

The East Rock Record

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BUDGET IS TOP WORRY, SAY LAWMAKERS

Lt. Gov., legislators talk issues with Record reporters



Clockwise from top left: Reporters interview Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman; Rep. Toni Walker, Rep. Robyn Porter, Sen. Gary Winfield; Rep. Roland Lemar; Sen. Martin Looney.

BY EDDIE SALTER, IRVIN SIMON HERRERA, JON SANGARI, ANALYS RIVERA & ROSALIND WATERS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JIAHUI HU

State leaders are worried about having enough money to keep Connecticut running, according to interviews conducted at the state Capitol in Hartford.

“The biggest problem in the state right now is the budget,” Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman told East Rock Record reporters. “We don’t have enough money coming in

to pay for the services that we give. So we have to cut back.”

State Representative Toni Walker, who is in charge of the budget committee, had reporters guess how much the budget was for the state. We were not even close. It was \$20 billion. It seems like a lot of money, but it has to pay for a lot of things, including schools, healthcare and transportation.

State Senator Gary Winfield said the budget “gives us a sense of what we care about.” Because there is only so much

SEE PAGE 8

State, City Are Safe Haven for Refugees

NEW HAVEN HELPS WITH INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

BY NELLIE JACKSON, ARYANA SNEDEKER, MELANIE CONTRERAS, OSIANA BROWN, NYASIA DONEGAL & DIERDRE LAWSON
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All over the country and world there is talk and concern about refugees—people forced to leave their country because of danger or disaster, including war.

But did you know that New Haven has become home for many? Refugees even attend East Rock School!

Some people in the U.S. don’t want refugees to come to their states or cities, but “Connecticut is the opposite,” said Dennis Wilson, manager of Public Education About Refugees for the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, known as IRIS. “Governor Malloy said, ‘We want more refugees’—and IRIS is a huge force in that.”

Last year alone, said Mr. Wilson, IRIS settled 242 refugees in New Haven, mostly from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. He said IRIS helps refugees find homes when they arrive, and helps with teaching English and organizing fun events for refugees to get to know people living in their new community.



Consolata Ndayishimiye, who fled Burundi tells East Rock Reporters of her harrowing journey, which brought her to East Rock School in fifth grade. She is now a senior at Hillhouse HS.

SEE PAGE 4

Pssst: Do you *like* her? Dating is here.

BY WILSON CORONEL, JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS, KIYU MACIEL-ANDREWS, DAVONNA BENSON & VICTORIA PRASEUTH
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY ELLIAH HEIFETZ

Has someone ever whispered to you in class or the hallway, “Do you like him?” or “Do you like *like* her?”

Crushes and relationships are distracting for students and teachers at East Rock School. But the fact is that kids are starting to date. If you think that dating is only for grown-ups, think again. East Rock students are involved in dating relationships, even at young ages.

“Students are entering relationships at younger and younger ages,” Rachel Collins, a Clinical Therapist at Cornell Scott Hill Health Center and a child health specialist, told East Rock Record report-

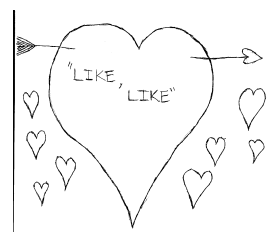
ers in an e-mail.

Nearly one-quarter of the 216 students who responded to a question about dating in the Spring 2016 East Rock Record Survey said they were in a dating relationship. More than half of students surveyed in grades two through eight (55 percent) did not believe that they were too young to be in a relationship.

Some older students at East Rock are concerned. “Younger students just don’t understand what it really means to be in a relationship,” eighth grader Analys Rivera told reporters.

Even if students do not think they are

SEE PAGE 4



Alin Spearman

Crazy Presidential Race

CLINTON AND TRUMP WIN CT; EAST ROCK REPORTERS TRACK STRANGE PRIMARY SEASON

BY MEET PATEL, DANIEL BEDOYA, VICTOR KLUTSEY & GERNO ALLEN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY REDHA QABAZARD

Elections always bring 70 Democratic delegates and energy, excitement and drama. 28 Republican delegates in play in the state). But this presidential race has also seen violence, bullying and racism.

Our team of East Rock Record reporters has been tracking the primary results since February—and talking with students, teachers and others about the race and problems facing our country.

