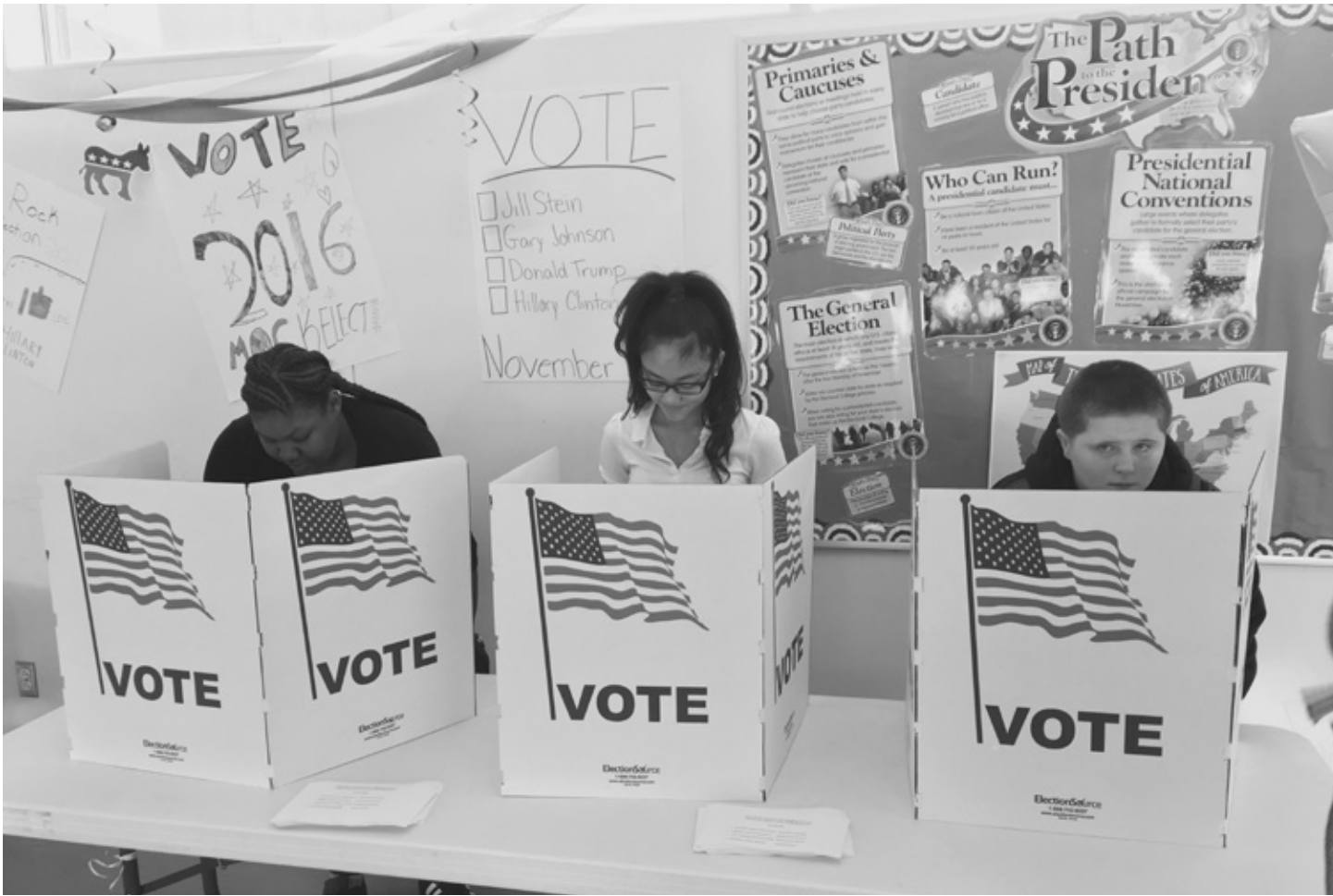


# The East Rock Record

133 NASH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511 DECEMBER 2016 VOL. 4, NO. 1

## PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP TO TAKE OFFICE: WHAT NOW?



East Rock 8th graders step out of Laura Generoso's social studies class to vote in the Mock Presidential Election Nov. 1, a week before national polls

BY JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS, KIYU MACIEL-ANDREWS, ISABELLA PAGAN, DELEON MOORE II & JESSICA BEDOYA  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY CHARLIE BARTON

grandfather isn't a U.S. citizen.

Many students talked about their fears: Isabel Faustino, a 4th grader, said, "I don't feel safe," because she doesn't "want to move." Melanie Contreras, a 5th grader who wrote about nightmares of a Donald Trump candidacy last year in the East Rock Record worries more now: "I don't want to be separated from my parents. They mean everything to me."

Students at East Rock fear that Mr. Trump could propose threatening laws and have his new Republican Congress approve them. They are also worried about the relationship between the President-elect and the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

The unexpected has happened.

On November 8, Donald J. Trump was elected President of the United States. Next month, he will be inaugurated and move to the White House.

At East Rock Community School, where a mock election was held in which Hillary Clinton won by a landslide, there was shock and worry at the stunning result. After hearing of it, Alec Samsel, a 4th grader at East Rock, told reporters that he feels "terrified." Daniel Bedoya, a 5th grader, explained that he was "very upset" because his

## Police, citizens must build trust

NATIONAL ISSUE GETS LOCAL FOCUS

BY MELANIE CONTRERAS, LAKHAI HAMPTON, PETER LOPEZ, HECTOR AYALA, DANIEL BEDOYA, FALLOU SOKHNA  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY JILLIAN KRAVATZ

What is the most powerful weapon police have? Some people think it's a gun. Others, a taser. But Otoniel Reyes, assistant chief of the New Haven Police Department, names something else: his voice.

"The most important tool we have is communication," he said during a meeting with East Rock Record reporters.

Yet, there is a problem. Across the country, citizens and police officers have clashed as videos that show deadly shootings have spread through social media and the news. It has led to protests and violence.

It has affected how kids— even at East Rock School— feel about police officers.

The East Rock Record Fall 2016 Survey showed that half of students surveyed do not feel safe



Otoniel Reyes, Assistant Chief of the New Haven Police Department says conflicts between police and citizens trouble him.

SEE PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 4

## Do you speak emoji?

BY ALEC SAMSEL, SARAH HERMIDA, SHANIAH KINSEY, MARISOL RAMOS, ISABEL FAUSTINO EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY MIMI CHIQUET



Isabel Faustino

There is a language that is catching on, and it doesn't have any words.

It's a fast way to communicate — and it's fun, too! Lots of students at East Rock Community Magnet School are fluent. So are people around the world. Do you know what this language is? Did you guess it?

Cat faces, sleepy heads, heart eyes, blushes, and sick faces — these are all emojis. Emojis are those symbols on your phone that you can send to people when you text or e-mail. Lots of people like them and would invent their own if given the chance.

"I send the kiss with a heart to my sister who sends me pictures of my niece and nephew," said Erika Koch, a fourth grade teacher. East Rock School music teacher Clay Selmont sends flowers to his gardener friends, and sends music notes to his musician friends.

When you use emojis, of course, you don't have to worry about spelling or grammar. But there are rules about how you use them. For example, you can't send a poop emoji to the president. Some people also think you shouldn't use emojis in serious situations, like for illness or tragedies.

SEE PAGE 4

## The Food Security Problem

ALMOST HALF OF THOSE IN EAST ROCK RECORD SURVEY WORRY ABOUT SOURCE OF NEXT MEAL

BY DAVONNA BENSON, ANSHUL PATEL, GIONNA SMITH, ALEXIS SMITH, VICTORIA PRASEUTH  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY EMILY REINWALD AND AMANDA HU

What is "food security?" Do you know?

It's not often talked about, but across the country — and here in New Haven and even at East Rock School — many people do not get enough to eat. This is a serious issue.

"There are a lot of reasons people don't have food security," said Jill Dotlo, community liaison coordinator for the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH) who co-

chairs the Food Access Working Group. "Some work, but don't make enough money to support their family. Some can't work at all. Some struggle to afford to eat balanced meals, and others have to skip meals because there's not enough food."

Almost half of students who answered the East Rock Record Fall 2016 Survey have had to worry about where they will get their next meal. Addi-

SEE PAGE 2



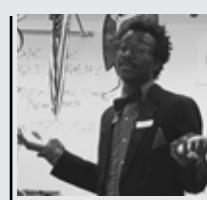
INSIDE THE NEWS

DIVERSITY MATTERS, BUT WHAT DOES IT DEMAND? SEE PAGE 3

NEW RULES EXPAND STUDENT COUNCIL SEE PAGE 5

AFTER SCHOOL AND TOO LITTLE TO DO SEE PAGE 7

REFLECTION ON ELECTION SEE PAGE 13



MURALIST AMAZES SEE PAGE 11

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**ELECTION NEWS**  
TRUMP WINS 1,8

**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
INTERACTING WITH POLICE 1,4  
FOOD SECURITY BIG ISSUE 1, 2  
DIVERSITY 1,4  
EMOJIS ARE POPULAR 7

**SCHOOL NEWS**  
STUDENT COUNCIL 5  
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS 7

**FOOD & HEALTH**  
WHICH ORANGE IS BEST? 9

**ARTS**  
MURALIST KWADWO ADAE 11

**BOOKS & MEDIA** 12

**IDEAS & OPINION** 13

**EDITORIALS, OPINION** 14, 15

**LETTER FROM EAST ROCK**  
PRINCIPAL PEGGY PELLEY 14

## FOOD, HUNGER NEED ATTENTION

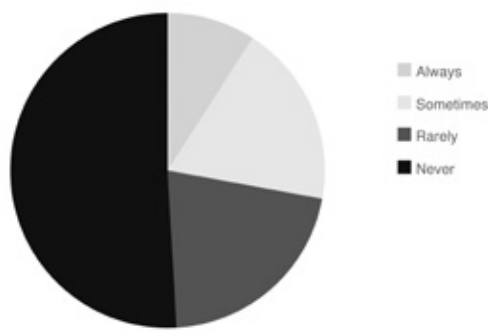
tionally, 35 students said that they skipped a meal because they didn't have enough food.

