



CELEBRATING 32 YEARS
of ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

FLiP Times

FLPS Student Newsletter

MARCH 2018

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MARCH 2018

Thursday 3/1 – Friday 3/2

4th Marking Period Exams

Friday 3/2

End of 4th Marking Period

Monday 3/5

SCHOOL CLOSED

Teacher Work Day

Saturday 3/10

SAT Testing

Monday 3/26 – Friday 3/30

Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED

APRIL 2018

Monday 4/9 – Friday 4/13

Standardized Tests: Grades K–11

Friday 4/20

End of 5th Marking Period

Monday 4/23

SCHOOL CLOSED

Teacher Work Day

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Marc Halpern

Trien Hoang

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Dashney Monestime

Giana Ramos

Brandon Small

Aniyah Smith

Ethyne Stewart

Kyandre Willie

Black History Month: Deserving of the Spotlight

By Brandon Small



The New Year has just begun, but February is already over. As we know, February is Black History Month, or National African American History Month. We use it as a time to reflect and honor all of the great African American people who made large contributions to progression in America. The world wouldn't be as it is today without them. Of course, you'll see more popular icons celebrated during this time such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X. Rightfully so, as they've done momentous acts that have impacted and will continue to impact the lives of African Americans. Nevertheless, many great contributions will go unnoticed, like those of Madam Tinubu, who fought the British Empire over slavery, or Robert Smalls, who led an uprising aboard a confederate transport ship. We should take the time to honor everyone that took part in creating a better America. FLP makes a special point to celebrate and learn about the lives of those important revolutionaries. Students will be studying black history in their classes during this time, in a variety of ways. Whether looking at art studies, historical background, or literary texts, FLP students will be focusing on many different facets of the African American experience.



From Field Trip to Court

By Abigail Gassant

With the 2nd semester beginning, Fort Lauderdale Preparatory recently took a field trip to the Broward County court house. Students from grades 8 to 12 were selected to witness real court sessions at work. On February 1, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, these lucky students went to the Judicial Complex at 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale. They were chaperoned by Ms. Kay, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Evan. This event came to fruition because Mrs. Lonstein wanted students to have real-life experiences. Through a FLP parent connection, the students were invited to see a few cases in juvenile court. Since this was still court, there were a couple of rules that students and staff had to abide by. All of the students' phones, bags, and anything metal could not be taken on the trip, mainly because of the metal detector that the students and staff have to go through. Also, for multiple reasons, anyone who was on the trip was not allowed to communicate about the cases they witnessed. At the end of it all, students learned something new and had a great experience.



Khan Academy By Trien Hoang

Since the last decade, technology has advanced to an extent where it is needed by most. Like most schools nowadays, FLPS provides students with the most capable of high-tech devices that ease students' lives and pressures when it comes to work. Having the handy tools is one thing, but getting to know how to use them is another. Help for such situations can often be sought from teachers who can provide students with credible websites they can rely on to solve their problems. Among the most suggested websites is Khan Academy.

Established by Salman Khan, an educator and entrepreneur, Khan Academy has been open to the public and helped millions of students worldwide since 2007. The website is completely free and contains advertisements of no kind; thus, it fits for anyone who wishes to learn. Khan Academy revolutionizes education with the use of videos, which is what Khan Academy is most prominent for: helpful and easily comprehensible tutorial videos. Besides the fantastic contents that Khan Academy provides for students, the website also has other amazing factors, such as categorized subjects that help students navigate to their sources quicker, test preps for major exams like the SAT and the MCAT, studies in career choices, and economics classes for college students and adults.

Some students often have difficulty studying for tests and quizzes. If they do, they should turn to Khan Academy, which is also used and recommended by all the teachers for help. To prove the website's credibility, it will pop up for most education searches typed in and I, personally, even have a permanent account for no payment whatsoever. Studying online and receiving limitless education has never been easier with Khan Academy.

Our New Book Club!

By Aniyah Smith



Ms. Adams and Mr. Young have teamed up to start a book club, where middle school students read with first and second graders. The book club started in January and has already high approval from the students. How does it work? The middle school students pair up with students from Room 1 and read a book with them. They go outside on the patio, pick from a variety of books, and when they are done reading, they choose another book. The outdoors is the perfect place to read, especially with someone, because it's a relaxing environment for an open mind. This club helps both groups because the middle school students practice reading out loud, and the first and second graders learn how to read. The middle school students reported that they loved reading to younger students and enjoyed mentoring them. Mr. Young's students had so much fun that they couldn't wait until the next book club. Book club will take place on Fridays during 7th period.

