr. Houtrouw: I resolved to never make New Year's Resolutions.

Mr. Alshehri: Not to procrastinate, and I have nearly kept it.

Mr. Sinclair: I generally don't make New Year's resolutions...but I guess I should try to lose weight. Or laugh less. Or read more. Or finish writing a book. Or grade less stuff. All of the above.

Ms. Hach: One resolution I've made that I've been able to keep is to mind my own business as much as possible.



What was your best holiday present ever?

Mr. Chopp: I surprised my wife with a pair of used cross-country skis one Christmas. I hid them in the shed, and put a note in an envelope under the tree. She was so surprised, and we have loved cross-country skiing each winter ever since.

Mr. Cardwell: My wife officially agreed to marry me on December 26.

Mr. Houtrouw: I don't know about "best" but the most surprising (shocking actually) Christmas present was a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it all put together it turned out to be ME...outdoors in my underwear!

Mr. Alshehri: I've received many, but the one that comes to mind right now is an automatic tea maker. I wake up every morning now to a fresh cup of tea.

Mr. Sinclair: Tough one...probably my wife's and my first Christmas together; she got me a Detroit Tiger jacket and managed to successfully fool me into thinking it was something else by putting a shoe into the package. (I guess she figured I would try to shake the box to identify what was inside....needless to say, it worked. I was completely fooled.) Pretty special memory.

Ms. Hach: My best present ever (since I have been an adult) was probably the TiVo that my kids gave me a few years ago, before DVRs were popular. It changed the way I watch television and is still working in my bedroom. Coupled with a DVD recorder, I can make copies of all kinds of programs to use at school!



Do you think parents should have their kids believe in Santa?

Mr. Chopp: Yes.

Mr. Cardwell: It's best if the parents believe in Santa themselves.

Mr. Houtrouw: No. Nor the Easter Bunny, nor the Tooth Fairy (someone I actually believed in for quite a while), nor the Great Pumpkin, nor...

Mr. Sinclair: Absolutely. Especially when you can fool them into thinking Santa is visiting by leaving footprints in the snow outside the house, eating the cookies left for him, and leaving them a lump of coal wrapped as a Christmas gift.

Ms. Hach: I think Christmas is so much more fun when Santa's around!



What will you miss most and least about KAMSC over winter break?

Mr. Chopp: The students' smiling faces.

Mr. Cardwell: I will miss the students most (16 sad days in a row!). I will miss grading the least, except when I'm grading, of course.

Mr. Houtrouw: I will miss the students the most. I will miss grading the least. Oh wait. I will most likely be grading all through break, so I guess I won't get the chance to miss it.

Mr. Alshehri: I will miss my students and colleagues most. I will miss having to get up early every morning least.

Mr. Sinclair: What I miss the most – the students. What I miss the least – grading.

Ms. Hach: What I miss most are my students. What I miss least is grading!!!!



