

RIVER DELL RUNDOWN

SPRING 2019 ISSUE

ENDING THE YEAR ON A "HIGH NOTE"

BY NAOMI ROTH

My favorite field trip this year was the High Note Festival that took place last Friday. Leading up to the performance, I was very nervous; however, I knew that I had prepared well, and all the rehearsals had made me feel less stressed and more composed. The bus ride there would have been boring if I hadn't had my friends there to make it fun and entertaining. When we arrived at the Chapel, the soothing and kind compliments my friends had given me overcame my nerves. As soon as we set up our instruments, we were encouraged to go straight into the auditorium. I didn't have time to feel nervous because as soon as we sat down in our assigned seats, we started to tune our instruments and before I knew it, we began to play our first tune. I tried to make the most of each song, savoring every note and the dynamics that corre-

sponded with them. Just as we finished playing, we quickly exited the auditorium and



listened to the Select Choir. In my opinion, they

were astounding, and I knew they would receive the highest ranking. After they finished their last song, a High Note judge came into the chapel and I could feel the tension engulf the warm air.

"Since the Stage Band performed first, I will be announcing their award first," he explained, holding two trophies high above his head, "Stage Band," he said, pointing to us, "which ranking do you think you'll receive?"

The Stage Band members looked questioningly at each other, "Superior?" one asked, "Excellent?" I wondered, setting my expectations low.

"You got a Superior!" He shouted, pumping the trophy high into the air.

Everyone in the room began to clap and loud shouts of, "Hooray!" and "We did it!" were heard.

Just as I had expected, the Select Choir received a Superior, and we walked out of the Chapel feeling jubilant and satisfied.

Once we reached Dorney Park, I quickly dashed out of the bus and found my assigned group that contained all my closest friends. Not wasting a minute, my friends and I sprinted through security and made our way to the first ride, The Talon. (Continued on page 3)



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Behind the Scenes: Drama Club

By Rich Loschiavo



Hi, my name is Richard. I was in stage crew for the play Pageant Perfect. I know

you probably think the actual play is more important, but stage crew oversees most of the play. We made all the props, played the music, put the lights on, and much more. When the show must go on, we made the show actually go on! My job in stage crew was to run the soundboard, which means that I played the music and the sound effects. This takes a well developed sense of timing and tone. We also made the flyers and made the playbill. This takes a lot of time and all of these things set the stage for the actors and audience. We put in a lot of time to design the set and all the props. Some of the props we made during the play were banners, tables, cakes, etc. Our work didn't end there. During the play, we switched out the props so that there are the right props for the scene. In stage crew, you need major concentration skills and you cannot get distracted—the flow of the play depends on us. It is a lot of fun, and we hoped you enjoyed the play!

AVENGERS: END GAME—A MARVELOUS MOVIE

BY ANTHONY CHANN

Avengers: Endgame was definitely one of the best movies of 2019 and will most likely remain that way. With an all-star cast of Robert Downey Junior, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, and so many more, this movie was bound to be good. However, this isn't just a good movie, it's an incredible movie. So, let's get right into this review!

The Plot:

At three hours long, this movie has a lot to tell. Picking up after Avengers: Infinity War, the movie wastes no time getting straight into action. The shocking beginning sets the tone for the upcoming events. The movie continues with many more shocking moments that left the audience guessing what would come next. The final battle at the end is a perfect climax to the 22-movie series. The ending left some in tears, but it was an incredible finish to the saga.

The Review:

Avengers: Endgame is a great film, and there is no doubt about that. The characters, battles, humor, and plot are incredible. However,



there are some problems. The movie contradicts itself in a major part of the movie and although it doesn't directly affect the movie, it was a strange oversight. There was also an oversight that does affect the plot was merely glossed over, leaving many to scratch their heads. It is confusing to think about these plot holes, but the rest of the film is so good that it makes up for it on the most part.

Final Verdict:

Avengers: Endgame one of the best films this year. However, does have some plot holes that are confusing. That's why my

final rating for this, is a 9/10. If you haven't seen in already, definitely go see it it's totally worth it and even if you haven't seen any Marvel movies before, you can always watch videos on YouTube to get up to speed. If you have seen it before, see it again! It's a film that you can watch multiple times and still enjoy.



Did You Know....

