

The East Rock Record

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NEW EAST ROCK PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND SHARES VISION

Recalls fun as former East Rock School student



EAST ROCK SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND HOLDS HER FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE WITH EAST ROCK RECORD REPORTERS

BY EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School has a new principal – and when she was a kid, she went to East Rock School!

Principal Sabrina Breland said that as a student, “I don’t think I had one bad memory – ever – of being in this school.”

Ms. Breland spoke with *East Rock Record* reporters during a press conference, which she was “my first public engagement.” She shared ideas for learning, including more projects and hands-on work, and told reporters that she wanted to make East Rock “a school like the one I experienced.”

The school, she said, was full of activities like basketball, soccer, band and open gym time. “Anything you can name, we had at East Rock,”

she said. Students “didn’t fuss at teachers” and were kind to one another.

Fourth grader Keyeriah Williams said Ms. Breland has been a great principal so far. “When I get into arguments, Ms. Breland settles it. I like her. She’s nice. She cares about everybody.”

Tyrease Grear, in 4th grade, said Ms. Breland “is fun but she is serious at the same time.” Mr. Grear said that he was “impressed” when he learned that Ms. Breland played basketball and that it “helps her relate to kids because they like basketball.”

Sixth grader Melvin Ramos said Ms. Breland has started a basketball team in the school. “I am looking forward to joining,” he said. “She seems really fun.”

SEE PAGE 4

eSports Coming to New Haven (and maybe your future)

Could you play on a school Minecraft team?

BY HECTOR CRUZ, OMAR DWECK,
MELVIN RAMOS AND MOHAMMED KHAN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY HÉCTOR PERALTA

How would you like to play Fortnite in high school as part of a sports team?

Well, there is a new movement happening here in New Haven and around the world. It is bringing together adults, kids, technology —and fun. It is eSports.

Yes, playing video games is now officially a “sport.” Fortnite. Roblox. Minecraft. League of Legends. These have been part of the video game industry. But now they are also played in eSports competitions, where people come to watch — just like regular sports.

In professional competitions, players battle it out for the victory because they can win large sums of money and more, like free video game consoles, expensive computers, hard drives, and free trips to competitions.

And now, colleges are giving out scholarships for players who are very good at gaming. These players hope to become pro-gamers who dominate the gaming industry.

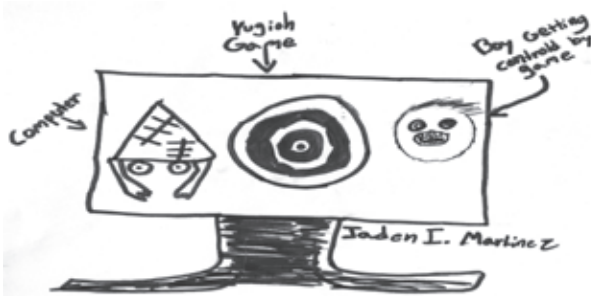
eSports in College

Video games as sports help players make money since eSports gives people chances for scholarships to college. One scholarship is called Southwest Baptist University eSports scholarship. This scholarship is for a range anywhere between \$500 to \$10,000.

SEE PAGE 9

The Cost of Video Games (not just dollars and cents)

BY NORAH MATZ, SAHIL LEMAR
AND ALEC SAMSEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY AMY DEPOY



Did you ever feel like you were about to win a game and you just needed another minute to play Fortnite – and then four hours went by?

People are playing video games everywhere you look: On phones, computers, Xbox and Playstation 4. Students at East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School like Minecraft, Fortnite and ROBLOX and many others!

Yes, video games are fun. But are they too fun? Could they be a problem?

Adham Dweck, third grader, doesn’t think so. He said, “I love video games and I don’t think I play enough.”

According to the Fall 2018 East Rock Record Survey, more than half of students – 53 percent – said that it is hard to stop playing a video game and move away from the screen.

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Students go to work — with their parents

BY MORGHAN PRESCOD, TY’KNESHIA THOMAS
AND DAISY CANALES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY MAX GRAHAM

When students are not in school, they are not just doing homework or playing video games. They might be at work —with their parents.

Last summer Dave Cruz, a 7th grader, went with his dad as he delivered pizzas. “I wanted to see how he works. And I wanted to get out of the house,” said Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz has only gone to

work with his dad during the summer. But some students go with parents during the school year to jobs at places including Dunkin’ Donuts, Dollar Tree and Yale-New Haven Hospital. *East Rock Record* reporters interviewed students and some adults about going to work with parents.

Students don’t usually talk

very much about going to work

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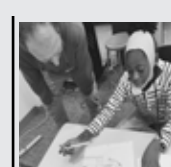


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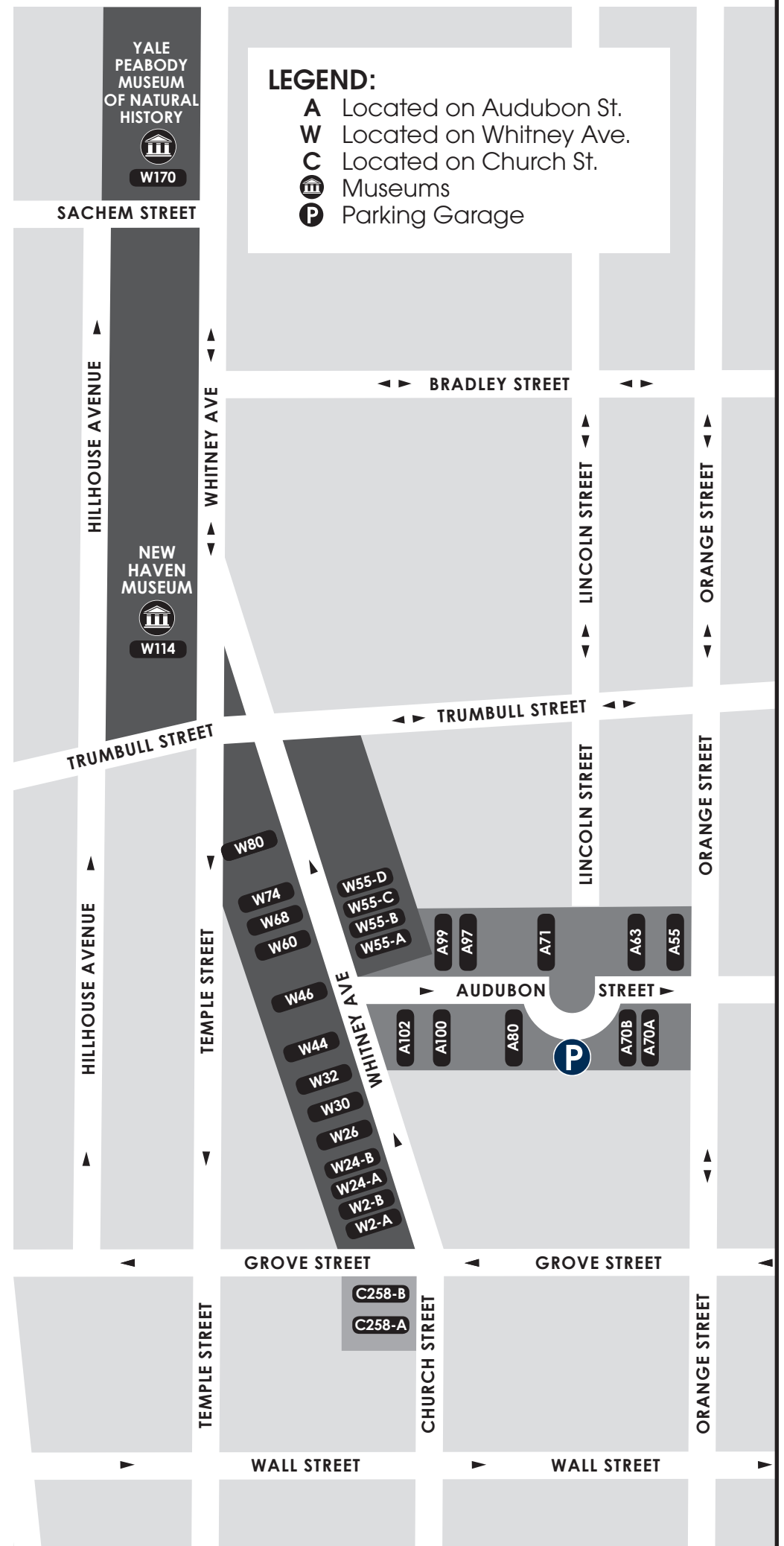
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Students play, learn at workplaces

PARENT WORK FROM PAGE 1

with their parents. But those interviewed by *East Rock Record* reporters were excited to share their experiences. There is a mix of students who are forced to go to work with their parents and those who want and love to go.

The East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey found that almost one-third of students regularly go to their parents' workplaces. Of those students, 62 percent said they liked going.

