

KAMSC's



STEPS

Winter Edition 2014



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Letter from the Editors

Happy winter and happy holidays to all! We hope that your holiday season has been a glorious one thus far! Things around KAMSC have been incredibly busy and exciting. We are all finally settled into the school year (even the first years-maybe). Exams are quickly approaching, adding a little bitterness to the sweet, sweet bliss of the impending winter break. But our KAMSC students bundle up in their winter coats and make the trek to our wonderful fourth floor with smiles on their faces each and every day. There are some exciting events approaching for all of us at KAMSC like Alumni Day, exams, winter break, and much, much more!

As usual, we would LOVE to have more writers on our amazing “84 Steps” staff! We welcome writers from the most experienced to brand-new on our staff. If you are interested in writing for us or submitting any artwork, email kamsc84steps@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Your Editors (Colby, Miles, and Pete)

Top Ten Things on a KAMSC Kid’s Wishlist

The holidays are coming up
and we all have a few things that we’ll be wanting...

By Boemin Park

1. Fuzzy blankets so we can stay warm and cuddly as we study for our tests (or watch Netflix)!
2. For social media to stop being so addicting. We don’t want to be professional procrastinators...



3. An eidetic memory would be nice, so we would be able to zip through our textbooks once and remember everything.



4. Coffee to help us stay awake for those all-nighters and get through the day. A million pounds should do. (Giftcards to Biggby and Starbucks would also suffice.)

5. Snow days! Snow days galore!

#TeamMotherNature

6. A time machine so we can quickly fast forward to the Sci-Fi Film Fest.

7. Sleep. (No further explanation necessary.)

8. Remember the good ol' days in elementary school when we had homework passes? Add that to the list...

9. Some more pencils and pens. Our writing utensils keep getting lost...maybe they escape into a different dimension?

10. Last but not least: escalators to take us up to the fourth floor! 😊



Holiday Music Review

By Chang Yang

With the end of the year comes the arrival of the catchiest (or, to some, annoying) type of music: Christmas music! In the spirit of St. Nick, what follows below is a list of unique twists to familiar tunes.

Carol of the Bells—Pentatonix

‘Carol of the Bells’ is a melody heard everywhere during the holiday season, especially popular because it has more of a minor tune than its more cheerful contemporaries. The song is usually played with instruments, sans its original lyrics, which makes this cover by Pentatonix even more unique. For those who enjoy the song best in instrumental form, this version doesn’t lack in that department: Pentatonix’s formidable a capella skills cover every sound you need.

Wizards In Winter—Trans-Siberian Orchestra

While not an original song and not a cover, this instrumental track deserves to be as well-known as any other of its kind. Trans-Siberian Orchestra is a progressive

rock band which mostly composes and covers Christmas music, giving old and ancient music a second life with their electrifying deliveries. If you've ever watched those DIY Christmas light shows on YouTube, you've already heard their songs. 'Wizards In Winter' is covered with crazy drums, guitar riffs, and an epic ending: don't listen to it on full volume.

All I Want For Christmas Is You—Michael Buble

Everyone knows Mariah Carey's hit song, which came back onto the charts in 2011 when Justin Bieber accompanied her in a remake of her music video. While Mariah Carey's voice is great, we could use a change from the same old song, and Michael Buble manages to do so. It's partly because the song is usually sung by a woman and partly because of his creative rendition that makes this cover *definitely* worth a listen.

Christmas Lights—Coldplay

Christmas originals from popular artists are always great, and Coldplay's 'Christmas Lights' is no exception. A little bit on the melancholy side (as Chris Martin's songs sometimes are), the song is about lost love and the Christmas lights that represent glimmers of hope that everything will turn out alright. One of the more notable lines says, "When you're still waiting for the snow to fall / It doesn't really feel like Christmas at all" (something we can relate to, with our lawns still completely green). Coldplay has recently announced that its next album may be its very last, so take some time and enjoy their songs this winter.



Want to make a difference in your KAMSC community? Come to Student Senate!

Student Senate Meetings Wednesday nights @ 7:30 after

Open Lab!