FLPS Scribes

By Marc Halpern

FLPS scribes are here to save the day for the school. Now you might ask yourself, what is a scribe? A scribe is a responsible FLP student who assists ESE students taking an intimidating exam or test. Certain students may receive a scribe for exams and for Standardized tests also. These qualified scholars sit with the student and help him/her, so they feel less anxiety. Scribes write for these students and/or read aloud questions and answers.

2018 FLPS scribes are Fredricka Laguerre, Marc Halpern, Dasheny Monestime, Tenia Collins, Jermarrie McNeil, and Ranaya Binns. Scribes must be up to date in their own classes and be committed to keeping up to date with their own work.



The Golden Globe Awards By Dasheny Monestime

The Golden Globe Award is an award given by 93 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in the recognition of excellence and outstanding contributions in television and film entertainment industry. These awards have been given out since 1944. The first award was presented to Cecil B. Mille. In 1963, the awards were handed out by either one or more Miss Golden Globe. This award ceremony plays a major role in the film industry's award season. It broadcasts live from coast to coast.

The 75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held on January 7, 2018, honoring the best candidates in film and television of 2017. The qualifying eligibility period goes based on a calendar year starting from January 1 to December 31. Various ceremonies have taken place at many different venues including, the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. This year, *Lady Bird* took home the prize for best picture in the musical category, while Saoirse Ronan won for best actress. Also in the comedy category, James Franco nabbed the acting award for "The Disaster Artist." This year's Golden Globe nominees included Mary J. Blige, Reese Witherspoon, Denzel Washington, Sterling K. Brown, Jessica Chastain, Daniel Day-Lewis, Shailene Woodley, Armie Hammer, Tom Hanks, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Eric McCormack, Elisabeth Moss, Octavia Spencer, and Meryl Streep.

At the awards, many women wore black to protest sexual harassment and raise awareness for the 'Time's Up' movement, which supports fighting sexual mishaps in Hollywood and elsewhere. As these women walked the red carpet, they explained the reason for wearing this color, bringing more awareness and empowerment to the movement. The next Golden Globe award ceremony for 2018 will take place in January 2019.

MLK Day By Marc Halpern & Ethyne Stewart

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated every year to remind us all of the events that changed the U.S. forever. Now, you might ask yourself, what is Martin Luther King Day? The day celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the most famous civil rights leader in the mid 20th century. President Reagan made the day happen by signing a bill for his importance to U.S. History. The first Martin Luther King Day was in 1986. In February, FLP students are learning about different African Americans that changed history.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 and died April 4, 1968. He helped stopped segregation by peacefully protesting the way black people were being treated. The "I Have a Dream" speech took place in 1963, and was about obtaining rights and stopping racism of black people. Almost 250,000 people of all races attended the speech at the March on Washington. One of his famous quotes is "The time is always right to do what is right." Martin Luther King Jr. will be remembered for getting equality and rights to all of the citizens in the United States. Black History Month is here and FLP is sure to celebrate this American hero.



Yes, You Should Get a Flu Shot

FROM NYTIMES.COM

This year's flu season is shaping up to be a bad one. Much of the country endured a bitterly cold stretch, causing more people to be crowded together inside. The strain that has been most pervasive, H3N2, is nastier than most. And, we're being told, the vaccine this year is particularly ineffective.

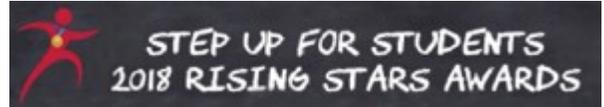
That last fact has had many people wondering if they should still get a flu shot. If you read no further in this column, know this: **The answer is yes, you should still get a flu shot.** The flu season typically peaks from December through February but can last until May. It takes up to two weeks for the shot's immunity to kick in.

The flu virus is unstable, and it changes each season. This means that the immunity you gained from a shot a year ago doesn't work so well now. Each summer, scientists gather and try to make a best guess on which variants are going to be more common in the coming year. They look at data from countries like Australia (whose flu season comes before ours), then they make the shot to match.