Winter at KAMSC



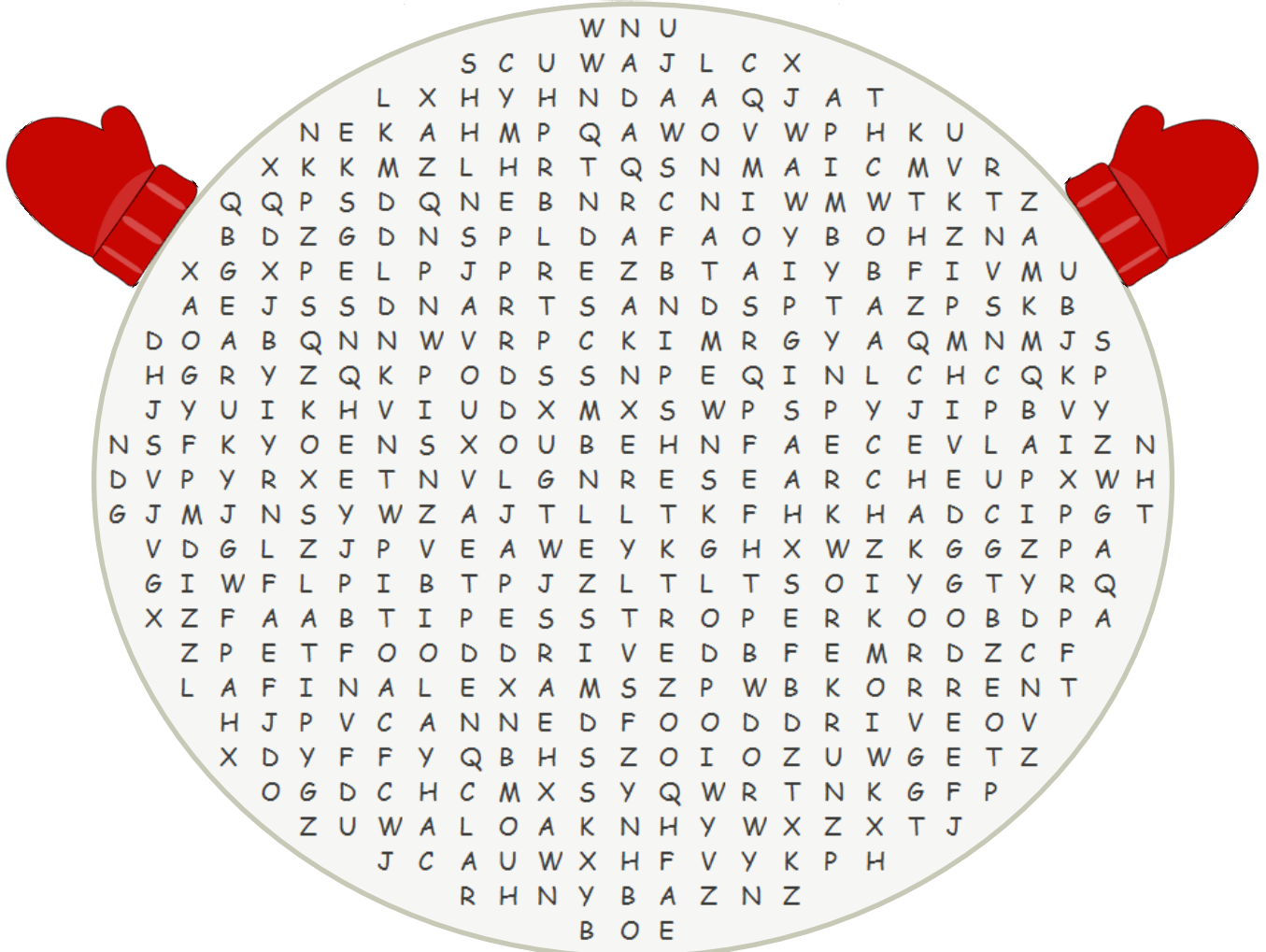
Genevieve Sertic

Puzzles

Alumni Day
 Applications
 Book Reports
 Canned Food Drive
 DNA Strands



Final Exams
 Pet Food Drive
 Research
 Senior Tea
 Toy Presentation



Typical KAMSC Student Resolutions



Grace Beverage

New Year

1. I will not procrastinate on my homework.
2. I will keep the above resolution longer than I did last year.
3. In fact, I am going to be proactive. I will look into assignments before they're assigned. Doing assigned work is always a hundred times more boring than taking initiative to learn.
4. Let's not get too caught up in school work, I need to be well rounded. I will join at least one winter club or sport.
5. I will try to act more selflessly with volunteering and doing the occasional chore, even if I have homework as an excuse. Speaking of which, I should probably stop using homework as an excuse.
6. I will take better notes in class. I will forcibly make my handwriting legible and my sentences coherent.
7. Social media and the internet will be a smaller part of my life, while I give my social skills some work. Websites not to visit include: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Netflix and Reddit.
8. I will go to sleep before 11 p.m., or at least give myself nothing fun to do after 11 p.m.
9. I'm going to keep a better calendar so things don't sneak up on me. Honestly, the timing of events I planned in advance shouldn't catch me off guard.
10. I will finish all the things that I
11. I will make more friends at my sending school. I will start by making an effort to talk to more people at my sending school.
12. I will laugh at the jokes teachers make. It can't be fun to watch us glaze over for an hour.
13. I will use the word "KAMSC" less frequently in conversations with people who don't go to KAMSC. A story is a story, no matter in which particularly elite math and science center it took place.
14. I will review material more often in the second semester. There is no way that I will be able to pass finals if I keep pretending that I'm not accountable to remember what we did the first week of class.
15. I will stop holing up in my room for five hours every night, just to remind my family that I'm still alive.