Top 10 Artists of 2014

By Lily Krone



10. **Sky Ferreira** - This singer's electropop vibes followed Miley Cyrus around the world on her Bangerz tour and gave her tour the electric twist it needed to be spectacular.
9. **The Antlers** - Although topping their 2009 album *Hospice* may be almost impossible, The Antlers have released two acoustic singles this year that do not disappoint: "Palace" and "Hotel."
8. **The Mountain Goats** - Despite the fact that his band has not produced any new music in over 2 years, the frontman of The Mountain Goats, John Darnielle, has been far from dormant. His debut novel, *Wolf In White Van*, was released this year and nominated for the National Book Award.
7. **Wu-Tang Clan** - The Wu-Tang Clan has been spotty at best about releasing new albums over the past 10 years. However, *A Better Tomorrow*, released in December of this year, incorporating the group's distinctive lyrical style with a fresh feel.
6. **FKA twigs** - This hip-hop artist's first full-length album, *LP1*, was released this year to critical acclaim. Her style is heavily influenced by punk and R&B, and her self-produced music videos never fail to evoke some serious emotion.
5. **Nicki Minaj** - The queen of rap continues to impress in 2014 with numerous singles, including the catchy and somewhat obscene "Anaconda," an instant classic.
4. **Andrew Jackson Jihad** - with the release of their newest album *Christmas Island*, this folk-punk band proves their ability to constantly innovate and shift within their genre.
3. **Against Me!** - The amazing and perfect Laura Jane Grace of Against Me! has done the world two invaluable services this year: the first, the release of the band's sixth album, *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*, which chronicles the frontwoman's struggle with dysphoria and transition; the second, *True Trans*, a television show hosted by LJG herself which are available to watch for free online.
2. **Childish Gambino** - To be fair, Gambino's last full-length album, *Because The Internet*, was released at the end of 2013. However, his recently released EP/mixtape combo, *Kauai*, is truly revolutionizing the rap genre.
1. **Beyonce** - Featuring acclaimed feminist writer and scholar Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on a track about female empowerment? Yes, please. Remixing it to feature an original Nicki Minaj verse? Double yes. Beyonce is truly a queen.

New Year Resolutions of KAMSC Students

By Aayushi Priya

"I have a goal to make it up the KAMSC stairs without hyperventilating!"

"My resolution is to start being a better vegetarian by eating more vegetables and stop using ice cream as a substitute for them!"

"None. New Year's resolutions are like homework: you say you're gonna do it, but you end up on the internet, or eating, or crying that you didn't do it."

"I want to have a Hannah Montana marathon with all of my friends."

"I want to eat less."

"To be able to do a #TiltTuesday."

"To never comment on the 84 steps."

"To earn a varsity spot in cross country next year."

"I plan to do more math."

"Make a state cut for my high school swim team."

"I don't want to lose my phone (I've already lost it twice this year)."

"I want to try not to get a C+ when learning C++."

"I want to have amazing comebacks in the form of puns."

"To not procrastinate."

"To hopefully graduate and go to college (WOOT WOOT)."

"Spend more time hanging with my family instead of snuggling with my textbooks every night."



Dear Grace

By Grace Beverage

We all know getting through the school year can be tough, and some dilemmas need a second opinion. Submit any of your questions, qualms and queries to 'Ask Grace' at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com for anonymous & amateur advice. I also accept questions in the form of sealed letters quietly slid across tables, no questions asked.

Dear Grace,

I am a menace to society. Every day I wake up optimistic, thinking that today will be different. But come the fateful moment I step into my car, my optimism fades into pure terror. I am a horrible driver. Before I've even set a foot in school in the morning I've been a threat to the health and safety of at least ten fellow motorists. I'm not homicidal, but I legitimately cannot operate heavy machinery and I'm worried sick over driving in the snow. I need pointers, and fast. Help!

Sincerely,

Driven to Madness

Dear Driven to Madness,

Brake yourself, winter is coming. This means that, without a doubt, driving conditions are going to make the roads even more hazardous than normal for bad drivers. Over the next few months, it's going to be important not to drive distractedly and not to rush anywhere. Give yourself plenty of scheduled time for driving and ride that brake pedal slowly to every stop sign and red light. If conditions are horrendous, make a judgment on whether or not you should drive outside of your school commute, and if it's too snowy for even that then don't be afraid to ask for a ride.

