

The East Rock Record

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New Haven's New Top Cop Aims to Minister, Not Bust

Chief Anthony Campbell Is Different Kind of Police Leader



East Rock Record reporters have questions for New Haven Police Chief Anthony Campbell during a November 1 press conference in which he showed reporters body cameras (right) that went live in the city that day.

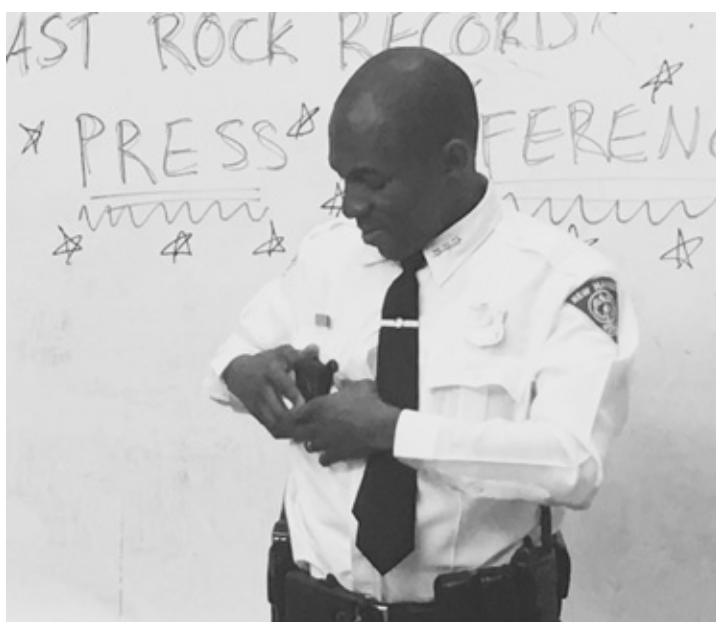
BY ISABEL FAUSTINO, NASIR ANDERSON, TAINA ALICEA, NELLIE JACKSON AND EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Could you imagine a police officer who doesn't like to arrest people?

It sounds strange. But it describes New Haven Police Chief, Anthony Campbell. Chief Campbell, who took over the top job six months ago, said he believes arresting people is "the last resort."

"Most of the time people don't need to be arrested," he said during a press conference with East Rock Record reporters. "They need direction, contact with social services, help with better education, help with medical health services."

Chief Campbell calls himself a "C.O.P." "I



am a Christian On Patrol," he said. That is not surprising because he is an ordained minister. When Chief Campbell met with reporters, he was dressed in a sharp white shirt with a black tie and lots of gold on his uniform. He spoke softly and seemed very kind.

In a wide-ranging interview, Chief Campbell

SEE PAGE 4

EAST ROCK SCHOOL TO CHANGE NAME

Focus on "community and cultural studies"

BY JESSICA BEDOYA, SHEKINAH JONES, KAMIYAH MARSH, ISABELLA PAGAN EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF EDITED BY NICOLE MO

Hold onto your backpacks!

East Rock School is changing its name. And its identity. We've always been a school with students from many countries and backgrounds. But now, it's official.

East Rock Community Magnet School is becoming East Rock Community and Cultural Studies Magnet School. That's a lot to say.

What does it mean? Principal Peggy Pelley says, "students will learn about the many meanings of the phrase, 'We the People' as they explore the cultural landscapes of New Haven and our nation, and the ways in which diversity makes us stronger."

The name change, which became effective in October, is happening because East Rock School became part of a grant to increase cultural studies, said Michele Bonanno, coordinator of the New Haven Public School Magnet Assistance Program. She said the grant from the federal Department of Education's Magnet School Assistance Program has the theme of "We the people." That helped the school focus on learning about different cultures.

Ms. Bonanno said she is "very excited" to be working with East Rock School on this theme. She said the goal of the grant is to have a more racially and socio-economically integrated student body and to increase student achievement. She hopes that the grant will help students learn and accept other cultures. "At the time we wrote this grant,

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SANCTUARY CITY FEAR: COULD ICE RETURN?

BY HECTOR CRUZ, AREYANNA MORANT, MELANIE CONTRERAS, RAMI MOHAMMED EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF EDITED BY HECTOR PERALTA

New Haven is a sanctuary city, but if you are an immigrant living here, it does not feel very safe right now.

Why is this? President Donald Trump has sent federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as "ICE" to arrest people around the country on immigration charges. In the first 100 days of this year, ICE arrested 41,318 people.

ICE has conducted "raids" in cities

including New York, Baltimore, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Denver, and Los Angeles. The fear: Could New Haven be next?

Norine Polio, who teaches ESOL at East Rock, sees the worry. "Even younger children in the middle of a lesson say that they're worried that someone is going to come and get them," she said. Several years ago, one of her students had his father taken. "He was very traumatized

SEE PAGE 4



Hector Cruz

Protesting on the field or in class: Is it OK?

BY KAYSON MACIEL-ANDREWS, ALEC SAMSEL, ANSHUL PATEL, TYELOR BALLARD EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF EDITED BY JON VICTOR

Should NFL players be allowed to kneel during the National Anthem? Is it OK for students to sit or kneel during the Pledge?

These questions have caused controversy nationwide, and have made their way to East Rock School. Angela Maiocco, a fourth grade teacher, said one of her students took a knee dur-

ing the Pledge of Allegiance one morning. "He said his mother told him to," she said.

According to the East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey, 118, or 66 percent of students surveyed, don't object to the NFL players taking a knee during the playing of the National Anthem. When asked if students should get in trouble for

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NEW HAVEN HELPING PUERTO RICO SEE PAGE 5



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BREAKFAST POWER SEE PAGE 8

SLANG IS NOT ANTI-SMART SEE PAGE 15



BRING ON THE BEAT! SEE PAGE 11

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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ERR Survey: Kneeling is OK protest

PROTESTS FROM PAGE 1

protesting during the pledge, about two-thirds said they should not. Is it OK for high school athletes to take a knee during the national anthem? The results were closer: 55 percent said “yes” and 45 percent said “no.”

James Maciel-Andrews, a high school student and former East Rock Record reporter, said kneeling is a way for people to bring attention to concerns about racism.

“The issues we have now have been around for a long time but with the election of Donald Trump, people are feeling more free to express their racist and prejudiced thoughts,” he said. Mr. Maciel-Andrews also said that he



East Rock Record PE teacher Chad Rowan is a former football coach. He would support kneeling athletes if they “felt passionately about it.”

stay out of the controversy.” Ms. Lawrence said President Trump’s involvement is bringing “this in the wrong direction.”

