

# The East Rock Record

133 NASH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511 MAY 2017 VOL. 4, NO. 2

## STATE OF THE STATE? MONEY IS BIG PROBLEM

Reporters hear of budget woes, urged to pursue politics



East Rock Record reporters meet (clockwise) Rep. Toni Walker, Rep. Roland Lemar, Sen. Martin Looney, Sen. Gary Winfield, Rep. Robyn Porter; get encouragement from Sen. Winfield and ask questions of Mark Pazniokas of the CT Mirror in the Capitol's press gallery.

BY MELANIE CONTRERAS,  
NATALIE MAYNARD  
AND EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Money is very important in Connecticut. The state budget has legislators worried.

Rep. Toni Walker, who is in charge of the budget plan, said the state will spend about \$20 billion. She said the budget gives her “a lot of sleepless nights.” Rep. Walker gets everybody’s opinions from her 13 subcommittees and she plans it out. “I start at the beginning of February and I finish hopefully at the beginning of June.”

Of course, \$20 billion seems like a lot of money to us because we’re kids. But to the people who have to run the state, it is not. To us \$5 is a lot; that is like 500 pennies.

There are budget problems because in 2008 there was a serious recession and that affected how much tax money people would give to the state. The state pays for a lot things, including education. Pretty much when our parents pay taxes, they are paying for our school, even though its free.

“It’s the best job for me because I like to spend

SEE PAGE 4

## Pro Soccer Kicks Off in New Haven

Elm City Express Home Opener May 20

BY DANIEL BEDOYA, ADAM SHARQAWI, MEET PATEL, PETER LOPEZ, VICTOR KLUTSEY  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY ROULA SHARQAWI

Tune your throats, bring your “Vuvuzela” and paint your faces! May 20 will be the first home game for the new professional sports team in town: The Elm City Express.

The sport is soccer, an exciting game known for building bridges —and rivalries — among countries around the world. Zack Henry, the owner of the Elm City Express, who invested in a professional soccer club in Brazil called Clube Atlético Tubarão, sees the new team as a way to grow soccer training and goodwill between countries.

“We are trying to pass the knowledge and promote cooperation between Brazil and the United States,” Mr. Henry told East Rock Record reporters. Some professional players, experts and coaches are coming from Brazil, but Mr. Henry said most players are from New Haven and the surrounding area.

“One of our objectives, is not to bring Brazil to New Haven but create a New Haven local team with a Brazilian flavor sprinkled on top,” he said.



SEE PAGE 8

Logo for the new professional soccer team coming to New Haven this month. The team will include players recruited locally and from Brazil.

## Is Trump a ‘new’ kind of President? Maybe not.

BY ANSHUL PATEL, JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS, RAVI PATEL, KAYSON MACIEL-ANDREWS, ALEC SAMSEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY CARMEN BASKAUF



Anshul Patel

“FAKE NEWS media knowingly doesn’t tell the truth. A great danger to our country. The failing @nytimes has become a joke. Likewise @CNN. Sad!”

Yes, this is your President tweeting.

On February 24, 2017, President Donald Trump accused The New York Times and CNN, two respected news agencies, of intentionally spreading fake news.

If you believe that this type of speech is un-presidential, you are not alone. Many people are convinced that the presidency of Donald Trump is unprecedented.

Of the 268 students who responded to

the East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey, 204 thought there had never been a U.S. President like Mr. Trump. That’s over 75 percent of students surveyed.

Every day of Mr. Trump’s presidency seems more outrageous than the last. For example, Mr. Trump puts out tweets that people are surprised to see coming from the President. He has used Twitter often to attack people that he doesn’t agree with. He has mocked and condemned well-known news and comedy programs like The New York Times, CNN, and Saturday Night Live.

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## President Stirs Up Worries for Immigrants

FAMILIES CHANGE DAILY ACTIVITIES

BY NATALIE MAYNARD,  
JASHAUN O’GARRO,  
OSIANA BROWN  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY AMANDA HU

East Rock Community Magnet School welcomes immigrants from all over the world. Students here come from 28 different countries and speak 16 different languages.

One year ago, this was an exciting statistic. It was one to be proud of.

But after President Donald Trump’s inauguration, these facts have become a point of

concern and even worry for students at East Rock — and for many residents in New Haven.

William Clark, the Chief Operating Officer for New Haven Public Schools, told East Rock Record reporters that many parents are scared about changes that could come with a Trump presidency.

“In New Haven, we have a number of students who are undocumented immigrants,” said Mr. Clark. “Many of them feel scared for themselves and for their families. They

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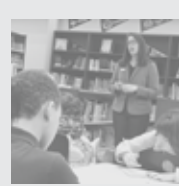
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## Schools trying to help immigrant students

IMMIGRATION FROM PAGE 1

shouldn't feel this way, and we are working together to help them."

According to the East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey, 41 percent of students said members of their family were immigrants. About 26 percent said that Mr. Trump's anti-immigrant policies are changing the way they go about their daily activities.

Across the country, there have been reports of students staying home from school as a result of Mr. Trump's executive orders. Whether you are an immigrant from the Middle East or a longtime citizen of the United States, all are impacted by these new policies.

In New Haven, Mr. Clark said the school department is trying to help. He said that students from 122 different countries attend the New Haven Public Schools and speak 74 different languages. At East Rock School alone, 20 of the 81 students registered in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program are refugees, mainly coming from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

At East Rock School, Norine Polio, the ESOL teacher, said that many parents were concerned about the situation. They frequently ask her about what is going on in the news. "I know a lot of my students are very nervous, ever since Trump started talking about the wall," she said.

Even though President Trump is taking a strong stance against immigrants, New Haven has many resources to help those in need. "There are a lot of great community partners and groups who support immigration and refugees," Mr. Clark said. "We've connected with a lot of families and students in New Haven with those groups. This way, we can work with people who are experts."

There are a lot of reasons for immigrants to be concerned, even if Mr. Trump has not been able to put in place all of the things he has proposed.

President Trump's January 27 executive order, a travel ban on those coming from seven majority Muslim countries, was found illegal by federal judges. Mr. Trump issued a second travel ban, which federal judges have put a freeze on. Still this is affecting many New Haven residents.

Adam Sharqawi, a fifth grade student at East Rock, immigrated to the United States this year from Israel. "Trump's immigration policies made me nervous even though there was no ban on Israel," he said. "The United States is a whole country of immigrants, made from cultures that have come from all over the world. The new



East Rock Record reporters interview William Clark, chief operating officer of New Haven Public Schools.

### THERE IS A DEBATE OVER "SANCTUARY" CITIES: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

policies are very bad and don't help the people who live here now."

New Haven is a "sanctuary city," which means there are local policies in place to help immigrants. Across the United States, there are about 300 sanctuary cities. Sen. Gary Winfield told East Rock Record reporters

sanctuary cities from receiving federal funds. It is not clear he can do this.

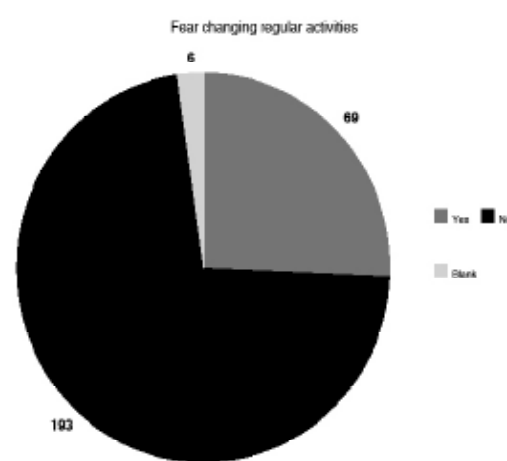
It is also a scary time for students who are in the DACA program, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. It was started during President Obama's term and allows those who are undocumented but came to the U.S. as children to be able to work and go to school in this country.

Denia Perez, a DACA recipient and student at the Quinnipiac University School of Law, expressed concern for her relatives. "I have many friends and family members who don't have DACA, who could be deported at any time," she said.

What President Trump's attacks on immigrants miss, many say, is the benefit immigrants bring to the U.S. and communities where they settle.

"Immigrants are so important for the community," said Ms. Perez. "They contribute new ideas and perspectives to our country, and help to form more well-rounded people."

Mr. Clark said students benefit from the presence of different cultures and backgrounds. "My daughter has a girl from China in her class who doesn't speak English," he said. "My daughter speaks a little bit of Mandarin and the girl from China is excellent at math. This way, they can help each other."



By Natalie Maynard. Source: ERR Spring survey

that in 2012 he led passage of a bill to make Connecticut a sanctuary state.

There is some confusion about what a "sanctuary city" or "sanctuary state" is. Sen. Winfield said that it means when immigration authorities want to pick up or detain someone who is here illegally that "we will not stop you" because the authorities have that right. But it means the state government "will not be going out and doing anything extra to help."

Mark Pazniokas, bureau chief of The CT Mirror who has written about immigration, told reporters during a visit to the state Capitol that "there is no legal definition of what 'sanctuary city' means. It's an expression by New Haven and Hartford and other places that they want to be safe places for immigrants." Right now, he said, "Connecticut is having a kind of fight with President Trump over that."