Last week, Connecticut voters picked Clinton and Trump (with



NEW FILM: HENRY GREEN SHARES
SEE PAGE 11



INSIDE THE NEWS

IS IT BULLYING — OR NOT? CONFUSION
SEE PAGE 3

ATTENTION: CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE
SEE PAGE 5
ENOUGH! END YOUTH VIOLENCE
SEE PAGE 7

DO POLITICS AND RELIGION MIX?
SEE PAGE 13

SEE PAGE 2

NATIONAL NEWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENTIAL RACE	1, 2
REFUGEE CRISIS	1, 4

COMMUNITY NEWS

REPORTERS VISIT CAPITOL	1, 8
CLIMATE CHANGE IS TROUBLE	5
NH READS OPENS NEW SITE	13
YOUTH VIOLENCE	7
PET ADOPTION	7

SCHOOL NEWS

LIKING AND DATING	1, 4
BULLYING CONFUSION	3

FITNESS & FOOD

GET FIT WITH YOUR FAMILY	9
DANGERS OF JUNK FOOD	9

FILM & ARTS

	11
--	----

BOOKS & MEDIA

	12
--	----

IDEAS & OPINION

	13
--	----

EDITORIALS, OPINION	14, 15
---------------------	--------

LETTER FROM EAST ROCK

PRINCIPAL PEGGY PELLEY	14
------------------------	----

Strange and Different White House Race

PRESIDENTIAL RACE FROM PAGE 1

admitted, “I have never seen anyone like Donald Trump in politics. I have never seen a race like this in politics. The fact that he has been successful, it does show there is a lot of anger. You look at Trump’s tone to understand what it says about the mood of the country.”

Since his candidacy began, Mr. Trump has insulted his opponents in politics and in the media, calling people “liars,” “losers,” “weak” and “stupid.” He has made fun of Secretary Clinton for taking a bathroom break at a Democratic debate. Some Trump supporters have turned violent; he has cancelled a rally in Chicago because of clashes between his supporters and protesters. (He has said protesters should be “roughed up” or leave the arena “in a stretcher.”)

Even students find him extreme. “I think he’s a lunatic because he’s always cursing, and I never thought a person running for president would ever curse,” said seventh grader Victoria Praseuth.

Fifth grader Amani Al Saigh is offended by Mr. Trump’s comments. “He always brags about his money and calls girls big fat pigs,” she said.

Mr. Trump is leading the Republican field with 987 delegates and needs to reach 1,237 to secure the nomination. Trailing Mr. Trump are Texas Senator Ted Cruz and Ohio Governor John Kasich, the last remaining candidates of the original 14. There are still key primaries left until the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 18.

While Mr. Trump tries get to 1,237 delegates, his opponents and others in the Republican Party are trying to stop him. Mr. Cruz won Texas and



Reporters have tracked the Democratic and Republican Primaries since February and graphed delegate counts.

Utah, and Mr. Kasich won Ohio, but Mr. Trump took big prizes: Nevada, Illinois, Michigan and Massachusetts. He dominated the South and won Florida and Georgia.

While Hillary Clinton is expected to be the Democratic nominee, Sen. Bernie Sanders has gotten support around the country. He had victories in Michigan, Washington, Utah, Hawaii and Idaho. Ms. Clinton hopes to be the clear nominee before the Democratic National Convention on July 25 in Philadelphia so she can focus on fighting the Republicans.

The December 2015 issue of The East Rock Record featured an article about Donald Trump’s promise to build a wall on the Mexico border and deport undocumented immigrants. Since then, Mr. Trump has made harsher vows, like making it illegal for the 1.4 billion Muslims in the world to enter the United States.

Can he do that? “He will have no political authority to deport Mexicans and Muslims,” said James Maciel-Andrews, a seventh grader at East Rock School.

Yet Americans of all ages realize that Mr. Trump is getting closer to

becoming President. “The Congress is Republican, and if Trump is president they might find a way to do the things he says he wants to do,” warned Mr. Maciel-Andrews.

What do people want in a president? “A president needs to be an advocate for the people,” said Rev. Eldren Morrison, pastor of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church.

He believes the president “should appreciate values of religion like being kind or helping others.”

Alison Atkin, an East Rock science teacher, wants a president “that will unite the country.” “The country is experiencing tough problems that require a leader who is optimistic and can inspire people,” she said.