Adham Dweck, a 3rd grader, goes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to a Yale biology lab, where his mom does research on flies. He said going to his mom's job is boring, but he does not mind because he plays on the computer. He also likes to go "because I get to sleep." Mr. Dweck "sleeps one hour" then "plays on the computer the next."

Many students, including Dweck, said they did not have a choice about going to work with parents because parents did not want to leave them home alone.

Jaylani Sanchez, a 4th grader, liked going to Dollar Tree with her mom almost every day after school last year. She got to be friends with the daughter of one of the people her mom works with. They played together at their moms' work.

It turns out that kids have been going to work with their parents for a long time.

Sabrina Breland, principal of East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, told reporters during a press conference that when she was a child she sometimes went to work with her mom. Her mom had three jobs: crossing guard, nurse's assistant and



AS A CHILD, PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND OFTEN WENT TO WORK WITH HER MOTHER WHO JUGGLED THREE JOBS.

One-third of students regularly go to work with their parents

East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey

house cleaner. Ms. Breland most often went when she cleaned houses and to the Veteran's Administration Hospital where she was a nurse's aide.

"I didn't particularly like going to the VA hospital because I was younger and seeing sick people was uncomfortable for me," she said.

Teachers at East Rock School also went to work with parents. Loretta Napoletano, who teaches first grade, "vividly" remembers her dad telling her to stop going up and down elevators at his office, where he worked in sales.

Laura Generoso, 8th grader social studies teacher, said her dad brought her to work at the state's attorney office and police department, "all the time."

Amy Binkowski, a 6th grade teacher, remembered visiting her parents' car

dealership. She would help out by answering phones and filing documents. "I was never forced to go. It was always my choice," she said.

Does going to work with parents make you choose that job?

Most students — 72 percent — surveyed by the *East Rock Record* said they do not want to do the same job as a parent. Mr. Cruz said he would rather work at Google than a pizza restaurant.

In the future pizza delivery may not exist the way it does now, he said, noting that assembly lines are no longer in use. He wants a job that will make an impact in the future.

"I want to help advance us as a civilization," said Mr. Cruz.

Most teachers also said they picked careers different than their parents, but Marissa Wimmer, a special education teacher, got interested because she went to work with her mom, a special education teacher.

"I learned a lot while I was there. I really loved it," said Ms. Wimmer. She said her own daughter, who is seven, now often asks, "Mommy can I go to work with you instead of going to school?"

Many students said they like the idea of bringing kids to work. Mr. Cruz said if he has children, he would "definitely" bring them to work to "show them different option." It is "always good to have options," he said.

Keyeriah Williams, who is in fourth grade, would bring her kids to work as a learning experience.

"They'll want to see what it's like when you're older and have to go to work and pay the bills," she said.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Which teacher is best? Strict or Nice?

BY JAYLEEN BAEZ, NY'ARIE WILLIAMS,
NATALIA PENNA, JANYLA GASKINS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY KIMBERLY CRUZ

Everyone talks about it and asks: Is your teacher nice?

People care a lot about it, but why? Does it matter if your teacher is nice? And, what does “nice” even mean?

“Teachers have to be nice to connect with their students,” said 6th grader Hector Cruz.

The East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey showed that 87 percent of students said they learn better if their teacher is nice; 82 percent said most teachers at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School are “nice.”

How much does “nice” matter?

A pre-k teacher, Denise Roman said, “It matters how we talk to each other.” This is important because Pre-k teachers are the first exposure to adults outside of their household. “Nice means to value the person you are talking to,” she said.

When students are exposed to niceness, they can reciprocate it. Another pre-k teacher, Verita Rudd, said being nice means, doing “kind things to people. An example is sharing.”

This is important to teach students in school. Classrooms are where we learn how to be citizens. One reason students focus so much on “nice” teachers is maybe because the country doesn’t feel very nice these days.

But in a country filled with people from different backgrounds, people have to be open to each other. This can prevent hate crimes because if people learn how important it is to be a nice and kind person, then people won’t harm each other. Can being nice catch on?

One of the nicest teachers at East Rock, Norine Polio, who teaches ESL, had a nice teacher herself. She said her teacher “used to give us fake passports to different places around the world” so that they could “travel” as they learned.

“We would go home that day and pack little suitcases and pack our favorite things” for the trip. They would “arrive” in “Italy,” eat the food and learn about the culture. Mrs. Polio appreciated her nice teacher so much that she does that activity with her students.



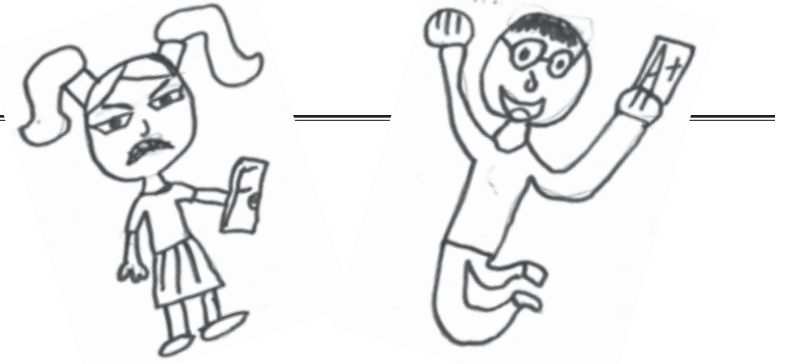
SIXTH GRADE TEACHER GARRETT GRIFFIN: “I AM STRICT”

Do you learn better when teachers are nice? Some students say they do. “I like nice teachers. When they are yelling they are bad,” said Keylin Montoya, a 4th grader. Omar Dwek, in 6th grade, said, “My favorite teachers are Ms. [Amy] Binkowski, Ms. [Nicole] Raccio and Ms. [Erika] Koch because they make it easy to comprehend my work. And they give a lot of work.”

Some students say that when teachers joke in class, it shows that learning can be fun. But some students say it doesn’t matter if a teacher is nice.

“My favorite teacher is Ms. Koch because she is strict and gives hard math,” said Jarelis Calderon, in 4th grade. She said it is easier to do work with a strict teacher because when teachers joke it is distracting.

Teachers also have different ways of being strict. Some won’t let you slide if you do something bad. Some people like strict teachers because they



Anabelle Sequiera

push them to be better.

“I like strict teachers because they make you learn better,” said Ms. Calderon. Students don’t like strict teachers who yell or tell you to “do your work or you will get an F!” Or tell you to be quiet. Some people want to get an A and not be yelled at.

“I like strict teachers because the more you get instructions the better you will get at school and better grades you will get,” said Jomar Lamboy, in 3rd grade. “If they give you rules all the time you won’t forget to follow them.”

Jaylani Sanchez, a 4th grader, said she doesn’t like it when teachers scream. She said most teachers at East Rock School are nice and especially likes Angela Maiocco.

Even though a lot of kids like nice teachers, but being too nice is a problem. Sixth-grader Melvin Ramos said most nice teachers let their students do what they want. “They let them slide,” he said.

Sixth grade teacher Garrett Griffin said, “students do take advantage when teachers are nice.”

But can you learn better when your teacher is nice? Typhanie Jackson, director of student services for New Haven Public Schools, said it depends. She said students will learn with different types of teachers for different reasons. Some kids will learn with strict teachers because they like to follow orders and when their peers make jokes with teachers it distracts them. Some kids enjoy nice teachers. It makes them feel more comfortable in the classroom, she said.

Teachers have their own thoughts about being “nice.” Ms. Maiocco said it’s important “to think about how other people feel before you act.” But being being too nice can be a problem, said Mr. Griffin. “I am strict with my students,” he said, “because life is hard and I want them to make it in the real world.”

Principal Breland wants school full of activity, learning

PRINCIPAL FROM PAGE 1

Jayden Lis Jones was surprised to learn about Ms. Breland playing basketball. “I barely know any girls that play basketball except my sister,” he said. He added that she seems like a good principal but doesn’t like the no-toys rule. “I just think she needs to allow some toys in school,” he said.

When she was growing up, Ms. Breland told East Rock Record reporters that she was the only girls on a boy’s basketball team. At Wilbur Cross High School, Ms. Breland played for the Girl’s Basketball team. In 1984 her team won the Class LL Girls Basketball State Championship. She said that is the last time the Wilbur Cross team won the state title.

“I am waiting for some of you girls to go to Wilbur Cross and get your skills up and win another championship,” she told reporters.

Ms. Breland also played basketball in college at Rutgers and then at St. John’s University. After college she earned a degree in special education and came back to New Haven to teach fourth grade at Isadora Wexler School, later Wexler-Grant. She was an assistant principal there, later



PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

principal. She also worked at Career High School and at Hillhouse High School, where she also coached the girl’s basketball team.