Mr. Trump has threatened to stop



Denia Perez, DACA student at Quinnipiac Law School.



Isabella Pagan

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## TRUMP IS DIFFERENT, BUT NOT ENTIRELY NEW

TRUMP FROM PAGE 1

Many students at East Rock never expected a president to behave this way. “He’s mean!” said fourth grader Ethan Gonzalez. “I don’t like him.”

Even teachers are shocked. “He needs to work more on his work than the media,” Nicolas Given, a paraprofessional at East Rock School, said. Music teacher Jean Lawrence agreed, noting that Mr. Trump seems more interested in social activities than work.

“We have not seen anything like him,” said Mark Pazniokas, bureau chief for The CT Mirror who covered the election. “Some of this is his way of communicating,” but also, he said, “there is no

### MR. TRUMP LOOKS LIKE THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS PRESIDENT, EVER. THIS IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY.

nice way to say this, but he either repeatedly lies or puts out false information.”

Rep. Roland Lemar said that Mr. Trump seems new because he has used “new technology in a way that no one was prepared for.” But he was not the first to do this. “John F. Kennedy in 1960 understood before anyone else the power of television and how to dress and that his appearance mattered in a way no one had understood before.” He said that President Obama saw the value of social media and “was interested and engaged, but President Trump has taken advantage.”

Although Mr. Trump looks like the most outrageous president ever, this is not the whole story.

“As a historian, I can say that Trump is in no way the worst president we’ve ever had,” said Justin Randolph, a Yale graduate student who is studying to be a historian focusing on American History.

Believe it or not, Mr. Randolph said that this is not the first example of a controversial president. Mr. Trump “shares attributes with other presidents from not too long ago, Bush for one, but also further back,” he said. Each president has their own secrets, but Mr. Randolph pointed us to one president in particular that resembles some of the most surprising traits about Donald Trump.

Because Donald Trump is so open about his views on Muslims and other ethnic minorities, people believe that he is a new kind of president. But actually, he mimics behavior from President Andrew Jackson.

“Andrew Jackson was actually the first Populist president,” said Mr. Randolph. Being the first Populist President meant that Jackson was the first President who was seeking to represent the interests of ordinary people. “Like Trump, Jackson had no political background before becoming president,” Mr. Randolph said.

Andrew Jackson was our 7th president, and Donald J Trump is our 45th. So why is Donald Trump being compared to Andrew Jackson? Isn’t that a big gap?

If you know of Andrew Jackson’s Indian Removal Supreme Court Act, you will know



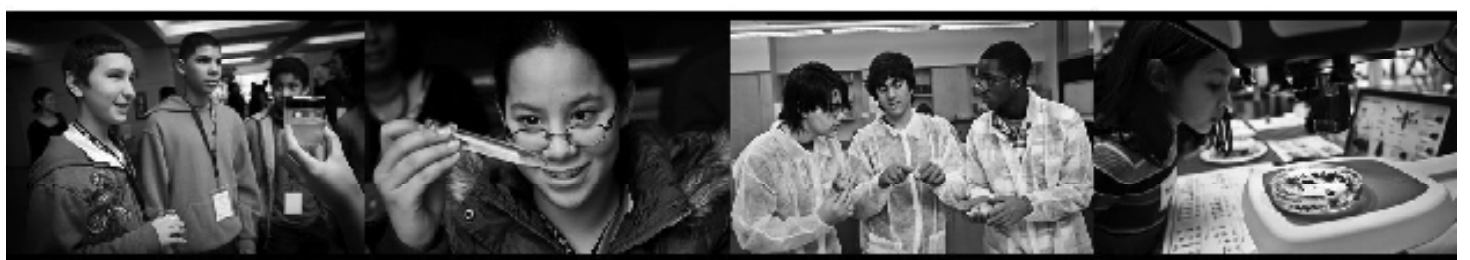
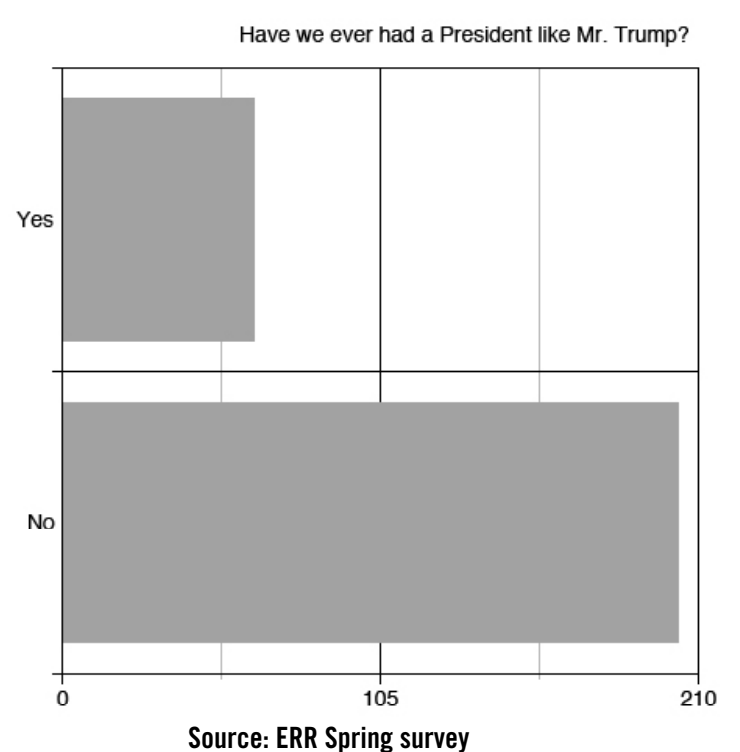
Justin Randolph, Yale graduate student in U.S. History, meets with reporters, discusses past presidential behavior, including of Andrew Jackson.

that he has something in common with Donald Trump. In 1830, under President Andrew Jackson, the U.S. Congress passed a law that let the government to force Native Americans to leave the Eastern U.S. They moved West against their will.

This is similar to Mr. Trump because he was forcing Mexicans to leave the country, just as Mr. Jackson forced Native Americans to leave the Eastern states. This is similar to Mr. Trump’s Muslim ban because Mr. Jackson forced only Native Americans to leave, not white Americans. Similarly, Mr. Trump’s policies discriminate against specific religious and ethnic groups, Latinos and Muslims.

According to Mr. Randolph, these Trump policies are more than dangerous. They are illegal. This is not new: The Supreme Court found that what Mr. Jackson was doing was illegal and the Cherokees should be allowed to stay in the Eastern U.S. But Mr. Jackson ignored the Supreme

Court and forcibly removed the Cherokees from their homeland. He kept thinking that, after all, he was the President. Why should he do what the Supreme Court wanted him to do? Does this sound —um —very familiar?



### EVENTS & PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## DON'T GET HACKED: Think before you click!

BY JAVARI BROWN, DELEON MOORE,  
NYASIA DONEGAL, NASIR ANDERSON  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY AMIR REZVANI

These days computer hacking is a hot political topic. It's on many people's minds – across the country and at East Rock School.

"I've heard a lot about hacking in the news," says Kayson Maciel-Andrews, in third grade. He described it as, "when a person or a group of people go into someone's electronic device or account and try to mess with it."

Agent Michael Morrison, a cyber security expert with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told East Rock Record reporters that hacking is defined as "unauthorized access to a protected computer." In other words, hacking happens when someone uses a computer or account without permission. This can be as simple as stealing a password or as big as a virus targeting thousands of computers.

Hacking has been in the news because of reports that the Russian government hacked into emails belonging to members of the Democratic National Committee. The F.B.I. along with several other federal agencies is investigating Russian hacking and what impact it may have had on the election.

The East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey found that 65 percent of students believe that Russian hacking changed the election.

Across the country there is concern about the government's ability to protect important information. A recent poll by the Pew Research Center showed that only 49 percent of Americans trust the federal government with protecting their data. According to Agent Morrison, the federal government uses what is called an "air gap" to protect classified data. This means that to access certain information, government officials must go into specific rooms to use computers that have exclusive access to that information. These computers are secure because they do not use wires.

Hacking is a concern at the state Capitol.



FBI Special Agent Michael Morrison, a cyber security expert, meets with East Rock Record reporters to talk about computer hacking.

"There are attempts everyday to hack," said Mark Pazniokas, bureau chief of the CT Mirror. He said Governor Dannel Malloy is paying more attention to cyber security. "The governor a year ago created a new job for someone who is an expert in this area. His job is to figure out how to defend the state government from hacking," said Mr. Pazniokas. He said the state has citizens' personal information, including health information and social security numbers. Rep. Roland Lemar is concerned about hacking of votes. "Making sure our elections aren't hacked is of paramount importance," he said. While he favors making it easier to register to vote, risks of hacking are so great, he said that "I don't think we should ever make online voting."

In reality, anyone can get hacked. In fact, in a Pew poll, six out of ten Americans said they have had their information hacked before. At East Rock School, most students said they have not been hacked, but many —60 percent — fear that it could happen.

"I worry about my privacy when I go on electronic devices," said fifth grader Meet Patel. He fears "that someone will get into one of my accounts and send out spam to my contacts or

steal my information, especially personal information like my phone number and address."

