By: Azariah Grant, and Sandra Ibrahim

Introducing “BGR!”

Did you catch the Black Girls Rock award show? Black Girls Rock is a “foundation dedicated to the healthy development of young, colored women. It is also a creation of a dialogue about the portrayal of women in the media. This foundation is a developing non-profit consisting of permanent, guest speakers, DJ teachers and an extensive board of founders and supporters.” The Black Girls Rock organization was discovered in the year of 2006. It was founded by celebrity DJ Beverly Bond.

Why Does “BGR!” exist?

According to blackgirlsrockinc.com, it states that Black Girls Rock, “bravely and boldly tackles the nuances of modern media messaging and its impact on the self-esteem, character, and identity development of young women and girls.” This indicates that “BGR!” was created to start a conversation about how powerful and strong black women are. Messages in BET movies prove this, such as the movie “For Colored Girls”. This movie is about several black women and what they go through in their lives. They give emotional speeches about their troubles. Black Girls Rock was also created to honor black women and all that they have done in society. According to blackyouthproject.com, it states,”...When Brooklyn Wright was just 7 years old, she wrote her book, “The Adventures of Earth Saver Girl” which was meant to inspire children her age to learn about the importance of protecting the planet. Now the young writer has another achievement to place under her belt.” Brooklyn Wright was recently honored at the 8th annual Black Girls Rock! awards. Brooklyn is now a Black Girls Rock! 2013 M.A.D. (Making a Difference) girl.

In conclusion, “Black Girls Rock!” is a traditional award show that honors colored women that have changed the world by doing a good thing for their society. If you didn’t catch the awards show, check it out online and research the organization! Above all else, BLACK GIRLS, YOU ROCK!!!!!!

A Great Organization—The Black Girls Rock Foundation Review

This issue:

- Check out the new Teacher’s Spotlight with Mr. Taormina!
- Think you can be the Incredible Hulk? - It’s more possible than you might imagine!
- Forget to buy a present? Check out our easy belated holiday gift ideas!
- Poor NY Giants—what went wrong?!
- ... and much more!

Special Thanks to our:

Project BOOST Volunteers for gathering coats around the school during this very cold winter.

Great jobs guys and girls!
Passing the Ball Onto Another

By: Rashmani Shiwraj, Leslie Andrade, and Steven Meta

Basketball pro and family man, Tim Hardaway has recently retired from the basketball team known as the Miami Heat. On November 23rd, 2012 the Heat honored Hardaway with a special pre-game video presentation and jersey retirement ceremony, where his jersey was placed in the rafters alongside the banner for Alonzo Mourning (#33). Hardaway’s retirement will be outweighed by his beloved son, Tim Hardaway Jr’s success in the basketball world. He has been elected three times for All Big Ten in 2010-2013 (honorable mention, coaches and media).

Hardaway Jr. currently works for the New York Knicks 1st round (24th pick) as a shooting guard. Interestingly enough, his jersey is #5 the same as his father’s. Tim Hardaway Sr. had multiple numbers including 5, 10, and 14. It’s so ironic that at the same time Tim Hardaway Sr. retired, his son Jr. started working for the NBA league as well. It took a few years for Jr. to decide that he wanted to be in the NBA due to his high school performance. To many, it looks like Tim Hardaway Jr. is falling in the footsteps of his old man Hardaway Sr. Like father like son; he will likely be successful in the future.

Metal Detectors in Schools—The Debate Continues

By: Angel Luz Barral, Steven Razo, Justin Henry and Carelis Polanco

Recently our school had a random scan by the Board of Education. We decided to talk to our fellow students and discuss the Pros and Cons of having metal detectors in a school.

Pros of Metal Detectors:

Metal detectors promote student and staff safety because they prevent weapons being used in fights on campus or in violent crimes. Why take the risk of more deaths like the ones in Sandy Hook in 2012? It was hard for parents to say goodbye to their children in such a harsh way. Metal detectors are needed to make sure these tragedies do not occur. How will people feel if they were in that situation? A line in front of the school is a small price to pay for safety. Sure it means no electronics, but would you risk your life just because you didn’t want to give up electronics in school? If you want to bring your cell phone to school because your parents said to in case of emergency, have them write you a note, maybe you’ll be allowed to take one to school as long as you don’t take it out until the end of the day.