Across Connecticut, experts estimate that about 14 percent of residents are "food insecure." Ms. Dotlo said that is defined as "the lack of consistent access to adequate amounts of food for an active, healthy life."

It is hard to be hungry or to worry about food. Fortunately, some are trying to help.

At East Rock School, the FOOD-4KIDS program sends students home with a grocery bag filled with different kinds of food on Friday afternoons. Kristin Manghnani, the school counselor in charge of the program at East Rock School said students are picked to receive information and permission slip so their families can learn about the program and decide whether or not to sign up.

How often do you worry about where you will get your next meal?



Graph by Anshul Patel. Source: ERR Fall 2016 survey

"There aren't any clear cut guidelines for referrals, just students we feel may benefit or students who may vocalize that they have a need," said Ms. Manghnani. "Large families with many siblings are typically offered a chance to participate." She said about 50 students at East Rock School get food through the program.

Ms. Manghnani said the bags of food are not forced on students, and it is the student and parent's choice to participate in the program or not.

In the New Haven Community, food pantries are a resource where residents can get groceries for free. A variety of people use food pantries to help when they run a little short of money to buy groceries. The East Rock Record Fall 2016 survey showed that 36 percent of students surveyed said their families had used a food pantry.

On Whalley Avenue, CAANH runs an open-choice food pantry, providing groceries to many of the families who participate in its energy-assistance program. "We make appointments with people at a specific time so they don't have to wait in line," said Ms. Dotlo. "That's not typical with food pantries."

Every year, CAANH's food pantry gives out more than 30,000 pounds of food to the New Haven community. The majority of the food is obtained



Reporters interviewed Jill Dotlo of the Community Action Agency of New Haven who works on food security issues.

through donations and bought with

### 36 % OF STUDENTS SAID THEIR FAMILIES HAD USED A FOOD PANTRY

grant funds. There are many ways through which CAANH is able to get food, but sometimes the pantry struggles to maintain its stock.

In addition to CAANH's food pantry, Jamilah Rasheed, executive director of the New Haven Inner City Enrichment center, worked with the New Haven Police Department to open a food pantry in the police substation.

On the last Saturday of each month, the pantry opens to help those who need extra help. The amount of food people can take is based on the size of their family. They have boxed and canned food. It is an "open-choice" pantry, which means that each family may choose items from different food groups. This way, people can choose items that will create a more balanced diet. At some pantries, customers are given bags or boxes of food; at others people get to choose what to take.

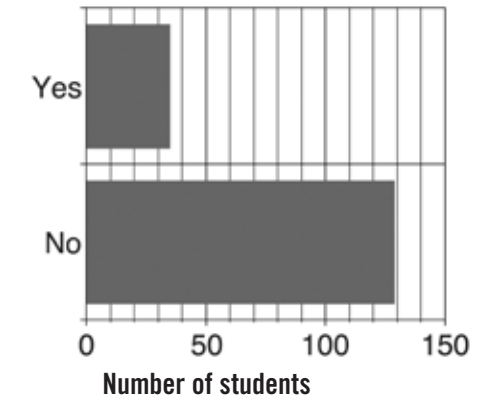
Before the pantry opened for the

first time, Ms. Rasheed held a food drive outside of the Stop and Shop in Hamden. Later, at the first opening of the food pantry, people from 24 households waited in line to collect food for their families.

"We were glad to see this turnout, and we expect more people the next time we're open," Ms. Rasheed said. "Most of the people who came weren't homeless, but they have to worry about how they're going to get their next meal."

The Hill Neighborhood Food Pantry is at 410 Howard Ave. It will next be open on December 31, 2016.

Have you ever skipped a meal because you didn't have food?



Graph by Alexis Smith. Source: ERR Fall survey

The Community Action Agency of New Haven Food Pantry is at 419 Whalley Ave.



Jamila Rasheed started a food pantry with police help. She spoke with East Rock Record reporters in October.



East Rock earns national recognition for health.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Diversity is a HOT issue. But what to do?

BY MYA CARDWELL, NELLIE JACKSON,  
JANYLA GASKINS, RAVI PATEL,  
JULIANA SNEDEKER  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

EDITED BY BY JANICE POON AND ANALYS RIVERA

It's a hot issue everyone is talking about. So why is "diversity" so confusing?

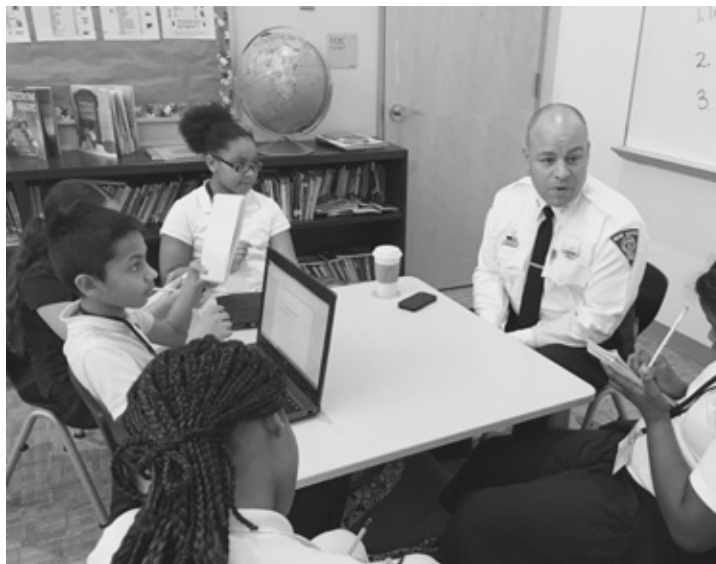
The fact is that lots of feelings and emotions come up when people say the word "diversity." What is different or strange to one person is just normal to someone else. Everybody is different, but that doesn't mean that people should be treated differently. This makes "diversity" tough to pinpoint.

Yet, it's important to talk about what it means and to notice when people are treated unfairly because of their race, religion or culture. Is this a problem at East Rock School? The East Rock Record Fall 2016 Survey showed that more than one-third of the 164 students surveyed said that racism has occurred at East Rock Community Magnet School.

"I've seen students treated differently when they don't speak English well, have medical problems, or dress differently," said Anshul Patel, a fourth grader. When asked about how this might be changed at the school, he replied, "I think if more students understand the differences people have, they can stop teasing other students." He also suggested that the school "hold a special program at an assembly."

However, many kids at East Rock School are not sure how to think about "diversity." "I've heard that word, but I don't know what it really means," said Davonna Benson, an eighth grader. "I don't know how to describe it," said Aryana Snedeker, a fifth grader.

Getting to know people from all different backgrounds can help with understanding. Jamilah Rasheed, executive director of the New Haven Inner City Enrichment Center who started a food pantry that serves a diverse community, said that, "people who act racist are acting out of ignorance due to their environment or lack of educa-



Otoniel Reyes, assistant chief of the NHPD, says diversity training is part of police officer preparation.

tion. But interacting with people from different groups teaches you why they do the things they do, talk the way they talk, and dress the way they dress."

Being aware of diversity also helps people relate to one another. Otoniel Reyes, assistant chief for the New Haven Police Department, told us that

**"THE SCHOOL SHOULD START TEACHING ABOUT DIVERSITY AT A YOUNG AGE," SAID ONE STUDENT.**

this is especially important for police officers.

"Our community is a diverse place," he said. "As police officers, we serve a lot of different people, and we need to understand the people we serve." Because of this, NHPD officers go through diversity training not only upon entering the police force but also every year.

According to the East Rock Record Survey, 95 out of 163 students agreed that there should be more conversations in school about diversity.

"The school should start teaching about diversity at a young age, and little by little so you learn a bit more each year," said Ms. Snedeker. "Teachers should teach us by giving explanations, reasons, and examples of what diversity means," said Ms. Benson.

With more diversity-related conversations, stu-

dents will know how to respect and appreciate differences in the school and in the community. Not paying attention to diversity leaves room for discrimination to happen, many people said.

Ms. Angela Maiocco, a fourth grade teacher at East Rock School, said some workplaces do not respect diversity. "It's sad if it were a woman and a man at a job interview that they might not be treated equally," said Ms. Maiocco. Even today, she said that, "sometimes people will pick the man because they might think that the woman

**"I'VE HEARD THE WORD, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS," ANOTHER STUDENT SAID.**

isn't capable of the job."

This is especially important because the Presidential election made diversity a big issue.

The American presidency has long been held by white men. Barack Obama was the first black president to break that chain. In 2016, Hillary Clinton was trying to break the chain of gender. According to one of her campaign promises, she wanted to fight for equal pay for men and women.