Dear Grace,

This Christmas my friends decided to create a game of Secret Santa. I joined, thinking of course of the mystery present I wanted to receive, but I paid little attention to the name I drew. In fact, two days later I realized I had no idea who I'm shopping for at all. I forgot who I'm Santa for. I have no idea what to buy them, and I'm starting to wish I hadn't signed up for this. I'm in desperate need of a nice gift that would work for both genders and any personality. Help!

Sincerely,
Secretly Sucky Santa

Dear Secretly Sucky Santa,

Being blinded by your own material desire isn't exactly admirable, but it's clear you want to make things right. Here's my advice: go the food route. The idea of food as a backup gift when you have no idea what else to get is chronically overused, but that's because almost everyone can appreciate a nice chocolate sampler or holiday cookie plate. If you think there's a chance your receiver doesn't like sweets, get them a gift card to the Bagel Beanery or Fourth Coast so they can treat themselves to something they will want. Good luck shopping and remember: giving is just as important as receiving. No one likes a greedy gift giver.

Dear Grace,

As of now, my grades in a few of my classes are not looking the best. By my calculations, I'll be safely in the A range only if I can ace all my finals. But the pressure of finals is already starting to freak me out. How do I manage to boost my grade as the semester comes to an end?

Sincerely,
Freaked for Finals

Dear Freaked for Finals,

I have some news you're not going to like: semester grades aren't made in a matter of two weeks. However, they can definitely be wrecked in that time, so I'd advise you to focus on school as much as possible over the next month. Take advantage of every end-of-the-semester extra credit project you can find and remember to ask for study guides and review materials before leaving for break. Finals are just as important as they are disliked, but studying well can make an otherwise brain-boggling test a breeze.

Top 5 Motivational Celebrity Tweets of 2014

By Lily Krone



5. "Stay true to who you are" - Amanda Bynes (@amandabynes)
4. "If you forget everything I've EVER SAID ...
REMEMBER THIS.

It is my gift to you.

Keep it ! It will serve you in times of confusion or despair” - Cher (@cher)

3. “i will never learn how to do photosynthesis i am to busy living my life” - Wolf Pupy (@wolfpupy)

2. “The doors may be heavier, but I promise you WE WILL BREAK THEM.” - Kanye West (@kanyewest)

1. “IM SO HAPPY YOUR ALIVE TODAY AND IMA TELL YOU THAT UNTIL YOU REALIZE THAT PEOPLE ON EARTH WERE BORN WITH LOVE AND LOVE IS AROUND US - Lil B” - Lil B (@LILBTHEBASEDGOD)

The Sports Corner: The Mr. Sinclair Bowl (OSU vs. Michigan)

By Jawad Aqeel



Every year, Michigan and Ohio State play each other in a widely-anticipated game of college football. This rivalry originates from way back in history; even back to when Michigan and Ohio fought over Toledo! This territorial conflict turned into what is known as the greatest rivalry in all of college sports between the University of Michigan and THE Ohio State University. The past few years this rivalry has been extremely competitive in basketball, however for football it has not been up to par with Michigan losing to Ohio State countless times. This is a good thing for me as a KAMSC junior this year, but bad at the same time, as I am a Michigan fan. The reason for this conflict of interest being Mr. Sinclair’s yearly quiz he gives based on the result of this game between his alma mater and Michigan. If Michigan loses, the quiz is extremely easy; however, if, dare I say it.....Michigan wins, the consequences will be suffered by his students in physics.

This year, physics students all tuned in to the Sinclair Bowl avidly watching what was supposed to be a walk in the park for Ohio State who was ranked 6th in the nation for football, while Michigan’s program was unranked and in a state of turmoil on the verge of not going to a bowl game this season. Although it was supposed to be a blow-out, Michigan fought hard early and worried every 11th grader in KAMSC. Sitting at the edge of their seats they prayed that Michigan would play at the poor standards they had all season instead of keeping the game

competitive. At halftime the score was tied giving the students plenty of time to suffer panic attacks, for it seemed that Michigan could actually pull off the upset bid. Lucky for the students, their half-time prayers were answered and Ohio State eventually began to pull away in the game. Every Junior at KAMSC breathed a sigh of relief once the margin looked like it was too much to overcome as they knew they would not have to suffer on the following Monday. Finally, the game ended and the final score was 28-42. I myself gave a cheer of joy, but as a Michigan fan, inside my heart it hurt.