Avengers: End Game has appearances by over fifty Marvel Movie characters!



World Down Syndrome Day

By Julia Ryan

Every March 21st is recognized as World Down Syndrome Day. Down Syndrome is when a person has an extra chromosome. It is most common that an individual with Down Syndrome has an extra copy of chromosome number 21, which is the reason Down Syndrome Awareness Day is celebrated on March 21. Ms. Riabov has a personal connection to Down Syndrome and spearheaded the awareness day. According to Ms. Riabov, "Down Syndrome is a visual representation of how people have differences, how people go through life with different challenges, and different personalities." Ms. Riabov was inspired to support Down Syndrome Day because she has special education students and has taught students that have Down Syndrome.

She also has a special needs brother who has experienced some of the similar things people with Down Syndrome go through.

The 7th grade science curriculum which focuses on cell division, and the Eng-

lish curriculum which included reading Freak the Mighty both relate to Down Syndrome in a way. Since Down Syndrome was closely related to several of these academic lessons, Ms. Riabov felt that understanding of Down Syndrome was something that needed to be shared. Ms. Riabov reflected on the purpose of the day and said

"we are all different and people with Down Syndrome are able to do most everything just like a typical person....People with Down Syndrome are really great friends to have because they are honest, truthful, and are very loyal people."

Many times, our differences are what make us unique. To draw on these differences, people are encouraged to wear mismatched and "crazy" socks on World Down Syndrome Day, both to reflect the shape of chromosomes and to promote uniqueness and inclusion.



High Notes, continued from p. 1

Ever since I was little, I had loved crazy rides (mostly because my Dad forced me to go on them). I had naturally adapted to their configuration and I was thrilled to go on one of the most popular rides at Dorney Park. As we sat down in the well protected seats, my friend, Zoe, and I held hands as the floor dropped from beneath us, leaving our legs dangling in the air. Then, it began to escalate high above the rest of the park. Finally, it dropped, making our stomachs loop and turn. We twisted around the track and made loops while going 58 miles per hour. As we came to a sudden stop, my throat felt parched from screaming and my palms were shaking and sweating. Because of the fear factor, my glee went unnoticed as we continued to go on other jaw-dropping, yet incredible roller coasters. One of my most favorite rides was called Steel Force. With a 205-foot drop, and a speed of 75 miles per hour, it made the other roller coasters seem petty. While my friend, Kiera, and I were frightened of how our stomachs would react,

the ride turned out to be the most exhilarating roller coaster I have ever been on. Since we were behind the front seat, we could see almost everything, and I clearly remember going down a giant hill and seeing two tunnels ahead of us. "We're going to crash!" I remember screaming at the top of my lungs. Just as we were about to hit the middle of the tunnels, the roller coaster veered to the right, making our heads snap to the right as well.

In conclusion, the field trip to Dorney Park was one of the best field trips I have ever been on and I loved and savored every minute of it. It is one that I will never forget because the people I adore and cherish in my life were with me. I definitely felt that after our hard work, we experienced a well-deserved break. I never expected to have this much fun on the field trip and I can't wait to participate in it again next year!

FIELD REPORT: MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

BY JOSEPH VITULANO

Just before the 7th grade pool trip, school was still all work and no play. However, students of RDMS were able to get some fresh air on the science field trip to the Meadowlands Environmental Center. We learned all about the different types of organisms in that specific place. First, we went into the classroom to learn about the Meadowlands from 500 years ago until present day. This particular place was originally an estuary. An estuary is the tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream. In the classroom, we observed animals that were once alive, but are no longer living. Some of the animals we observed were birds, fish, and some land animals. Second, we attempted to fish with nets in search of red worms. We had to walk on gravel for about 15 minutes until we reached a dock. It was a very beautiful day, so the walk was part of the fun. At the dock, we looked for the worms. Later that day, we examined the worms under the microscope. We had lunch after this adventure, before going to another classroom

to learn a little more about the Meadowlands. There, we discussed the organisms and bodies of water found at the Meadowlands. I learned that rivers and ponds are made of fresh water and oceans are made of salt water. In addition to viewing the worms un-



der the microscope, we also looked at samples of water with tiny organisms in them. We learned about the water levels there as well.