Diversity is important to us because not all of us are the same, but we deserve fair treatment. Diversity includes differences not only in gender, race, and culture, but also includes what town or neighborhood you are from.

In a city like New Haven, life is a melting pot. People have different religions and ethnicities. Some people are rich and some people are poor. Here, we are exposed to different kinds of lifestyles all the time, which shows us different ways of thinking.

Diversity is something to celebrate. As Mr. Reyes, the assistant police chief, said, "Diversity isn't just about differences, it's about respect and appreciation. Everyone is different. And that's good!"

## Girls Science Investigations



### THE ELECTRONICS WORLD

February 11, 2017

Have you ever opened up an old computer or cell phone and looked at the circuits inside? Have you thought about what all those little parts do? In this session, we'll make paper circuits and play with resistors, capacitors, LEDs and more. Come join us and make an interactive card for your favorite Valentine!



### THE GEOPHYSICAL WORLD

April 8, 2017

Shake, rattle, and roll is the action for today as we learn about the forces that move the earth's crust. Have fun with "Seismic Slinkies." Then, build an earthquake proof model house that can withstand the Yale SHAKE table!



**For more information, visit [gsi.yale.edu](http://gsi.yale.edu)**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Emojis are fun, but there are “rules” for using them

EMOJIS FROM PAGE 1

That’s because emojis are a way of letting people add emotions to their words. When most people send emojis it is to people they know, often a friend or a close person in their lives. This isn’t true for everybody; it depends on the family or how they interpret the rules of emojis. Kids and adults often use them differently.

Almost all of the people we interviewed have their favorites. Kayla Iannuccilli, who teaches 7th and 8th grade reading and writing, likes the kissing cat and stars the best — and uses them together. She says the combination is as if she is typing a cat “kissing magic.” Spanish teacher Magda Colon likes the laughing out loud emoji the best. Mr. Selmont’s favorite emoji is the laughing sun; he says, “If I send it to someone, they will know it is a happy time for me.”

East Rock students like emojis. Results of the East Rock Record Fall 2016 survey showed only 12 of the 162 people who responded said they do

not use emojis. That means that 92 percent do. The survey also showed that most students — 77 percent — use different emojis depending on who they are talking with.

Not everyone uses emojis. Noreen Polio, who teaches ESOL at East Rock School, thinks that emojis are only for younger students. She sees a generational gap.

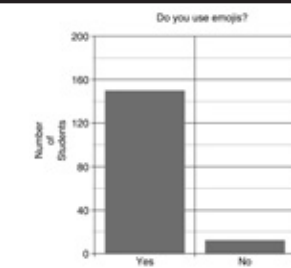
“Electronic devices are good in a lot of ways but in other ways not,” she said. She says that she reads and uses email instead of texting and believes that phones are making people less social. She worries that people are not talking to each other when they eat dinner. “I’m a Luddite,” she said. “I only use technology when I need to.” She never uses emojis; she likes the peace and quiet of emails.

A lot of people think that emojis are fun, but they can also be used in a bad way, said Melanie Contreras, in 5th grade. She says that kids

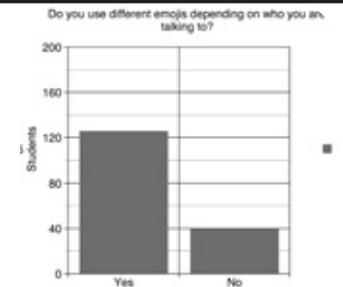
age seven and under shouldn’t use emojis because they are too young. There are some bad emojis like the middle finger, guns, and bombs that can communicate bad messages.

Are emoji’s just a fad or are they here to stay?

Most of the people we interviewed say they are an important way of talking and will be used more — not less — in the future.



Graph by Isabel Faustino



Graph by Alec Samsel

Lots of people said there would be more emojis released in the future, and people are drawn to using them. Ms. Koch is not so sure. She thinks they “will fade eventually.” We hope not!! We love emojis. Do you? 😊

POLICE FROM PAGE 1

## Students and police officers must build trust through relationships

around police. The same survey found that nearly 100 percent of students said that police officers should be friendly towards children.

James Maciel-Andrews, an 8th grader at East Rock, has mixed opinions about the police. “I feel safe if they are doing their job correctly and protecting innocent people,” he said. “But if they are using their power in unjust ways, I feel unsafe.”

Mr. Maciel-Andrews, who wore a “Black Lives Matter” button while being interviewed, said that he used to think that the police would always help people no matter what. But after seeing some videos of violent police officers, he isn’t so sure.

“It makes me have a different view,” he said.

Nellie Jackson, a 6th grader at East Rock, said that she mostly feels safe around police. “Sometimes I get worried when they go up to people,” she said. “I don’t know what they will do.”

Fifth grader Nasir Anderson said that students shouldn’t be afraid of police officers. “They are trying to help you in your rough times and in your bad times,” he said. Natalie Maynard, a 5th grader at East Rock, said that she likes the police. “This morning I saw one at Dunkin’ Donuts and my mom started talking to him and he was nice,” she said. Ms. Maynard also said that other students might be afraid because police officers have guns. “They are worried that something bad will happen,” she said.

Erika Koch, who teaches 4th grade, said that viral videos often make her wonder if they are doing the right thing, but added that, “I think they have a very difficult job.” East Rock music teacher Clay Selmont said that he feels safe around police officers, but that troubling videos show that there is a problem.

“I think their reputation has been tarnished because of all the violent confrontations,” he said. He said there are many police officers in the country and most work hard to do their job the right

way. “Most police officers don’t break the law,” he said. Some people think the police have to work extra hard to patch up their reputation.

“Police need to have a good reputation so that people will trust them and feel safe to approach them,” said Mary Glickman, who teaches physical education at East Rock School.

Angela Maiocco, a 4th grade teacher, said that it is important for police officers to make us feel safe. “They are in a position of authority, and should be figures we can look up to,” she said.

Even though the bad incidents getting attention were not in New Haven, Mr. Reyes, the assistant police chief, said their department has been affected. He said he gets upset seeing viral videos of police harming citizens.

“Police officers don’t want to see innocent people getting hurt,” he said. “The badge is supposed to represent community. It’s good, it’s order, it is trust.” At the same time, Mr. Reyes warned not jump to conclusions too quickly when you see videos online. He said that it is important to always ask questions about a situation you see.

He said police and citizens have to work together to strengthen relationships.

What should youth do when they are approached by a police officer? It’s a question that is getting more attention now. The East Rock Record Fall 2016 Survey showed that 37 percent of students who responded said that their parents have not talked with them about how to behave around police officers.

“My parents told me to just say ‘Hi’ and move along if I see the police,” Ms. Jackson said, but added that she does not know what to do if she is approached by an officer. Mr. Reyes said that if a police officer approaches you, always follow all of their instructions.

“They want you to be safe, and they want to be safe,” he said. He also said it’s OK to tell a police officer how you feel and to ask questions. If you

are afraid, you can tell them that.

Mr. Reyes said the best way for police officers to improve their reputation is to communicate and get to know the people in their communities. During his 17 years as a police officer in New Haven, he has realized that communication is more powerful than weapons.

“We should be listening to find out what it is the people in the community feel and why they feel that way,” he said. “I wish more kids would get to know us, ask questions, and engage with the police in a friendly way.”

Mr. Reyes said in New Haven “people really care about the police, and what they want more than anything, is to be involved,” he said. “People care and they want to have a say in how their community is staying safe.” Jamilah Rasheed, director of the nonprofit New Haven Inner-City Enrichment has seen police interact positively with the community. “New Haven doesn’t seem to have the same problem with police as some other



Noreen Polio would like more Spanish-speaking officers.

cities in the country,” she said. “In New Haven, the police have tried to be more involved in the community in little ways.”

When NICE was looking for a place to distribute coats for their winter clothing drive last year, the New Haven Police Department worked with them so that they could use a police substation.

SEE NEXT PAGE

# SCHOOL NEWS

## STUDENT COUNCIL NOW INCLUDES 5th GRADE!

New rules give more students representation in East Rock School government

BY NATALIE MAYNARD, ADAM SHARQAWI, VICTOR KLUTSEY, MEET PATEL, ARYANA SNEDEKER, JASHAUN O'GARRO  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY MARC GONZALEZ AND STEPHEN WILLIAMS-ORTEGA

The Mock Presidential contest wasn't the only big vote students at East Rock cast in 2016. There was also another election: For student council!

For the first time this year, fifth graders were allowed to be student representatives.

"The fifth grade teachers thought their students could benefit from participation in student council," said Joseph Lewis, the school administrator who is the student council adviser. He said teachers felt representatives would gain from "doing community service projects, reporting the issues they discuss in student council to their classmates and meeting students outside of their grade levels."

One fifth grader, Nasir Anderson, said that he would like to be on the student council because, "you get to do executive things for the school."

He was excited that those in his grade now have a chance to serve.

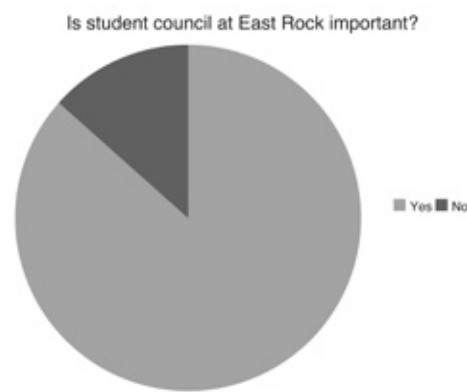
In the past, only students in grades six through eight could participate. Now that fifth grade is included, the student council consists of 20 students; there are 16 representatives and four officers.