Ms. Breland said her proudest moment in education was being in charge of the Class of 2009 at Career High School, “and all of my students graduated and 95 percent of them went to college.”

Did she always want to be a principal?

“When I was a kid, I think that was about the

furthest thing from my mind,” she said. “I wanted to be an actress and a singer, but what held me back was that I couldn’t sing and I couldn’t act.”

Ms. Breland grew up in New Haven. She has two brothers and three sisters. Her mom worked at three different jobs. “She was a single parent and she actually owned a house,” she said. “In order for us to stay in that house — 499 East Street — she worked as a crossing guard, a nurse’s assistant and also as a housekeeper.”

Ms. Breland said she really wants to improve teaching and learning in the school. She also wants students to focus on learning so does not want students bringing toys or slime to school.

“Especially slime,” she said. “I have seen students get really upset that someone grabbed their slime.” But she does not object to student passing notes —as long as it’s about schoolwork. “If you were working on a project with someone and you passed a note about the project, I think that would be great.”

SCHOOL NEWS

Get the glue and scissors: Project-based learning is here!

BY LUNA FLORES-KELLY, ISABEL FAUSTINO,
ISABELLA PAGAN, ANABELLE SEQUEIRA,
ERION WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY ISABEL ROOPER

Are your parents wondering where all the worksheets are?

This year, East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School is giving students fewer worksheets—and more projects—to do in class and for homework.

During a press conference with *East Rock Record* reporters, Principal Sabrina Breland said that she “really wants the engagement. Students usually do better in working through problems than having their heads stuck in a textbook.”

She wants “to improve teaching and learning” at the school. The new curriculum goes along with the school’s name change and is “a major part of a new grant,” said Mr. Joseph Lewis, the Magnet Resource Teacher. “Students are able to express themselves through projects in a creative way.”

Teachers at East Rock School said they liked the change. Ms. Erika Koch, a fourth grade teacher, said projects are better than worksheets. “They are more hands on. Students can make their projects their own,” she said.

Norine Polio, who teaches English as a Second Language (ESL), said students cannot show their creativity on worksheets. “Projects keep students’ attention for longer than worksheets,” she said.

Magda Colón, the Spanish teacher, said projects are better because students can touch and feel. “When students can explore topics with more dimensions than a worksheet,” said Ms. Colón, “they are able to collaborate with each and help each other learn.”

Loretta Napoletano, a substitute teacher in first grade, likes projects, but said worksheets let students “practice what they learn in class.” But projects can teach some really important skills, she said. When students work together on project, she said, “they learn how to organize their time and work with others, to get along, to cooperate, and to take turns.”

Projects can also let student show off their personality. Students use glue, glitter, paper and boards to show what they have learned in class. It is fun to do art, print papers and find things like recipes. It can be more challenging than doing a worksheet.

At East Rock School, students like projects better than worksheets. According to the East Rock Record 2018 Fall Survey, 73 percent of students said they liked projects more. But projects are not quick. Only 56 percent of students said they like working on projects over long periods of time.

“Worksheets are more boring, and projects are more fun,” said Jaylani Sanchez, a 4th grader at East Rock School. Adeline Ellis, also in fourth grade, said that she “loves projects” because “you can put a lot of effort in.” In addition, projects like “making a diagram of a volcano” are “really fun to do.” When you do worksheets, she said, “you just grab a pencil and write.”

Students said projects also let them pick what they create, which they cannot do on worksheets. But other students said it is “boring” to work on projects for a long time. According to the East

Rock Record Survey, 44 percent of students said they did not like working on projects for a long time.

Sometimes students don’t feel all the work is worth it. Sahil Lemar, a 3rd grader, doesn’t like projects because “sometimes they can be stressful” and he wants to “get a good grade.” Said Mr. Lemar, “I want to do my own thing, not work on some project for a really long time.”

Students also get frustrated if they don’t have enough time to finish. Sometime projects can be expensive if you have to buy a lot of materials.

Will projects help students learn more? Right now people think the change from worksheets to projects is new and exciting.

“I like projects,” said fourth grader Keylin Montoya. “They’re just more fun.”



Anabelle Sequeira

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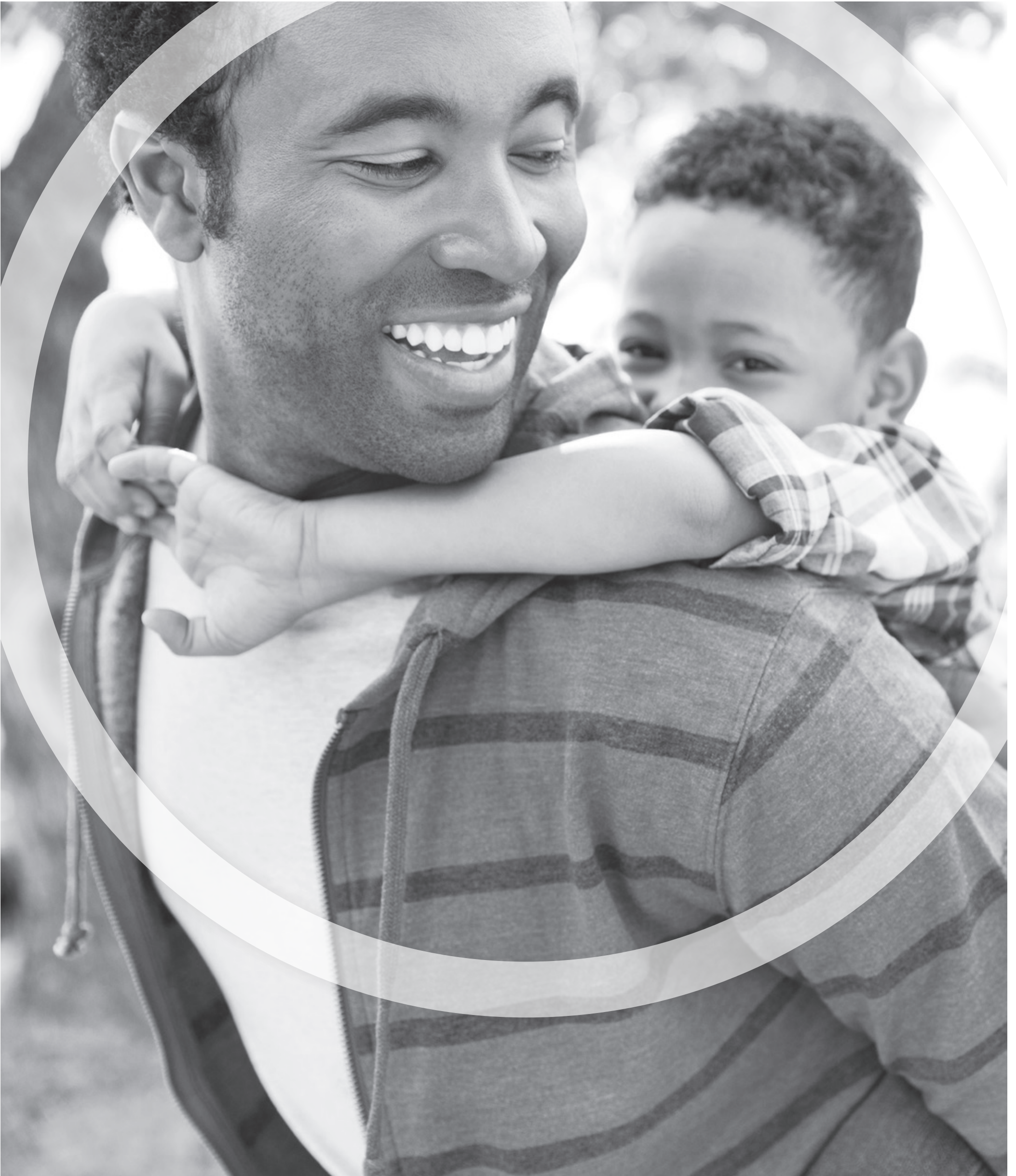
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SCHOOL NEWS

Do you D.R.E.A.M. of being Student of the Month?

BY MADISON POOLE, KAMIYAH MARSH, ADHAM DWECK,
KEYERIAH JAMAE WILLIAMS
AND ADAM SAMSEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JULIA LEATHAM

Every month there is a chance that you could win.

You can get pencils, and erasers, maybe candy and maybe slime. But the biggest prize is getting called up in front of the whole school and being announced as “Student of the Month.”

Birthdays are way better than student of the month because you get presents and you spend time with your family. But Student of the Month is a very great award.

Getting picked and getting to tell your parents, is “pretty epic,” said Norah Matz, a 3rd grader who earned the award in K and grades 1 and 2. “I like being congratulated and I get a lot of hugs. And I like hugs.”