The instructor for the second block of time was Mrs. Lynn who used to be a Science Teacher in Paterson NJ. She was very interesting. My chaperones were Mrs. Fink, Mrs. deMarrais and Mrs. Koch. I had a fun time on this science field trip. My favorite part was when we fished for the red worms. I thought it would be disgusting, but it was rather cool! Hope you enjoyed

Binge Watching at “The Office.”

By Andrew Lezaja

learning about my experience. If you're looking for some binge watching on a rainy summer day, check out the American version/adaptation of the British television show *The Office*. It is a mockumentary set at the dysfunctional work environment of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company, Inc in Scranton, Pennsylvania. *The Office* ran for 9 seasons from 2005 – 2013 winning countless awards, including the Golden Globe Award for best Television Series in 2004, Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series in 2007, Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Musical or Comedy in 2006, and countless more.



The show centers around Michael Scott (Steve Carrell) or Regional Manager of

Dunder Mifflin’s Scranton branch. Michael’s hilarious, inconsiderate, random, and non-filtered personality goes great along with his hilarious co-workers, Jim, Dwight, Pam, Stanley, Phyllis, Andy, Angela, Kevin, Oscar, and many others who you’ll grow to adore. Michael does show his soft spot once in a while – his wanting for children and surprising tenderness shows his complex personality that his co-workers share as well.

However, Jim Halpert, Dwight Shrute, and Pam Beasley are the most notable of said co-workers and can present an adequate argument that any of them are the true main characters. Specifically, the love triangle between Jim, Pam, and Pam’s boyfriend (Roy), keeps a fine balance between the show’s comedy and storyline. The last episode will have you bursting with laughter and crying simultaneously. Ultimately, *The Office* is a hilarious, tear jerking, deep comedy, that I strongly suggest checking out.

AUTHOR VISIT: THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF ABBAS KAZEROONI

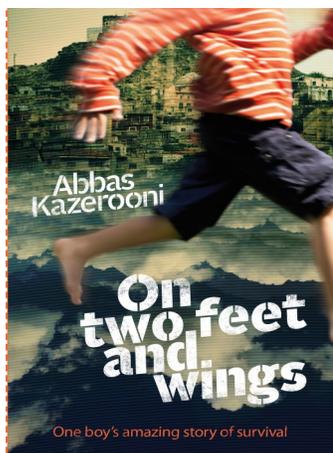
BY JULIA RYAN, OLIVIA HANNA, IZZY ITTURATE, & HELEN MARCUS



Could you imagine having to flee a country when you must complete the journey on your own? Abbas Kazerooni has gone through this and shared his story of fleeing Iran with us. Through his memoir On Two Feet and Wings, Abbas shares his experiences throughout his journey and the kind people who helped him get through it. Abbas Kazerooni was only ten years old when he was left on his own in a foreign country. His adversity did not stifle his ability; he let his independence, business skills, and bravery shine despite the struggles he encountered throughout his journey.

On top of the privilege of getting to read his book and experiencing his story, Abbas Kazerooni visited River

Dell Middle School, and we were privileged to personally appreciate and understand his adventure. Abbas Kazerooni proved that you do not have to have a safe or stable childhood to be successful in life. It all comes down to how hard you try to accomplish your goals. His abilities and skills were put to the test when he had to live alone in the suffering city of Istanbul. He had to manage all his money and



had to learn how to get a UK visa on his own with little instruction from his father. Abbas' inspiring memoir pulls the reader in and shows a different perspective on the struggles behind the Iran-Iraq war.



If you want to dive deeper into Abbas' story, you can read the sequel to On Two Feet and Wings, which is titled The Boy with Two Lives. When reading this story, you will be able to learn about Abbas' experiences from Istanbul and beyond. He proves that you don't have to have a great start to have a successful finish. After all Abbas had been through, he still managed to do amazing things. Abbas now has a very successful career as a lawyer, actor, writer, and producer! He credits these careers to the hard-working habits he picked up on from a very young age. It is an inspiration to meet someone that has been through anything and everything. We're lucky he was willing to further share his story with us by coming to RDMS.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- June 20—last day of school
- June 21—first official day of summer & summer solstice
- July 4—Independence day
- September 2—Labor day
- September 4—1st Day of School
- June 18, 2020—Last Day of School



SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!

Other contributors to the River Dell Run Down include:

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