Their job is to listen to their classmates and express their opinions in assembly. Seventh and eighth graders make up the four officer positions, bringing their prior experience as East Rock students to office. This year the four officers are: David Chambasis, Tuphen Outsola, Victoria Praseuth, and Syniah Williams.

Student council is an exciting leadership organization at East Rock School. "It gives every student a voice," said Mr. Lewis.

Results of a Fall 2016 survey conducted by The East Rock Record showed that 87 percent of those surveyed said that student council was "important." Some student council members this year plan to have exciting activities like spirit week and field day.

While student council members have things they hope to accomplish, you may recall something they already did. Last year they ran a PBIS assembly by themselves, from decorating to speaking and everything in between. They also created the haunted hallways that you may



Graph by Jashaun O'Garro. Source: ERR survey

have walked through at Halloween. They want to work with students and faculty to help everybody in the school to have a voice.

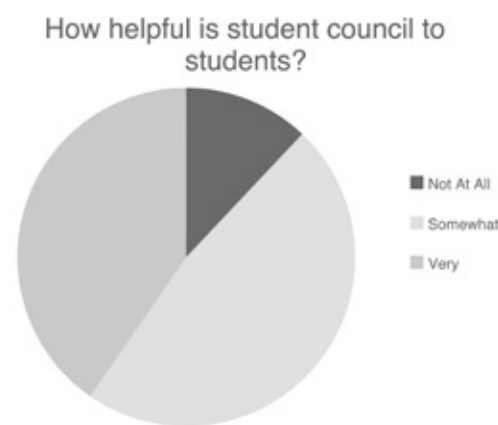
Student council is also a good experience for those who are in it. Mr. Lewis, said that it "gives students leadership experience." A former member of student council himself, Mr. Lewis believes that students are more "active in school" when they are members. He also said it can "promote positivity and school spirit" among those involved.

The East Rock Record Fall 2016 Survey also found that more than

half of all students said they wanted to participate in student council in the future.

To be in student council, you must have a 2.5 grade point average, demonstrate good behavior, and have good attendance in school. They are supposed to be model students.

Jim O'Connell, a member of the Republican Town Committee who met with East Rock Record reporters, was also involved in student council when he was in school. Because adults and staff "might not know what students are thinking," he said student council offers a chance for kids to express their views and to "speak for their classmates." Mr. O'Connell's experiences in student council may have led to



Graph by Natalie Maynard. Source: ERR survey

his political involvement today. Although he has never held elected office, he has run several times. "You can't win if you don't try," he said.

Students who might not otherwise be interested in politics could develop an interest and get experience serving in student council. Other adults also had good things to say about student council.

Erika Koch, a 4th grade teacher, said that student council "gives students a chance to be responsible and learn about democracy." She also said that even younger students ought to have some sort of training

experience for student council.

Student council may sound great, but James Maciel-Andrews, who is in 8th grade, has some problems. The big one: He feels that students do not vote based on speeches and opinions, but rather it is a popularity contest.

Mr. Maciel-Andrews thinks to fix this we can get students who want to hold office to write down their opinions and values but have their identities remain anonymous. This way, students get elected solely on their perspectives.

Last year, most officers were 8th grade girls. He wanted to change that. Although he is a feminist, he said he wanted underclassmen to be represented as well. In addition to the officers, he said, most representatives from other grades were also girls. He thinks it should be more balanced.

Fifth grade teacher Keith Wolkovitz said student council should be less of a popularity contest and "be more about the issues."

Now that fifth graders are allowed in student council, the question is whether or not they should be allowed to be officers. This year they may not. Mr. Wolkovitz said students need at least one year of prior experience. Mr. Lewis is considering letting fifth graders run for secretary or treasurer. "That is something we may consider for next year," he said.

While there are disagreements about some aspects of student council, many agree that it is an important tool at East Rock that lets students voice their opinions. It also expands students' education so they are not just doing subjects like math and reading but learning to be active citizens as well.

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

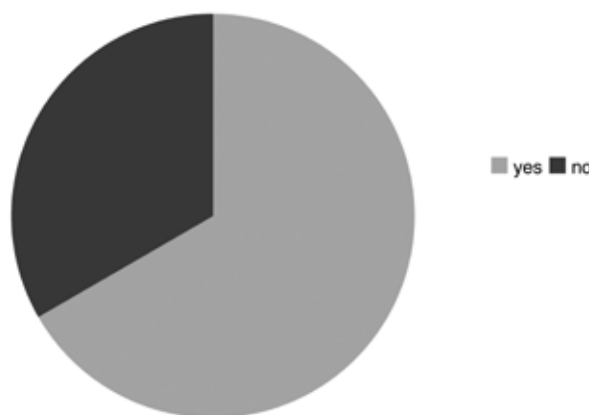
Ms. Rasheed also said that the lieutenant in her area went the extra mile by collecting coats and delivering them to the people in his neighborhood. "They are just as concerned with our community as we are," she said.

Norine Polio, who teaches English as a second language at East Rock School, said she thinks in "New Haven we have very nice police. I see them walking up and down the street talking to people and helping them," she said. She said it would be nice if more police officers spoke Spanish.

"Then they could communicate better with Spanish-speakers in the community," she said.

Overall, Mr. Reyes is hopeful. "Don't lose trust in the police," he said. "Police officers are your friends."

### Do you feel safe around police officers?



Source: ERR Fall 2016 survey

### HOW SHOULD I BEHAVE AROUND THE POLICE?

1. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS: POLICE OFFICERS WANT YOU TO BE SAFE. DO WHAT THEY SAY TO DO.
2. BE YOURSELF: IT'S OK TO TELL A POLICE OFFICER HOW YOU FEEL
3. ASK QUESTIONS. IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, ASK.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Empty Hours: School Has Few Afterschool Programs

BY JAVARI BROWN, NYASIA DONEGAL, NASIR ANDERSON & OSIANA BROWN  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF  
EDITED BY AMIR REZVANI

What do we do afterschool? Play on our phones, take a nap, play video games like GTA (Grand Theft Auto), listen to Nicki Minaj. And, yeah, do homework.

We're told not to waste time.

But that is exactly what is happening because East Rock School does not have many after school programs. Students can get tutored at New Haven Reads or "Super Tutors" at school. They can do MathCounts, Band or the East Rock Record. The Garden Club no longer meets.

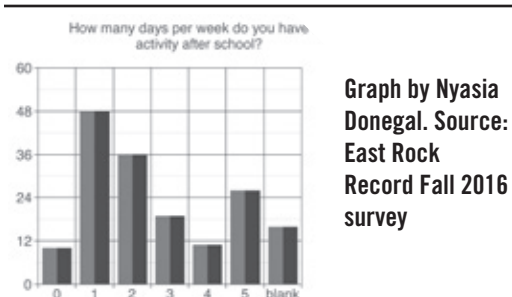
East Rock School administrators want that to change. Recently, East Rock Community Magnet School administrators applied for a grant from the state that would help increase afterschool programming. The grant would provide \$60,000 to \$100,000 for new activities that could begin as soon as this spring.

"After school helps to build student engagement and provides students opportunities that they might not normally have," said Leslie DePriest, assistant principal at East Rock School who was an administrator who applied for the grant.

Ms. DePriest said that the grant is part of the state's 21st Century

Community Learning program and would help East Rock School "offer some of the interesting activities that other schools have, such as sports, performing arts, and more academic support for our students." She would like to see programs like cheerleading and cooking, too.

Kids also want more activities. The East Rock Record Fall 2016 Sur-



vey showed that more than 80 percent of students think East Rock should have more afterschool programs.

"Kids should be going to after school programs because it helps them meet new people and learn things they didn't know," said Natalie Maynard, who is in fifth grade.

She would like to see clubs for cooking, books, computers and a Spanish language program. Fifth grader Daniel Bedoya would like to see soccer, basketball, chess, music club and a French program. Ontoniel Reyes, assistant chief for the New Haven Police Department, said afterschool programs can add to the skills students learn in class

and prepare them for the real world. They can also "keep kids occupied and out of trouble," he said.

There is a lot of focus on what happens for students during the school day. But lately more people are paying attention to the hours after school. The Connecticut Commissioner of Education wrote a report



Asst. Principal Leslie DePriest wants to see more afterschool choices for East Rock students..

to the General Assembly stressing the importance of state grants to "implement or expand high-quality programs outside school hours that offer students academic, enrichment, and recreational activities in Grades K-12 and are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students."

According to the report, about \$5 million in grant money goes to schools and community organizations for after school programs across the state. Only about one-third of Connecticut students are in "supervised, safe and enriching

after-school programs."

At some schools, afterschool programming is a very important part of a kid's education. For example, Edgewood School in New Haven has many interesting programs, including Amusement Park Physics, Pre-Engineering, and Constitutional Law and Mock Trial. Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy, another New Haven public school, offers many programs including Zumba, art, photography, and academic support for reading and math.

Jamilah Rasheed, the director of the New Haven Inner City Enrichment center, stressed the value of such programs.

"After school helps students develop social and interactive skills outside of school and gives them an important chance to express themselves," she said.

In some communities, students go to special activities outside of school that parents pay for on their own. But, said Ms. Rasheed, "unfortunately, a lot of kids in lower-income areas can't afford afterschool programs."