The most common type of hacking in schools, said Agent Morrison, is when viruses take over school computers. This occurs when a student visits an unsecure website with a fake warning that tells you to click on the message to get rid of the virus. Clicking on the message lets the virus attach itself to the computer.

These messages, which trick people into allowing the virus to gain control of their computer, seem legitimate and are easy to fall for. Agent Morrison was a victim of these viruses in high school. What should people do to prevent hackers from freezing their computers and taking their information? The F.B.I. website suggest using firewall software to protect from "hackers who might try to gain access to crash it, delete information, or steal passwords or other sensitive information." Keeping your computer's operating system up to date helps strengthen security. Making backups of information is useful. Above all, pay attention! Being aware lets people to understand risks and protect themselves by not clicking on something suspicious.

## visit to state Capitol on #EqualPayDay

CAPITOL FROM PAGE 1

money, but don't tell anyone that," said Rep. Walker. Rep. Roland Lemar said he must "raise the money, which is not as fun."

Legislators spoke to East Rock Record reporters during a visit to the state Capitol in Connecticut, which is in Hartford. Reporters met with Rep. Walker, Rep. Lemar, Rep. Robyn Porter, Sen. Martin Looney and Sen. Gary Winfield. Reporters also visited the press gallery and spoke with Mark Pazniokas, the bureau chief of The CT Mirror, a news website.

Reporters visited on April 4. It was Equal Pay Day for women. Rep. Porter had proposed a bill to require equal pay. "We have women who go to work every day full-time all year round and they don't make as much as their counterparts who are men. For every dollar a man makes a woman makes 82 cents," she said. "There is an even bigger disparity if you are black or Hispanic."

She said that having equal pay for women will make taxes get higher. "If we closed the wage gap, it would be an extra \$5.5 billion a year."

Sen. Looney pointed out that April 4 was also the 29th anniversary of the day Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot in Memphis.

All of the legislators said that students should consider running for office when they are older. Sen. Looney said some people "love the politics of it" and enjoy running for office more than following through on issues. He said others just focus on one issue. But then some try every day to tackle problems for the people in the state.

"A lot of people don't like politics. They don't like what they see," said Sen. Winfield. "But there is a lot of great stuff. Even young people your age will come and talk to us." He said when someone suggests a bill and they fight for it and get it passed "it is an amazing thing."

Rep. Porter, who has served for three years, said she "never planning on being in politics. I didn't like politicians." But she is glad that she is a representative.

"There is a lot of power in this building," she said. "It comes from your parents and sisters and brothers that vote. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the voice for the people in New Haven."

Rep. Porter said that she is chairing the labor committee. "It is my first year chairing a committee," she said.

Mr. Pazniokas said that the state Capitol "is a really fun place to work. We have people from all over the state. You can talk to people on all sides of an issue." He said that "unlike the White House where those reporters don't get to wander around, we can go onto the floor of the House, we have really good access."

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## GOOD NEWS: SHOOTINGS DOWN IN NEW HAVEN

### On-the-Ground Approaches Connect with Youth Before Trouble Begins

BY MYA CARDWELL, NELLIE JACKSON, JESSICA BEDOYA  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY MEAGAN DOWNING

With talk about bullying on social media, who would think Facebook could stop a fight?

Leonard Jahad, program manager for New Haven Street Outreach, does. He has used it to prevent trouble. He said young people often use social media sites like Facebook to plan the time and place for fights. Conflicts can also escalate online. Mr. Jahad takes note and steps in before disagreements turn into violence.

“If we know someone is planning to fight or has already had a fight, we intervene to avoid any further incidents,” Mr. Jahad told East Rock Record reporters. “We take proactive measures, we don’t wait until something happens. We try to get in front of it.”

Stopping conflicts before they turn tragic is part of a citywide effort that is paying off: In the past six years, there has been a drop in the number of shootings. Data show that between 2011 and 2016, crime has steadily gone down. For example, The New Haven Register reported that between 2003 and 2012, New Haven averaged 126 total shootings a year. Between 2013 to 2016, the average decreased to 63. Fatal and non-fatal shootings for 2015 are about half of what they were in 2011.

During a visit to the state Capitol, Rep. Toni Walker said legislators work hard on the crime issue. “We have spent a lot of time putting money and programs in for giving kids things to do,” she said, adding that the police department and the department of children and families as well as courts and other agencies have worked to reach out to youth to keep crime down.

Rep. Walker said she pushed to change the age that someone counts as an “adult” in the legal system from 16 to 18. “Because we have raised the age, we have fewer people in prison,” she said, adding that it saves money and allows those youths to get back on the right track.

Concerns about gun violence have led community groups to look for fresh ways to prevent conflicts instead of just relying on police. During a press conference earlier this year, Interim Police Chief Anthony Campbell said “collabora-

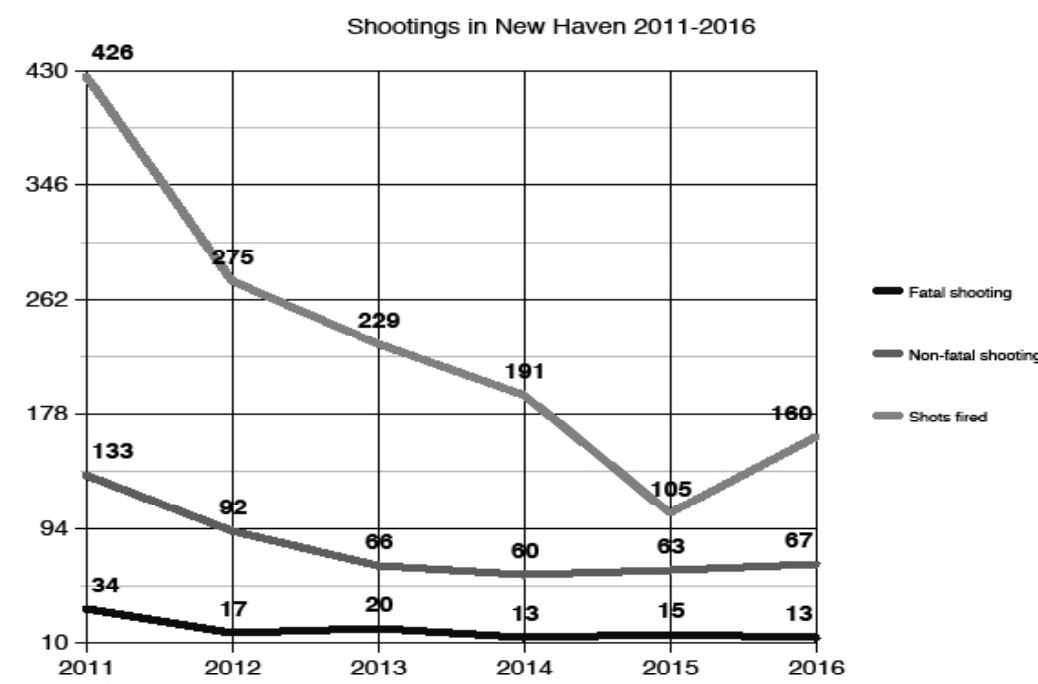
tive efforts” between police officers and local organizations are making a difference in New Haven.

Students at East Rock do notice the difference — a little. The East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey found that 55 percent of students said they feel safer, but the remaining 45 percent said that they did not.

East Rock fifth-grader Peter Lopez



Leonard Jahad, program manager for New Haven Street Outreach, uses social media to stop violence.



said he feels more comfortable in his neighborhood.

“I feel safer now because I can talk to people more and not be afraid,” Mr. Lopez said.

Other students are glad to hear that crime is down, but they still have some fear. East Rock eighth grader Victoria Praseuth worries that gun violence could one day affect her or her friends. “Shootings need to stop,” said Ms. Praseuth. “I am scared that it could happen in this school and that we would have to call 911.”

As students continue to have concerns about their safety, local organizations and agencies are especially important to help the police make the city safer, often by providing positive activities for youth.

While Mr. Jahad does outreach through the New Haven Family Alliance, many organizations are pitching in, too. Gun violence is a top issue for New Haven Mayor Toni Harp. Shortly after her election, she asked Jason Bartlett to become the Director of Youth Services, but gave him a tough first assignment.

“On my first day on the job, I

“A lot of youth will say they get involved in gangs, because they do not have anything to do,” he said. “Once they join a gang, they will get detached. We encourage them to go to church, a team, or basically anything positive that will keep them busy.”

In addition to mentoring troubled youth, Mr. Jahad said he and other groups give the youth assessments so that they can keep at risk teens on their radar. These tests inform them of the kids’ interests, family background information, and determine which factors might be impacting their behavior or emotional development.

“We share information and decide which resources would be best to address a child’s issues,” he said. “Our workers also track if homicides are down using information from the police, and we track if school attendance is down, because that usually correlates to crime.”

Mr. Bartlett says youth who perform poorly in school, often have poor attendance records. They may feel disengaged. That is a red flag. “Kids who don’t go to school are at risk of being affected by or becoming involved in violence,” he said.