Book Review



Zoe Folsom

Literature

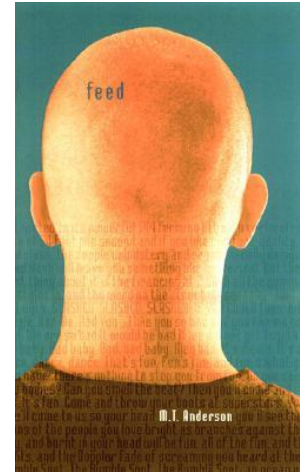
Recently, I read the novel *Feed*

by M.T. Anderson. It is science fiction, set in a futuristic world in which all human beings have a computer system in them that not only controls and maintains most bodily functions, but also reacts as a computer would. People can search for definitions, buy things, listen to their favorite music, or listen to the constant stream of advertisements off of their feed.

The story follows a teen named Titus and his friends. Initially, they are taking a vacation on the moon during Spring Break. While there, they meet a girl named Violet Durn, and together they all run into a man who ultimately places a “glitch” in their feeds. Titus and his friends are fine, but Violet’s feed becomes permanently damaged. Over time, Violet’s entire body begins to malfunction. While it is doing so, she makes the conscious decision to try “fighting” the feed. She does so by trying to search for the most random and scattered line of products that she could possibly think of, so that the feed will not be able to categorize her as it does other people.

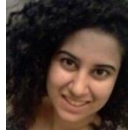
By the end of the novel, Violet can barely function, and Titus has all but abandoned her for multiple reasons: he finds her outlook on life strange, he doesn’t want to face death, and some degree of conflict

exists between Violet and Titus’s friends. But, when Violet is on the brink of death, Titus visits her, and comes to the realization that she is not strange to resist the feed, but wise.



In a world where most teenagers constantly want newer and better technologies, this book really brings things into perspective. The internet is a very helpful thing, as we KAMSC kids know, but this book makes the reader realize that there is a sort of necessity in living in a fashion where the market and technology are not defining traits for one’s self. Not only that, but *Feed* puts into perspective the monumental impact that media has on our population in the modern world, and how that can also come to define us.

If you enjoy science-fiction novels that explore psychology on both a personal scale and a societal scale, this book is perfect for you. If you don’t enjoy such traits in your novels, you should still read it. *Feed* is not only extremely meaningful, but interesting and witty. If you have the chance, I would highly recommend reading *Feed*.



Kitu Komya

Astrology

Horrorscopes

Asire (Mapril)

You challenge your younger sister to a snowball duel, and to your surprise, she flings a snowball so fiercely that it knocks you over. You wake up at a hospital.

Tuarsu (Apray)

During the holiday break, you're feeling especially cheerful, so you decide to bake a batch of butterscotch cookies. The sweet smell of butterscotch puts you to sleep, which results in burning you and your house down. You wake up at a hospital.



Geimin (Mane)

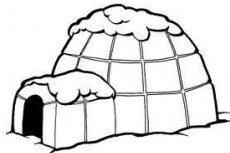
One lonely wintery night, you decide to go sledding. However, your lack of vision at nighttime causes you to accidentally sled over your best friend who was making snow angels at the bottom of the hill. You topple over him, breaking your clavicle. You wake up at a hospital.