East Rock School leaders want to help close the gap by giving students many more things to do after school ends at 2:10 p.m.



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# ELECTION NEWS

## Trump win stirs fears after bitter campaign

ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

The results of the November 1 mock election at East Rock Community Magnet school concluded very differently with Ms. Clinton taking 208 votes, Mr. Trump and Jill Stein earning 19 votes, and Gary Johnson with 16 votes. Students in grades 3-8 voted during the school day; Reporter Allan Appel from the New Haven Independent wrote a story for the online newspaper about the mock election.

East Rock School students care about politics and are very informed. Some teachers even dis-



East Rock administrator Joseph Lewis checks off voters in mock election.

support with Mr. Trump taking only 11 percent. Ms. Stein and Mr. Johnson took 2 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

The substance of the election boiled down to social issues and economic issues. Ms. Clinton believed in the idealisms of feminism, rights for immigrants and healthcare for all, while Mr. Trump wanted an increase in deportations and stricter immigration laws. Most controversially, Mr. Trump promised to build a wall along the Mexican border to prevent illegal immigration and to make Mexico pay for it.



New Haven Independent reporter Alan Appel interviews East Rock School students after they vote in the mock election.

The candidates also butted heads on economic policy and on taxes. Ms. Clinton wanted to close corporate loopholes, tax the wealthy more and bring relief to middle and low-income families. Mr. Trump favored reducing taxes across the board.

The refugee issue also got lots of attention. Ms. Clinton favors letting in refugees from Syria, and welcomes them with open arms. Mr. Trump wanted to block them, saying that they might be dangerous. On gun control, Ms. Clinton called for stricter background checks for those buying guns.

Mr. Trump focused on Americans' right to own guns and said that more guns would help prevent further violence. He promised to "Make America

Great Again" and restore law and order.

But this election was hardly just about the issues. It was more about the candidates' character and personalities.

This is what people spent a lot of time talking about. Mr. Trump was characterized by his offensive actions and words toward women, immigrants, and refugees.

Meanwhile, Ms. Clinton gained a reputation for untrustworthiness because of her use of a private email server as secretary of state. Government investigations hurt her image and made her appear "crooked" to Americans.

Mr. O'Connell, the Republican Town Committee member, said he opposed Ms. Clinton because of his "trouble with a lot of the fibs" she has told.

Because of these images, people were often focused more on voting for the lesser of two evils rather than the candidate they liked. Those who thought Ms. Clinton to be a liar and Mr. Trump to be a bigot felt unhappy with their choices.

In the end, the 2016 Presidential campaign was a long and rigorous trial for those both within and outside the United States.

Speaking about Trump's offensive words, Angela Maiocco, a 4th grade teacher at East Rock School, said "people have always believed in the



Reporters meet Republican Town Committee Member James O'Connell.

values of Donald Trump, but no one has been crazy enough to say it out loud."

Well, now they have.

The ugly scars of the election will stick in people's minds for a long time, and have exposed the challenges we face as a country.

We can only hope that President Trump will use his new power to heal these scars, rather than deepen them.



NH Democratic Town Committee members Kimberly Edwards and Ethel Berger meet with reporters from the East Rock Record election team.

cussed the election during class. Laura Generoso, a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher, even showed students clips of the debates and had discussions about them.

The election also involved local town political representatives, such as Ethel Berger, Kimberly Edwards, and James O'Connell. Ms. Berger and Ms. Edwards, who are members of the Democratic Town Committee, were "shocked" when Trump won. They feared what it will mean for the United States.

"Many policies that President Obama supported will be in jeopardy, especially executive orders which Trump can revoke with his own executive orders," said Ms. Berger. Ms. Edwards said that when she found out, she was "devastated," and "literally felt so mentally and emotionally drained" that she "cried that morning."

On the other side of the aisle, there was optimism. To Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Trump "represents some of the things our country needs," and will work to make the country safer and better.

New Haven reflected East Rock's disappointment. Ms. Clinton won 86 percent of the city's

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# FOOD & HEALTH

## Taste Test: Comparing oranges and...oranges

BY THE EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

East Rock Record reporters put three types of oranges – California oranges, clementines and blood oranges – to a taste test. They considered the small, texture, appearance, juiciness and, of course, flavor.

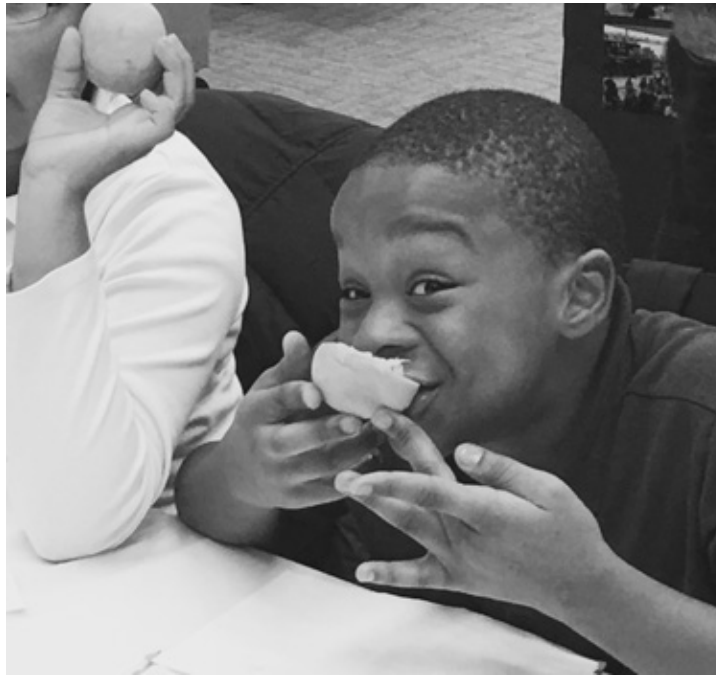
Gionna Smith noted that the California fruit “smells like perfume” while the clementine had an aftertaste “like soda.”

Students also rated the citrus. The clementine was the easily the overall favorite, winning cheers for being “easy to peel” (though judge Peter Lopez noted, “easy to peel but gets in your eyes”) and juicy. Shaniah Kinsey said the clementine “tastes like heaven.” Said Davonna Benson, “I would eat it all the time.”

The blood oranges sparked sharply divided responses. Some judges found the deep red-tinged flesh “weird,” “nasty, nasty, nasty!” and “looks like somebody killed somebody.”

Other judges, however, found the blood oranges interesting and extremely tasty. “The best was the blood orange because it was different and sweet and my favorite color,” write Nyasia Donegal. “Also, it tastes like cranberry juice.” Juliana Snedeker noted that the blood oranges “taste like raspberry.” And Javari Brown was so enthused about the blood orange, finding them “sweet and sour,” and worthy of an off-the-chart rating (our scale was 1-10). “I would give it a 10,000,000,000,000,000.”

**East Rock Record reporters taste California oranges, clementines and blood oranges. Which is the top snack?**



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# THE ARTS

## REASONS TO LOVE A WALL

Muralist and painter Kwadwo Adae brings life, joy, community to large public works here and around the world.

BY NATALIE MAYNARD AND MEET PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

We interviewed a famous artist named Kwadwo Adae. He is a very interesting guy! He is a muralist and owns an art academy. The academy is for all kids, adults and elders as well. He has gone to 10 to 20 different places around the world. In his art, he loves to use bright colors to express his personality. Mr. Adae created a self-portrait that took him two weeks to make.

He loves flowers and every winter paints a bouquet of flowers to get through the cold season! Mr. Adae loves to go on trips to different places around the world. The first big trip he went on was to India. He went there for a reason and that was to make murals and become a better artist. His next trip was to Guatemala and he did two really big murals of the local creatures and things that are important to people there. To get donations for his trips, he made cartoons. He posted everything on a website called Kickstarter.com, which let him raise about \$7,000 the first time and \$10,000 dollars the next time.

Our opinion is that Mr. Adae is an amazing artist who is very inspirational to kid artists nowadays. In the future we hope that he will come to East Rock School to do a mural on our walls!

BY JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

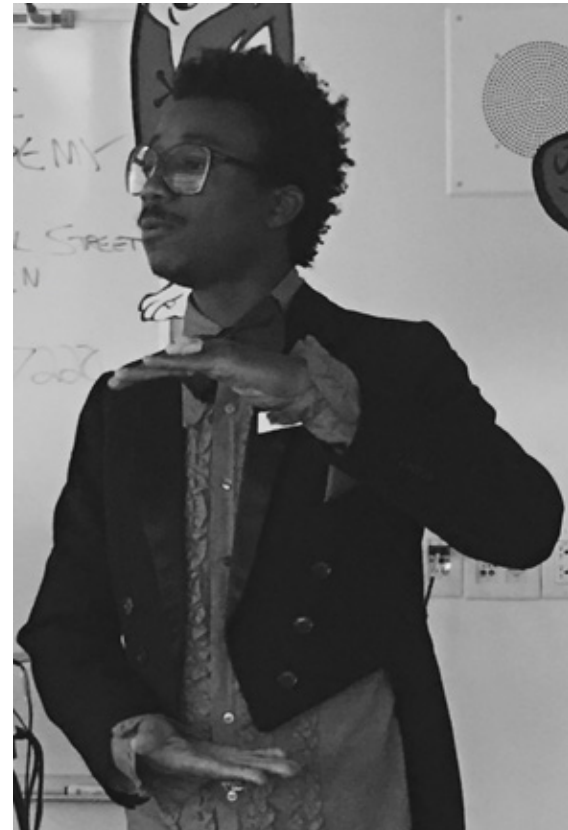
When Kwadwo Adae came to the East Rock School library, I first thought that he was a magician by the way that he was dressed. I soon found out that he was a professional muralist, a.k.a. a visual artist. He has traveled to Guatemala, Valencia, Barcelona, and India, and has completed about 11 murals in the last two years. When we interviewed him, he was working on a mural for a jazz club in Stamford, CT. When he paints, he likes to make flesh with bright paint colors. Since he is an experienced traveler, Mr. Adae speaks fluent French and Spanish, in addition to English. When he makes murals in different countries, he involves children and teachers. "I am not going to these places and making murals all alone," he said. "When you have a lot this kid power, you can create all of these murals."