This election may be confusing to students. The Spring 2016 East Rock Record Survey showed that only 46 percent of students said they were paying attention to the election and only 38 percent had picked a candidate to support.

Even though students can’t vote, Chelsea Coronel, a fifth grader, says they should learn about politics. “It is important to know his or her ideas, even if it takes a long time,” she said.

Tired of Insults, People Want Candidates to Talk Issues

BY MEET PATEL, DANIEL BEDOYA, VICTOR KLUTSEY & GERNO ALLEN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY REDHA QABAZARD

Everyone is getting tired of the insults in the presidential race. What should candidates be talking about?

“There’s a lot of personal attacks and not enough focus on issues that affect people’s lives,” said third grade teacher Katherine Werth. She has had enough of rude talk and finds Donald Trump “scary.”

She wants to hear more about ways “to limit carbon emissions and improve education by having more

funding and less testing.”

Semhal Tsegaye, a Yale mentor at ERR, wants to know how the candidates plan to make “education more accessible in America.”

“I want to know how the next president will fix the immigration system and find a way for undocumented immigrants to live a free life away from fear,” said East Rock Record mentor and Yale student Camila Guiza-Chavez.

In New Haven, there is also concern about the worldwide refugee crisis. New Haven is very welcoming, but many places are not.

Clay Selmont, who teaches music at East Rock School, wants a pres-

ident who “will not use fear and make it harder for IRIS to help vulnerable people looking for new lives in a new country.” IRIS is the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, based near East Rock School. The election could affect many refugees.

Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman told reporters that, “my feeling is this country was built from the efforts of all kinds of people.”

Students want to hear more about education plans in the election. They are worried about college costs. Sen. Bernie Sanders wants public college tuition to be free; Ms. Clinton wants to reduce student loan debt.

“America should not be a place where young people can get guns more easily than books,” said Daniel Bedoya, a fifth grader at East Rock School.

Many would like to hear more about these issues instead of the beauty of a candidate’s wife.

During a visit to the state Capitol, East Rock Record reporters asked journalist Mark Pazniokas if he thought Mr. Trump wore a wig.

“I have seen his hair blow in the wind, so I don’t think he wears a wig,” he said. “But I think it is the world’s worst comb-over, and I don’t think he will make a great president.”

SCHOOL NEWS

Is it Bullying? Or Not? There is Confusion.

BY EDDIE SALTER, JON SANGARI
& FALLOU SOKHNA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JIAHUI HU

Batman's Joker, Harry Potter's Draco Malfoy and Ultron of the Avengers threaten innocent people, try to take over the world and leave trails of destruction. Everyone can tell these made-up characters are bullies. In real life, they are harder to pick out.

Students, parents and teachers at East Rock School want to prevent bullying. School administrators get many complaints and do not treat incidents lightly. Students who bully could be expelled, said East Rock vice principal Leslie DePriest.

But what counts as "bullying?" It's confusing.

The East Rock Record Spring 2016 survey found that 95 out of 235 students who responded—40 percent—said they had been bullied. But Ms. DePriest said that once she investigated, only five out of the dozens of complaints that she received this year turned out to be bullying.

"Bullying seems like it has become a larger problem because more kids report things," said Ms. DePriest. "But 70 percent of the time, it's not really bullying, but teasing or a conflict that hasn't been resolved."

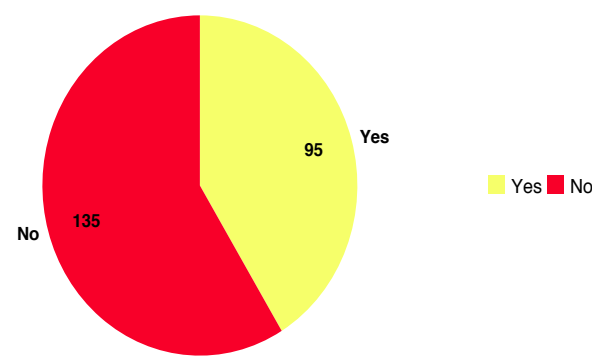
Why is bullying so hard to recognize?

Rachel Collins, Clinical Therapist at the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center Child and Family Guidance Clinic said bullying is hard to understand because people have different definitions of bullying. Some people might think that teasing is bullying and some people might not.