The YouthStat program focuses on about 650 youth in the city, said Mr. Bartlett. By reaching out and connecting with them, he said, “we are essentially helping the entire family as well.”

Youth Stat also partners with other local organizations and city agencies to provide services for youth, and they use data to find out the best ways to provide help.

The program staff intervene and reach out to teens affected by gangs, violence and unstable home environments. They work with school administrators and teachers to address poor academic performance and absenteeism, tackling student-problems on an individual basis. Through YouthStat, students get access to summer and year-round work experiences, internships, a biking program, and the Mayor’s Youth Council and Mayor’s Youth Guide, which provide leadership opportunities and youth summer programming, respectively. Mr. Bartlett sees the program as a way to both keep a pulse on the city’s youth and give them guidance: “We help them work toward their strengths, and we build programs to give them opportunities and workplace exposure.”

attended a funeral with Mayor Harp,” he said. “The service was for a 17-year-old male who died from gun violence.” Mr. Bartlett attended several other funerals for teenagers, and soon Mayor Harp asked him to build school-community partnerships aimed at stopping violence. That became YouthStat.

Both YouthStat and New Haven Street Outreach connect with youth who are making poor choices. Mr. Jahad said his organization started in 2007 and helps those involved in or affected by street violence. It focuses on youths in middle and high school. As program manager, Mr. Jahad has noticed that many kids are vulnerable to negative influences when they do not have productive activities to fill their spare time.



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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Spirited Debate: Are East Rock Bathrooms Haunted?

BY MELANIE CONTRERAS,  
KAMIYAH MARSH,  
ISABELLA PAGAN  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY JILLIAN KRAVATZ

Are East Rock School bathrooms —YIKES— haunted?

There is reason for concern. According to the East Rock Record Spring 2017 survey, about one-third of students surveyed think that there are haunted bathrooms in the school.

“The bathroom downstairs close to Miss Bachman’s room is really haunted,” said Nicholas Given, who teaches special education. He has not heard rumors about ghosts from students but has heard knocking and strange noises in that bathroom.

“It freaks me out, so I just don’t go there anymore. I always use other bathrooms now,” Given added.

“I’ve heard a bunch of rumors that the bathrooms are haunted,” said fourth grader Alec Samsel. Nyasia Donegal, a fifth grader at East Rock, said that she was in a bathroom alone and the lights turned off while she was still there. She checked every stall, but found no one.

“I don’t know if it was the motion sensor or something,” she said. “But that didn’t make sense because I was in there moving and it still turned off.”

Third grader Julyanna Franco thinks something funny is going on. “I hear footsteps in the stalls sometimes,” she said.

But fifth grader Victor Klutsey doubts any of the bathrooms are haunted. In fact, many students agree with him. The East Rock Record survey found that two-thirds of students did not think the bathrooms are haunted.

“I haven’t seen any evidence of haunting,” said Mr. Klutsey, but added that he doesn’t think students who think they’ve seen ghosts

are crazy. “I think they are seeing stuff that they think is real but it isn’t actually real.” Of 268 students questioned in the East Rock Record survey, about half said they did not think students were imagining things.

Talk of ghosts doesn’t just happen at East Rock School. During a trip to the state Capitol, several people told East Rock Record reporters of talk about ghosts in the Capitol.

and sometimes there is a scratching noise. The doors of the stalls are very loud, too. They slam shut without even pushing them. They also creak when you open them, which sounds scary. There was wet tissue paper on the wall and it looked gooey, which was a bit gross. We did not see anything like a ghost.

Joseph Lewis, administrative intern at East Rock School, does not believe in ghosts. “Kids have wild

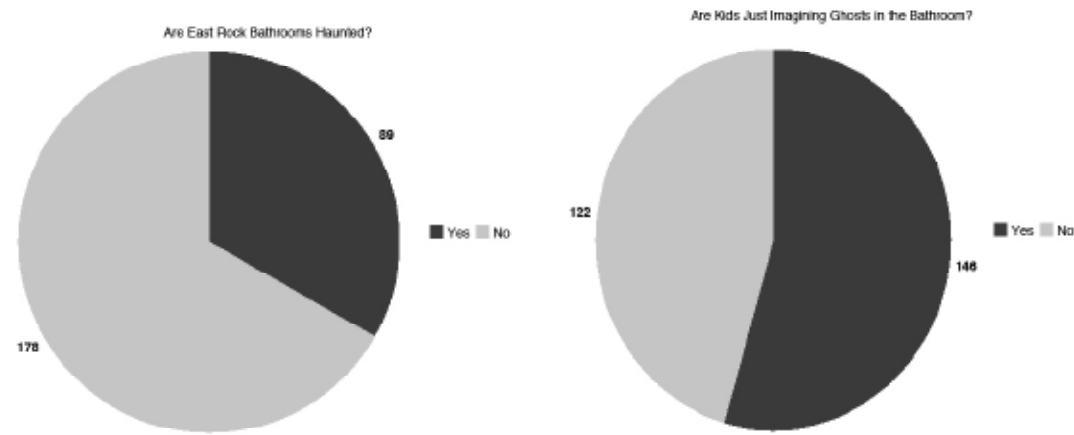
says it is possible that a spirit could be haunting the school. As a youngster, he attended East Rock School when it was in the old building. That structure, built around 1975, was torn down to build the school students now attend. It was not as nice as the new one, he said.

“There was a lot of cement, and there weren’t many windows,” said Mr. Clark, who said bathrooms in the old school building were particularly dark and dingy. He said that, “there could be a spirit from the old school who is upset that the old school is gone.”

Kayla Iannuccilli, who teaches 7th and 8th grade language arts is unsure about ghosts, but would not object to one. “I have never heard of the bathroom being haunted, but it would make the day more interesting if there were a ghost,” she said.

Teachers have different opinions on whether or not there is a ghost. Many suggested that when desks or chairs in the classrooms above are being moved, it could explain strange sounds in the bathrooms.

But others, like Mr. Clark, think it’s possible. “There very well could be supernatural elements out there,” he said. “Science has not discovered everything.”



Source: East Rock Record Spring 2017 survey

“I have heard rumors that there are ghosts in the building – in the belltower,” said Adam Joseph, communications director for Sen. Martin Looney.

Rep. Roland Lemar said there was a bat flying around the House of Representatives chambers. “We actually caught it with a trash can,” said Rep. Toni Walker. She is not aware of actual ghosts but said, “there are some things that happen that are a little suspicious.”

“I hope we don’t have any ghosts in schools in Connecticut,” said Sen. Gary Winfield. He has never seen a ghost. “If I found a ghost, I would really quickly leave wherever the ghost was.”

Our team of reporters decided to investigate the rumors. We took a trip to the bathroom most mentioned —the girl’s bathroom on the second floor— to check it out.

Was there evidence of a ghost? We noticed a few things. There are a lot of sounds in the bathroom. You can hear water going through pipes,

imaginings,” Mr. Lewis said.

When asked if kids were just imagining things when they said bathrooms were haunted, Mr. Given was firm. “No, I don’t think so,” he said, “because I personally believe in ghosts.”

Norine Polio, the English as a Second Language teacher, hopes that rumor of hauntings stop. “I think that would scare children,” said Ms. Polio, who said she thinks the elevator is haunted.

Ms. Polio explained that she uses the elevator once or twice a day, but in January, the door stopped working. She says it opened and closed half way three to five times before it continued to work.

East Rock School’s elevator has a very interesting story. William Clark, Chief Operating Officer for the New Haven Public Schools said that a few years ago, a man working on the elevator fell down the shaft and broke his collarbone – but did not die. Mr. Clark has not heard about any ghosts at East Rock School, but



Some at the state Capitol in Hartford wonder if the building has ghosts.

## East Rock Students Compete in UNH Math Tourney

BY ADAM SHARQAWI AND VICTOR KLUTSEY  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

For all students that love math in New Haven, there is a Math Tournament, which is basically students from six different New Haven Public School go to the University of New Haven and compete as teams. The winning team gets a pizza party for the whole class. This is probably the reason that they participate.

The cool thing about the Math Tournament is that teachers choose the best students who can think in a mathematical way. This makes these students happier since the math they get in classes is really boring to them.

The UNH Math Tournament also lets the stu-

dents that are participating discuss their answer before they put it in which makes their thinking even better. Students also learn new tactics which they can use to help their classmates. It could help them like math and feel easier.

The students of East Rock School were very excited and proud of those who participated on April 7: Dave Cruz, Victor Klutsey, Adam Sharqawi, Daniel Bedoya, Meet Patel, Natalie Maynard, Chelsea Coronel, Gwyneth Perez Paulette Jara, Ny’jaea Amin and Mayrin Romero.

The UNH Math Tournament is a very important event in New Haven because it makes stu-

dent thinking better with harder questions than the regular ones they do in school.

RESULTS: East Rock teams did not win, but Adam Sharqawi won second place and Daniel Bedoya took fourth in individual competition.



East Rock students compete at Math Tournament

# SPORT & PLAY

## Pokémon are everywhere. Even in the milk line.

BY ISABEL FAUSTINO, SARAH HERMIDA, SHANIAH KINSEY  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY MIMI CHIQUET

Did you catch that Flying type near the milk line? Or the Fire type in the gym? Or what about the time fourth grade teacher Erika Koch had a Pokémon on her shoulder?