BY ANSHUL PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Kwadwo Adae knows how to do good art, especially visual art. He likes doing art in front of people. He likes to travel and make different paintings. He went to India, Barcelona, Paris, and Guatemala. When he was little he liked to draw on his bedroom walls and eventually ended up getting in big trouble. Today when we saw him, he was dressed in clothes that looked like a magician's clothes. He also speaks a lot of languages, like Spanish, French, Hindi and our most popular language, English. Sometimes Mr. Adae likes to murals and have people gather around him in public. He likes to draw flowers to get him through the cold months in winter. This is what I know about this awesome guy!



Artist Kwadwo Adae (clockwise from top left) painting a mural at a jazz club, with Mayor Toni Harp at the unveiling of his Canal Trail mural, speaking with East Rock reporters, painting with children in in Guatemala.



BY KIYU MACIEL-ANDREWS  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Kwado Adae made a cartoon to raise money to go to India and, surprisingly, it happened! When he got to his destination he painted Buddha with animals. He made a second cartoon to raise money to go to Guatemala, and it happened again! He landed in Lake Atitlan with his friends Kate, Cushie and Sarah. This time he painted four birds, a soccer ball. The school actually had a soccer field, Mountain (San Pedro) and a tutu (a car). Of course, he couldn't have painted by himself in India or Guatemala so he had kids and teachers help him. His meditation teacher flew from India. He also painted a mural in New Haven on the Canal Trail bike path. Mayor Toni Harp came down to the bike path stretch where he painted to celebrate.

Mr. Adae actually has two kids of his own who are boys. He also made two dragon murals in two different places. He made a jazz mural at a jazz club while musicians played below him while he painted. He has actually traveled to Paris. He likes making large pieces. He painted in Canada. He loved going to Barcelona. He likes musicians and artists Jimmy Hendricks, Mark Chagall and Robert Gross.

BY ALEC SAMSEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Kwadwo Adae is an artist. He is really good at painting. He has traveled many places to paint with kids. He said that painting flowers helps get him through the winter. He likes going to Spain because he can eat dinner at 10:00 p.m. When he visited us he had on a black suit and red shirt. He made a slide show to tell us about his adventures at different places. He was working on a large painting at a jazz place.

BY ADAM SHARQAWI  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Kwadwo Adae is an artist who has his own school. He went on three trips to New Delhi, to Spain and to Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. He makes paintings in the countries where he visits. Mr. Adae started doing art when he was seven years old. What motivated him to start is that he loved art, just loved it. In India, he helped kids learn how to draw and to paint.

BY JAVARI BROWN  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF


Kwadwo Adae is a very good artist. He has a sister named Nana. He goes all around the world and paints murals and pictures. He has an art school called Adae Fine Art Academy. He went to India and Guatemala to paint murals. He has also traveled to Spain, France and Canada. In New Haven, he made a dragon mural in noodle restaurant. He is a good artist and hope he goes to Africa.

BY RAVI PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Kwadwo Adae makes art. He has done a lot of paintings. He has done paintings in India, Spain and Guatemala. He loves flowers and every winter he gets through winter by painting flowers. He knows a lot of languages such as Spanish, French and English. He made a video that used cartoons to raise money for his adventures. He has a sister named Nana. He likes to paint pictures in public so people meet him.


BY ALEXIS SMITH  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I liked Kwadwo Adae's painting because it he likes to paint flowers and I like flowers. He made one painting with, like, 50 kids. He also made a dragon for a noodle shop in New Haven. He also made a jungle-themed painting with a whole school and showed us a cartoon he made to raise money for his trips. He has two kids and one sister. He and his sons painted a mural with a bus and the windows were chalk paint so anybody that comes can make new people in the windows.



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# BOOKS & MEDIA

## READ, WATCH AND LISTEN!

### Saving Lilly: Working to Make a Difference

BY MYA CARDWELL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Saving Lilly by Peg Kehret is a book about a group of 6th graders trying to save an elephant named Lilly who is beat to do tricks in the circus. The circus owners don't feed her enough. Her toe nails are broken because her owner was trying to make her walk down a trail, and when she didn't go, he pushed her with a hook.

They wanted to buy Lilly so they could send her to a sanctuary. The kids raise enough money by doing fundraisers like mowing lawns, washing cars, and babysitting. They also bake and sell cookies. They did all that just to save an elephant.

They started by bringing their money in every day of the week and Ms. Mapes, the teacher, counted it to see how much more they would need to buy Lilly. By the end of the month, they made about 6,000 dollars, but they still needed about 2,000 more dollars. But her sister, who wins a raffle price of 4,000 dollars, decides to help out. She brought in her winnings the next day, so they had enough money to buy Lilly.

After they bought Lilly, they sent her to the sanctuary to have fun and make friends. I think people should read this book because it tells you that you can help with anything you think you think is wrong.

### Fun Story About Flying Man

BY LA'KHAI HAMPTON  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite book is Graphix Goes to School. I like this book because it has a funny beginning. It starts with a man who flies away into the sky, and that's funny because people can't fly. When you read this book you start to laugh when you read the first page. This book different because it's a graphic novel. Graphic novels are like comic books. I like the pictures because of the characters' faces.

### Poor Charlie Wins Big in Chocolatey Tale

BY MEET PATEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Do you love chocolate? I do! In Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dalh, the greatest chocolate comes from Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. I think it is a great book because chocolate is my favorite type of candy and the story give you a great learning experience. It is about a poor boy named Charlie. He only gets one chocolate bar per year so he makes sure he enjoys it. Willy Wonka closed his factory. The next month the factory started working but no one knew who was working inside. Willy Wonka sent out golden tickets and Charlie was one of the lucky winners. This book is interesting to me because it has a different tone than other books I have ever read. The tone sounds like it is a fairy tale because the factory is like a fantasy world. A fantasy world like no other book I have read had. I like the way the author, Roald Dahl, writes. I recommend that you read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory because it is an excellent book.

### Movie: Central Intelligence

BY PETER LOPEZ  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I went to the movies with my family. We saw "Central Intelligence" starring Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson. The movie is about two men who went to high school together. The one guy, Bob Stone, used to get bullied because he was overweight and unpopular. The other was Calvin Joyner and he was very popular and cool. Years later they meet in an elevator and Calvin does not recognize Bob because Bob has lost a lot of weight and is in shape. Bob is a police officer so he has to stay fit. Bob needs Calvin's help on a mission and they work as a team. I like this movie because it is very funny. Calvin usually doesn't want to listen to Bob and thinks Bob is lying to him until they become friends and Calvin begins to trust Bob. The movie has a good lesson: Don't just judge a person from how you think they are, but see if they change by getting to really know them.

### Musical Mashup: Check out the world of YTPMV

BY DELEON MOORE II  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Music in one of the key elements to living life. I really enjoy music, and I'll tell you why. In my opinion, it is one of the best things in life, right next to video games. It calms me down when I get steamed or upset. And I love the different genres. Weird thing is, I don't really listen to regular music. Mostly songs that you would find on Newgrounds. Newgrounds is a website where you can find games, art, music and animations.

I found that out from a game called Geometry Dash, a music-based video game for PC and Mobile/Android. It is very popular, and is a five-star rated game! It is made by Robert Topala. Geometry Dash has a ton of awesome soundtracks which - you guessed it - can be found on Newgrounds! There is very good music on Newgrounds! You should go to their website!

Anyways, back to the I don't really listen to regular music part. I really don't. Honestly, I don't like words put into some songs. Some are good without lyrics. Anyways, I mostly listen to YTPMV's. YTPMV stands for You Tube Poop Music Video, which is a video that can be found on YouTube composed into a song. An example is Intensive Source Unit, which is multiple YouTube videos and memes made into a song called "Intensive Care Unit" by Renard. Who are my favorite artists? Here they are in alphabetical order: DJ Nate, Goukisan, Jessie Valentine (F - 777), Night-kill, Rukkus, WaterFlame and Xtrullor.

### WWE 2K 17 REVIEW

BY NASIR ANDERSON  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

If you like the showcase you will not like this game. It only has "universal mode" and "my career mode." There are no new match types for ps4 players. I recommend the Accelerator; then you can just spend your money on your mycareer you don't have to spend it on superstar championships and arenas. I think they should put back the showcase.

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# IDEAS & OPINION

## POST ELECTION REFLECTIONS

BY WILSON CORONEL  
EAST ROCK RECORD CONTRIBUTOR

The results were shocking and so were the reactions. I wasn't necessarily happy and the people around me weren't also. I have heard of the riots and protests. I see why people were like that.

Media and the news have brainwashed the blank minded and exaggerated what our new president said.