Cons of Metal Detectors:

Metal detectors are recognized as an invasion of students and staff’s privacy. Schools are places to be enjoyed and you are supposed to learn, not to be concerned about being checked and scanned by metal detectors.

How much time will be wasted with these detectors? For example people at airports take too long to get to their planes because they are being searched after they went through the metal detectors. If metal detectors are put in schools then it would take too long to get inside the building, it would create a lot of obstacles, and new schedules will have to be made.

A Fellow Student’s Point of View:

We interviewed Gricelis Polanco in class 6/419; these are the questions we asked her.

Do you think metal detectors are needed in schools in general?

I think metal detectors are not needed in school—people should trust their students and staff to not bring weapons to school.

What about visitors?

The school should know that their student’s parents would not be capable of bringing weapons to schools.

(continued on page 3)
What does the Fox say??!! - Entertainment News

By: Richard Ledesma and Ethen Cabret

“Dog goes woof, Cat goes meow, Bird goes tweet, and the Mouse goes squeak, Cow goes moo, Frog goes croak, and the Elephant goes toot, Duck say quack, Fish go blub, and the Seal goes ow ow ow, but there’s one sound that no one knows What does the Fox say?”

The song that was a viral hit had people asking what does a fox really say? It was made by Erik Hermensen and Mikkel Storleer and was released on October 18, 2013. It got millions of hits on YouTube is not about real foxes, but a man in costume dancing and singing. Although the song is funny and popular, it actually makes you realize that you don’t know what sound foxes make. To those of us living in NYC it’s a mystery. However, with the help of Discovery.com we were able to figure out that the fox actually makes a chirping sound close to a dog/rodent. If the world ever comes up with mysteries, do a little research—it goes a long way.

This was Richard Ledesma and Ethen Cabret with your entertainment news.

If you check out videos from Discovery.com, you’ll see that a fox makes a chirping sound.

Cartoon Network is Rocking A New Show— Steven Universe! - Show Review

By: Elizabeth Chase and Tiheem Washington

When you think of a superhero they have abs of steel and are really attractive. Well Steven here is special - he may not look like one but he is probably the most heroic cartoon of our generation. Steven Universe was created by Rebecca Sugar on November 4, 2013. Cartoon Network released their show on the same day. Thousands of people saw the new show and at 6.8 on the Nielsen scans was very highly rated. Steven is a unique super hero that is overweight and goes on adventures with the “Crystal Gems”. His mother was also a super hero, but we aren’t yet sure how. We believe she was the former leader of the “Crystal Gems”. Even though the show is new, we recommend it if you’re looking for a hero that looks more like you and me—a regular kid. Hopefully Steven Universe is on for a long time.

Metal Detectors… (continued from page 2)

Do you think security guards should be armed just in case something happens and the school doesn’t have metal detectors?

Yes, because if they are no metal detectors it is better to have armed security guards for our protection.

Don’t you think security guards checking book bags everyday will be invading students and staff’s privacy?

Yes, even though it is invading their privacy, they still have the right to check because they can hurt somebody with those metal objects and get distracted during class.

What do you think? Catch us in the hall and let us know if you think metal detectors should be allowed!
It’s Holiday Season! Looking for some belated gifts? Check out these low priced presents kids want!

By: Samantha Calle

Sorry!
Walmart $7.77

Cra-Z-Loom at Toys R US $11.99

The Hunger Games DVD
at Barnes And Nobles $7.67

Dork Diaries: Tales for a Not So Happy Heart-breaker
Walmart $10.58
Kickasso Kustoms

By Lazar Stojanovic

Kickasso Kustoms is a young, contemporary artist who paints on shoes – kicks, instead of painting on canvas. Kickasso expresses his talent by creating unusual art on sneakers; he even names himself after Picasso – a legendary painter. Kickasso takes orders from people and does whatever the customer desires. Kickasso takes a boring shoe and turns it into a great piece of art.

Kickasso doesn’t only customize shoes; he also customizes hats and shirts. Kickasso has customized over 2000 pairs of shoes in his life, and is constantly filled with orders. Kickasso customizes anything from Air Jordans to Nike SBs and Nike Foamposites. Kickasso is a big “sneaker head”. A sneaker head is someone that has many pairs of shoes. Kickasso also resells shoes. He buys many pairs of shoes and then when they are sold out, he sells them for double the original price.