Student of the Month is when your teacher chooses a person who has been good and who is following the dream. The D.R.E.A.M. stands for Dedicated Respectful Ethical Accepting Motivated, which is the goal for every student at East Rock Community and Cultural Studies Magnet School.

Home room teachers choose one student from their class and give the name to Ms. Leslie DePriest, the assistant principal who is in charge of the program. It is her 11th year of leading the program. She said Student of the Month recognizes those who are “following the dream” and motivating other students. “We want them to know we see them, we appreciate their work and we recognize them,” said Ms. DePriest. “It is not just students with the best grades! It is about hard work and improvement.”

Students can turn into Student of the Month for improving or even just for helping out other people.

In an interview with reporters, Typhanie Jackson, the director of student services for The New Haven Public Schools, said the award is an example of “positive behavior intervention supports” which means it celebrates good behavior. She said “it incentivizes kids to work harder.”

Clay Selmont, the music teacher, does not have a homeroom so he cannot pick a Student of the Month. Sometimes he wishes he could. “I would love to have a homeroom,” he said. Sometimes, teachers do ask for his opinion.

Student of the Month is a big deal because you get a lot of attention.

Do students get upset if they are not picked? The East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey showed that 30 percent do – but 70 percent said they don’t.

Hector Cruz, in 6th grade, has gotten Student of the Month each year

from K to fifth grade. “And I’m trying to work on it again,” he said. “You just got to do good in class.”

Sixth grader Omar Dweck got the award twice in fourth and fifth grade and hopefully this year!” He likes it because, “you get honored. They appreciate your work.”

Mr. Dweck said even though you try to get picked, you should not make it obvious.

“You have to play it cool, like you don’t know what’s going on. If you do know, the teacher won’t give it to you,” he said.

Mr. Dweck said the best way to get picked is to “try to focus on yourself and not on other people. If you talk with other people, it ruins your chances.”

He thinks most students miss out of being Student of the Month “because they talk too much in class.”

Even though most students are not sad if they don’t get picked, Ms. Matz said people always comment. “People say, ‘Oh this person got Student of the Month.’”

Sahil Lemar, also in third grade, said people do say, “Why don’t you choose me?”

He also said that as a result of getting picked that, “some of the kids in my class call me a nerd.”

Mr. Dweck said that happens to him, too. And he doesn’t mind. “I like it when people call me nerd because it means I’m smart,” he said. “I like school. It’s fun.”



Madison Poole



TYPHANIE JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES FOR NHPS, SAID STUDENT-OF-THE-MONTH “INCENTIVIZES STUDENTS TO WORK HARDER.”

Hispanic Heroes: New Haven Firefighters at East Rock!

In October, the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, students got a chance to get up close and personal with Hispanic heroes in our community.

Magda Colón, who teaches Spanish at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, reached out to the New Haven Fire Department. Firefighters visited the school on Monday, Oct. 1, from 8-10 a.m.

During the visit, firefighters spoke about growing up in New Haven and making wise choices, including not letting negative circumstances or people shape them.

They also spoke about the importance of getting a good education.

And, of course, they spoke about safety!

Because it was Hispanic Heritage Month, the firefighters shared with student some of their heroes, including baseball player Roberto Clemente, professional boxer Roberto Duran and others.

The firefighters said that learning a second—or even a third—language is helpful to students and to their community.

Students had a chance to see a real fire engine and to see these community heroes in action—including what it looks like when they must respond to an emergency call and get dressed in their full uniforms in less than 45 seconds, and climbing the entire ladder of the truck!



FOOD & HEALTH



Adeline Ellis

The Candy Conflict: Problem — or Perfect Prize?

BY ADELINE ELLIS, JARELIS CALDERON,
JAYLANI SANCHEZ, KEYLIN MONTOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY DONYA FAGAN

Sweet, chewy, sour, crunchy, melty, even spicy! There are so many ways to describe candies, but one thing is for sure: they're all delicious!

Yes, kids love candy and want to eat it whenever they can. In the East Rock Record Fall 2018 survey, 68 percent of students said candy and sweets should be allowed at school.

Fourth grader Ty'Kneisha Thomas shared that feeling in a poem: "Roses are red, violets are blue, candy should definitely be allowed in school."

Many teachers said that sweets are a problem, especially at school.

Teachers at East Rock School are not allowed to give out candy in classrooms and students are not allowed to eat candy in classrooms. Tami Wells, a social worker at East Rock School, said that is because candy changes people's behavior when they eat it. In addition, Wells says, when kids eat a lot of candy, "they get full on it" and, since they don't get full on healthy foods, they "don't have enough nutrients to learn."

Mr. John Kennedy, who teaches 7th grade math, said when students eat sugar "they have way more energy than can be used in the classroom." Mr. Kennedy reminds *East Rock Record* reporters: "and what are we here for? To learn!"

Sue Peters, Director of School Health Centers and Dental Clinics at New Haven Public Schools, said you can get a "sugar rush" when you eat some kinds of foods with sugar. When you eat sugar, she said, it enters your bloodstream and turns into something called "glucose," which gives your body energy. It can help you focus.

But different types of sugars enter the bloodstream faster than others. When sugar goes into your bloodstream too fast — like when you eat candy or soda — you can feel a burst of energy which we call a "sugar rush," she said.

"When kids get these bursts of energy, they may have a hard time focusing in the classroom, and would rather be running around on the playground. It becomes difficult for teachers to teach, and students to learn!"

Fourth grader Ty'Kneisha Thomas said she



Sue Peters,
director of health
and dental
clinics for New
Haven Public Schools
warns about a
"sugar rush" from
eating sugary foods.

is hyper when she eats sweets: "I know I have a sugar rush when I jump in circles and feel out of breath." Norah Matz, who is in 3rd grade, also admits to feeling sugar rushes, but only when she eats "a whole bunch" of candy.

Some teachers said they do not allow any food at all and only water in their classrooms. Many kids think of candy as a treat for doing something good. But teachers give out other prizes other than food rewards.

Ty'Kneisha Thomas said that an extra 15 minutes of recess is "more fun" than something like candy, which "only lasts for a few minutes, then makes you tired."

Some students at East Rock do not think that they are affected by candy and sweets. According to the East Rock Record survey, 56 percent of students said sugar does not make them too crazy or full of energy.

But there are other reasons that candy is not allowed in classrooms: Allergies. Candy often contains peanuts or dairy, which is a serious problem for some students.

Third grader Sahil Lemar agrees that candy should not be allowed because some contain peanut butter. "I can have peanut butter, but I can't have dairy, so I know that kids have allergies." Candy is also a problem because when people see it, they want it, he said. "You would open a bag of Skittles, and you'd only be able to eat three, because your friends would take the rest."

During a press conference with reporters from *The East Rock Record*, Principal Sabrina Breland said selling candy at school makes it hard for students to focus.

"Selling candy itself is not a criminal offense," she said. "But if we are talking about subject-verb

agreement and Omar wants to buy a candy, that is a distraction." If you always go to the bathroom "so you can go sell Madison a Three Musketeers Bar, that is a problem," said Ms. Breland.

Even though candy is not allowed, some teachers and staff said it could be handed out safely. *East Rock Record* reporters interviewed some who admitted that they do hand out candy for a job well done.

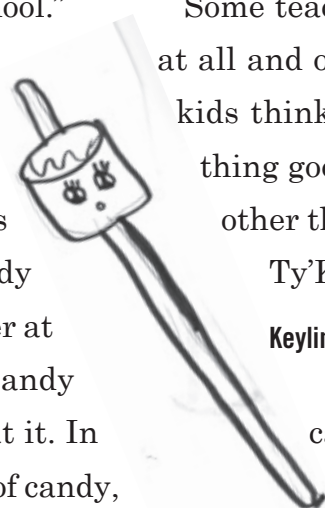
"Sugar can make kids crazy, but only if not eaten in moderation," says Mrs. Garrett Griffin, "I do give out candy when [kids] do a good job in class." Susanne Lamb, the PPT Chair for East Rock, says, "we're not allowed to [give out candy], but I would if I could."

Mr. Kennedy said he thinks that some types of candy — like gum — could help some students concentrate, since chewing helps relax a lot of hyper kids. However, Mr. Kennedy says, "it's still against the rules, so I don't allow it."

Are candy and sweets really such a problem? Ms. Peter said candy and sugar are not "bad" but said you should not have too much, especially all at once. Students and parents should also check nutrition labels so you know what you are eating (a website called MyPlate.com, teaches health eating with games).

Some treats are less likely to give you a sugar rush. She said dark chocolate, fruits, yogurt, 100% fruit juice and whole-grain pancakes, breads, and cereals are sweet treats with lower levels of sugar and higher levels of good things like fiber, which gives you a slower, steady source of energy throughout the day.