This season, the flu vaccine is most protective against an H1N1, an H3N2 and a B/Victoria lineage strain. Some vaccines also protect against a B/Yamagata lineage strain. The scientists' guess wasn't bad, as it included H3N2, the strain making most of the news right now. Vaccines don't work as well against it in general because it tends to mutate more than other strains. It's harder to produce a targeted vaccine for H3N2 than for other variants, because of the way we produce the vaccine using eggs. That, along with other factors, makes for more infections and severe illnesses.

Even when you're vaccinated, you can get the flu. The shot is about reducing risk, not eliminating it. Even when the flu vaccine is "less effective," it's a good bet. One reason is that "less" and "more" effective are relative. We need to be careful about these words and focus on risks. **The negatives of a flu shot are almost nonexistent, and side effects are rare. Even in an ineffective year, the benefits certainly outweigh the harms.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 9 to 36 million people become ill with the flu each year in the US. Somewhere between 140,000 and 710,000 of them require hospitalization, and 12,000 to 56,000 die each year.

No vaccine is perfectly protective in any year, so it's important to practice good infection control. That includes regular hand washing, especially before eating, and limiting contact with others when you or they are sick. **But to minimize your chances of illness, yes, you should still get the flu shot this year, and every year.**



FLPS 2018 Rising Star Award winners

Outstanding Character	Job Celicourt
Turnaround Student	Theresa Frais
Academic Achievement	Fredricka Laguerre
Outstanding Teacher	Mrs. Michelle Dykens
Outstanding Parent	Ms. Keisha Williams (Ranaya & Raelyn Binns' mom)



Ice Cream Museum!

By Brandon Small

In Miami Beach, a museum has recently opened up -- but, it's not any regular museum. It's an Ice Cream Museum! Yes, a museum dedicated to ice cream. It's been open and active since December 2017, but unfortunately will be closing its doors on February 26, 2018. The building is 4 stories tall and offers a variety of ice cream-related exhibits. The interior is decked out with pink walls and confetti, unlike a traditional museum. One of its most popular attractions is a swimming pool, filled with plastic dots. These pesky spheres have put the museum under fire by the City of Miami Beach. The artificial dots have been showing up everywhere, on streets and where considered hazardous to the environment. The museum has been finding ways to combat that and prevent littering. There are many other attractions as a part of your ticket, including multiple ice cream tastings and art displays. Students should take a trip down to the exhibit while it's still around for a real treat!

Field Day Recap By Trent Furton-Scully & Kyandrew Willie

Dodge balls soar across the blacktop, people scattering to catch footballs, teams of people flopping on the ground and wiggling about in giant, beige, potato sacks. This is what makes Field Day fun. Our most recent field day was on Wednesday, December 13. The first two periods of the school schedule were the same as any other day, but after break, the students journeyed outside and Field Day had officially begun!

Upper and lower school each had a red and blue team representing them. All participated in a wide variety of activities, including; kickball, flag football, dodge ball, newcomb, capture the flag, a potato sack race, a relay race, and an individual race. After a few hours, students took a break for lunch. Pizza and water were served to all students, courtesy of FLPS. After lunch, students could either engage in more sports (dodge ball for lower school or flag football for upper school), or to head into the AP room for a viewing of *Despicable Me 3*.

At the end of the event, the blue team had stomped out their competition in both activities and sportsmanship, whereas more of red team came in proper uniform. But, this could not save them. Blue team obtained a victory and all participants were rewarded with a dress-down day (they could wear jeans and a uniform polo, rather than their Wednesday uniform).

Overall, Field Day was a great experience. The activities were fun and varied. Everyone loved the free pizza, and had a great time. Students are looking forward to the next field day at the end of the year!



FRIDAY ❄️ MARCH 16 ❄️ 2018

Who will win the ICE CREAM PARTY & MOVIE?
Pre-K & K: Cha Cha Slide | Grades 1 & 2: Robot
Grades 3 & 4: Vogue | Grades 5 & 6: Jitterbug

Who will win the BOWLING PARTY?
Grade 7: Tootsie Roll | Grade 8: YMCA
Grade 9: Electric Slide | Grade 10: Thriller
Grade 11: Bump | Grade 12: Twist

STAY TUNED THE COMPETITION IS FIERCE!



Government Shutdown FAQ By Trent Furton- Scully

Q: What is a government shutdown?

A: A shutdown occurs when Congress and the president fail to sign in 12 appropriation bills (which determine spending for government agencies) into law, as to assure funds are continued to be provided to government operations. This “shutdown” can easily be prevented, however, by Congress giving themselves a continuing resolution (an extension), which keeps the federal government open and supplies lawmakers with more negotiation time.