Most of the people who do know what we are talking about know that he can't do what he really says. But it still bothers some people. I personally am not mad or happy about the result. I wasn't a supporter of Hillary or Donald. Not even a third party candidate. But I do know that the fate of this country does rest in Mr. Trump's hands. Thankfully in this country the president does have limits and can't do what he says he can do.

I was mad and sad he was elected but after a while I went back to see his speeches and debates and saw that his intentions weren't even that bad. I say that the media and news coverage has wiped our minds and added a lot of false stuff. I'm not saying that I'm in supporter of him either. I know that he did do and say some bad stuff and I am disappointed our new president has done and said those things.

Like I said, I'm not happy or mad. But neutral.

BY BANEEN SABAH  
EAST ROCK RECORD CONTRIBUTOR

I feel that Donald Trump is not the right person to become the president of America because he is a very racist person. He is racist towards Mexican people and Arabic and Muslim people. I think that if someone wants to become the President of the United States of America, they need to be accepting of all different kinds of people, including people from around the world. Donald Trump made a lot of people hate him and a lot of people do not want him. I just really don't understand how and why he became the president. He doesn't even pay his bills! He is a very irresponsible person and I'm not happy that he is the next President.

BY KIYU MACIEL-ANDREWS  
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The United States wanted a president, woman or man. The election has passed. A candidate has been chosen to be President. This one isn't the sharpest knife in the kitchen because the President-Elect is at times hateful and abusive, and we can't do anything about it unless we petition to get him impeached.

By now, I'm pretty sure that we all know that this person is none other than Donald Trump. In a typical election a woman would likely vote for a woman, and a man would likely vote for a man because that's just usually how the world works. But this election differed from others.

Now that the Presidential election is over, some people look at our "perfect president," and wonder how a horrible man like him got voted for President over Hillary Clinton. People are scared because Congress is comprised mostly of Republicans, and they might give the President-Elect approval to enact unjust laws and make changes to the Constitution.

Even if Congress were mostly democratic, Hillary Clinton still wouldn't have won, because half the electoral votes were for Donald Trump. This is so, because the people in the electoral colleges probably didn't want a female president.

BY ABOUBACAR KOUROUMA  
EAST ROCK RECORD CONTRIBUTOR

As we all know, a new president has been elected to run our beautiful country, the United States of America. It was a hard fought campaign between the Republican candidate, Donald Trump, and the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton.

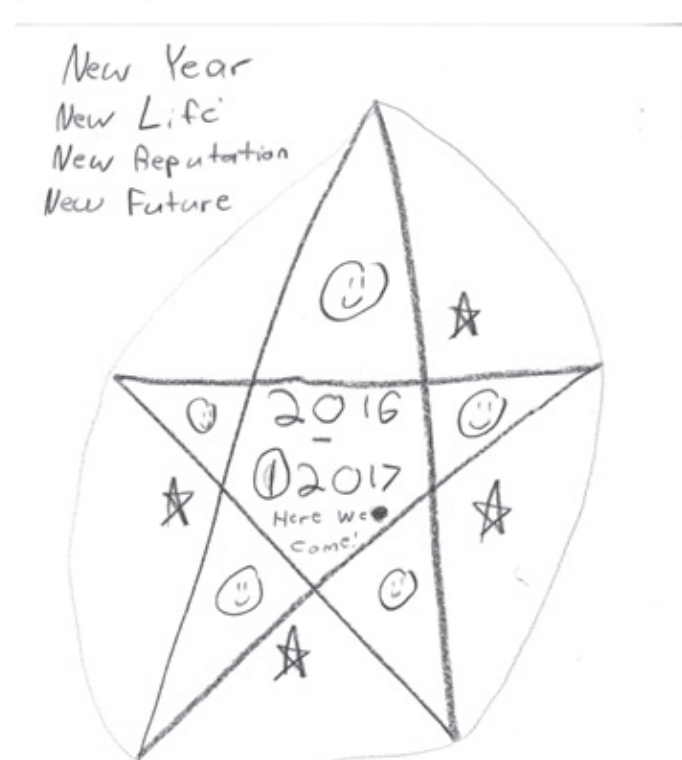
No matter who won both nominees were to make history if they became president (Trump would be the first president who had no experience in politics to be elected, Hillary would be the first woman president).

The results of this election were very close and shocking. Although Hillary won all three debates and won the popular vote, she still was defeated and Trump will be president. President-Elect Donald Trump did not share the same interests as me on what to do once he's president. Even though I find him rude and obnoxious sometimes, I still have faith in him.

To all the citizens of America, there is nothing we can do but hope for the best for however long he will run our country. We must be optimistic even though we may not agree with his choices. I personally believe that both candidates weren't the greatest but you have to pick the one who was less worse than the other.

If I were able to vote I would have voted for Hillary. As a president you are a role model to our country. Trump does not have the character of a role model. The kids of our country need a good role model, not a negative one. If the children were to hear the things Trump says they will think it's ok to say it too which isn't good at all.

As I've said, we need to be optimistic even though we are not pleased that he's President. If he doesn't make America great again then we must be the ones to take responsibility and make America great!



Victor Klutsey



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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Letter from Principal Pelley

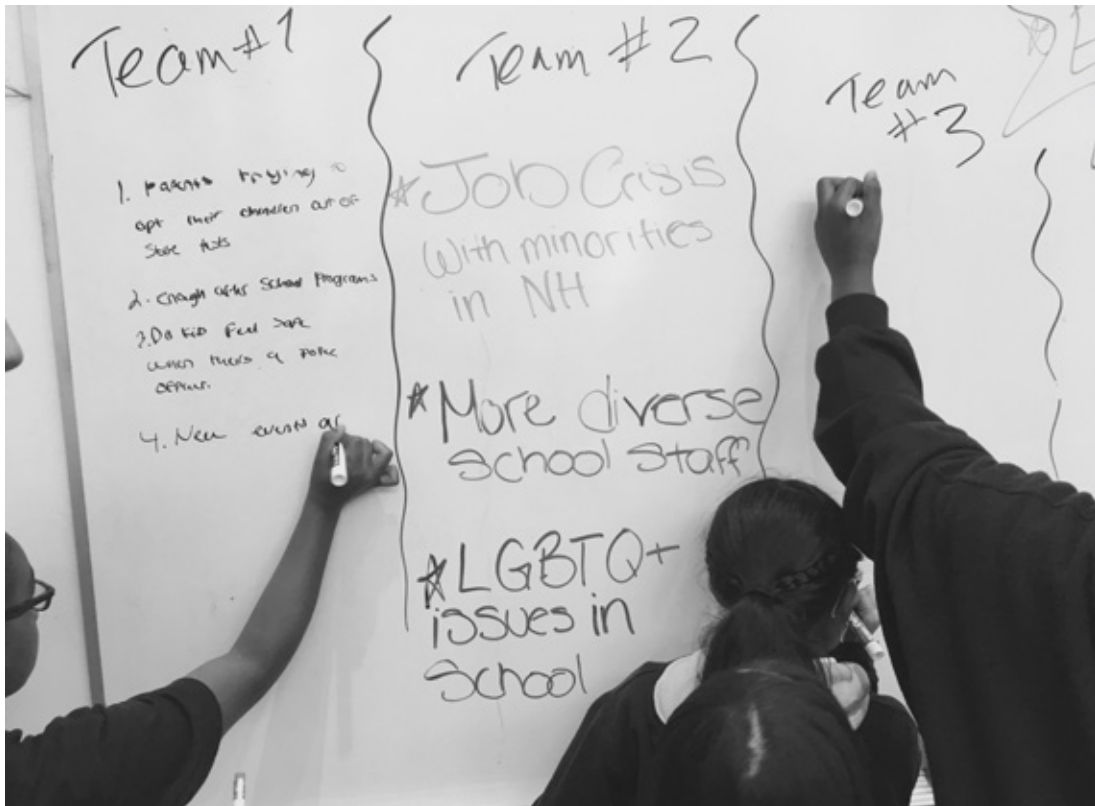
Greetings East Rock Record Readers!

Congratulations to the East Rock Record staff on the successful completion of the 7th edition of the East Rock Record! Our student reporters meet after school weekly to generate story ideas, report, write, edit, and publish a newspaper that is printed and distributed throughout the New Haven community. Our budding young journalists hold “press conferences” and invite special people to our school for interviews. Asking questions, raising issues, and learning all the skills that come with being a part of a school newspaper helps our students to become better writers, thinkers, and citizens.

Special thanks to nationally-recognized journalist Laura Pappano, student mentors from Yale University and New Haven Public High Schools, and East Rock staff and parents who volunteer their time after school to support our students on their path to success in college, career, and life.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2017!

Peggy Pelley, Principal  
East Rock Community Magnet School



## Too much worry: Make It Safe to Play

I am tired of police sirens. I am tired of violence. Sometimes things could happen at any time and you just don't know if it will bring your life down. I am tired of people doing silly things. I've seen a person get kidnapped by someone I call “the Woods Guy.” The teenage girl got away. She punched the guy and he passed out. It makes me feel worried. I feel like just staying indoors. I would like to have peaceful world that you don't have to be scared to go outside or play with your friends. I am tired of worrying.