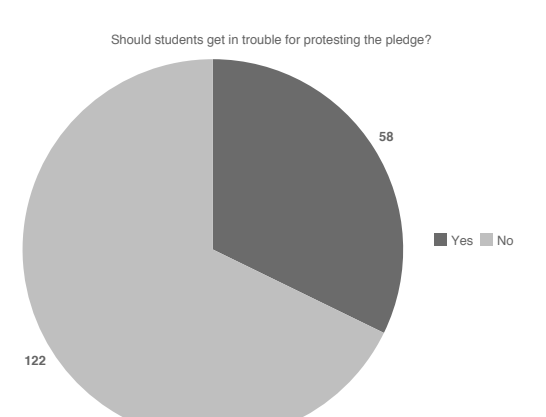
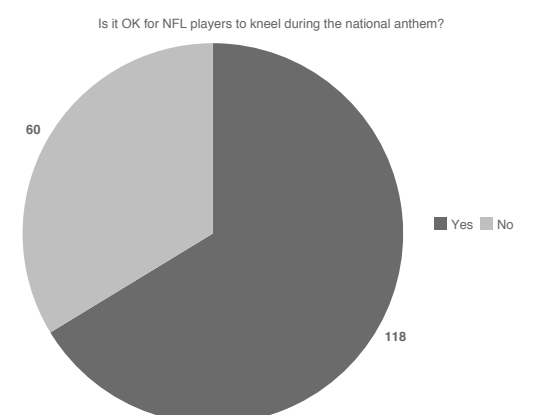
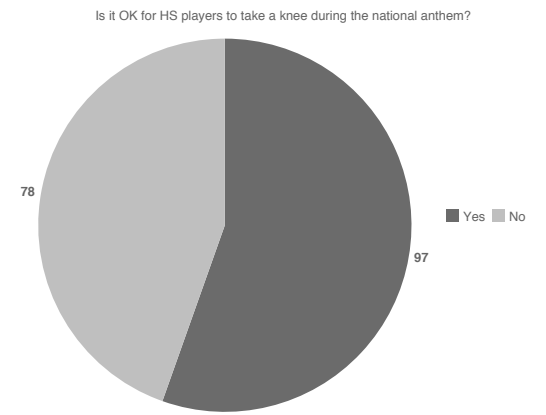
The problem is that while some people think that racism and the history of slavery are gone, others believe it still exists to this day. Now kids must deal with it. Kneeling during the Pledge is one way to protest racism. But is it the right way?

“You should respect the Pledge, even if you don’t say it” out loud, said Omar Dweck, a fifth grader. “You should respect the flag. It’s the country you’re living in.”

John DeStefano, the former Mayor of New Haven, said during an interview with East Rock Record reporters that, “I wouldn’t take a knee. But if someone wants to do that as a form of protest, I respect that.” He said the controversy is full of mixed messages. “The fuss that is being made about disrespecting the flag is being used to confuse people about what their message is.”

For some teachers, the question of whether to stand for the Pledge or not is clear. “I think they should stand,” said Verita Rudd, who teaches Pre-K. “It’s our country. It’s our flag. I don’t think it has anything to do with the color of your skin.”

Others, like Mr. Lewis, believe that students have the right to kneel. “It’s something I personally would not do,” he said. “But I understand what they’re doing. If a kid was kneeling, I wouldn’t tell him to get up.”



Source: ERR Fall 2017 survey



THE CHALLENGE: HOW TO RESPECT THE FLAG BUT OBJECT TO RACISM?

thinks “Donald Trump is afraid of the protests because they reveal his true nature.”

John Kennedy, who teaches 7th grade math, said that while the issue is getting attention at NFL games, “racism is a problem within society, not just on football fields.” Jean Lawrence, a music teacher at East Rock, said that players who kneel “have a point. They have the right to freedom” in expressing their views.

Should students who play football take a knee? “If our kids felt passionate about it I would stand by and support them,” said Chad Rowan, East Rock School physical education teacher and a former football coach. But, he said, “I feel like doing it every week isn’t the most productive.”

President Donald Trump has gotten involved in the debate, especially on Twitter where he said that players who kneeled should be fired. Joseph Lewis, East Rock School administrator said that “Donald Trump should



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Trump immigration policies seed fear, planning

ICE WORRY FROM PAGE 1

by it," she said.

ICE has conducted raids in New Haven before. In 2007, I.C.E. arrested 40 people in New Haven, particularly in Fair Haven. John DeStefano, the city's mayor for 18 years and during those raids, recalled the fear caused by the arrests.

"It scared a lot of people whose visas had expired, and it scared families who were citizens," Mr. DeStefano told East Rock Record reporters.

Although raids and arrests in Fair Haven were ten years ago, Mayor DeStefano and others worry it could happen again. The East Rock Record Fall 2017 survey showed that more than 60 percent of students fear ICE conducting raids around New Haven. Even though students were concerned about raids, 75 percent said that New Haven was a welcoming community to immigrants.

Raids are coordinated arrests of immigrants believed to be breaking the law by living and working in the U.S. without permission. Raids oftentimes involve armed federal agents forcibly entering people's homes or places of work.

Even if large raids have not yet happened, immigrant families have more fear. Two fifth graders, Saul and Irvin, who did not want to use their full names, had not heard of ICE. Irvin's parents are from Guatemala and Mexico and Saul's parents are from Mexico. Both know kids in New Haven whose parents have been suddenly taken away in the past year.

They did not know if ICE was responsible. ICE agents arrest people whose visas have expired which means they have overstayed their allowed visiting time in the U.S. Visas are legal documents that give you permission to visit. Some types of visas allow you to live and work here, but others don't.

ICE is part of the Department of Homeland Security. It is a federal agency that reports to the executive branch of government, which is led



LEFT: Sergio Ramirez of Junta For Progressive Action in Fair Haven said they help train immigrants about ICE raids and provide legal help to those facing deportation.

RIGHT: Former New Haven Mayor John DeStefano talks with East Rock Record reporters about ICE raids in New Haven that took place 10 years ago. He worries that it could happen again.



by the President. Under the Trump presidency, the political climate has changed and immigrant people in New Haven and other parts of the U.S. have become fearful.

Because New Haven is a sanctuary city, Police Chief Anthony Campbell said local police will not help out ICE agents. "We don't work hand in hand with them," said Chief Campbell. After the raids in 2007, he said the department established a rule.

"It says we will not ask anyone their immigration status," he said. "Because of that ICE works separate from us."

Specific community organizations have prepared to help immigrants worried about raids. Sergio Ramirez, community and youth organizer for JUNTA, a Latino advocacy organization based in Fair Haven, said they help prepare people to face threats. "JUNTA provides trainings, for teachers and administrators at schools on how to respond to I.C.E. raids," Mr. Ramirez said. (The organization's full name is JUNTA for Progressive Action.)