Q: What has caused shutdowns in the past?

A: Shutdowns have been caused by a variety of fund-related debates, such as the Republican’s attempted repeal of Obamacare in 2013, or Medicaid’s stance on abortion in 1977.

Q: What caused the government to shut down this time (Jan. 19th, 2018)?

A: This most recent shutdown was a result of the Democratic Party’s refusal to sign off on President Trump’s preferred DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program replacement. DACA essentially allowed young, undocumented immigrants the ability to remain citizens under specified guidelines. Trump rescinded the program in September of 2017 and has made Congress come up with a replacement (within 6 months of September). Trump demanded that this replacement program include increased border security, which Democrats in the House and Senate refused to sign off on, hence the shutdown.

Q: What happens during a government shutdown?

A: During a shutdown all “nonessential services” are halted, and only “essential, top-level staff” stay at their jobs. Staff at national parks, monuments, and museums are sent home. The president, presidential appointees, and Congress members are considered “essential” and are exempt from the shutdown. The postal service, TSA, and air traffic control continue business as usual. People still receive social security, Medicare benefits, and food stamps, but those expecting VA benefits, unemployment benefits, farm subsidies, and tax refunds may experience delays. None of the federal employees placed on leave receive a paycheck until the government shutdown ends.

Q: When did the most recent government shutdown end, and why?

A: Luckily, this specific government shutdown was brought to an end on Jan. 22nd, when the Democratic Party buckled under the pressure to adopt a short-term spending bill to fund government operations, without first addressing the fate of child, illegal, immigrants. This bill would fund the government through Feb. 8th and extend funding for the popular Children’s Health Insurance Program (which insures nearly 9 million children) for 6 years. The signing of this bill finally broke the filibuster regarding DACA and ended the government shutdown, allowing federal employees to return to work and come closer to a paycheck.

The Renaissance Festival is Back! By Giana Ramos

From March 10-25, the annual Renaissance Festival will be held at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach. Events at the festival include themed weekends, specialty acts, demonstrations, school day programs, and scout programs. It’s a family friendly environment, as well as a great spot to hang out with friends on the weekend! You can expect to see an incredible blast from the past, with over 100 performers bringing the 16th century experience to life. Not to mention the hilarious comedy shows, costume-clad folks on stilts, harp players, and best of all, turkey legs! The 26th annual Florida Renaissance Festival is quickly approaching so make sure to attend!



Math Projects are here!

By Trien Hoang

Young learners lack experiences besides daily homework to support the education they receive in school. FLPS has covered that aspect since its establishment. To bolster the students' capabilities when up against the hardest of subjects, a major project is assigned for each marking period, from third to fifth. Students just finished their research papers for English in the third marking period and are now working on their challenging math project for the fourth marking period.

The project is hosted by Mr. Molloy, our math teacher, and varies on the objective each school year, with the last one being building a model of a room to scale. The students, instead of being crafty and precise like last time, should focus on being observant if they wish to get a passing grade this year. One math project objective this year is as follows: Each student is given a pendulum; the students are to drop the pendulums at different angles when the pendulums are stationary in any way and record and calculate the data of the shift in the angle after each drop. Students have two weeks to complete their project. This year's deadline was February 16.

Working on and completing the project doesn't only mean a passing grade, but also gaining more experience on how to be independent about accomplishing important obligations at hand. Many students question as to why a project like this is needed, and Mr. Molloy's answer is always: "You may need this knowledge at one point in your life." After the math project ends, an exciting science fair awaits during the fifth marking period.



Flu Season 2018

By Isaiah King

There has been a recent outbreak of the flu around the country. The flu has already killed over 1,000 people in the last few months. According to the CDC, they're unsure on how this happened and are looking for a solution. There are several tips that everyone can do to prevent the spread of the flu.

- Get a Flu Shot.
- Avoid contact with those infected as much as possible.
- Keep your hands clean; keep hand sanitizer with you at all times and wash your hands.
- Take vitamins to strengthen your immune system.
- Drink plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated.

This year has been the worst case of the flu ever. Hopefully it can be contained soon. As for now, multiple children have already died from this strain of the flu in many states, including Florida. Stay healthy, everyone!