Mrs. Lauretta Napoletano, a substitute teacher for first grade at East Rock, told reporters she rarely sees students eating candy or drinking sugary drinks at East Rock. She said healthy snacks are best, but some students might like a sweet treat. "For some kids who don't ever get candy, it might be nice to have a treat once in a while."



Keylin Montoya



Jarelis Calderon



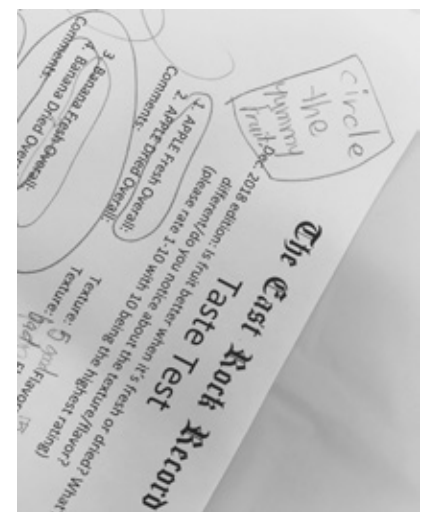
Jarelis Calderon

Taste test: How do you like your fruit, fresh or dried?

EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Reporters from *The East Rock Record* tasted fruit that was fresh — and then the same fruit that was dried. They sampled bananas, apples, mangos and pineapples.

What did reporters think? Fresh fruit won out over dried by a lot! The highest rated fruit was the fresh apple, scoring 8.4 out of 10 (dried apples earned 3.2). Fresh banana (8), fresh mango (7.7) and fresh pineapple (7.8) all rated much higher than their dried counterparts: Banana (3.9), mango (3.5) and pineapple (3). "Fresh fruit is yummy. Dried fruit? Yuck!" said Victor Rodriguez. Daisy Canales liked the fresh banana better because "the dry banana is so hard."



TECHNOLOGY & SPORTS

FORTNITE COULD BE YOUR TEAM SPORT

ESPORTS FROM PAGE 1

Once students make it on the team, they practice for 25 hours a week. New York University's Gaming Center, located in Brooklyn, N.Y., also gives out scholarships for video game studies. They give out \$24,000 on scholarships for eSports.

Teachers are teaching students how to make and sell games. There are scholarships to study game design. At some colleges like N.Y.U. students can focus on video game studies. University of California, Irvine also has an esports program. It started in the summer 2015 and it is connected to the Computer Game Science Major.

One problem is that competitive gaming costs a lot of money. If you want to play Fortnite on the Xbox it will cost \$200 for the console and the skins in Fortnite cost \$20 per skin. A skin is a cosmetic item that gives your video game character a certain look. Sometime you can get skins at a discounted price, but only if buy the battle pass that costs more than \$30.

Elm City eSports

In New Haven, Elm City Sports is a new eSports organization founded by Aaron Rathbun to bring together kids for education and competitive video gaming.

Mr. Rathbun moved to New Haven when he started at Yale Divinity School. After becoming involved with his church community and realizing kids in New Haven were interested in video games, he created a social organization to play games and host events for kids.

During an interview with *East Rock Record* reporters, Mr. Rathbun, Connecticut is one of the best states for eSports. There are video game leagues in high schools, such as Notre Dame High School in West Haven.

Mr. Rathbun also had warnings about video games. He said players must be aware of how video games are designed. He said images in video games can be inappropriate or can change how people view other people.

He also warned about scams. Scams are common in video game culture when people offer free items or prizes for fake contests. Mr. Rathbun had a reminder: "Videos are good fun, as long as you moderate your play."

Garrett Griffin, a 6th grade teacher at East Rock School, said he enjoys playing video games, but also thinks there are better things to do with your time.

"I play Simcity," he said, adding that, "I love sports games. I was a Madden champion. But I still think video games are a waste of time."

Video game competitions — like other sports — can stir up a lot of emotion. There is something in video game playing called "raging." When players are in competitions and they lose, they start to rage. Raging is when you get mad and you start to go crazy because you have lost. A lot

of players are starting to rage because of games like Fortnite, especially as it is a multiplayer game that requires teamwork.

A shocking example of raging took place on August 27, 2018. Somebody lost a computerized football tournament and killed two people and hurt 11 and afterwards killed himself. The shooting happened in a Jacksonville, Florida restaurant.



Hector Cruz



Omar Dweck

Are video games sports?

But are video games real sports? That is a big debate. In an interview with *East Rock Record* reporters Mr. Rathbun said they are "not really" actual sports, "unless they're virtual reality video games, in which you are actually walking or doing other physical activity."

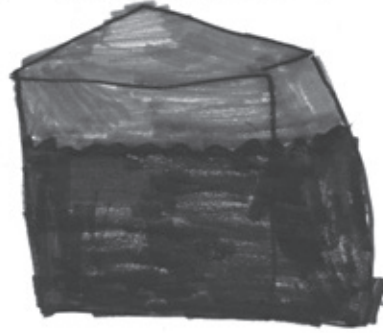
Amy Binkowski, 6th grade teacher at East Rock School agreed. "I personally don't see physical benefits of sitting in front of a computer and playing games," she said. "But I can see the mental benefits from practicing decision making."

Will eSports get more popular? Will students play eSports teams instead of soccer or basketball?

Jayleen Baez, in 6th grade, said she "would want to, but my mom wants me to play sports" that are traditional.

But Natalia Penna, also in 6th grade, said her parents would approve. "My dad would be proud of me," she said. "He plays League of Legends." Sahil Lemar, in third grade, prefers "sports over video games. Sports are more fun and

Mine craft



Norah Matz

my mom is okay with me playing sports."

Your fingers might get a workout in gaming. But third grader Norah Matz said eSports do not help your whole body.

Said Ms. Matz, "with sports, you can get more fit."

Still, students at East Rock School would like a chance to play on an eSports team. According to the East Rock Record 2018 Fall Survey, 64 percent of students said the school should have an eSports team — and 63 percent said they would like to join it.

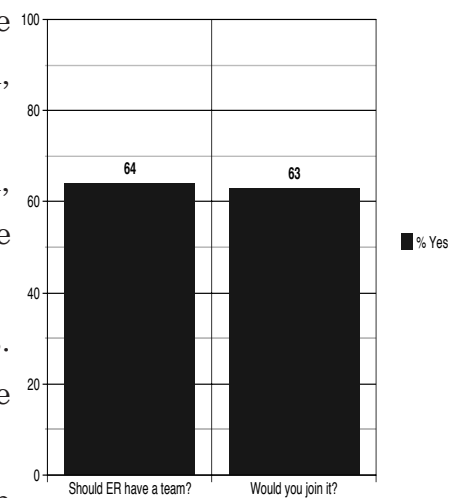
"I think kids would love an after-school video game club," Principal Sabrina Breland said during a press conference with *East Rock Record* reporters. "When students get together and work together and collaborate, it's great."

Still, Ms. Breland sees some trouble: "I think kids spend far too much time on video games."

Video game playing and eSports may seem fun, but some people worry about problems it can cause.

"People need human interaction," said Mr. Griffin. "Sitting behind a screen and not interacting with actual people can lead to certain social issues."

eSports Team at East Rock School?



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TECHNOLOGY

Tech is part of life — and a bigger part of school lessons

BY JADEN I. MARTINEZ, JOMAR LAMBOY,
VICTOR RODRIGUEZ, TYREASE GREAR,
KAYSON MACIEL-ANDREWS, DAVE JOHN CRUZ,
AND JAYDEN LIS JONES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY NICK TABIO
AND STEPHEN MARTINEZ-HAMILTON

Technology has become part of life — and school. At most schools, when a teacher says “open your books,” they are talking about textbook or workbook. But at the East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School, that “book” might be a Chromebook, not a textbook.

Students really like technology and feel comfortable using it. But some grownups think technology gets used too much.

In surveys and interviews, students and teachers had some different views about technology.

Nearly all students who answered the East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey — 92 percent of respondents — love using it in class. Teachers let students use online learning programs, such as Reflex Math and Lexia, a literacy development program, to do their work in class.

Teachers agree that technology can be fun and useful in the classroom. But many also worry that it can be distracting to other students.

Laura Generoso, who teaches 7th and 8th grade social studies, said technology helps her teach.

“It makes the lesson more interesting,” she

said. “Sometimes they have access to a greater variety of information.” It can also get students more involved. “They are more interested in using technology.”

But too much computer use, she said, can be distracting for some. This issue has come up a lot recently.

Last school year, the East Rock Record reported on students using their phones in school. The East Rock Record Spring 2018 survey found that 1 in 5 students use their cell phone every hour. A Pew Research April 2015 survey also found that 70 percent of adults think their kids are distracted by cell phones during conversations.

Many people also worry about how much time students spend playing video games. And many parents want to limit that time. According to the new East Rock Record Fall 2018 survey, 34 percent of students said their parents set limits on how long they can play video games.

But many parents don’t.