Pokémon, it seems, is everywhere these days. Kids tuck cards into pockets. Some have fancy cases.

The East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey found that 105 people, or 40 percent of students who responded, said they do play Pokémon.

Most East Rock students trade cards when a teacher is not around like at after school programs, lunch lines and when substitute teachers take over. Some adults play Pokémon, too. Meagan Downing, a 24-year-old student at Yale Divinity school, said that one of her friends even played in church. Some parents have played Pokémon Go.

Pokémon has become a phenomenon since its creation in 1995. Everyone we talked to said it was addict-

ing. It's hard to stop, said Isaac Faustino, a high school senior at the Engineering and Science University Magnet school (ESUMS). "In the games, you can catch almost every Pokémon introduced in the franchise's 20-year span and train them to how you, as the player personally want them to be," he said.

During a trip to the state Capitol, State Representative Roland Lemar, who has a son in first grade at East Rock School, showed reporters his phone with Pokémon. "I have 394 Pokémon," he said, adding that he and his son "spent all of last summer at West Haven beach collecting Pokémon."

He does not play at the state Capitol. "I more play at home with my kid, to be honest," he said. "We are level 30. My son is the Pokémon expert. I know how to buy phone chargers."

Many people are obsessed, and some worry that Pokémon is a bad thing. Andrew Wolf, the head of culture and arts for the City of New Haven said that, "too much excitement is probably not healthy." He

compared it to eating a lot of desert: "If you get one ice cream you



State Rep. Roland Lemar shows off his Pokémon.

would probably like it. By the third ice cream, I think that would be a little too much."

Fourth grader Janyla Gaskins worried that as a result of the game, "boys are distracted from their education." She said that, "my mom won't let me play because she thinks it's bad, and so do I."

But some people say Pokémon is great. "I found Pokémon as an extra practice for remembering informa-

tion," said Mr. Faustino. He said that it helped with "study habits and work ethics" and that playing "in Chemistry class and memorizing those elements since Pokémon has given me prior experience." In addition, Ms. Downing said, "It connects a lot of different people across a lot of different platforms."

Although some think it's bad, some see value. Will it connect people for years to come? Survey results showed 134 people think Pokémon will be played in the future.

Mr. Faustino wholeheartedly thinks that Pokémon will remain popular. "The fans will continue the passion with all of the new Pokémon distributed through the games, cards, and even create fanart out of it," he said.

People clearly use Pokémon in different ways, according to what they like. The game, said Ms. Downing, "allows you to enter virtual world and interact with Pokémon." She said it is "like an escape."

Pokémon has been loved for a long time. You can have lots of fun. We encourage you to try Pokémon, too.

SOCCER FROM PAGE 1

## Local team with local players and Brazilian pros "sprinkled on top"

Mr. Henry would like to make the sport of soccer more popular in New Haven and in the U.S. "This goal will hopefully be successful," he said, adding that is one reason that local players will get a lot of attention and focus. Among the star players announced so far are Matt Jones from England and Graciano Brito from Cape Verde; both attended college in Connecticut.

The head coach will be Teddy Haley from Milford; Brian Neumeyer, who coaches at Newtown High School, is general manager.

The team will be part of the National Premier Soccer League and will play its games at Yale's Reese Stadium in Westville, near the Yale Bowl. The NPSL is a fast-growing league in the U.S. with nearly 100 teams. Tickets to games are \$10 for adults, \$8 for military and children 5-12; children under 5 are free.

The Elm City Express will play against the Brooklyn Italians and the New York Cosmos from New York, the team for which the famous Pelé played from 1970 to 1985. The Elm City Express's first game will be on May 6 against Greater Lowell FC. The home opener on May 20 will be against state rival Hartford FC.

The East Rock Record Spring 2017 Survey showed that only 20 percent of students had heard about the new soccer team, but 52 percent wanted to attend the games. "The fans are going to come to every game and they will make the team popular," said La'Khai Hampton, in eighth grade. Fifth grader Natalie Maynard was "really excited" about the team. Jaushan O'Garro, also in fifth grade, believes the team "will be success-

ful" and more so than in New York. "New Haven has more soccer fans," he said.

The difference in weather for the players between Brazil and the U.S. worries Nasir Anderson, in fifth grade. But he is a fan. "I will follow the team because I like Brazilian teams," he said.

Andrew Wolf, director of arts, culture and tourism for New Haven, said he was approached by a soccer fan who asked for help moving the team to New Haven. He said people in the city have been eager to make it work. "We have been lucky to receive support on the state and local level. The city has embraced the project," he said.

The leaders of K2 Soccer, which owns the Brazilian team and The Elm City Express, wanted to start a U.S. team but was not sure where. After a story on demographics on the website fivethirtyeight said that, "the metropolitan area that looks most like the U.S. is New Haven, Connecticut," the owners focused on New Haven. "In that spirit, we are thrilled to be bringing our soccer club to the most American city in the U.S.!" a press release said.

This is not the first soccer team to call New Haven home. The Connecticut Bicentennials of the American Soccer League were based here in 1976 and 1977. The Hartford Hellions of the Major Indoor Soccer League played at the Coliseum during their inaugural season in 1979.

New Haven's residents are big fans of soccer but have not recently had a team of their own. Having a local team would give people the opportunity to support their favorite players. It will also encourage students like us to improve our soccer

skills with the hope to join the team someday.

Player salaries will range broadly. The league sets a maximum salary, and so there is a certain amount they can pay the players. "Some players will get zero, they will only be playing for the love of the game," said Mr. Henry.

How successful will this be? Mr. Henry said it "is an experiment for us, to test the United States' market, and what it takes to have a professional team." He also sees it as a cultural effort. "It is much less about the financial aspect and much more about the building bridges between the



Elm City Express team owner Zack Henry meets with East Rock reporters

United States and Brazil."

If the team is popular, he said, after one or two years, they may seek investors for a New Haven soccer stadium. For now, the team is focused on the start of its inaugural season. Fourth grader Anshul Patel expects the "team will be nervous for the first three games" but said, "later on they will get the hang of it." Everyone hopes for a winning season — and a lots of fun!



# SOCIAL INNOVATION

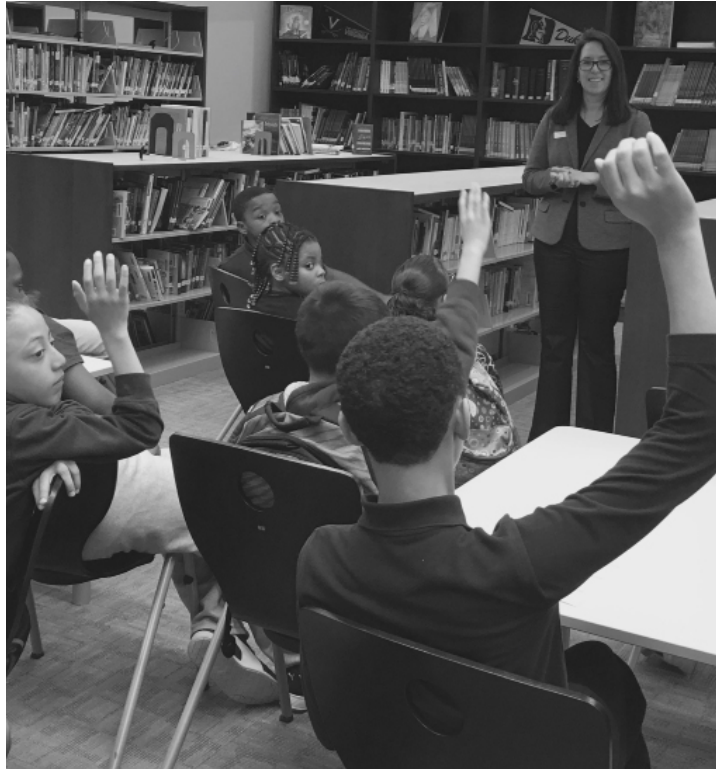
## Bottom to Top: Small Diapers Solve Big Problems

BY NATALIE MAYNARD  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today, we got to interview a very important person named Janet Stolfi Alfano. She is the executive director of The Diaper Bank. The Diaper bank provides diapers for families that need help or don't have what they need to keep their toddlers from ages 0-3 clean and healthy. The founder of the program is Joanne Goldblum. She would go to people's houses and notice that families did not have some household products like diapers and toilet paper. The Diaper Bank is working to expand the items they given out and to change laws. One law that got changed is to get rid of tax on diapers and feminine products. They are also working to lower the cost of diapers. They have distributed 1,570,843 diapers since 2004. This is an important issue in the community that not many people focus on or think about. This is an issue that people don't think about if they don't have to change diapers!

BY JASHAUN O'GARRO  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The Diaper Bank gives diapers to people that need them. It is really important to our community. It helps over 30,000 kids each year. It was started in 2004 by Joanne Goldblum who found out that some families did not have soap and toilet paper. "She saw that families did not have enough diapers," said Janet Stolfi Alfano, executive director of the Diaper Bank. They started with five agencies and now work with 60.