I think that the one major reason that Kickasso customizes shoes is that he wants the customer’s persona to be reflected into the shoe. For example, if you are a Superman fan, he’ll customize the shoe in such a way as if it was fit for a Superman.

Just recently, on November 23, for Sneaker Con NYC, he designed 24 pairs of Nike Lebron 10 “Statue of Liberty”. This sneaker features a mixture of copper and green which is inspired by New York’s gift from the French.

The customer’s persona is reflected in the shoe.

The Truth Behind The Hulk

By Steven Meta and Rashmani Shiwraj

Everyone knows about the Marvel comic book saga called “The Incredible Hulk”. The impossibly strong green man who can crush cars and throw them like softballs. Did you know that this kind of thing can happen in real life?

A twenty two year-old woman named Lauren Kornacki went outside to ask her father, Alec Kornacki, if she could borrow the car during the weekend. When she didn’t hear a response she went inside to ask her mother where he was. When she went outside again she found him pinned under the car with his arm trapped over his chest. The jack had given way while he was trying to patch up a blown tire.

In a crazy rush of adrenalin, Lauren lifted the car from the bottom and pulled it up enough to secure the jack and pull him out. Luckily, he was expected to make a full recovery.

You may be wondering: how can a twenty two year-old woman lift a BMW? Well it’s not an extreme overdose of radia-
Culture Watch—Oxi Day

By Pantelis Mouchlis

There is a day in Greece that we celebrate called oxi day (translates to “no”) day in English. It is celebrated on October 28th, and commemorates the time when Greece said “no” and stood up for what was right.

As the story goes, the Nazis were trying to cross Greece and go to Africa to fight the allied powers in World War II. There was a man named Mussolini, an Italian general who was working with the Axis power (Germans) in WW2. The Greek forces tried as hard as they could to hold back Mussolini and succeeded. They held back the Nazis from going to Africa and they didn’t even have any real weapons. Instead, they used everyday items that you would find in your backyard. Nevertheless, the Italians still tried to invade Greece, but were subsequently driven back into Albania.

Today in Greece we celebrate it every October 28 we have parades on the main roads and our army drives throughout the streets. For tourists and foreigners, we are proud to hold this parade every year. So, if you want to see something interesting, take a nice vacation in October and visit Athens or Thessaloniki during Oxi Day and celebrate with us!

Just Say No!

By Victoria Woelfe

Many people say that marijuana is just like cigarettes, but boy are they wrong. Although both are harmful, students aren’t always aware of the effects of marijuana. It can make studying difficult. It increases depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Also, it can lead to a condition called schizophrenia. This is a long term mental disorder that causes inappropriate behavior and actions, and a breakdown between thoughts and emotions.

However, this doesn’t mean that cigarettes are good. They cause lung cancer and make you smell like smoke. People often wonder if marijuana should be legal, but we need to look at the facts. First off, let’s start with the cost of marijuana. It is about $120 for 1/8 of an ounce. Isn’t that a lot of money for marijuana? Even if it were legal, the average person can’t afford to spend so much money on something so pointless and harmful. Do you think marijuana should be legalized? This reporter doesn’t think so. They are bad for you and way too expensive—just like cigarettes.

Reflecting on the Talent Show

By Starlette John

It was that time of year again—the talent shows. It was an opportunity for our classmates to shine. Before the shows took place, I had a chance to investigate the rehearsals and see how the magic happens.

As always with show business, there were some technical difficulties. Some students were still rehearsing in the back of the auditorium while others were on stage. This year there was so much talent—two guitar players, a piano player, opera singing, a tap dancer, and many more.

In conclusion, I’m sure everyone can agree that the talent show was a great success and that LAMS is a place that is filled with great talent.
**Sports Watch— How the Giants Went Wrong**

By: Richard Ledesma and Daniel Grinenko

Let’s face it, the Giants started off horribly this season. Out of their first five games they lost all of them. It’s pretty sad since they were the Super Bowl champions. We looked at what went wrong this season.

One reason why they did badly is because Eli Manning was not releasing the ball fast enough. The plays were too slow. Also, Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks were not open to receive the ball. Eli was not accurate all year long.