“My parents don’t care too much about video games,” or how long he plays, said Xavier Jones, a 6th grader. But, he said, “they want me to go outside more.”

With students using so much technology on their own, should they take a break from it at school? Jones said it is useful.

The new East Rock Record survey found that

most students— 82 percent — want teachers to use even more of it in class. Students said that more computers could keep them from using phones in class.

“We should use more computers in class, because they are better than phones,” said 4th grade student Morghan Prescod, in 4th grade.

One problem with new technology is that it can be hard to use if you don’t know how it works. Most students don’t have that problem.

The survey found that even if a technology is new to them, 83 percent of students said it is never “scary” to figure out. But one-third said grownups they know seem nervous around technology.

Students and adults interviewed had mixed opinions about the future of technology in school. Some think it will make learning better.

“If a teacher uses technology well, it can give kids better learning,” said Laura Pappano, who writes about education for The New York Times and other publications.

Some students, on the other hand, think increased technology may be bad for learning. Third grader Sahil Lemar said learning should be fun. Sometimes, Mr. Lemar said, they play math games like “Sparkle” and “Around the World.” “You don’t have to have a computer. You don’t need it to have fun,” he said.

Video games making students angry and sleepy

VIDEO GAMES FROM PAGE 1

Playing is also affecting some student’s emotions. The survey found that 39 percent feel angry after losing or doing badly in a video game.

Only about one-third of students surveyed said that they have a limit on how long they can play video games.

Ms. Erin Salzano, who teaches third grade, has concerns about how much time students spend with video games. “Students are tired and fall asleep at school sometimes,” she said. She also thinks video game playing is affecting student’s attention for school.

“Students are used to fast pace of video games, and are quick to give up on written work that is sometimes not very exciting,” she said. Ms. Salzano said parents should be limiting their child’s video-game playing time.

As a parent, Ms. Salzano said it is hard. “I battle my own kids, trying to take them off video games,” she said. Ms. Salzano uses an app to control her kids’ phones so they cannot play video games after 9 p.m.

Typhanie Jackson, director of student services at New Haven Public Schools, plays the game “Just Dance” with her son. She said that “a lot of kids are into technology because of video games” which can be good. But she also thinks that more students should put away technology and play board games. “With board games you just have to take turns and talk to each other,” she said.

Ms. Amy Binkowski, 6th grade teacher, worries about students staying up until 4 a.m. playing new video games when they first come out. “They can be beneficial to some children but can



TYPHANIE JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS SERVICES FOR NHPS PLAYS “JUST DANCE” WITH HER SON.

become an addiction, become a problem,” too, she said. She said her own son and daughter play video games. “My son gets mad if he doesn’t win,” she said. “I hear him yelling at the people he is playing with.”

Mr. Garrett Griffin, who teaches sixth grade, also sees video games affecting students in his class. “It becomes a concern when kids stay up really late to play. That’s when I get worried,” he said. Mr. Griffin said that he did play video games when he was younger. But he said that they “were different video games back then.”

Video games have teachers and parents worried. But are they really a problem?

That depends on how much you are playing, said Sue Peters, coordinator of school-based health clinics for New Haven Public Schools and a nurse practitioner. In an interview with *East Rock Record* reporters, she said that there is nothing wrong with playing your favorite game.

But, she said, don’t play too much. Doctors recommend a total of 3 hours of screen time per day—and that includes TV, computers, and phones.

How can you tell if you are playing too much? Ms. Peters said you are addicted when “it interferes with your life so much that it is a problem.”

Not getting enough sleep is serious, she said.

For example, fifth graders should get eight to 10 hours of sleep per night. If video games keep you up, you will get cranky and have trouble focusing in school.

Teachers are not the only ones concerned about the effect of video games.

Jomar Lamboy, third grader, said, “It’s fun playing video games, but it can be too much. You can’t stop playing and when you need to do something you won’t do it. You become addicted.”



ART & LIFE

DRAWING POWER

Reporters Meet with Michael Sloan: Illustrator, Artist, Pulitzer Prize Winner



BY DAVE JOHN CRUZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan is an illustrator that works at *The New York Times*. Sloan realized he liked drawing when he was very young. *The Chronicles of Narnia* helped spark a dormant fire resting in his mind that set off a sequence of events that led to him winning the Pulitzer Prize.

Michael Sloan's art style includes sketches that have minimal colors. He likes to capture moments by making quick sketches; he did this since he lived in Hong Kong when he used to be in the outside markets and quickly sketch down the cityscape with his pen. Mr. Sloan didn't have a mentor or teacher to help him with drawing. In his childhood he grew to love art even more after visiting multiple local museums and reading books. Mr. Sloan never considered himself an artist until he was 25, when he first started his relationship to *The New York Times* with the help of this friend, Dave, who went to the same art school as he did. Dave helped encourage Mr. Sloan to submit his own drawings to *The New York Times* as well as talk to Mr. Sloan about his own experiences in *The New York Times* as an illustrator.

Holding Mr. Sloan's drawings felt authentic and beautiful. Mr. Sloan enjoys working for *The New York Times* because he likes seeing his work published and printed over and over. He likes to see his hard work appreciated. Mr. Sloan is happy with his work and always looks forward to it. He likes being his own supervisor by setting his own times and assignments. He wants his children to follow their dreams like he did.

BY DAISY CANALES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

It was interesting to meet Michael Sloan. I have never seen an artist in real life. He started to draw when he was two or three years old. He said to me to keep loving what I draw or write. Michael Sloan did his drawings in the newspaper with Jake Halpern. I touched his drawings and paintings! He was in China for one year. I was inspired by someone who completed his dream and I will work on my dream of being a doctor. His dream was being an artist.

BY VICTOR RODRIGUEZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

After the talk with Michael Sloan, I felt inspired. When I was starting to just color, I started to like art. I was really liking art class. We were learning how to shade and how to do shapes, but when I heard that Michael Sloan was a cartoonist and an artist, I was so excited for this talk. He went to art class when he was a kid. I was so shocked that he went to art class. I've always wished to go to art class. He also published a lot of pictures in *The New York Times*. Can this dude get more exciting? Yes! He also said that he was inspired by the book called *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. Wow! I can't believe that he, (Michael Sloan) is in *The New York Times*! Wow. I really wish that he can be an art teacher in an art class that's in a school that is near me that is also near New Haven. He went to China for a year. China, guys, China! It's a good thing that when he made cartoons, nobody got mad at him.

BY MORGHAN PRESCOD
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

It was nice to meet a person that draws cartoons. I liked the cartoon made with Jake Halpern about a immigrant family that moved from Syria to New Haven. There was drama when their pajamas got burnt and the lady was crying. He was in China for a whole year, and he started his career in New York. He most changed his style in China. I wonder if the pen he passed around is the one that he uses to draw cartoons?

BY KEYLIN MONTOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today in newspaper we listened to an artistic person. He started drawing when he was older. He should have started when he was younger, because then he could have learned more. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, but I don't think I should start now, because I might mess it up.

BY HECTOR CRUZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan was inspiring and a very good artist. I liked it when he let us draw with his pen and when we saw his art. After that, I thought about being an artist with all that nice drawing.

BY ANABELLE MIKAELA SEQUEIRA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

He started drawing at the same age as I started dancing, two years old. Or so his mom says. He didn't feel like he was an artist until he was 25.

He uses what's around him to decide on what to draw or sketch. I think that's a very smart idea especially for a famous artist even though he doesn't feel that famous. He got his love for drawing city scenes while living in New York for 10 years. His drawings made me think about how important it is to vote. He is an amazing artist. I didn't really like the colors black and white, but he does, and I'm glad that he works with what he likes. I just love colorful colors. I have thought about being an artist but changed my mind and decided to be a chef. Now, at 55, Sloan likes working with *The New York Times* and several other newspapers. I'm most going to remember his advice: do what you love and surround yourself with people who appreciate what you do, not people who hate it. I have friends who are supportive of me: Ayleen, Luna, Shekinah and many more!

BY ISABEL FAUSTINO
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Have you seen a cartoon called "Welcome to the New World?" Well, this was a cartoon that had given Michael Sloan and Jake Halpern The Pulitzer Prize. He had talked to us about his art and what he did. Can you imagine your first publicized drawing was published in *The New York Times*? Well, if you think that is an impossible statement. I want to say that Mr. Sloan did this. He gave four years of his lifetime to go to a school for his artwork and it really did pay off.

BY JAYLANI SANCHEZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan showed us his drawings. I thought they would be big paintings, but they were small and on regular paper. I didn't know art could be that small. It kind of looked like a doodle. I think it's cool when people draw things to tell people what they want. People are more likely to look at drawings than read long articles. Instead of seeing it written, you can see it in a drawing. I didn't know you could have an argument through art.