Janet Stolfi Alfano of The Diaper Bank, meets with ERR reporters.

BY KAYSON MACIEL-ANDREWS  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I know a lot about The Diaper Bank because my mom works there. I know it is a large system because I have heard meetings my mom has. The building where The Diaper Bank is located looks like a huge Home Depot, except it is bigger by at least 20 feet. The Diaper Bank has a warehouse where it stores the diapers. It stores the diapers by having them in packages, stacked on pallets. The name of my mom's boss is Janet Stolfi Alfano. At work my mom gives diapers to people who need them. She has meetings to find out where people need diapers. My mom works at The Diaper Bank to help families.

BY ALEC SAMSEL AND RAVI PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Diapers are expensive. The people at The Diaper Bank said it is a closely guarded secret how much it costs to produce a diaper. We have to think about poor people. The Diaper Bank is here to help our community. People donate diapers and give money. The Diaper Bank is trying to get manufactures to lower the cost of diapers.

BY DELEON R. T. MOORE  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Many people can't pay for diapers for their toddlers. The amount of money that was used for purchasing these diapers last year at The Diaper Bank was over \$125,000. Honestly, that's an INSANE amount of cash. Considering that the average diaper pack of 40 costs \$9 to \$15, this is an expensive problem.

## Mother's Day 2017



**Each gift to The Diaper Bank helps a mother  
by providing diapers for her baby.**

**DONATE | START A CAMPAIGN | RUN A DIAPER DRIVE | VOLUNTEER**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Black Bear Baby Event, Thursday, September 14, 2017  
Ammunite's Sea Cliff, 6:00pm to 10:00pm**

**The Diaper Bank provides diapers to poor and low-income babies in  
New Haven, Hartford, Fairfield, Middlesex, and Windham Counties.**

**P.O. Box 1000, New Haven, CT 06510 | 203-974-7000 | www.thediaperbank.org**

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# FOOD

## WHICH MELON WINS THE SUMMER SNACK CHALLENGE?

When it's hot outside, a watery fruit is a sweet and tasty treat

EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

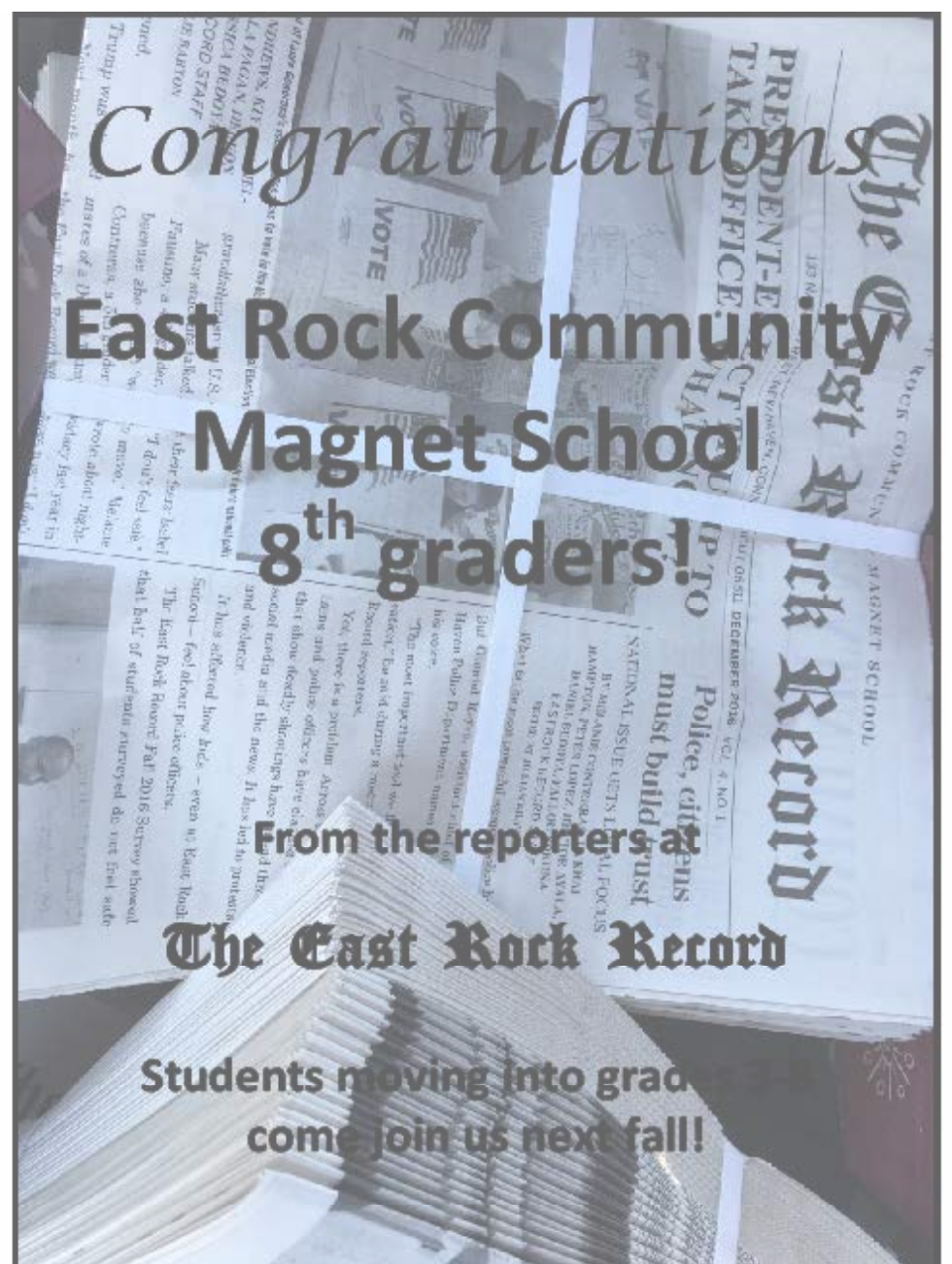
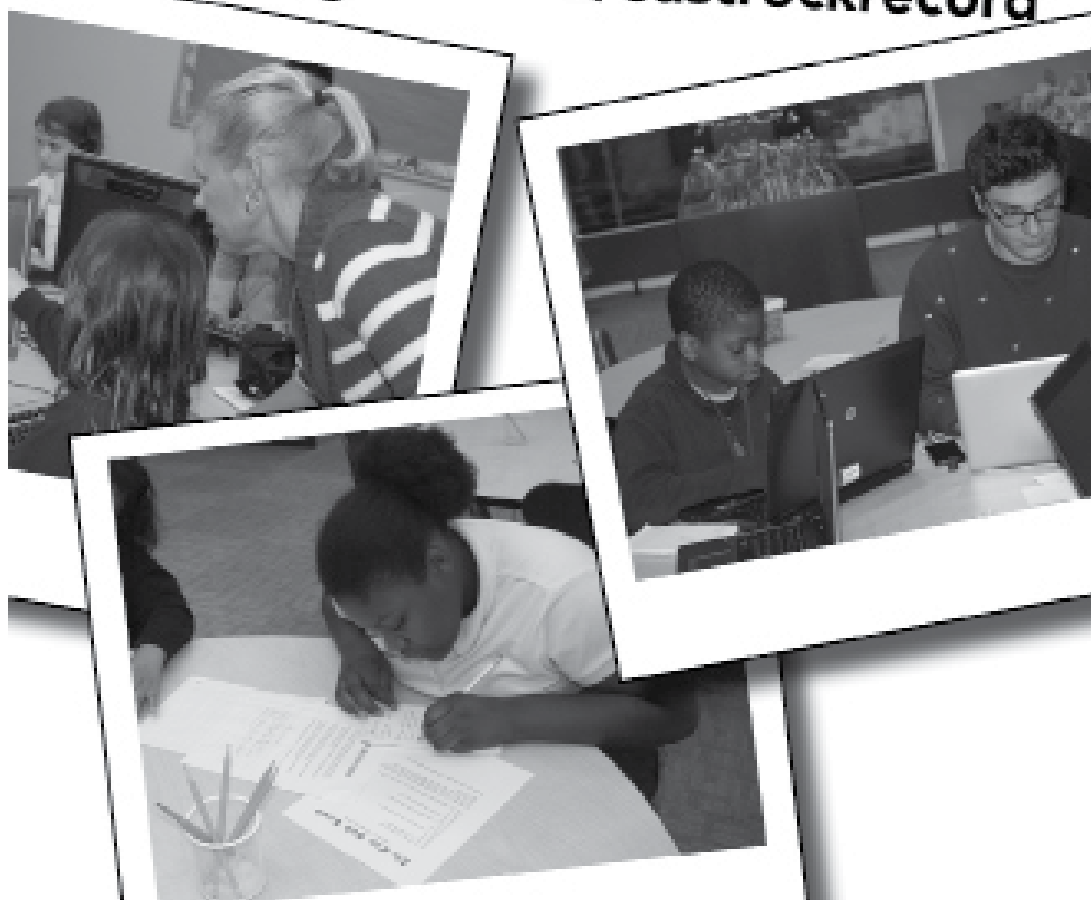
Warm weather is coming so East Rock Record reporters set out to judge three popular types of melon—cantaloupe, honeydew and watermelon. We considered the appearance, texture, flavor and overall appeal of the melons. Some of the melons were new to reporters who gamely tasted the new fruit for the first time. Watermelon was judged the clear winner and opinions were divided between the cantaloupe and honeydew for second and third place rankings. As Nasir Anderson wrote, “The original water won in my book” with a rating of 10 million as opposed to -5 (honeydew) and -10 (cantaloupe).