The Winterfest Fantasy Boat Parade Contest

By Giana Ramos

The Winterfest Fantasy Boat Parade has organized a competition involving Broward County students from third through fifth grades. Some criteria are mandatory for the submissions that will be accepted, including a standard for what is expected of the artwork. That being said, it must depict a boat that the student has seen in the parade, or one they would like to see. Students here at FLPS have gotten involved thanks to Ms. Stromfeld!

Three winners, along with their respective classrooms, will receive money for art supplies, as well as having their artwork on display at the event. All students received a ticket to the South Florida Fair, a participation certificate, and an invitation to the ceremony and reception at the Galleria in Fort Lauderdale on February 22, from 5-7 pm. It's a win-win for everybody. Good luck to all FLPS participants!

Congratulations to Azaria Davis who received an Honorable Mention prize for her submission!

We are the Future

By Ranaya Binns

We live in a world where women go through tough times dealing with double standards. For that reason, women from all over the world united as one to march and let their voices be heard and taken seriously. The Women's March is a woman-led movement distributing intersectional education on a diverse range of issues. This creates points for contemporary activists and organizers to participate in their local communities. The goal of the Women's March is to channel the political power of multiple women to create transformative social change.

Recently, there was a second Women's March on January 23, 2018. Though, the most memorable march was on January 21, 2017, on Inauguration day in Washington. Most marches include both men and women together standing up for what they believe in peacefully. Though sister marches were held all over the United States, the main site for this year's march was held in Las Vegas, and the theme was "Power of the Polls." Las Vegas was most appropriate because it was a spotlight state in the 2018 midterm elections, after the city was hit with the most lethal mass shooting in history. The goal this time was to recharge the resistance against Donald Trump and also to register new voters across the world. Since the Women's March is such a diverse movement, their team is also just as distinct. The people behind this honorable movement all come from different walks of life; they are co-president Tamika D. Mallory, co-president Bob Bland, treasurer Carmen Perez, and assistant treasurer Linda Sarsour. There are many more involved, but these are the people that should be recognized for their hard work. Hopefully this movement continues to inspire young people to stand up and speak up for equality.

School Assembly: Local Libraries

By Dasheny Monestime

FLPS recently had Teen & Technologies assemblies for grades 7-12. The assemblies were based on an area in the Broward County Library in downtown Fort Lauderdale called "The Studio," located on the first floor of the main library. The Studio is for ages 13-19, a place where no adults are allowed, and kids can use their creativity to expand their talents. Talents to explore include software programming, studio recording and instrument use, and photography and editing. There are many pieces of equipment and software that kids can use free of charge; equipment such as cameras of many varieties, green screens, keyboards, guitars, computers, game consoles, and others. Kids can also relax and play games or even get homework done, where there are printers for use under reasonable circumstances. The rules are to be respectful of the space and others, to clean-up after yourself, and put things back the way you found them. They ask for no foul language and to respect the privacy of others. There are also meetings in which you can come together with the management about certain areas of expertise you're interested in and want to learn more about. They also offer special one-on-one classes. The Studio encourages kids to come down and share their talents!



South Florida's Cold Front

By Isaiah King

Recently, there has been some strange weather for us here -- a cold front to be exact. While other states were experiencing snow and wind in January, we were lucky to still wear our summer clothes. We may not have snow and don't have to deal with shoveling it, but many in Florida this winter had to break out sweaters, long pants, and boots. The temperatures on some days was as low as 40 degrees, but because of the strong winds, it felt like 30. Due to cold weather, iguanas were reported to be frozen and falling out of trees. This weather seemed extreme compared to other seasons. Nevertheless, winter is almost over and soon we will be back outside to warm Florida weather!

Midterm Recap

By Ranaya Binns

Everyone knows how very stressful midterms can be. Just wait until college! Midterms at FLP are designed for students to show their knowledge from the first half of the year. Students can also redeem their grades and bring up their averages by doing well on midterms. In our school, each midterm lasts for 90 minutes and has more questions than what we are used to in a normal testing period.

Many students said the best way for them to study was to repeat any terms to themselves over and over again, or just by making flashcards. Students took exams for periods 1, 2, and 3 on Tuesday, January 16, followed by periods 4 and 5 on Wednesday, and periods 6 and 7 on Thursday. There was early dismissal on Tuesday at 2 pm, and on Wednesday and Thursday at 12 pm. We had one break on Wednesday and Thursday, which was our lunch. Students who were confused about the schedule could easily go check the lists posted in the main hallway, which told students where their assigned rooms were during the week.