Mr. Ramirez said they also help people who have been arrested to get legal help. "We provide 'Know Your Rights' trainings and help people

create deportation defense plans," he said. All of these precautions are important.

When he served as Mayor, Mr. DeStefano made efforts to help immigrants in New Haven. He said members of the community must spread information and challenge unlawful arrests. "It's good to stand up and complain when people are being treated unfairly," he said. "Whether in a group or by yourself, it's good to speak out."

WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR

1. EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS TO: REMAIN SILENT, BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY, NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO SPEAKING WITH AN ATTORNEY.

2. RESIST ENTRY IF AGENTS DO NOT HAVE A WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE.

SOURCE: JUNTA

New chief says he is 'Christian On Patrol'

CHIEF FROM PAGE 1

described his beliefs about policing and how he has made it to the top. He grew up in the Bronx. His mom was a corrections officer. His father "was getting in trouble with the law a lot of times." Because he got in trouble, his dad said, "I don't want you to follow in my footsteps."

Chief Campbell never got in trouble with the law. In fact, he did really well in school and went to Yale for college, and then Yale Divinity School. He decided to be police officer to be respectful and treat others the way you want to be treated.

But he is good at catching the bad guys. Chief Campbell said he is in very good physical shape. "They can outrun me, but they can't outlast me," he said.

Luckily, he has never shot anyone or been shot himself. He did shoot a dog, but the dog survived. But Chief Campbell did get seriously injured. He was hit by a criminal in a speeding car and couldn't get out of the way fast enough. He was out of commission for a while. "I had to learn to use my right arm again," he said.

As chief, he has three gold stars on each side of his collar. "It's a way to tell my people and other police officers who I am. They don't need to see the badge," he said. Every level of officer has different pins.

"MOST OF THE TIME, PEOPLE DON'T NEED TO BE ARRESTED"

— Chief Anthony Campbell

Chief Campbell also showed reporters his new gadget: The body camera. The camera was a small black square that attaches to a police officer's clothes. It kind of looks like a giant bug. The video gets downloaded and can be watched on a phone. As of Nov. 1, he said, every police officer in New Haven has a body camera. "Members of the public can request a copy of the video."

The New Haven Police Department has 438 police officers and four dogs. They are German Shepherds. "They are trained by the people who use them on the shift," he said. The dogs, whose ability to smell is 100 times more sensitive than

humans, help officers discover drugs and explosives. "Some are trained to deal with crowds."

Chief Campbell also has three sons, ages 16, 13 and 8. The hardest thing for him is that he doesn't get to spend a lot of time with his sons and they really worry about him. Sometimes after school they come to the police station and eat pizza with him.

He always keeps his radio on so that he can help other officers if they need backup. "I am happy to be chief."



COMMUNITY NEWS



Mara Patterson

CITY SCHOOLS, GROUPS HELP PUERTO RICO

New Haven residents have close ties to those hit by Hurricanes Irma, Maria

BY NASIR ANDERSON, ISABEL FAUSTINO, MARA PATTERSON, SHANIAH KINSEY, KEYLIN MONTOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY EILEEN JOHNSON

What happens when 185 mile-per-hour winds visit a tropical paradise? What happens when one hurricane punches and the second knocks out 100 percent of the electrical power for an entire island?

The 3.4 million people of Puerto Rico found out the answer to these scary questions on September 20 when Hurricane Maria hit just after Hurricane Irma. It caused the longest blackout in U.S. history lasting more than 40 days. About 30 percent of people still do not have power.

Even though Puerto Rico is more than 1,500 miles away, people in New Haven — and at East Rock School — have felt personally connected to the tragedy.

Hector Cruz, a fifth grade student at East Rock School, has an uncle that lives in Puerto Rico who was affected. He has not heard from him since the hurricane. “I’m worried that he might have died,” said Mr. Cruz.

According to the East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey, one-third of students know someone who was in

weeks before the storm hit.

Because of the close connections to the island, East Rock School families and people across New Haven are trying to help. The city’s schools have opened their doors. “So far we have received 64 students from Puerto Rico,” Daniel Diaz, parent liaison for the New Haven Public Schools told East Rock Reporters in late October.

“A few are fluent in English,” but most are attending dual language schools including the Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy, Clinton Avenue School, Fair Haven School,



Daniel Diaz, parent liaison for the New Haven Public Schools, has family in Puerto Rico. He said New Haven schools are welcoming students from the island.

Columbus Family Academy, Hill Central School, Truman School, John C. Daniels School of International Communication and the John S. Martinez School.

So far at least two students from Puerto Rico have come to East Rock School. Mr. Diaz does not know how many more students will come, but said they would make room. “I think we are prepared to receive every student who comes to our district,” he said. “We might need more teachers, more resources but that is a matter of organizing the needs if more students keep coming.”

It is not clear how many people will come from Puerto Rico to New Haven. One organization trying to help is Junta, a community action group that fights for the rights of Latinos. Sergio Ramirez, the group’s community and youth organizer, said that as of November 22, they are serving 149 families and 356 individuals. He said those numbers are the result of two airplanes per day arriving at Bradley International Airport in Hartford. “Starting in December there will be four airplanes landing at Bradley per day,

so our estimates are nearly 300 families in the next month,” he said.

Mr. Ramirez said they have received a lot of requests for help. “Right when the hurricane happened we had a family of six people come and they were living with family members, but did not have beds,” he said, adding that right now, “shelter is our biggest need.”

Mr. Ramirez says that Junta is working with the City of New Haven to coordinate donations of money and non-perishable food items to send to Puerto Rico. He said many organizations in New Haven are

ONE-THIRD OF EAST ROCK STUDENTS SURVEYED KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS IN PUERTO RICO DURING THE HURRICANES;

MORE THAN 85 PERCENT WOULD LIKE STUDENTS FROM THE ISLAND TO COME TO EAST ROCK SCHOOL

pitching in.

“We had a meeting with the city of New Haven and we had at least 10 or 11 organizations that wanted to help,” he said, including Arte Inc., the Fairhaven free clinic, Iris, and the Hispanic Federation. Junta was founded 49 years ago to help people from Puerto Rico acclimate to New Haven. “With the hurricane in Puerto Rico we are revisiting our

core mission,” he said.

For some in New Haven the destruction is both personal and painful. “If I go there now, I think I will cry,” said Mr. Diaz. “It is a beautiful island with beautiful water. You can see the bottom of the ocean. There are a lot of rainforests. It is a tropical paradise.”

That natural beauty was destroyed by the storm. “Everything is bare. The trees have no leaves. Giant trees are uprooted and laying in the street.”