Javari Brown found the cantaloupe rind “looks like sponges) and the taste “terrible.” But Isabella Pagan declared that it “tastes like heaven.” Osiana Brown compared the honeydew to “cucumbers” and noted that she “kind of liked it.” Peter Lopez did offer a warning, particularly for consumers of the honeydew: “If you have braces, you’re gonna have leftovers.” The watermelon, he proclaimed, “good for summer.”



We're on Instagram!

Check us out at:  
[instagram.com/eastrockrecord](https://www.instagram.com/eastrockrecord)





**BE A PART OF THE INAUGURAL  
SEASON OF THE ELM CITY'S  
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER CLUB**

**2017 HOME SCHEDULE\***

**May 20 - 7:00 PM - Hartford City FC**

**June 9 - 7:00 PM - TSF Academy**

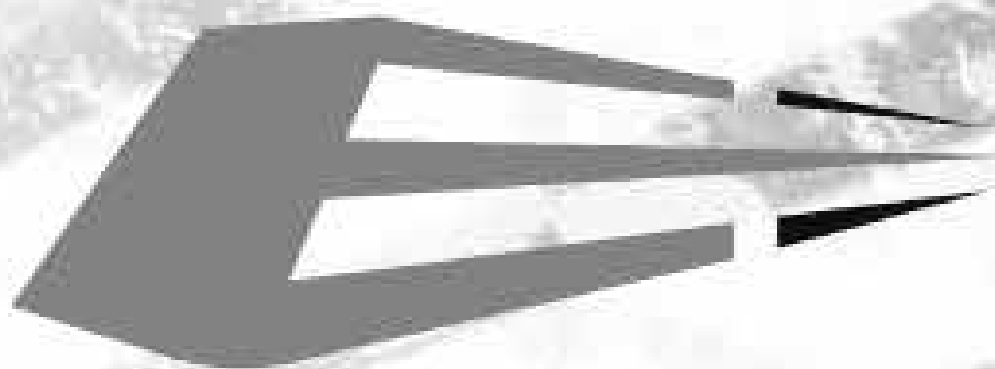
**June 18 - 5:00 PM - Greater Lowell FC**

**June 20 - 7:00 PM - Brooklyn Italians**

**June 25 - 4:00 PM - Seacoast United**

**July 1 - 7:00 PM - New York Cosmos**

**\*All games played at Reese Field  
at Yale University**



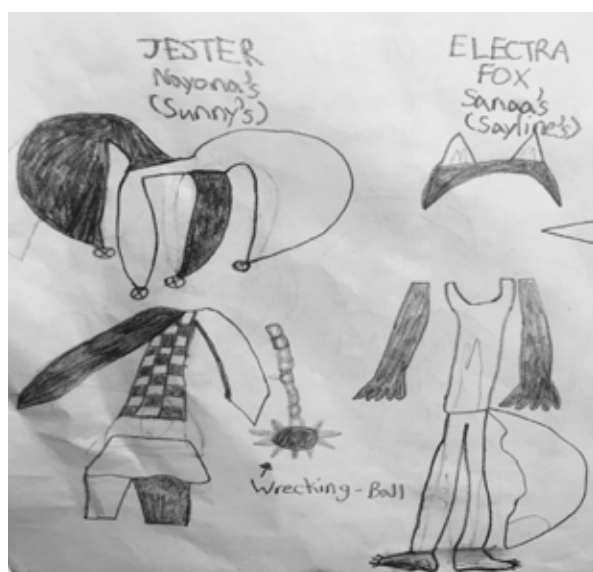
# LIFE & MEDIA

## Pick up your mood: Start a BAND!!

BY ISABELLA PAGAN AND KAMIYAH MARSH  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

We think that people are kind of down these days, so that is why we and our friends. . . put together a band! Ariana Grande, and Becky G. inspired us to make our own music. Now we're having auditions for anyone who is talented enough to make it in the band. The names of the lucky 11 girls are: Isabella Pagan, Shekinah Jones, Makayla Brown, Ariana Silva, Sanaa Murphy, Kamiyah Marsh, Jazmine Gibbons, Madelena Valdez, Nayona Harris, Teyanna Moore and Angelys Roman.

How did we come up with this idea? My friends and I thought it would be a great idea if we used our talents together. Why do we think bands are fun? You can do a lot of different things in a band. You can dance or sing or play an instrument. Everyone can find a way to be a part of a group, no matter what they like to do.



Isabella Pagan

## Movie: This New Edition Beasts!

BY NATALIE MAYNARD  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Just the other day, I watched the new Beauty and the Beast movie. It was the best movie ever!!! It was way better than the original one that came out a long time ago. It was better because there were real people instead of cartoons. It felt more realistic. It was a little scary only because when the... never mind!!

Spoiler alert! The are, of course, Belle, Beast, Gaston and the ....TM! You should really watch this movie if you haven't done so already because it is a very emotional, fun and adventurous movie. I hope you enjoyed my review!.

## Toy Review: New Doll!

BY SHANIAH KINSEY  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

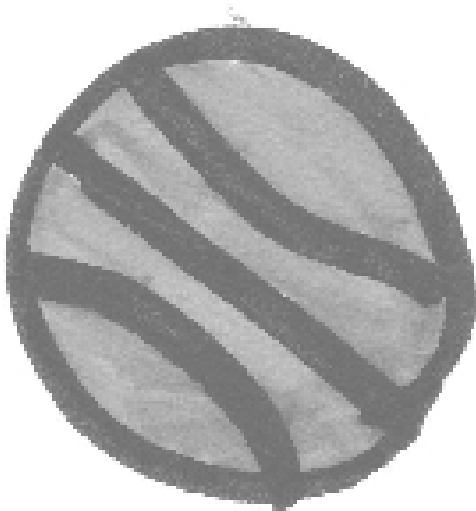
L.o.l. dolls are little dolls that come in tiny balls with eight wrappers around it. They can spit water. Their water bottles have a little hole and you squeeze her head-slash-bottle under the water and then let go and then squeeze and they spit water. These dolls are very unique because they tinkle, spit and cry. I think people are playing with these dolls because they are very different than other dolls I have seen. In the future, I think these dolls will be very popular because they do extraordinary things.

## N.B.A. DREAMS

BY ALEC SAMSEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite team in basketball is the 76ers. They were one of the best teams of the past, but now they are not very good. The reason they are not good is because they have a young team. Most of their players are rookies. The best player they have is hurt for the year. My favorite player is Allen Iverson. He used to play for the 76ers but he retired.

I play in a league in East Haven. My position is usually point guard, but I sometimes I'm a power forward. I like shooting and getting assists. I'm not a great defender, but my offense is really good. My team lost in the playoffs. I think basketball is a great sport. I hope when I grow up I can be in the NBA.



Kamiyah Marsh

## Teamwork Builds Champions

BY ANSHUL PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD CONTRIBUTOR

I think that football is a fun sport that everyone can enjoy. Football season actually just ended and the champions were a team called the New England Patriots. Some people who don't know the game might think football is a game played with your feet. However, it isn't.

The only time you actually use your feet is when you do a kickoff. Otherwise you just use your hands. You can pass to each other to get to your goals which are on the opponent's side. When you are trying to push to the goal your opponent will be trying to defend against you. There will be tackles and everyone falling all over the place. In this sport, you need to have teamwork. Even if you seem to lose, teamwork can make the difference. For example, the Patriots in the last Super Bowl (finals) they were losing hands down 3-21. It was harsh. But in the last few minutes they did a miracle. Everyone worked together as a team and managed to score a screamer. The crowd didn't believe it at first but the Patriots had actually done it, the biggest comeback of Super Bowl history. Even I was astonished. No one believed it. It all looked like the Falcons were going to win. So, if this has convinced you, maybe you should try it yourself!



## O.M.G.! Advice for B.F.F's

BY NYASIA DONEGAL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

WHAT ARE BEST FRIENDS? Best friends are people that are funny, loyal, cool, honest, and the "best-people-ever. Take it from me, my BFF's name is Osiana. She is always by my side, and when I fall, she is right there. That's a BFF.

GUIDE TO FIGHTS: If you and your BFF get into fights, you need to talk it out you because you probably been BFF'S since pre-k . If your BFF is stubborn, OMG I got some news for you. Just walk away. You might be angry now but in one or two days tops, you will be dancing and talking it up like there's no tomorrow. Your BFF will stick with you for forever. Just know that.

GUIDE TO SECRETS: Let's talk secrets. If your BFF tells you a highly classified secret you

just have to keep it; one wrong move means NO BFF. For example if your BFF tells you a secret about her crush you have to keep it.

But maybe if you just have to get it out your system, you can tell a stuffed animal. That works for me. If your BFF told your secret, play it off. You can say, "Say WHAT?!!!"