—Osiana Brown, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## AFTERSCHOOL A MATTER OF EQUITY

Some kids think that after school programs are just games and playing around. But other kids and teachers think that it can provide more enrichment and a safer environment for students. It helps kids get a hand on academic experiences. We need more after school programs at East Rock! It's not fair that other schools get to have lots of after school programs like dancing, cooking, engineering and foreign language classes. We need equal access to after school programs so that East Rock students can be prepared for success both in and out of school.

—Javari Brown, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## Why Some Bully

Have you ever wondered why people bully each other? Well, I have. I think people bully each other because sometimes of people's skin color, or of what they think about someone/something. Another reason people bully each other is of their size or religion. It must stop.

—Isabel Faustino, *East Rock Record Opinion*



## The East Rock Record

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

Editorial and opinion writers: Osiana Brown, Javari Brown, Isabel Faustino, Jashaun O'Garro, James Maciel-Andrews, Juliana Snedeker, La'Khai Hampton, Nellie Jackson, Kiyu Maciel-Andrews, Aboubacar Kourouma, Wilson Coronel, Baneen Sabah, Adam Sharqawi, Meet Patel, Aryana Snedeker, Daniel Bedoya, Peter Lopez, Jessica Bedoya, Natalie Maynard, Victor Klutsey.

## WHY MATH MATTERS

People should like math because it is an easy subject for kids to learn. Some kids might not know it, but they can get tutors for it. Math is important because it can help you out in the world. Math makes you smarter and prepares you for harder things in life when you get older. One of my favorite parts of math is decimals. You have to use decimals every day. For example, cashiers have to do quick math every time someone buys something and they use decimals. In my class we are learning factors and those are my favorite types of math. Some people do not like math because they think it is hard and they do not even try it. It is okay to not like math but it is good to try it.

—Jashaun O'Garro, *East Rock Record Opinion*

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## Is U.S. Homework Approach Best?

What is homework? It has a lot of different meanings. For some, it is just some assignments that teachers give us to see if we were paying attention in class. For others, it is a fun project that you can work on afterschool with your friends and have a great time. Did you know that in some countries, recent studies found that not assigning homework to students is actually better and helps with grades? In Finland, dubbed as having most successful educational system, students are given little to no homework. Children don't start school until they are seven years old, and the school day is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.! On top of it, the students and teachers have four to five breaks during school to absorb what they are learning and stretch their legs. In Japan, the teacher writes a difficult math equation on the board and the first person to get it right gets to be the teacher for that period. Why doesn't the U.S. have these systems? We are so caught up with our six-hour school days and homework. There are countries who outdo the United States in the educational game with different approaches. If you were in Finland, you probably would have gotten better grades on your report card!

—James Maciel-Andrews *East Rock Record Opinion*

## Thank you!

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

### EAST ROCK SCHOOL

Peggy Pelley  
Leslie DePriest  
Joseph Lewis  
Paula Daitzman  
Linda Pina-Morris

### YALE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF NEW HAVEN AND STATE AFFAIRS

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Claudia Merson  
Meagan Downing

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

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### YALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Amir Rezvani  
Janice Poon  
Emily Reinwald  
Jillian Kravatz  
Mimi Chiquet  
Charlie Barton  
Stephen Williams-Ortega

### SPECIAL THANKS

Angie Hurlbut, AH Design

Thanks to all those who made themselves available for interviews and press conferences. We also thank our major funding sponsor, the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs and our partners and supporters including The Study, Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Webster Bank, Community Action Agency of New Haven, and The Diaper Bank, especially Yury Maciel-Andrews.

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# OPINION

## BAND FUN, BUT CALLS FOR CONFIDENCE

There is a band in East Rock. The band in East Rock is led by Mr. Clay-Selmont, the music teacher. I think band is good for children in 5th-8th grades because I think they are more mature than others and can handle the instruments. People should join band because band is really fun and it gives your a chance to be yourself. To be in band you need to be respectful and well behaved. Also you need to have confidence because in assemblies we play in front of the school.

—**Aryana Snedeker**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



La'khai Hampton

## Music Can Be a Joy (and a Job)

Do you know how to play an instrument? If you don't, you should know why it's important to learn an instrument. You can play instruments in free time, to have fun, and even as a job as well. You may start learning an instrument in the beginning of the school and end up playing for the rest of your life. The instruments are so important because music is fun and a way to relax yourself. And the instrument could be like your friend. Band is an important part of musical learning. Our school has band and our teacher is Mr. Clay Selmont. There are many different instruments that we could play. Band starts at fifth grade for us. Band is a fun way to play music. A lot of people started learning in universities, and while they are learning their subject, they start playing in band and then change their subject to playing music. There is also people who went to a university and earned a musical degree and then they make music as a real job.

— **Adam Sharqawi and Meet Patel**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## Music Brings Lessons



La'khai Hampton

Music is life because if there was no music, life would be empty, boring and quiet. Music can teach you lots of stuff. Music can teach you how to appreciate other cultures and understand other ways to think. Also, everybody needs music to dance.

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

## MUSIC CALMS, LIFTS AND AIDS SLEEP

Music can calm people down when they are stressed or have had a busy day at work or school. Music has been around for hundreds of decades. It is good for anyone, whether you like to listen to hip-hop, jazz, rap, classical, pop, country, rock and roll, blues or alternative. If you're sad, music can put you in a better mood. Music can also fascinate you. It makes some people dance and it makes others sing. In our opinion, people should listen to music because it doesn't stress you out and it makes you happy, not in an upset mood. Listening can also help you fall asleep. When we are sleeping we listen to music because it helps us sleep. If we don't listen to music we go to sleep at about one in the morning. If music is not on while we are in bed we can hear the sounds coming from the outside and then can't go to sleep. When we do listen to music we fall asleep earlier and better. Music has been around for many years and it will be around for many more and we will keep on loving it.

— **Daniel Bedoya and Peter Lopez**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

## LAKE COMPOUNCE ROLLS AND ROCKS!

Lake Compounce is an amusement park located in and Southington, Connecticut. It is located in the United States and in Bristol at 186 Enterprise Drive, Bristol, CT 06010. The 7th grade trip to lake Compounce is on Wednesday, June 14. They have a new roller coaster at Lake Compounce. My favorite ride is Boulder Dash. It is a cool rollercoaster.

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

## TRASH HURTS PLANET, FEELINGS

People are polluting and littering. This is bad for the environment, and bad for the world. The destruction of the environment harms plants including flowers, vegetables, fruits, and trees. Imagine the world without flowers. Flowers are beautiful and make you happy. You plant them and it brings you joy. Nothing will brighten up the world without flowers. People must stop harming the environment. At East Rock School, people pull branches off trees and litter on the floor. People think it's easier to throw things on the ground when they have no trash can nearby. However, there are consequences to these actions. It makes me unhappy when I walk outside of my house and see trash on my lawn and in my garden. Then I have to clean it up myself and it hurts my grandma's feelings. People litter on beaches. Other people have to clean it up or else sea animals get hurt.

—**Juliana Snedeker**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



The East Rock Record Newsroom as reporters work on stories for the December 2016 issue.

## What is it like to be an ONLY child?!

People always ask me, "How does it feel to be an only child" and "Do you get lonely or feel bored?" Well I am here to tell you the truth on how I feel about this! But first of all, I want to say that, yes, I am an only child and I have no problem with being an only child.

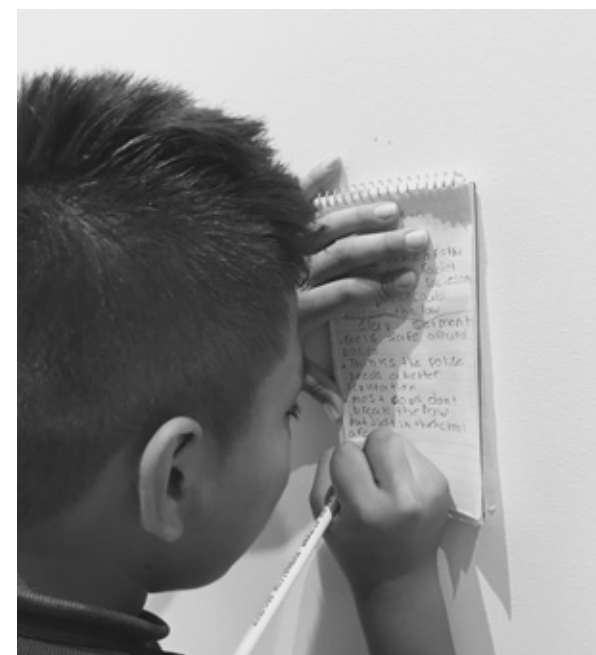
So the answer for the first question is, I feel awesome being an only child but I know how it feels to get annoyed at brothers and sisters because I am used to quiet and when I am at school sometimes I get a little annoyed at my friends because they get kind of loud. Also, I don't live by myself! I have two parents (My mom and dad) and I don't get lonely that often.

Another question I get asked a lot is, "Do you get spoiled since you are an only child?" And the answer is noooooooo! My family is not rich and we can't just buy things just so that I can be spoiled. I love everything I have and I don't wish for more or less.

A benefit of being an only child is that I can be more independent than other kids with siblings because they constantly ask them for help or other things like that. I am really independent because of this! When I was young I would talk to myself a lot but please don't think that I was crazy. This is how I would play or pretend that more people were around me. When I was young I would feel the same way and be positive about everything and never let it bother me.

This just shows that being an only child is not that bad and you shouldn't think that I should feel kind of upset. And if you are an only child too, then I understand how it feels!

— **Natalie Maynard**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



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