We were lucky this year; however, in the future, it may not be the same case. For the future underclassmen you should be ready for the hardest quiz of your lives. Michigan is an up and coming program which will come back to its glory days of before. They fired their old coach Brady Hoke, and are looking to make a splash with their next coach. In addition, with this new coach, they will again look to bring in the top prospects for college football and Ohio State will probably lose in the near future. The game will still be competitive due to the rivalry, but mark my words this current streak the Buckeyes are on against the Wolverines will not continue. Just a warning to the underclassmen: you should beware in late November.

Student Senate Update

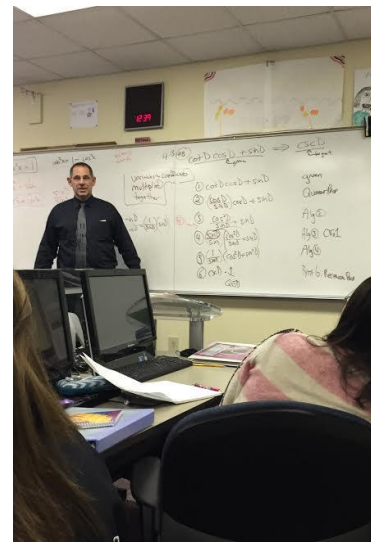
By Colby Hanley

It has been a busy fall/winter season for KAMSC Student Senate! The first and largest event for us was our KAMSC Class Clash and dance. Class Clash events this year went fantastically! We started out with a competitive and fun game of Capture-the-Flag. Next was Nerf Sharpshooting which proved harder than it looked, but still extremely fun. After that was Tug-of-War with a surprising Senior Class defeat! We finished with Dodgeball and Scavenger Hunt and by the end everyone was exhausted by the super fun time had by all! Later that night everyone got all dressed up and came back to the gym for the Clash Dance. The glow-in-the-dark theme was a hit and so was the AMAZING DJ who will certainly be asked back for our spring dance. Class Clash was a great hit this year thanks to the hardwork of our dedicated Student Senate members. For this week before winter break we are hosting a non-perishable food drive sponsored by Loaves and Fishes of Kalamazoo. We hope to have a huge amount of donations for those in need throughout our area!

Funny KAMSC Quotes

By Boemin Park

- “I remember when I had my first son, I was very confused. Like, what do you do with a boy? But now the house is quiet and I love them very much.” –Mrs. Kalnins
- “#yolobutyournutrientsliveon” –Emily Parker, First Year Student (After learning about the cycles of matter and mass with Mr. Chopp)
- “You know what would put me in the holiday spirit? Instead of roasting chestnuts on an open fire, roasting my homework instead.” –Liya Jin, First Year Student
- “Man, I can’t believe I lost a point on my quiz because I didn’t know who Rocky and Bullwinkle were! I lost a point over a cartoon!” –Lindsey Johnson, Junior
- “The best way to die would be going through a blackhole. But my wife says that’s impractical.” –Mr. Sinclair
- “Girl, are you moving at the speed of light? ‘Cause it looks like your mass is infinite.” –Connor Sloan, Junior
- “Guys, you can’t have senioritis yet. Even the little juniors are beating you! Resist!” –Mrs. Kalnins
- “When junior year kills me, I’ll donate my body to Mr. Sinclair so he can figure out how to get energy from my mass.” –Rachel Torres, Junior
- “Things I will never understand: Why women fall madly in love with jerks and that electricity unit from junior year.” –Isabella Haney, Senior
- “Mr. Sinclair, have you ever spun your kids really fast on a merry-go-round to see their acceleration?” –Matt Ring, Junior
- “What even is a Wednesday without Open Lab?” –Amirah Bin Mahfouz, Sophomore
- “Want to hear a sodium joke or Na? –Sabrina Welch, First Year Student
- “How do Tungsten, Uranium, and Boron drop the bass? WUBWUBWUBWUBWUB...” –Liya Jin, First Year Student