"Bullying comes in many forms including teasing," said Ms. Collins. "No teasing should be considered harmless. Each student on the receiving end will react differently to bullying." She added that "bullying by definition has a personal connotation to it, as what some think is harmless fun others take seriously."

Ms. DePriest said parents and students often do not understand the definition of bullying at East Rock: repeated and constant behavior over an extended period of time.

Have you ever been bullied
in school?



East Rock Record Survey
Results

Other times those who experience bullying do not want to report it because they think it might cause more problems for them. One eighth grade student at East Rock School said another student spread rumors about her in the hallway in between classes and also teased her in front of her friends. But she didn't report it.

"I felt very sad and lonely," she said. "This was

IT CAN BE HARD TO TELL
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TEASING, HURT FEELINGS —
AND BULLYING.

the first time that I had been bullied."

A fourth grader at East Rock said she was bullied and felt vulnerable and sad. Unlike the eighth grader who did not report the incident, she and her grandmother reported the teasing to Joseph Lewis, an administrator at East Rock School. The school encourages such reports. Even if it isn't a serious incident, administrators can help students solve the problem.

Mr. Lewis warned the other student, an eighth grader, and told the two students not to speak for about a week. The fourth grader said she has forgiven the eighth grader's bad behavior and has moved on. This story shows that many times people do not realize they are hurting other people. The eighth grade student said he did not realize his actions were hurting the other student as much as they did.

Ms. Collins said schools should teach students to be kinder to each other. This will create a positive school where students know how they affect each other.

"Although schools need to follow an academic curriculum, more time needs to be spent on developing the social skills of the students as well to help create an environment of respect," Ms. Collins said.

Even though not all cases that are reported meet the school's definition of bullying, teasing and insults—like what happened in these cases—made students feel badly.

It can be hard to tell the difference between teasing, hurt feelings—and serious bullying. So how can students, parents and school administrators stop this problem behavior?

In a survey of 230 East Rock students, 214 said they know what to do if bullying arises. Students who feel that they are bullied are supposed to report it to an adult. Alison Atkin, who teaches 7th and 8th grade science, has received several complaints of bullying this year. She reported the cases to the vice principal, which is what teachers are supposed to do. Then the school conducts an investigation.



Ms. Leslie DePriest investigates all reports of bullying.

The survey also showed that almost all students—165 out of 227—believe teachers and adults would help them to feel safe if they were bullied.

Bullies at East Rock are harder to identify than in Harry Potter or the Avengers. Even though students don't have Harry's magic or the Avengers' mutant powers to face bullies, many still feel they have help.

NH Reads Has New Site Near East Rock School!

BY NYASIA DONEGAL,
MEET PATEL,
NATALIE MAYNARD
& NELLIE JACKSON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

New Haven Reads opened a new tutoring site last month. It is across the street from East Rock School.

Kirsten Levinsohn, the executive director of New Haven Reads, said tutors help over 500 students each week work to improve their reading. The program is so popular that there is a waiting list. The new site lets more kids get tutoring.

"We are really looking forward to calling parents on the waiting list and telling them, 'We have a spot for your child,'" she said.

New Haven Reads will partner with East Rock School. Each Monday and Wednesday, fifteen students from East Rock will travel across Willow

Street to attend a homework table at NH Reads and then have an hour of tutoring.

Four East Rock Record reporters attended the press conference to announce the opening of the new site. There were also TV reporters and reporters from the New Haven Independent and the New Haven Register.

Several political leaders also attended, including Mayor Toni Harp, Rep. Toni Walker, Sen. Gary Winfield, Rep. Roland Lemar and Rep. Robyn Porter. For the first time, there is money in the state budget to help New Haven Reads.

Everything at the site was new. The room was big and there was a big book that said "Read." There were books and games on white bookshelves. In the back of the room there were tables and chairs for tutoring. Scooby Doo was one of the games. There were also toy cash registers. The games were nice and still in their wrappers.

At the press conference there were mini chocolate chip and blueberry muffins. We each had three or four. They were really good.



East Rock Record Reporters join other media covering announcement of new Willow Street site.

SCHOOL NEWS

It's complicated: Crushes, liking, dating, relationships

DATING FROM PAGE 1

too young to date, Ms. Rivera said, they are probably not dating in the way that most adults do. Ms. Rivera admitted, "Even at my age, we're only just starting to get into 'real' dating. Younger students just have little crushes."