Mr. Diaz said his mother lives on the island. She said that his mother doesn’t have drinkable water. It is white and full of bacteria. She has to cook it before she even uses it just to wash herself!

People were in line to get water, food, oil and gas. “One hundred percent of the island lost power. Nobody didn’t lose power,” said Mr. Diaz. “One hundred percent of the island lost water. The airports were closed.”

Can you imagine not having electricity? No WiFi, YouTube, video games or even a TV? I know you are probably thinking that what I am telling you is unreal. But, this is what is happening in our world. Can you picture your family 1,659 miles away from you without electricity and just got hit by a Category 5 hurricane and not being able to contact them to know if they are OK?

The biggest question for the future of Puerto Rico, said Mr. Diaz, is how quickly the island can get electricity. Even though leaders said most of the island would have electricity restored by December, the official progress tracker at <http://status.pr/> shows that only 68 percent of residents had power on December 4.




Keylin Montoya

Puerto Rico during the storms. The survey also found that 85 percent of students said they would like to have students from Puerto Rico come to East Rock School.

Isabella Pagan, a fourth grade student, says she is excited for kids from Puerto Rico to come to East Rock Magnet School.


“I feel okay with them coming here,” she said. “I mean I’m half Puerto Rican.” Shekinah Jones agreed that it is a good idea for kids from Puerto Rico to be able to come to the school and added that she has a friend who left Puerto Rico just



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SCHOOL NEWS

ER Tech Temperature: Facebook is OUT, Snapchat is IN

BY DANIEL BEDOYA, MEET PATEL,
ADAM SHARQAWI,
NELLIE JACKSON, TAINA ALICEA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY DIMITRI DIAGNE

Once upon a time, Facebook was really popular among kids. Now they couldn't give a snap.

That's right, the new East Rock Record Fall 2017 Survey uncovered what many suspected: Kids don't use Facebook, but love Snapchat. Survey results found that 116 out of 181 students who responded —over two-thirds —use Snapchat. Only 35 use Facebook.

Is there an age gap on social media? Some think so.

"In this generation people are all about Snapchat," said Leslie DePriest, vice principal of East Rock Community Magnet School. She said social media use on smartphones doesn't come as easily to adults as to students. "Your generation has grown up with it."

Ms. DePriest is concerned about smartphone use at school. What about Snapchat? "Use it at home."

Laura Generosa, 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher, when asked if she understands why kids use Snapchat said, "not really."

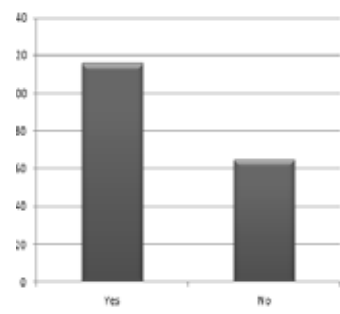
Yury Maciel-Andrews, president of The East Rock Community Magnet School PTO, said Snapchat attracts younger people "because it is fun for teenagers to use and they can text their friends at any time with all kinds of filters."

Social media has become so popular because smart phones make technology accessible to even young students. Good things come from technology, but people also have worries about its use in school. Some say that it can interfere with learning. Teachers, parents, and administrators are trying to understand how stu-

dents use social media and smartphones, and how to control this use. Most students have smartphones and many use them during class, but not for educational purposes. Asked if she uses her smartphone to access social media in class, one student said, "yes, everyday."

Teachers find this alarming. Some

said the fact that students use their smartphones in school is supremely harmful to their education and is hurting their future. When asked about secret use of Snapchat in class, Ms. DePriest said, "They need to stop, because if you're on that you're not paying attention to the lesson and you're distracting others." To respond to disruptions, teachers, school leaders and the PTO have taken actions. In grades 6 through 8, students are told to hand over their phones to their homeroom teachers during school or keep them in their lockers. Although many do give



DO YOU USE SNAPCHAT?
By Nellie Jackson, Taina Alicea

their smartphones to teachers, most keep them so they can text friends. In doing so, Ms. DePriest said, "they're breaking school laws and district laws."

Teachers end up dealing with smartphones in class, often by taking them away. The PTO parent handbook says that the first time a student uses a smartphone in class, the teacher can take it away. The third time, the student may not bring it to school. Some adults want students stop using smartphones in class. Others want to help students

utilize their phones in a better way.

Teachers have different opinions on how to help the students focus on and pay attention to the class instead of texting their friends under their desks and in the bathroom. Some said that Snapchat should only be accessible to teenagers and older or that there should be a different app for kids under 13.

Ms. DePriest is concerned about the use of phones in school. "They are not supposed to have their phones out for safety reasons," she said. And especially, "not to take pictures of other students."

She said parents should pay attention to Snapchat. "It's important for adults to stay knowledgeable about things students are into," she said.

Ms. DePriest doesn't mind students using Snapchat. Just not in school. "They can use it at home if they have something nice to post," she said.

Asked if she uses her smartphone to access social media in class, one student said, "yes, everyday."

What's in a new name? How will the school change?

NEW NAME FROM PAGE 1

New Haven students were coming together to defend immigrant rights," she said. "East Rock has been known to be accepting of multiple backgrounds and we want this grant to help students of East Rock learn and accept other cultures." Some people are really excited about the change. The East Rock Record Fall 2017 survey found that 129 students, or 72 percent of those answering, said they thought it was a good idea for East Rock to change its name and allow students from outside the city to attend.

"It's going to help a lot of people who don't have another school and are from another country," said Gionna Smith, a 4th grader. Ms. Smith said she is excited about the new curriculum and hopes they'll add language classes. (She also hopes the school will add more water fountains with cold water).

Elizabeth Cassidy, an art teacher at East Rock, likes the changes because she has students from many heritages and the new name "will be a better representation of the study body." Tylor Ballard, a 5th grader, thinks the name is good because there's a good reason behind it: "We'll probably have more immigrants come in and they'll know we support them."

Norine Polio, the ESOL teacher, has taught students from 98 different countries who speak about 50 different languages. She thinks the meaning behind the name change is wonderful because "we can always learn from each other."

Others are not so sure. "I'm excited to learn about new cultures, but the new name is too long," said Julyanna Franco, a 4th grade student. She



East Rock Record reporters interview Michele Bonanno of NHPS about the name change.

**DOES EAST ROCK SCHOOL
NEED A NEW MASCOT
TO GO WITH THE NAME CHANGE?
NO: 54 percent YES: 46 percent**

time that East Rock Community Magnet School will change its name. But that doesn't mean we know what to expect.