Because who doesn't enjoy a beautiful math proof?
(PS I was not using my phone in class, but got permission to take this photo. 😊)

- “I wrote an equation for my life today. Life = eat + sleep + study + run.” – Matt Ring, Junior
- “There are some people who shouldn’t rap...or sing...or dance.” “Mr. Sinclair, I can do all three for my presentation!” “Jawad...no. You’re someone who should never do any of those things.” –Mr. Sinclair and Jawad Aqeel, Junior



Top 10 Television Sitcoms of 2014

By Lily Krone

Friends - When you think “sitcom,” you probably think *Friends*. Set in New York in the 1990s, this show follows the adventures of a close-knit yet group of friends as they all try to find their paths in life. Available on Netflix very soon (yay!) and in syndication on Nick @ Night and TBS.

It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia - This show documents the life of the employees of Paddy’s Pub in downtown Philadelphia. It is laugh-out-loud funny, but be sure to recognize that it can also be extremely problematic at times. Available on Netflix and weekly on Comedy Central.

Modern Family - This is a great show to watch with your own family, as it centers around 3 related suburban families and the trials and tribulations that come with all close relationships. Catch this show Wednesdays at 9PM.

Parks and Recreation - After watching the entirety of Parks and Recreation approximately 3 times, I never fail to laugh at each predicament that Leslie Knope, deputy director of the Parks Department in Pawnee, Indiana, and her coworkers manage to get themselves into. Available on Netflix and catch the last season (☹) on NBC Thursday nights.

The Office - By the time *The Office* met its demise last year, it was well past its prime. However, the antics of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company’s branch manager Michael Scott are at once horrifying and hilarious. The first 7 seasons of this show are worth a watch. Available on Netflix.

30 Rock - Tina Fey stars as head writer of an SNL-type sketch comedy in *30 Rock*. As a relatable yet undeniably over-the-top character, her wit shines through all seasons of this show. Available at probably any time, any day of the week in syndication.

New Girl - When quirky school teacher Jess (played by Zooey Deschanel) moves into an apartment with three men, hilarity ensues. Tuesdays at 9PM on Fox.

That '70s Show - A classic high school sitcom, perfect for snow days or when none of your friends can decide what to watch on Netflix. Available on ABC Family and Netflix.

Better Off Ted - For some reason, this brilliant satire/sitcom never made it big. It follows the life of Ted, a businessman at Veridian Corporation, and his struggle to balance his own morals with those of the soulless conglomerate.

Community - This comedy, set in a community college, follows fraudulent lawyer Jeff Winger and his experiences with his study group. Available on Netflix.



Christmas Poem

By Miles Pruitt

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house no one was stirring except the bright computer screen. The work sat patiently waiting to be done as I walked downstairs to get some rest. I lie down once again being overcome with horror. I did not do that one problem right on the test, I was scared, afraid to confront my fears. I wondered, pondering the next day. I watched TV for a little bit, although still worried, but in the back of my mind I realized tomorrow was coming. I was finally happy for one brief second, then I realized the homework was waiting. I returned to the computer in the dark of night. 'Twas the night before Christmas and I was not stirring. I watched and wondered about the future.

Happenings Around Kalamazoo

By Simran Singh

The holiday season brings many exciting events to our Kalamazoo area! So don't just sit at home studying and being a recluse this season: go out and have fun, whether with your family, friends, or a special someone! Here are a few examples of fun things going on around Kalamazoo.

- **November 28 – December 24th** – Santa's Village, Downtown Kalamazoo
- **December 29 – January 2nd** – Winter Activities, Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- **December 31- January 1st** – New Year's Fest, Downtown Kalamazoo
- **January 12-14th** – KAMSC Exam Week
- **January 14th** – Birds & Coffee Walk, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
- **January 18th** – Princess Tea Party, Henderson Castle
- **January 20th & 21st** – Soup Cooking Class, Food Dance

Our Staff

Special thanks to Mr. Sinclair and Dr. Tanoff!

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