Ms. Collins agrees: "Younger students are not fully developed in mind or body to understand fully what a relationship means beyond a basic friendship."

Other older students agreed. Daniel Barranco, a seventh grader at East Rock who is 13, has been in a relationship since he was eleven, but said that only recently has he come to feel old enough for it.

"You could be in a relationship starting maybe at twelve or thirteen," said Mr. Barranco, "since we are growing up a little and we have a bit of experience being a teenager."

Educators agree that being a little older is important. East Rock School nurse Karen Ruggiero cautioned that students should only enter a relationship, "if you are mature enough." Physical Education and Health instructor Chad Rowan said that since dating at a young age is inevitable, it can be fine, but students must make sure they are well informed and behave appropriately in school. Although neither have had students come to them with questions about relationships, both said that they are very open to talking over any concerns about dating or personal health.

Both see potential issues with dating in school. Ms. Ruggiero has heard students gossiping about "who likes who" and "who's with who," and said it might be distracting. Mr. Rowan said that students sometimes hold hands in the hallways, and while that seems fine, it could be inappropriate if



Rachel Collins of Cornell Scott Hill Health says dating creates challenges.

Nearly one-quarter of students surveyed said they were in a dating relationship

students took public relationships further.

Dating behavior in school can also make it hard to focus on learning. "Being in a relationship can also be a distraction and academic performance could suffer," said Ms. Collins.

Students also see other dangers of dating too early. Mr. Barranco said his school experience was affected by being in a relationship so early. "I was bullied by my friends about the relationship many times," he said. "I didn't like it but they kept making fun." At first he was embarrassed, he said, especially because it was his first girlfriend. Now he believes he is starting to grow up

and is more confident.

Ms. Collins sees more problems than meet the eye. "Relationships," she said, "can also foster competition among students in an unhealthy manner." She said they also create "groups within the student culture" that can hurt a sense of community among students.

A few students who spoke with East Rock Record reporters on the condition that they not be named, found this to be true based on their own experiences. One fourth grader described a fight within her friend group over a boy she had a crush on. A boy in seventh grade told reporters that members of his friend group didn't speak to one another for a few days because of a bad break-up.

Not everything about dating early is bad, said Ms. Collins. "A positive of these relationships is learning to communicate with another person about positive and negative things," she said. In early relationships, "both parties in the relationship can support each other."

While at East Rock, students may find themselves having first crushes, feeling first heartbreaks and maybe even dating for the first time. This can be scary because there are so many positives and negatives to consider. But it seems like the best thing students can do is relax, make sure they are behaving maturely and appropriately and maybe seek guidance from a grown-up.

Dating, said Ms. Collins, is an individual decision "that each student should explore when he or she feels ready with a parent or other trusted adult." With teachers like Ms. Ruggiero and Mr. Rowan, students should know there are plenty of adults at East Rock ready to talk!

REFUGEES FROM PAGE 1

New Haven is welcoming city for refugees fleeing war and harm

Being a refugee is very, very difficult. We spoke with Consolata Ndayishimiye, who was forced to flee war in her home country of Burundi. She attended East Rock School and is now a senior at Hillhouse High School.

She described a difficult and scary journey to a refugee camp in Tanzania when she was nine years old. While she fled, her mother was killed; her best friend was killed while trying to save Ms. Ndayishimiye from being attacked.

The rest of her family met up in a refugee camp, where they lived for five years. At first they got very ill from bad food; she said it was also "very difficult" to go to school. Life there was hard. "We have to get our own water. We have buckets that we put on our heads and we go to the river and bring back," she said. "You have to cook the water. You have to boil it" because it is not safe to use otherwise.

Finally, her father was admitted to the United States as a refugee. Soon after, in 2010, Ms. Ndayishimiye flew on an airplane to meet him. "I was scared of flying on a plane," she said. "That was my first time."

Ms. Ndayishimiye said it was good to be with her family again but that it was difficult to get

used to a new hometown. "The most difficult part for me was how I am going to be able to make friends."

She started school at East Rock in fifth grade. She said learning English was difficult, but she became friends with a group of ESL kids. Now Ms. Ndayishimiye is applying to college and wants to be an interpreter—she can speak five languages!

"The topic of my college essay is that I am a survivor," she told East Rock Record reporters. "I have been through a lot."