What will school be like with a new name? Ms. Bonanno says that the new curriculum will include more field trips and projects. There will be a cultural fair where families can talk about their cultures. Ms. Polio said the new name will change how she teaches her classes. She said a unit on special foods from around the world would be interesting.

Will our mascot change? Ms. Cassidy doesn't think it should since "the eagle is American, which is all of our heritages. It is still a perfect representation our school." Students are split. According to the Fall 2017 survey, 54 percent said we should remain the East Rock Eagles, but 46 percent, want change. Mascot aside, Principal Pelley said the new identity is right for our school. "East Rock represents a variety of different cultures."

hopes the new curriculum will include classes on potion science.

Some students don't see the point in the name change. A question on the East Rock Record Fall 2017 survey asking, "Will this name change help East Rock become a better school?" got mixed answers. Two thirds thought it would help but 58 students, one-third, don't think it will. "The name change itself doesn't actually change anything," said Taina Alicea, in 7th grade. "They should keep the name the way it is because it doesn't matter." Isaiah Franco, a 4th grader, said of the name change, "I think it could be fun." This is actually the third

FOOD & HEALTH

WHICH EXOTIC FRUIT IS TASTIEST TREAT?

EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

East Rock Record reporters had the supreme task of judging which tropical fruit makes the most delicious snack.

Reporters tasted five fruits — kiwi, coconut, mini bananas, mango and pineapple — and rated them on a five-point scale (1 was lowest, 5 was highest).

The results? Pineapple was far out front with kiwi and mini bananas tied for second place. Coconut was the least favorite tropical fruit snack.

Adam Sharqawi, in sixth grade, said he “liked the pineapple the most because it had juice and sugar (glucose), which is what I like.” Keylin Montoya, in third grade, however, found the mango “amazing” and gave it a top rating. Fifth grader Hector Cruz liked the kiwi best “because it was sour.”

Although she found the kiwi “smells like grape,” Isabel Faustino, in fifth grade, voted mango as best fruit. Alec Samsel, also a fifth grader, was one of the few reporters to give coconut a top rating mostly because it “looks cool” and other fruits “were horrible.” Fifth grader Anshul Patel, was also a fan of coconut, rating it highest because “it was crunchy.” Kayson Maciel-Andrews, in fourth grade, was most impressed with the novelty of the fruits. “The mango and the pineapple were tied because they were exotic.”



Meet Patel



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Thru
Thursday, December 14, 2017
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MUSIC

MICHAEL MILLS LIVES THE BEAT

Master percussionist taps, shakes, claps, calls, chants with reporters



BY SHEKINAH JONES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today we saw Michael Mills. We played colorful shakers made by his mom. The shakers were very small and made with the little things in vending machines that hold toys. They were filled with beans, rice and peas. The outsides were painted and made into beautiful art. We had to keep our rhythm while Michael tried to play with our heads and make a beat to throw us off. Every MLK day (this year on January 15th) they have a drum circle for kids and adults at the Peabody Museum and he performs there. Last year I went and danced to a bunch of songs. Actually I beat a 17-18 year old in a dance battle!

BY KEYLIN MONTOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Mills is a good drummer. He kind of teaches everybody in the world. When he was just born, he was hitting his mother's stomach to make music and when he was three years old he hit everything in the house. Then, when he was 11 years old he became a good drummer and musical.

BY KAYSON MACIEL- ANDREWS
AND ANSHUL PATEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Mills came to the East Rock Record. He said he was born in 1954. He said he drummed on everything from his mom's leg to a refrigerator. By the time he was 25 he was a professional traveling the country and around the world. He's a producer: He has 25 artists in Jamaica, D.C., Chicago, and New York. His mom made shakers and the ingredients are: rice, beans, black-eyed peas. Every year he does the Martin Luther King holiday with the dinosaurs at the Peabody Museum. This year it is on January 15. He plays drums. I do classical music and play keyboards.

BY JESSICA BEDOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The drum is big music. He came today to play. Students played. Thinking of music is cool. What is my favorite music? Kidz bop at home. I like to play music, play guitar.

BY ISABELLA PAGAN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today I have interviewed Michael Mills. "I was born in 1954 in New Haven," he said. His mom (Miss Mattie) made awesome painted plastic shakers with rice and black-eyed beans in them to shake. Then he made us do a chant, "Oh, oh, oh, oh, ohhh, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, laaa." He told us about an agogo bell and African conga drums. He even showed us them.

BY SHANIAH KINSEY
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Mills is a very spiritual man because he said, "heartbeat, lifetime, confidence, memory," to find the rhythm in the words. He used to beat on his mom's legs and stomach. He started to play bongo and conga drums when he was 11. His mom makes shakers of rice and peas.

BY NELLIE JACKSON AND TAINA ALICEA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Mills is 64 years old. He was born in 1954. He is a drummer and started to drum when he was 11. He inspires lots of kids. His mother makes all kinds of art like shakers. He helped us stay on rhythm, with clapping and shakers. Each shaker was different; they are filled with beans and rice. So that's Michael Mills' life.

BY KAMIYAH MARSH
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

He said he wanted us to chant. My favorite chant was the la la la la la la la la la la la la la one. He was born in 1954. He said, "It still feels like he is still 10 - 11 years old." His mom (Miss Mattie) made the shakers with food like rice, beans and peas. They are like the things at arcades, the little cup things.

BY NASIR ANDERSON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

"Rhythm, beats, heartbeats," all things Michael Mills said. From the time he was a baby he has been drumming on anything he can find—skin to walls, now on drums. What interested me about him is that he made a lot of hand gestures and he was very enthusiastic. He just loved to make lots of different sounds.

BY ADELINE ELLIS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Mills is a great drummer. He was born in New Haven in 1954. When he was a baby he would tap on his mother's lap. When he grew up he started to tap on the table, the bed and other stuff. He is 64. His mom made little shakers with designs on them. Inside the shakers there was rice, beans and peas. He travels and does music.

BY MARA PATTERSON
AND ISABEL FAUSTINO
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

What do you think of an interview? Someone only talking, someone only writing, trying to write everything word for word? Normally it is. But this one was a lot of activity. It had singing, chants, making noise, shaking shakers hand painted by his mom. "Energy must flow through our body freely like the wind and the rain," said the drummer Michael Mills. As a kid, he was very talented. As a newborn baby he would always be tapping on his mother's legs and stomach. At age 11 he was banging on everything he saw! That is how his career got started. By the age of 25 he was already flying all around the world and making music deals with different people. Michael Mills is a very successful musician.