ART & LIFE



BY JADEN MARTINEZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The famous Michael Sloan visited *The East Rock Record* that is in East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School. Sloan introduced himself to *The East Rock Record* showed them his artwork one of his favorite pictures is an elephant with a top hat. It's very interesting how Michael Sloan became a cartoonist.

BY ERIEON WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan came to talk with me and the rest of *The East Rock Record*. I was so happy. My favorite part was seeing his sketches. They were very good. There was one with a pool party that was my favorite. It surprised me when he said he went to China because I never knew that artists went China. It was so much fun to see Michael Sloan. I want to see him again.

BY TY'KNESHIA THOMAS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Hi I work for *The East Rock Record* and my name is Ty'kneshia Thomas. I'm writing about Michael Sloan. I think Michael Sloan is a cool dude.

We have a lot we both like. The main thing is drawing. I think his drawings are cool, too. I remember he said he had been drawing for about 30 years. And I remember he said he gets his ideas from newspapers. He draws a lot of cool stuff and trust me when I say cool!!!

He is a really nice person. You should meet him. He won the biggest journalism award in the U.S. Isn't that cool? I have a favorite drawing but I don't know what it was called. It was like behind the scenes of Judge Judy where a person gave out peanuts, saying "GET YOUR PEANUTS \$3 PER BAG." He went art school for four years. And he said in his free time he takes naps so he can draw late at night. He said that that was his favorite time to work and same for me. He passed around a marker and I got a turn to draw with it. That's all I have about the magnificent Michael Sloan.

BY JADEN LIS JONES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite thing about Michael Sloan is all of his paintings, because I don't know any artist that only draws in black and white. Most artists draw in color.

BY NYARIE WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite part of the visit with Michael Sloan is when he said that he wanted to be a race car driver. I think it's interesting that someone can make a living off of this. I want to be an adult that enjoys their job. I want to be a lawyer and so I hope I can enjoy every single moment of it, just like Michael Sloan enjoys his job.



BY JARELIS CALDERON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today we interviewed Michael Sloan, who is an artist. He makes a lot of nice portfolios. A portfolio is like a group of paintings. He showed us a little bit of his paintings and he let some people use his marker that he draws his paintings with. I asked him about this big prize he won, the Pulitzer Prize. Someone named Jake helped him draw the painting that won the prize. They're working on a new painting now. That's cool, because then there will be more of their paintings coming out. I would love to have a job where I get to draw with my best friend. I really liked the special marker he brought. It was like a paint brush, but in a marker. Maybe I want to be an artist when I grow up, but I don't think so. But he didn't want to be an artist either, but he wound up being one anyways. He kept working harder and harder. It's kind of cool, because there's maybe something I'm really good at that I don't know yet.

BY SAHIL LEMAR
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan did not consider himself famous, which to me is surprising. If I was writing in *The New York Times* I would consider myself famous, which I have to admit might be a little selfish. I even got to write with his pen. Michael Sloan's pen felt like a paint brush, and was very, very smooth and relaxing. Our time with him was fun, but went by real quick. I just wish there was a time machine. It would be useful!

BY MADISON POOLE
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan is an illustrator who works for the one and only *New York Times*. He came to East Rock School on Thursday, November 8, 2018. He and his friend Jake Halpern won an award. He brought his drawings and let us see, feel and smell them (I was kidding on the last one). He let use the pen he draws with for his work. We all got a turn. So, I'm guessing this is a little personal, but he has three kids. They love to draw. He says his youngest (an 11 yr old) loves to draw more than his siblings. Sloan said his youngest doesn't draw like him. He's his own man.

BY ADELIN ELLIS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today in newspaper I met a famous artist named Michael Sloan. But I already met him because his son was in my sister's preschool. At first I didn't recognize him, but then I knew him. I didn't know he was a famous artist when my sister was in preschool. He became an artist when he just kept practicing and never gave up. I think it probably took a lot of work. I want to get really good at being a writer because I want to be an author when I grow up.

BY KAYSON MACIEL-ANDREWS
EAST ROCK RECORDSTAFF

My reactions about Michael Sloan is that I'm surprised about what kind of drawings and comic strips he can make. For example, when he was 10 he read the *Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis and it impacted his childhood. When he was 25 he was an illustrator in New York. When he was young he dreamt of being a race car driver, a truck driver, and a musician (which he is). He drew about how Syrian refugees came to the U.S. One thing I like about him is that he can draw things that are amazing and they've been in *The New York Times*. He also once moved to China with his family. Something I can relate to him is his passion to draw. Any spare time, I'll spend drawing or reading. It could be the same with him. I think this because he said around 2:00 p.m. he usually takes a nap to have the energy to draw late at night. His drawings of dinosaurs look amazing. One of his best drawing is a man in a circle of fire almost as if it meant the man was trying to burn away his pain. His art looks as if it were made from magic, even the comic strips.

BY JAYLEEN BAEZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I like drawing because it keeps me calm and I like to do it. I mostly draw people. I like drawing people because there are more details on humans than there are on other things. I also like to draw flowers. They have very pretty colors. I think that flowers have very bright, vibrant colors.

BY NATALIA PENNA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I like to draw because it is relaxing! I draw in school and at home. You can draw in different types of ways. Say you don't have markers but you have color pencils then my way of coloring is to color dark at the outside of a picture. We met a guy today and his name is Michael Sloan.

BY LUNA FLORES
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan is an amazing artist, cartoonist, musician and prize winner in comics and cartoons. I like how he said that we need to have a nice environment with people who support us and our drawings and don't bully us about our drawings.

BY KEYERIAH WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Michael Sloan came to East Rock School to talk with us. I liked when he said that he had just one favorite drawing. I thought all of them would be his favorite but he picked one. He loves drawing. I was so happy because I love his art work. I also like how he lived in New York City because I went there for my birthday and it was amazing.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Letter from Principal Breland



Greetings East Rock Record Readers,

My name is Sabrina Breland and I am super proud to be the principal of East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, which is home to *The East Rock Record*.

During my first month as principal, I was asked to attend a press conference sponsored by *The Record*. I was completely blown away. The event was truly first-rate. All of *The Record* reporters were professional and incredibly inquisitive. Our students are acquiring so many valuable skills as a direct result of their participation in the program. They are learning how to work as a group to reach a common goal. They are becoming better writers, editors and communicators. Students are also learning to accept constructive feedback and they are very motivated to create pieces for all to enjoy. Our *Record* reporters are conscientious, hard working and determined to get things right. Just the other week, a few reporters reached out to staff to check some facts that they wanted to include in their pieces. The professionalism being exercised by so many of our students is extraordinary.

Our student reporters with help from their Yale mentors and Ms. Laura Pappano, a well-known journalist, have proven to be excellent fact gatherers who organize their information to tell wonderful stories.

I really hope that you enjoy all the articles included in this issue, which is the first with me as the building leader. Onward!!!

Sabrina Breland, Principal

East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School



Thank you!

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The East Rock Record

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Fake News Sows Confusion

Fake news makes me feel confused. Real news is important because we all need to know if stuff is about to happen, like if the United States is about to get bombed or if there is going to be a natural disaster, like a hurricane or a flood. I feel like the government should ban fake news from United States. Stop fake news. — **Melvin Ramos**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

For me, fake news is bad. I think that because whenever the news says something that's very horrible like when a crash happened in the highway and you're like, "Oh no! What will I do! I will be late for my work!" But when you go to work at the perfect time you're like "Wow, that news was fake. I was so nervous that I was gonna be fired from my job! That made me so nervous!" Another example is when you elect a president like Bob Handsome, he says, "I will give you more schools, more freedom, more jobs, and more houses to live in!" But after two years, the president Bob Handsome, didn't do all those things he said, and you're like, "Why did I even elect him?! He is a horrible president!" —**Victor Rodriguez**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is pointless because if you're not going to have real facts then there's no point in writing. When I found out that the article that I read was fake I felt dumb. I also feel like it was a waste of time because we had to do all that work and the people they named weren't even real. The amount of money was too much. Not even CT can afford \$491 million. The clue that I found that made me think it was not real was that it took a month to complete the bike lane. —**Nyarie Williams**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