She isn't the only student from East Rock who is a refugee. Angela Maiocco, who teaches fourth grade at East Rock School, said she has had several refugees in her class. She is worried about the refugee crisis.

"Kids shouldn't be in war, they should be in school," she said. She said that language is the "first barrier" for refugees in class. There is also the problem of "the stress from what they've seen." She said that, "the school does everything they can, but a lot of the help comes from IRIS."

IRIS has played an important role in the U.S. and in this city to help refugees feel welcome. Last year when some refugees were not allowed

to settle in Indianapolis, New Haven made news for welcoming them to the city.

Why do some states and some people not believe accepting refugees into the U.S. is a good idea?

We asked East Rock students what they thought. Almost two thirds of students said they thought New Haven should welcome people who are leaving other countries that are not safe.

One third of students said that New Haven should not welcome refugees. Some people may be confused. One student thought refugees are "bad" because "they come and they shoot other people." Another student observed that, "refugees might get mad at Americans because Americans treat them differently."

But most students agreed that refugees should come to New Haven.

Rev. Eldren Morrison, Pastor of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church told East Rock Record reporters that helping refugees is "part of being a citizen of the world," he said.

People should "open your doors, call a state representative or Congress, or give money to an organization that provides housing and healthcare," he said. "We're fortunate to live in safe places with basic necessities." We should "do our part."

COMMUNITY NEWS

WAKE UP: CLIMATE CHANGE NEEDS ACTION!

Mayor Harp Says She Will Update 2004 Action Plan as Soon as This Summer

BY AMANI AL SAIGH,
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JARA, BERNADETTE KARPEL,
NATALIE MAYNARD & ANGIE
TAFOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY CAITLYN WHERRY

Attention! Global warming is real and could have a terrible effect on New Haven with its coastal waters.

Mayor Toni Harp told East Rock Record reporters that she plans to update the New Haven Climate Change Action Plan. The plan has not been updated since 2004.

“Recent public interest in an updated version of this plan prompted a review that could lead to revisions by as soon as this summer,” Mayor Harp wrote in an e-mail to the East Rock Record.

In January, more than 30 environmental groups sent a letter to the Mayor saying they were “deeply concerned” that New Haven has not updated its plan. The groups said there have been “significant technological, scientific, and policy changes” that the plan should take into account. The groups want New Haven to meet the Connecticut goal of reducing emissions to 80 percent of 2001 levels by 2050.

The Climate Change Action Plan is a guide to help the city deal with climate change. This change happens when weather patterns are affected because of greenhouse

gases that warm the earth’s atmosphere. This is “global warming.”

Mayor Harp said the city did a greenhouse gas study and sustainability report in 2011. But the action plan needs attention because New Haven is on the ocean, said Sarah Ganong, communications coordinator for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound.

She said the city will see warmer temperatures and more rain and snow. We will face up to a one-inch rise in sea level per decade.

Ms. Ganong said students and families can slow climate change. Cutting back on fossil fuels like gasoline help, she said. People can walk or bike instead of driving a car or eat a plant-based diet. “Because of the way we raise cows on big farms, we often cut down trees,” she said. To help, she said, “a cool concept is meatless Monday—you don’t eat meat one day a week.”

Gaseous emissions, otherwise known as burps and farts from cows, actually affect the climate because they concentrate a greenhouse gas called methane. Methane contributes to global warming through the greenhouse effect—the warming of the Earth’s surface and the atmosphere as gases trap heat.

Climate change is happening, but the people of New Haven—including East Rock students—are not paying enough attention. The Spring 2016 East Rock Record Survey showed that only 46 percent of students said they are “concerned” about the effects of climate change, the same percent that believe climate change is affecting people in New Haven.

Mayor Harp said New Haven is trying to make changes, especially around transportation. In her e-mail to reporters, the Mayor said the city is encouraging bike riding by adding more bike lanes and bike safety