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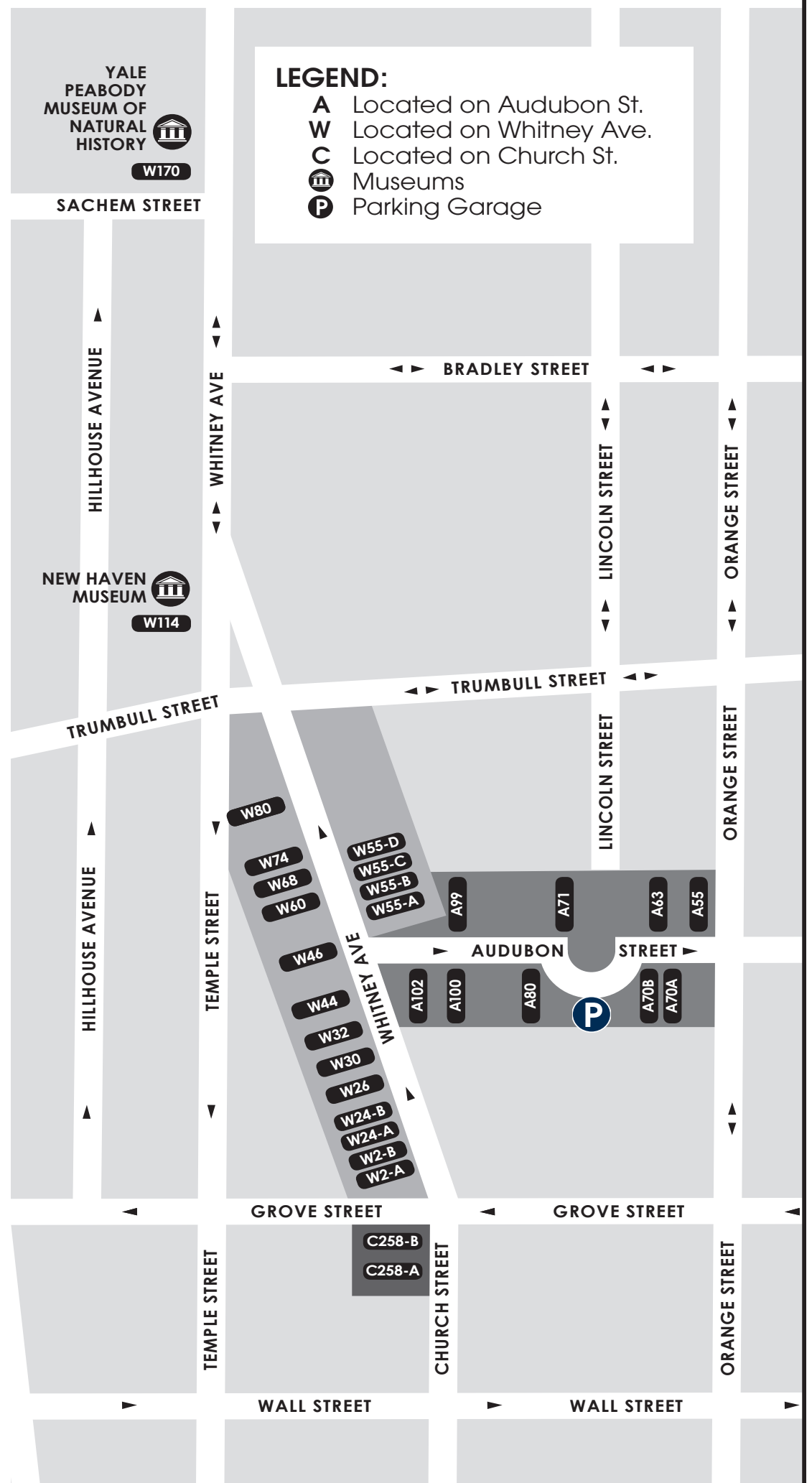
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LIFE & IDEAS

Shrimp: Small but mighty crustaceans

BY DANIEL BEDOYA AND ADAM SHARQAWI
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Do you eat shrimp? Have you ever wondered what they are like behind the scenes? Shrimp sound like boring creatures, but once you learn about them you will know how interesting they really are. We learned some really cool things about shrimp that I never even knew.

The term “shrimp” is used to refer to some Decapod Crustaceans. Decapod Crustaceans are an order of crustaceans including many familiar groups, such as crayfish, crabs, lobsters, prawns, and shrimp. Shrimp can be found feeding on the sea floor. They are omnivores, which means they eat both vegetables and meat. Shrimp mostly live in saltwater. A lot of shrimp species, known as cleaners, enter the mouths of fish to remove bloodsucking parasites.

Shrimp are very interesting organisms that aren't big in size but have a huge role in pretty much every ecosystem inside water. There are more than 2,000 types of shrimp that are found in lakes and rivers as well as oceans. They feed on algae and planktons in addition to the fact that they find their prey on the sea floor. Shrimp have prey but also have predators which eat them to survive. Shrimp have learned to camouflage to avoid that danger and survive.

So if you thought that shrimps were really boring now you know what they actually do and how the smallest things could be the most interesting.

LOL Dolls Tiny, Pricey

BY SHANIAH KINSEY
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Last issue I wrote about L.O.L. dolls. I do love the dolls because they are very cute and they do very different things than most dolls do like some of them tinkle, cry, spit and change color. (To make them change color get icy cold water and warm water into different bowls or containers.)

The problem is that they are \$10 a pop and the little sisters are \$7 each. I think parents will not buy their child this toy is because they're very expensive and some parents think it's not worth it — like my mom, for instance. She will not let



me get any L.O.L. dolls unless it's with my own money. When you first buy them you can you unwrap the first layer and it's like a zipper you pull down. After that you get a little paper that tells you about them. The next layer will tell you what they do (like spit, pee, color change). After that you finally get an actual surprise for the doll. The next layer you get shoes; the next layer is their outfit. Finally you crack the ball open and then get the doll! As you can see these little dolls are outrageous!

PERFECTION IS A PROBLEM

BY ISABEL FAUSTINO
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Has anyone called you “perfect” before? Well, someone said that to me. Have you ever heard the phrase, “Big things come in small packages?” You probably did. Some people say or think that I am “perfect.” I may be able to do a lot of things. But that doesn't mean I am perfect.

For example, there is a very high bar at our school's playground compared to me (I am one of the smallest kids in the 5th grade). It is hard to imagine me even grabbing hold of it. But, I grabbed on to it and swung my legs up and then I'm hanging from my legs like a monkey and didn't even touch the “deck” beside it. Or I can do a one-handed round-off into a split. The only way that I am able to do all of that stuff is from practice, hard work and believing in myself. If you have those components in yourself you can succeed.

There are some things that I can't do, like a back handspring or making friendship bracelets, but I try my hardest to learn how to do those things. Some people say or think that I am no fun. That is OK. I get good grades (or somewhat good grades.) I may not have the hot new toy or the new Jordan's. That is also OK.