Cnacre (Juny)

Tommy, your best friend, tells you to close your eyes so he can show you your gift. You forget that you had inadvertently broken Tommy's ribs while sledding, so he covers your face with a chloroform cloth, knocking you out. Unknowingly when you wake up, you're in a full body cast...at a hospital.

Loe (Julust)

You determine to construct an igloo outside the hospital to hide from Tommy. Little do you know that Tommy had brought you to the Arctic while you were unconscious. As you hide, a polar bear seeks you out and rips your legs apart. You wake up at a hospital.



Vrigo (Augember)

Realizing your good behavior this year, you search for Santa Claus's house. You faint while trekking due to hypothermia. You wake up at a hospital.

Labri (Septocto)

You see your love from across a hospital corridor and your eyes meet. Mistletoe hangs nearby, so simultaneously you both walk underneath it. The mistletoe falls onto your head, however, giving you yet another head concussion. You wake up at the hospital, loveless.

Socripo (Octember)

For years you have saved up to travel to the Bahamas. This winter holiday you're bound to make it happen, so you go to your bank. However, you walk in the middle of a bank robbery and you're shot in the abdomen. You wake up at a hospital.

Sgatiatrusi (Novedec)

In the spirit of giving, you volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Now your foe, Tommy, also appears, and you battle with meager bells until you've hit the ground. You wake up at a hospital.



Ciprocran (Decuary)

Feeling nostalgic, you assemble a ten-foot-tall snowman. The snowman comes to life and tries to attack you but, in failing to do so, you've contracted hypothermia (déjà vu?) once again. You wake up at a hospital.

Arquiasu (Janufe)

At a New Year's Party you've had a little too much (fruit punch) to drink and you try to show off your dancing abilities...on a table. Inevitably, you collapse on the hardwood floor and break your back. You wake up at a hospital.

Psisce (Febma)

On a cold day, you choose to ice skate over your favorite lake. The thin ice can't support your weight so you sink underneath the water. Tommy pulls you out, frozen, before you drown. You both revoke your enmity once you wake up at a hospital.



Funny Quotes Heard Around KAMSC



Ansh Chaudhary

KAMSC Life

“It’s cool how Taco Bob’s is a palindrome.” - Jacob Naranjo

“Is there a wood division?” - Ben Dunham, discussing USACO Monthly Competitions

Mr. Sinclair: "I think it's in the Constitution that a man can't help his wife cook on Thanksgiving." *All three girls in the class look at each other and decide to leave the classroom.* Mr. Sinclair: "Why are you leaving? I'll dock you points for this."

“I’m so over you, Sam!” - Ms. Hampton, almost every single day in class

"I haven't given your tests back because I am vainly searching for points to give you." - Mr. Sinclair

“Don’t drop the so-da cup; you’ll have to mop-it-up.” - Spencer Henning

“Humza, you won’t believe this, but there is actually a deer behind you.”
- Everybody, attempting to do a made-you-look

“Cannibalism is great! What would you say if you were being eaten? ‘Yay, cannibalism!’” - Mr. Milka

“Guess who got a 100% on their IT test!” - Some First-Year who walks by
“I’m guessing you...” - Tom Sandell

“This particular class has aged me more than any other class I have ever taught.” - Mr. Sinclair, to his AP Calculus class

“What kind of fruit can a fortune teller read?
A PALMEGRANATE” - Katherine Wu

Dr. Tanoff starts speaking on the intercom
“I VOLUNTEER AS TRIBUTE!!!!” - Mr. Houtrouw

Humza Khan: “Who wants Lupe Fiasco tickets? I have extra tickets.” Jacob Naranjo: “I don’t know if I want to get caught up in this whole fiasco.”

“I’m single by choice; it just wasn’t MY choice” - Spencer Henning



I have a nasty mole on my hand

Ew

I demand pics



- Jessie Poling

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Acknowledgements:

-  ***Thanks to our advisor, Mr. Sinclair.***
-  ***Thanks to the teachers for their Fun Facts.***
-  ***Thanks to Dr. Tanoff for his input and for funding this publication.***