Some students said the only part they enjoyed about the midterm week was being able to leave early. Who can blame them? Once you did your exam (or exams) you can leave school right after, and you are not penalized for being absent if you don't have an exam that day. A small scale of students voiced their opinion on how midterms could have gone better. One of our students, Thereasa Frais, stated that for the next time she would pay attention more in class and will not wait last minute to study. With this first go-around, students will know how to better prepare and be ready for finals.

Winter Break: A Student Recap

By Stephe Charleriste

Winter Break occurred a few weeks ago. The break lasted from Monday, December 25 to Friday, January 5. The break was ten days in total, not including the weekends. School resumed on January 8. During the winter break, many students celebrated holidays and spent quality time with their family and friends. Here's what some students reported doing over break:

Isaiah King, Grade 10:

"I visited my grandparents. I got presents. I mostly stayed home and enjoyed my break."

Tyrah Dalton, Grade 8:

"I went to Tallahassee for a few days and I got lots of presents. Then I came home for Christmas, made dinner, and got more presents. After that, I stayed home for the rest of the break. It was fun."

AJ Charleriste, Grade 12:

"I watched TV. I slept all day and played video games. I enjoyed the break, it was good. I feel happy to go back to school with a new year." As for summer, he said this: "I'm looking forward to being able to work."

Ashley Williams, Grade 11:

"I enjoyed my break. I went to the Bahamas and had a great time." And for summer, she had this to say: "I am looking forward to summer because I will be out of town."

Tyler Divers, Grade 11:

"Winter Break was chill. I bought a new Xbox, I spent time with my baby sister, and got to talk to old friends." He said this about the New Year and coming back to school: "It felt refreshing in a way, but I wish the break was longer." And for summer, he replied with this statement: "Of course, summer is something I can look forward to. I look forward to making money, seeing Florida's beaches, and doing what you want until the cycle starts over."



I Read Banned Books

By Aniyah Smith

Books are pieces of literature that are filled with ideas, stories, passion, and brainstorming. You can get lost in these pieces of literature because they hold meaning, teach you concepts, strengthen your mind, and your vocabulary. Sometimes, they are so good at doing these things that we ban them. Banned books get more attention than regular books in my opinion. I say this because something that is so harmless but upsetting to society really interests me. Banning books started in the late 50's and early 60's. People banned books either because of the course of language, how challenging it is, or if they thought it was a disgrace to God. An example of a banned book is *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. This book is about a society which at first appears to be utopian, but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. The novel follows a 12-year-old boy named Jonas. The book was banned because people thought it was brainwashing and shaming motherhood to kids.

Countries all over the world ban books too. Some countries that ban books are Australia, Saudi Arabia, and North Korea. Australia mostly bans books because of the explicit or offensive content, and only adults can read them. One book Australia banned is "The 120 Days of Sodom" by Marquis de Sade for obscenity in 1789. Saudi Arabia also bans religious books. Saudi Arabia banned the Bible because Saudi Arabia is an Islamic theocracy. North Korea bans books that are against communism. North Korea has also banned the Bible presently, simply because they are an atheist country. The United States bans books also. People banned books because of the vulgar language, challenging concept, and the disobedience to God in the past. Some books the United States banned in the past have been *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Grapes of Wrath*, and *Leaves of Grass*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee was banned because of profanity, racial stereotypes, and a description of rape. *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck was banned because of it being libelous. *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman was banned because of the sexual and homoerotic overtones was far "too sensual" for the Victorian Age.

Just because a book is banned doesn't mean there aren't any more copies of it left. The books I've listed probably have thousands of copies still out there. Society doesn't understand that books give us a chance to think and have ideas of our own. Sometimes, people want to protect the future generation, but at the same time, you're harming us by storing these great books away. Other books that have been previously banned are *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*, and *I am the Cheese*. How would you feel if one of your favorite books was banned or censored?

Mudslides in California

By Stephanie Charleriste

California has recently been plagued with serious mudslides. Mudslides usually occur in places with steep hillsides and other narrow channels. These places make it easy for rain and debris to flow through. The Thomas fire in Santa Barbara County earlier this year was a part of the cause for the mudslide. The fire burned down trees, bushes, grass, etc. When that happens, the soil becomes loose and in turn, easily becomes a problem in the future for these places. Nothing is anchoring the soil to the ground once the fires burn up the shrub. If it rains in that circumstance, it leads to possible mudslides. This is what happened to California. These mudslides can be deadly. The damage is high and so is the death toll. At least 20 people have died to the mudslides in southern California this year, and the rainy season has just begun. There are also four people still reported missing. Keep those affected in your thoughts!