The problem with perfection is that you won't be able to learn anything because you think you know everything and you are above everyone else. Maybe instead of trying to be “perfect,” strive to be “better.”



Shekinah Jones

1 in 3 babies will face #DiaperNeed this Holiday Season.

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The Diaper Bank (TDB) centralizes the fundraising and distribution of free diapers to poor families through existing service providers, including local food pantries, soup kitchens, daycare centers, social service agencies and shelters. Through its extensive Diaper Distribution Network (DDN) over 60 agencies, TDB provides free diapers to poor and low-income families in New Haven, Hartford, Fairfield, Middlesex, and Windham Counties.

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USA Soccer Must Up It's Game

BY ANSHUL PATEL AND ALEC SAMSEL
EAST ROCK RECORDSTAFF

USA Men's soccer team suffered a horrible loss this fall to Costa Rica. It will keep the US from being in the World Cup.

The score was 4-0. Goalkeeper Keylor Navas for Costa Rica made two important saves. Plus, Marco Urena scored great goals for Costa Rica. There were 26,000 fans who filled the stadium in the USA. Basically, Cameron's pass to Keylor Navas gave Costa Rica a 2-0 lead at the 60 minute mark with Christian Nyari posting a image on twitter of the USA formation before the second goal by Keylor Navas.

The whole thing ended badly for the U.S. Maybe next time the team should be more ready; they should practice harder on passing and shooting. This is just horrible! The U.S. has a lot of money and talent. We need to use it!



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Letter from Principal Pelley

Greetings East Rock Record Readers!

Congratulations to the East Rock Record staff on the successful completion of the 9th edition of the East Rock Record! Special thanks to nationally-recognized journalist Laura Pappano, student mentors from Yale University and East Rock School staff and parents who volunteer their time after school to support our students on their path to success in college, career, and life.

Be sure to check out the article about our MSAP grant! East Rock is thrilled to be one of five schools to be awarded a five year, 15 million dollar MSAP grant which enables us to become a Project Choice Magnet School. Under this grant, East Rock students will examine the multifaceted meanings of the phrase “We the People” as they explore the unique cultural landscapes of New Haven and our nation, and the ways in which diversity makes us stronger. The title of our school will change from East Rock Community Magnet School to East Rock Community and Cultural Studies Magnet School. We are looking forward to the many opportunities that the MSAP grant will provide.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season!

Peggy Pelley, Principal, East Rock Community Magnet School



East Rock Record reporters working on opinion pieces for this issue.

Afterschool Programs Are Important

After school programs are very interesting. From the cooking after school program that happens on Tuesdays and Thursday in the cafeteria to the drama class that happens on Mondays and Fridays, I am able to spend time with friends outside of the classroom and cafeteria. This makes me feel happy. Even on the short days, we have art and gym. As far as the teachers at the afterschool program, some of them are mean and some of them are really nice. Specifically, the cooking teacher is a woman that is my mom’s friend’s neighbor. She made me teach the other children how to participate and she gave me a job passing out fruit gummies. Allowing me to help makes me feel really, really, happy and excited. Being helpful and learning new things about cooking makes this after school program so important.

— **Rami Mohammed** *East Rock Record Opinion*

SOCCER WATCHING IS FAMILY FUN

I like to watch soccer games on TV because it is very exciting. Lionel Messi is my favorite player. He plays for Argentina and Barcelona. Even though Madrid and Barcelona are rivals, I like both teams. I watch soccer with my family all of the time.

My family is Colombian and we watch all of Colombia’s soccer games. Colombia is my favorite national team. I liked watching the 2014 World Cup and was excited when Germany won. I’m excited for the 2018 World Cup. USA won’t play in 2018 because they lost. I think USA should get better at soccer. I think more people should watch soccer because it’s fun to watch. I also like to go to the soccer field and play soccer. I learn teamwork from watching and playing soccer.

— **Jessica Bedoya**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

The East Rock Record

East Rock Community Magnet School
133 Nash Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Editorial and opinion writers: Isabel Faustino, Kayson Maciel-Andrews, Adeline Ellis, Jessica Bedoya, Keylin Montoya, Nasir Anderson, Adam Sharqawi, Jarelis Calderon, Shekinah Jones.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR EARTHQUAKES, HURRICANCES, FIRES: OLYMPIAN GODS

All these huge natural events have been happening. Could gods be responsible? The Ancient Greek Olympians may be meddling in modern life. First, think about the primordial gods and goddesses. First up Gaea, the goddess of the earth, she might have responsibility for all earthquakes because all earthquakes have earth in them.

Next up, Chaos, his name is translated into “gaping void,” from which everything was created. Next up is Eros, the primordial god of love. And men and women have love. Now we have the Olympians, including the Big Three. First, Zeus. Zeus is the god of men, the sky, thunder, and the King of Olympus. Recently in different places there have been thunderstorms and rainstorms.

Next is Poseidon, the god of the sea, water, storms, earthquakes, and horses. And there have been hurricanes. There’s also Ares, the god of war, and that’s what men have declared over the centuries. There’s also Dionysus, the god of wine, and grape harvest. So Dionysus might be the cause of all alcohol, bars, and drunk people. And the last god is Hephaestus, god of fire and metalworking. He might be the cause of wildfires in California’s Napa Valley.

There’s also the Fates. The Fates were the goddesses of fate and destiny. Could immortals be behind our wild world? Who knows? Maybe the gods are real.

—**Kayson Maciel-Andrews**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Thank you!

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OPINION

SLANG IS CULTURAL, NOT ANTI-SMART

People have used “slang” or the urban language for years since rap started. Not just African American people use alternate language. All races can use different sayings. Some people think slang is bad and people should speak regular English. But who decides what is regular English? Some people grow up in a hood neighborhood and slang is regular to them. I am growing up in my neighborhood and they talk a lot of slang.

When I come to school, I speak proper English. At the same time I have friends from the hood at school that I have to talk slang with and it’s hard to transition. If you don’t speak slang with people from your hood they might think that you are soft. They won’t respect you. If you talk proper to them, it is like you are talking down to them. But if teachers hear you speak slang they think you are uneducated and unknowledgeable.

I came from a school that was a really hood school in Clinton Avenue. We talked slang there and even the teachers talked slang. I came to East Rock in third grade. They basically thought if I got a good grade on a test it was surprising. I took a math test and the teacher said “Nasir, you got 100?!”

I was insulted. I am trying to say that you could go to Harvard and still talk slang and it doesn’t matter. (But I want to go to Yale). Don’t judge intelligence by the way somebody talks. Somebody could talk proper but be really dumb. So – Yo, man, thanks for reading this piece. I’m out.