It also looked like the Giants needed more time to practice their formations because they looked disorganized. The biggest reason why the Giants failed is that Justin Tuck and the defense didn’t protect Eli well. If they did, Eli might have had more time to aim and have fewer interceptions.

The Giants were very different than the Super Bowl champions of last year. If the Giants continue doing what they’re doing, they will be one of the worst teams next year as well. The question everyone is asking themselves is “what happened?” Are they frustrated because they didn’t have enough practice? It’s hard to say, but if next year is the same, we predict that they can kiss their Super Bowl dreams and their coach goodbye.

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**Pet Luxury**

By: Muskan Merani

Pretend you have $100,000. What would you do with that money? Spend it on your pets or live a luxurious life? Believe it or not, lots of people choose their pets.

According to [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com) in 2012 Americans spent $52 billion on animals in 2012. $20.4 billion was for food, $13.5 billion was for vet care, $12.5 billion was for supplies, $2.1 was for animal purchase and an amazing $4.1 billion was for pet grooming.

In 2013 Americans spent even more ($55.53 billion) on pets! Now that is a lot of money. Why do Americans spend so much on their pets?

One example was a woman named Leona Helmsley. According to [abcnews.com](http://abcnews.com) she died and her dog inherited a fortune. The dog’s caretaker, Carl Lekic, spent $100,000 a month on the pet’s care which included $8,000 for her grooming and $1,200 for dog food. To me, that seems way too much.

In [blogs.denverpost.com](http://blogs.denverpost.com) a woman said, “I spent so much getting my dog’s vision fixed, I could have put one of my daughters through college.” Would you rather spend your money on helping a human or an animal?

I think that Americans spend way too much money on pets. Having a pet is fine, but there should be a limit. There are plenty of other problems in the world like homelessness and those that go hungry. We should be spending money on that instead of puppy clothes.
By  Muskan Merani and Leslie Andrade

Dear LAMS,

I feel like I am being bullied but I don’t want to snitch because I feel like it might make it worse. What can I do?

Signed,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

There are many ways to solve this problem. You can tell a teacher which many people don’t do. You can also get a group of friends and tell them to stop. Your friends will help you and make sure you don’t get hurt. Even if you are worried, telling an adult is the best way to go.

Try to find a quiet time, (like lunch or homeroom) to talk to your favorite teacher and tell them what has been going on. They will make sure the guidance counselors look into what is going on.

Bullying is sometimes a part of life in school. But we want you to have confidence and get help. Throw out that fear and live your life happy—LIKE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO! Good luck!

Above all else, remember—if you think one of your friends is planning to hurt themselves, tell a trusted adult so that they can get the help they need.
TEACHER’S SPOTLIGHT—MR. TAORMINA

By: Leslie Andrade

HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE WHO IS ONE IN A MILLION? IF SO, THEN YOU HAVE MET MR. TAORMINA!!!

This week, I sat down with Mr. Taormina and got to know him. Many people recommend him for the Teacher’s Spotlight. Honestly, the first time I met him, which was my first day in Louis Armstrong, I couldn’t feel more welcome. Many people said the same.

What is one of your favorite quotes?
I cannot teach anybody anything; I can only make them think. – Socrates

If you choose to stay a certain age forever, what would it be?
25 years old

If you could witness any event in the past, what would it be?
The extinction of dinosaurs.

If you learn to do anything, what would it be?
How to fly

If you could be any fictional character, whom would you choose?
Iron Man

Which celebrity do you get mistaken for?
Adam Levine

What would you name your autobiography of your life?
What’s The Point?

Who is your favorite artist and name two of your favorite songs?
Eminem, and the way I am and until I collapse

What’s the best gift you have ever given/received?
My children: Colin (7) and Derek (3)

Is a picture worth a thousands words? Elaborate.
A picture can inspire as many words as your imagination can produce.

Where’s Waldo?
Right Behind You

What made you become a teacher?
I want to inspire. I want someone to look at me and say “Because of you I didn’t give up”

What is your favorite food?
Lasagna

So, in the end, I came to the decision that although teachers may seem different at first, when you get to know them, they turn out to be... ONE IN A MILLION. THIS HAS BEEN LESLIE ANDRADE WITH YOUR TEACHER’S SPOTLIGHT