Invasive Iguanas

By Keone Dixon

I'm sure that close to all of you know what a green iguana is. It's so prevalent and so well-known here in South Florida that it can be considered one of our unofficial state animals. That's actually pretty ironic when you consider the fact that it's not even supposed to be here!

That's right; the flamboyant reptiles that you see constantly basking in the sun, climbing up trees, and swimming through rivers aren't actually native to the Sunshine State.

Some populations of the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) are what's known as an invasive species, an organism that through some means has expanded out of its normal habitat range and into another environment. These populations have a tendency to disrupt the natural balance of wherever they wind up invading, due to the fact that the indigenous ecosystem hadn't accounted for their presence beforehand.

Green iguanas in particular pose a threat to the Caribbean island of Anguilla, a portion of the Fiji archipelago, and the states of Florida, Hawaii, and Texas. Most of these populations emerged due to the pet trade or stowaways on ships. In South Florida, partly due to their sheer numbers, they can actually pose a significant nuisance to us and a significant threat to native wildlife. They have been known to destroy gardens and landscaping (mostly due to their large size and herbivorous nature), and are especially fond of chowing down on an endangered species of flowering plant (*Cordia globosa*, or the curacao bush). They also tend to inhabit burrows made by the Florida burrowing owl.

Interestingly enough, green iguanas have had a somewhat tumultuous history with Florida winters. First occurring in January 2008, then 2010, and now this year, prolonged cold fronts led to unusually chilly weather. As iguanas are ectothermic creatures, they of course do not take too kindly to the climatic episodes. They become petrified in the cold nights, and many fall from trees in a state of torpor. Usually, though, most of them become active by daybreak, once they're able to take in the sun's warmth.

Reflections Literary Magazine

By Kevin Halpern

Every year, Fort Lauderdale Prep launches a poetry magazine called *Reflections*. This has been a tradition since 1986. The magazine consists of one submission from every student in middle and high school. The cover is determined by a contest. It has to be hand drawn and the student who submits the best one wins. The cover has to be something about reflections. It could be a mirror, or looking into water. Last year, the winner of the cover contest was Jacolby Spells. He drew a cartoon looking into a mirror.

All students are welcome to submit poems. Even the elementary students can join in on the fun. The magazine is published in May, before seniors leave. Ms. Adams' English classes have been worked on poems from January 22nd to February 9th. Students are already starting to generate their best work for the magazine! If you are proud of your work and want to submit, please see Ms. Adams about how to get published.

Strange Statistics

By Keone Dixon

Life is full of many eccentricities, some more noticeable than others. But have you ever wondered about just how prevalent or significant some of them can be? What if we were to put hard numbers on these mundane phenomena or extraordinary normalcy? Well, some people have done just that, and I've compiled a list. Check out these top five strange statistics:



#1 – So *that's* where it was?

I'm sure we've all asked this question to ourselves at one point or another: "Where in the world is that remote?" Well, a study by Logitech in 2011 showed that apparently, there's a near 50% chance that you lost your remote between your fluffy sofa cushions. There are more 'remote' chances (4% and 2% respectively) that it could be hidden in the fridge or freezer, or even outside the house.



#2 – Surprisingly Unfulfilling

You may already know how little celery has to offer in the way of calories, but here's something to put it in perspective. It would be an especially poor choice to just eat celery if you're starving, because your body would use more calories than it would ever get back from it.



#3 – By The Skin of Their Teeth

Anyone even somewhat savvy in the science of space travel should know that precision is *everything*. With that in mind, the fact that the Apollo 11 spacecraft had a mere 20 seconds of fuel left upon touchdown may not exactly be too close for comfort, but it's enough to make you think, isn't it?



#4 – They're Everywhere

Ah, yes, the humble ant—a unit of nature's arguably most perfectly-functioning form of society. Most of us don't pay them much mind unless they start taking our treats back to their colonies in bits and pieces. However, when you consider that there are a million of *them* for every one of *us*, it makes you grateful that all the uprisings are saved for science fiction.



#5 – Overtime

Apparently in 2014, America was a workaholic country. In that year, American workers forfeited 169 million total vacation days, or 466,013 years. That's over twice as long as humanity has been on Earth! Now, why on Earth would someone want to work so much?