—**Nasir Anderson**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

FAMILY DANCING

I dance a lot so I’m relatively fit. But dance isn’t something you have to do. I just do it because I was born to dance. To me dance is another language. My entire family danced and some of them still dance. My grandad danced, my dad danced, my oldest brother danced, my older sisters danced. So, it just comes naturally to me. My aunt Tia Russel teaches dancing. She is awesome at dancing and teaching.

I have to keep my reputation intact. I’m the dance coach on the team the Purple Diamonds. I do makeup, hair and costumes. I do hip hop and majorette with my brother. He’s the co-captain on the team. My dance rivals are the Hurricane Dance Team. I think people should dance more because it’s good exercise. Also, it is a very amazing sport. I dance when I’m sad or need some cheering up. Dancing is a stress reliever.

You don’t have to be “good” at dancing. What other people think is good and bad means nothing if you dance the way you want to and not the way other people want you to. If you want to become a Purple Diamond meet me near the park entrance. Just say, “Hey I want to be a Purple Diamond” or “I read your newspaper article. Can I be a Purple Diamond?”

— **Shekinah Jones**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

SLEEPOVERS ARE GREAT!

Sleepovers are really fun. Sleepovers are really fun because you can play board games and you can watch movies. You can also eat really good stuff like pizza. The board game that I played at a sleepover was “Sorry,” and I played it at my friend’s house. Then we watched “Captain Underpants.” Obviously there was pizza! We stayed up until 9:00 p.m. and that’s past my usual bed time. The last time I went to a sleepover there were five people. This time there four, but it does not matter if there are less people or more people. It is fun to sleepover.

— **Jarelis Calderon**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



Isabel Faustino

Lunch, then recess: Does it make sense?

Have you ever felt like you were going to hurl when you were playing on the playground? I did, and so did two of my dear friends, Shaniah and Adz-ity. I have asthma so it does not feel good at all when I am upside down and it feels like I am going to hurl because I have just eaten lunch.

I have wondered if we shouldn’t have recess after eating, then what should we have? Well, I gave it some thought. Since our brains can process better with food in our system we should have something educational after we eat, like math, reading or writing. It’s a good idea to have something educational after lunch because the students will focus more on what they are doing. My friend Shaniah Kinsey said that, “lunch is the most talkative part of the day.” If people are gossiping during lunch it will continue at recess, she said. “But if you have a time and space between lunch and recess people would probably forget the things they said.”

—**Isabel Faustino**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Light Waves Could Help Us Hide

Becoming invisible is something many people had tried to achieve, but what is the way to do it? Well let us take a look at light waves. Light waves are basically what appears when a light beam hits a transparent object which is the rainbow. We all know that the rainbow has seven colors but what if I tell you that it actually has more than 50 colors and the seven colors are only the ones that are visible to the human eye? For example, dogs can also see seven colors but they see different colors which are dark blue, light blue, gray, light yellow, darker yellow (sort of brown) and very dark gray. Cats see fewer colors in a rainbow, but have a bigger range of light waves than we humans.

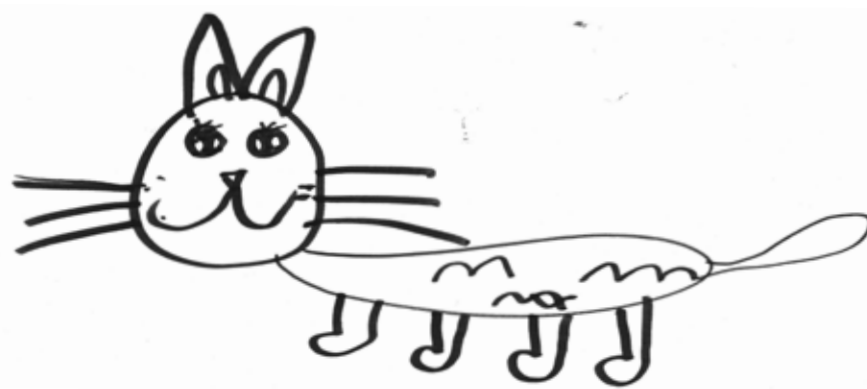
Now my idea is to make goggles that can make you see these colors that we cannot now see. I think scientists could manage to turn the color into a chemical then into a medicine which could potentially turn humans invisible for the human eye to see, though they are not transparent because they still exist. That could help spies go undercover with a bigger chance to succeed and get the information that they needed. So I would like to say that this is very important and it could come in handy for all sorts of situations. It could be something that would bring either a blessing or a disaster to the world.

—**Adam Sharqawi**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

CATS AND DOGS: What to know

There are different breeds of dogs and cats. There are lots of different kinds of cats. There are Siamese cats, Tuxedo cats, Tabby cats, and black cats. I have a Tuxedo cat at home and her name is “Jingle.” I love cats. I love them because they are soft. There are different kinds of dogs, too, like Chihuahuas, Boxers, Pomeranian, Golden Retriever, Corgis, Portuguese Water dogs. I also like dogs. I like them because I like their soft fur. I wish cats were not as straggly.

— **Adeline Ellis**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



Adeline Ellis

The Joy of Making Slime

Slime is so squishy. My favorite color of slime is golden. To make slime you need glue, shaving cream, contact solution, and food coloring. You put these ingredients in a bowl and you and mix it with your hands. You should mix it for 10 seconds. When you are done mixing it, you can play with it. You can grab it with your hands, squish it, stretch it and smell it. Or you can squeeze it and make funny noises. Don’t eat it or put it in your hair or put it in your nose. When you are done playing you should put it inside a tiny cup. You put it in a cup or it gets dry or it sticks on the floor. You don’t want it on the floor because you can lose it!

— **Keylin Montoya**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Giving kids an outlet for performance and expression, plus a chance to grow.

For a child, growing means more than gaining inches. It means gaining confidence, understanding and a sense of self-worth. It means maturing mentally and emotionally as well as physically. The kids of New Haven's Nation Drill Squad and Drum Corps are doing just that, fostered by the support of Yale New Haven Hospital.

Over 1,000 kids have gone through the program during its 30 years in existence and won 16 national and 20 tri-state championships. Its mission is to teach young people the principles of discipline, dedication and determination, which Douglas Bethea, its founder, believes are the three keys to life.

At Yale New Haven Hospital, we couldn't agree more with Mr. Bethea. And we're proud to support his and many other programs throughout New Haven dedicated to supporting inner-city youth and changing their lives for the better. It's another example of our commitment to **caring beyond the bedside**.

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Members of the drill squad with Douglas Bethea, founder of New Haven's Nation Drill Squad and Drum Corps.

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