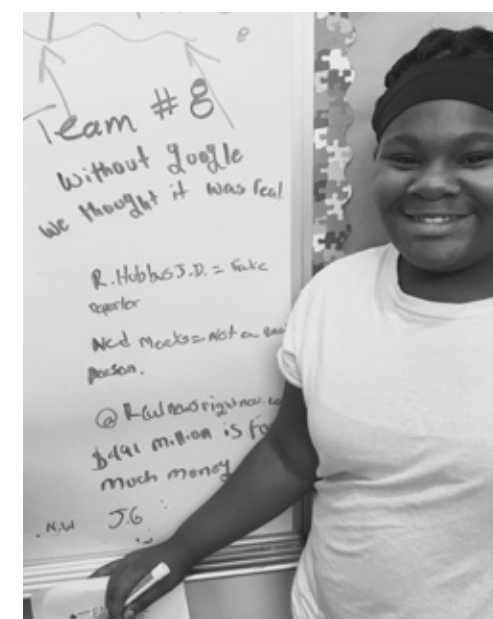
Fake news is not good because if you tell people that there is a killer coming to your neighborhood, but two hours later the killer did not even come it is considered fake. And they insult the people who said the false news. That's how it affects them. I think it is bad because somebody could have been killed. —**Mohammed Khan**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Sharing fake news is bad because it makes people think something is real but it's not. News organizations shouldn't lie because it's bad for people that look at the news. I wish that fake news was never invented. Hopefully people stop believing it soon. —**Erieron Jyshay Williams**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news can hurt people. When you publish fake news it misleads people like, "IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!!!" When you publish something like that people. Go. CRAZY! Ok!? I think fake news is HORRIBLE!! —**Luna Flores Kelly**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I think that fake news is amazing because the stories are interesting and it makes people read it. —**Daisy Canales**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is bad because it makes me feel sad when people lie to me. Like if they say there are thunderstorms and you were planning to go to the movies but there's no storm. Then they say we are not having thunderstorms. —**Keylin Montoya Soto**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



FOCUS: FAKE NEWS

Source!
They have real
Quotes
Publication
No Bias

HOW TO TELL IF NEWS IS REAL or FAKE???! Fake News A Serious Problem

East Rock Record reporters studied examples of real and fake news stories. They discussed sourcing, fact-checking—and trouble that happens when fake stories go viral. Here they share views and concerns about fake news.

I'm worried about fake news. Fake news makes people believe in things that aren't real. Fake news really concerns me, and I would like to stop fake news. Fake news can be on Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, and even Snapchat! Fake news is like a scam. Sometimes, fake news and scams have quotes with no sources. — **Norah Matz**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is bad because social media lets lies about things spread quickly. It's not bad to believe in lies—I believe some lies. Lies start drama, and drama starts bad news, and bad news starts conflict. Fake news lies about stuff and news organizations lying to people is bad. That's why people should not be believing fake news because it starts conflict! It's easy to produce fake news but it's more important to produce real news because it helpfully informs people and tells the truth about real things. — **Keyeriah Jamae Williams**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I think fake news is bad because people are taking other people's wording. Fake news is a thing where people don't write their own articles so they take other people's articles to make money. Fake news is like The Boogie Man. When people get lied to, people feel like other people can't be trusted. Some people hated being lied to. Do you hate being lied to? I do. — **Kamiya Marsh**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

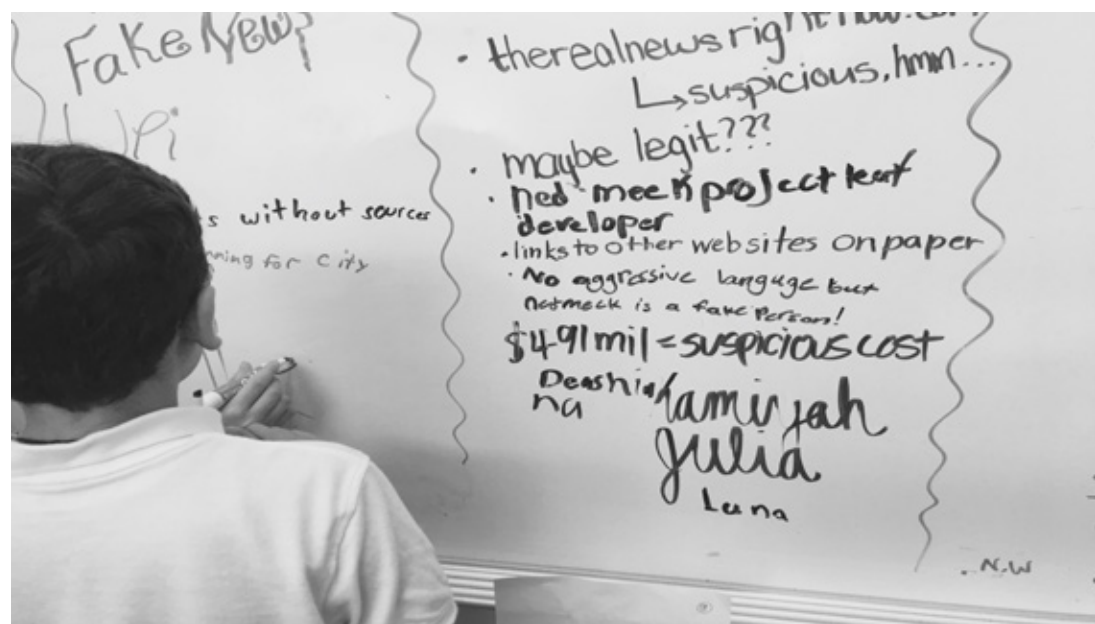
Fake news is confusing. My group was working on an article about bikes and we thought it was real news. We "cheated" and used Google which showed us that the article was by a made-up person. So when you see a news article don't always think it's real. It can keep people waiting for an event to happen. Or it can scare them. This is very disturbing. — **Adam John Samsel**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I was sad and angry when I heard some bad news. Sometimes fake news scares you when it doesn't need to. That makes me mad and sad. — **Jaylani Sanchez and Jarelis Calderon**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I think fake news is REALLY bad. Let's say someone wrote fake news about a really dangerous animal that escaped from a zoo. People would hide in their houses and the bad guys would come and steal their cars. Then the bad guys would write in the news they trapped the dangerous animal. People would come out of their houses and realize their cars were gone. Then they wouldn't know who took their cars. How would people get to work without their cars? You can't walk to Massachusetts and you can't take Uber every day. You would run out of money. As you can see, I think fake news is really bad. — **Adeline Ellis**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

There should not be fake news because when people lie to each other they hurt themselves. — **Alma Hammond**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is not real. It does not tell the truth. That's bad because those that make it lie to people. Sometimes people search it up on their Android. They could make fun of people and people could get mad. Sometimes they think it is funny. The fake news people don't care about others. They can hurt people. — **Tyrease Grear**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



Fake news is bad because even in just one day a rumor can get started and then everyone believes in it. That makes everyone believe in a lie. Like if you believe in something that isn't true then it makes a lot of drama. You are supposed to keep away from drama, but it is very hard if you keep seeing stuff that can start drama. Social media makes lies spread quicker. If you look on the news you want to believe it is real. But then you find out it is fake. If you know there is fake news out there, then how can you trust what is true or not? — **Isabel Faustino**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I felt tricked because the fake news we read used fake people and fake writers. It is not OK to write fake news. It makes people scared because maybe a person on the highway would crash into the bicycles. Fake news makes me scared because it is bad. — **Adham Dweck**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is always a problem. But that differs from person to person. Have you ever made fake news? If you have, how big was the lie? Often fake news mocks or insults somebody or something. When fake news is made first people think, "Oh it's real!" And if it's on a big website or app, lots of people think it's real, and then in a few hours or days people realize it's fake, and some people get upset. — **Victor Rodriguez Salguero and Kayson Maciel-Andrews**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



East Rock Record reporters discuss whether stories are real or fake, and reasons.

Did you know that sometimes the news may not be actual news? That's right, some news that blows up on social media may not be true. There could be fake sites. Fake news can spread emotions that people may find disturbing. I think Donald Trump supporters like fake news because they take no action on Donald Trump's tweets. — **Anshul Patel**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

I felt tricked when I figured out that the article we read was fake. We thought it was true before we searched it up Google. R. Hubbus J.D is a fake reporter. It's a waste of time to read and \$491 million is too much money to build a fake bike path. The website we went on is @Realnews-rightnow.com. When we did our notes and wrote down when, where, why, and how the news happened, we found out that this article was legit fake. — **Janyla Gaskins**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is dumb because people are lying to you saying things that are fake. It makes me feel I can't believe the news if they are telling lies. Fake news is like the boy who cried wolf. — **Hector Cruz**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

If you spread fake news people might think that it is real and spread it. Then bad news spreads to states and countries. I think you should tell the truth. You won't go wrong. — **Morghan Prescod**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

If you tell fake news to people then some people think it's real and then they search it up and they don't know what's real and what's fake. So don't tell fake news because you could get in trouble because YOU DID THAT. Just tell the truth. — **Ty'kneshia Jhonay Thomas**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is really bad because it doesn't let people know what's really going on and that can freak people out. Like making people get embarrassed when they believe fake news is true. — **Jaden Isaac Martinez**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fake news is news that is not real. Fake news makes me feel sad. — **Sahil Lemar**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

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Breylin Jones, New Haven Promise scholarship recipient and talent acquisition sourcer, Yale New Haven Health.

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