I call that W.T.H.B., which stands for WHAT THE HECK BFF, like why did you tell my secret? But I understand because I just have the best secrets.

Well you've learned all about BFF's. I hope you and your BFF never have fights and always have sleepovers.

# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Letter from Principal Pelley

Dear East Rock Record Readers,

Spring is here at last, and we are extending our learning outdoors to the beautiful outdoor spaces that our school has to offer. Spring is a wonderful time to find a cozy spot outdoors and get lost in a good book. The East Rock Principal's Spring Reading Challenge is in full swing, and we are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our young readers.

With Spring comes our 8th grade promotion ceremony, which will be held on Friday, June 23rd at 9 a.m. in our cafetorium. This will be a bittersweet event as we acknowledge the many accomplishments of our scholars and wish them well as they prepare to begin a new chapter in their lives.

I trust that you will thoroughly enjoy the second edition of the 2016-2017 East Rock Record. Our school newspaper is a wonderful example of the dedication, commitment, and positive spirit of our students. Special thanks to Laura Pappano, student mentors from New Haven Public Schools and Yale University, and East Rock staff and parents for providing our students with this amazing opportunity to have their voices heard.

Best wishes to all for a summer full of great books and special memories!

Peggy Pelley, Principal, East Rock Community Magnet School



East Rock Record reporters interview Andrew Wolf from City Hall for the Spring issue.

## Magnificent Math!

Is math interesting to you? To me, it is because you can learn something new and there are a lot of topics that you can learn about like multiplication, division etc. It is good for you to learn more math when you know you have a big test coming up, like the SBAC. If you are lucky, you can get selected to a math tournament. All New Haven kids have a chance. The math tournament is for those who have developed enough skills in math at school. This program makes more fun. So, are you up for the challenge? Make math as interesting as you can. It will be fun for you and the teacher will love when you ask questions. This is a great way to show that you need more challenge when you do math. Hopefully, you are inspired to get more interested in math. If you try your hardest, you may get selected to the math tournament.

— **Meet Patel**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## NOTICING BORDERS: JAMAICA TRAVEL

When I got off the plane to Jamaica, I saw a long line of people leading from the plane. It was humid and the staff there did not put any effort into getting you in and out quickly. Occasionally, you would see people slip the staff a couple of dollars so they could cut the line. Unfortunately, we spent most of our money on the hotel. When I finally got to the end, an officer patted me down and checked my bag for illegal weapons such as bombs, guns, knives or more. I was used to it because they had to do that in the U.S. There were big men with guns at the door, but they were not scary. They were actually helpful. When somebody dropped his bag, they helped him. I think the staff can be nicer because the bad energy might motivate somebody to do bad things. Staff need to be nicer or more bad things may happen.

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

## The East Rock Record

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

Editorial and opinion writers: Melanie Contreras, James Maciel-Andrews, Nellie Jackson, Meet Patel, Daniel Bedoya, Nasir Anderson.

## WHAT DOES DONALD TRUMP HAVE AGAINST IMMIGRANTS?

Our President is making immigrants feel unwanted in the U.S. He's forcing some people to make plans that could get them separated from their children. When I concentrate in school I think about, "What if my parents are not home when I get there?" That makes me think about that my parents would want another chance to see me and my sisters.

When Barack Obama was president he said that he would give passports to people who need them; some people didn't get a chance to get theirs.

When election day came around Donald Trump said that he was going to make people that didn't have their passport leave the country and that made me terrified. I want to be an immigration lawyer when I grow up so that I can help immigrants feel comfortable in the U.S. Donald Trump wants to be known as a great president. So, then, why does he want half the country to leave?

—**Melanie Contreras**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## STUDENTS NEED CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Phones should be allowed in school because students may need them in case of an emergency. Teachers think phones are a distraction during their classes. They also think they are a waste of time because students focus on them. But some students don't like the fact that the teachers get to have their phones. It should be fair for everybody.

—**Nellie Jackson**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## Thank you!

The *East Rock Record* would like to thank the following for their help and support:

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Follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/eastrockrecord](https://www.instagram.com/eastrockrecord)

# OPINION

## TRUMP BEHAVIOR UNFITTING

Donald Trump is not fit to be president. He always says what is on his mind. One time I was watching the news and saw that Donald Trump was talking about women. Afterwards he just called it “locker room talk.” My mom was really offended by what he said. This was really disrespectful towards all women. As the president of the U.S.A., he has to set a good example for the community. Donald Trump also says really mean things. This is what he said on New Year’s: “Happy New Year to all, including to my many enemies and those who have fought me and lost so badly they just don’t know what to do.” —**Daniel Bedoya**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



East Rock Record reporters take notes during a field trip to the state Capitol on April 4.



## FAREWELL TO EAST ROCK SCHOOL

My name is James Maciel-Andrews, and I have been a student at East Rock Community Magnet School since third grade. I am now in eighth grade and weeks away from graduating. It’s surprising to think that I have been at East Rock School for five years—the longest time I’ve stayed at a NHPS school — and that I am in my last year of my elementary/middle school years, and going into high school.

My elementary and middle school years at East Rock School have gone by so quickly. Yet, I remember each year and each teacher as if it were yesterday. My third grade teacher Mrs. Werth retired last year. I had Ms. Koch in fourth grade, and Ms. Wischert in fifth grade (she’s since gotten married and is now called Mrs. Raccio). Mrs. Wolf was my sixth grade teacher, and Mr. Kennedy in seventh was my first-ever male homeroom teacher. Mr. Catala was the best TAG teacher that I’ve had. And lastly, but certainly not least, my eighth grade and final teacher at this school is Ms. Generoso.

Ms. Wolf was my toughest but also fairest teacher. Just like all other East Rock School teachers that I’ve had, she made me work hard for my grades, and rewarded me with good grades and some amazingly complimentary comments at the end of my academic year. I’ve had Coach Rowan and Coach Glickman since 5th grade, and they really made me love P.E., and Health class. Ms. Lawrence recognized my love for singing, and thanks to her nomination to the Yale School of Music, Music in Schools Initiative, I was able to audition to be part of a choir – a long dream of mine since Kindergarten – and received a placement that has lasted five years, and it’s still going. Mr. Selmont has been the coolest music and band teacher. He introduced me to the alto saxophone, which I have enjoyed playing for the past three years. Ms. Cassidy expanded my appreciation for art. I really liked making art projects such as papier-mache pencils, crushed can self-portraits, and the abstracts. And Ms. Colon made me fall in love with the Spanish language.

My final year at East Rock School as an eighth grader has gone relatively well, considering that I almost didn’t stay at East Rock School, after applying to attend E.S.U.M.S. through the school choice lottery, and placing third on the wait list, which changed to second place the day before school started. I never received confirmation to attend. I plan to go there for high school.

Nonetheless, I liked the fact that I was able to finish this year at East Rock School with all my friends: Aboubacar Kourouma, Abdirashid Mohamed, Shiv Patel, Wilson Coronel, and Jency Estrada, just to name a few. I will miss the community atmosphere at East Rock School. I will miss the lunch ladies, especially Ms. Chrissy, Ms. Betty-Ann, and Ms. Mo. But, I know that the end at East Rock School is just one phase of my academic life, and that I am looking forward to what lays ahead. Thank you, Principal Pelley, Assistant Principal DePriest, Mr. Lewis, Nurse Anne Marie and everyone at East Rock School, for the great five years that I spent with you all.

—**James Maciel-Andrews** *East Rock Record Opinion*



Natalie Maynard





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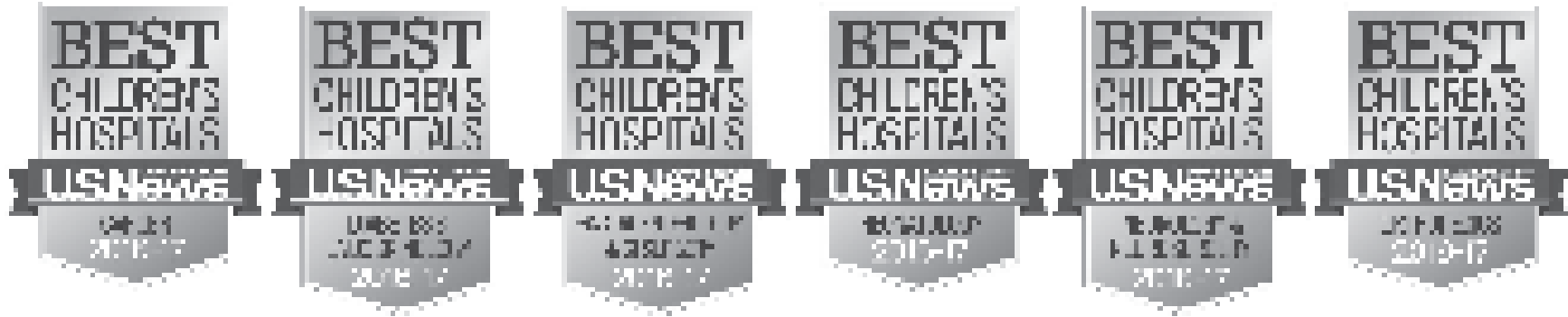

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