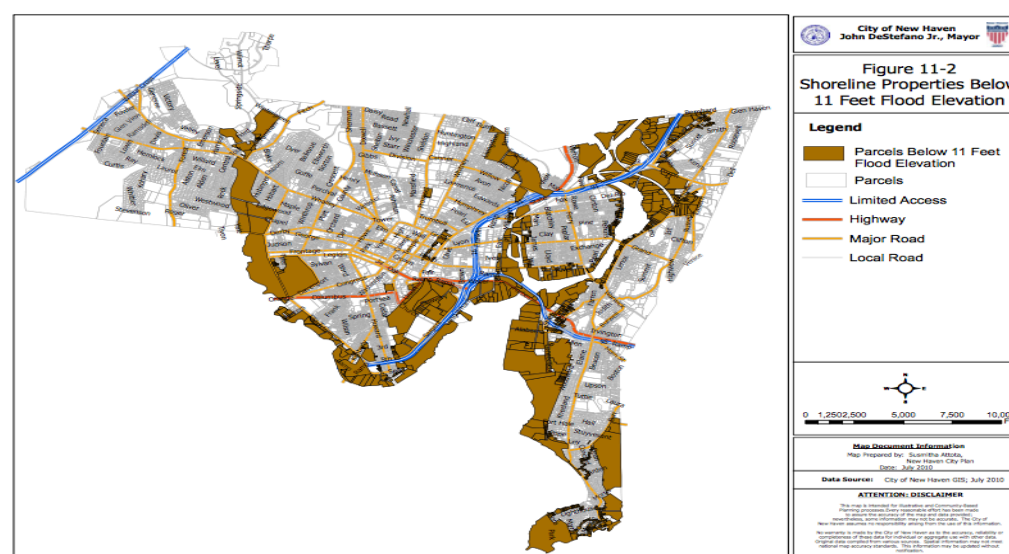
Sarah Ganong of CT Fund for the Environment

laws. The city has recharging stations for electric cars in PARK New Haven garages. The Mayor’s office and state transportation officials are making bus routes “more efficient and attractive to riders.”

State Rep. Roland Lemar said it will only take a change of two degrees in the world’s climate to launch the ecosystem into chaos. He wants to see more alternative energy like solar, wind and water power plants.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman said the increase in water temperature has hurt Connecticut’s lobster business as lobsters have left for colder waters. Sen. Gary Winfield said youth often know more about climate change than adults. “Sometimes a child can educate parents.” Sen. Winfield said, “It has to be young people, like you, that get the parents to understand what they need to be doing.”

New Haven’s low-lying areas could be hurt by rising sea levels



KEEPING BABIES CLEAN & HEALTHY

The Diaper Bank provides assistance that has a significant impact on the health of the community through a new approach to prevention by keeping babies warm, dry and healthy. Having a steady supply of diapers reduces the incidence of preventable diseases caused by infrequent diaper changing.

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COVERING BABIES SINCE 2004

P.O. Box 9017, New Haven, CT 06532 | 203-934-7009 | www.thediaperbank.org

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TOO MUCH FEAR: STUDENTS TIRED OF VIOLENCE

BY ROSALIND WATERS,
ANALYS RIVERA, AREYANNA
MORANT & CRYSTAL WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY CHRISTINA BARTZOKIS AND
VALAMAE JENKINS

It is a scary, but real fact: New Haven students are affected by violence. According to the Spring 2016 East Rock Record Survey, more than half of students—51 percent—said that gun violence and crime are problems in their neighborhood. A survey conducted by the New Haven Public Schools showed that 34 percent of middle school students have seen someone shot or stabbed.

“I can’t walk down the street without fearing I might get shot or molested,” said eighth grader Shalisa Suero about her neighborhood.

State leaders are concerned about youth violence, especially with guns.

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman leads the Governor’s Commission on Youth and Urban Violence, which

51 percent of East Rock students surveyed worry about being exposed to more violence in high school. Said one student, “I’m afraid it might change me, and not good change.”

wants to identify causes of violence and decrease crime in Connecticut.

“Curbing youth violence is a priority for this administration—we

are not going to lose generations of young people to the effects of violence, trauma and fear,” Lt. Gov. Wyman said in a recent report by the commission.

Last month, Rep. Robyn Porter of New Haven co-sponsored a bill through the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee aimed at keeping children from getting lost in

51 percent of East Rock students surveyed say gun violence and crime are problems in their neighborhood.

a life of violent acts.

“For far too long we have used punitive measures to address ‘childhood’ bad behavior to the detriment of our children and society as a whole,” she said.

There are many causes of youth gun violence. Some factors include parent neglect, peer pressure and insecurity. “The cause of violence is a very complicated thing. A lot of things go into violence: messages, pressures and schools,” said Mark Pazniokas, bureau chief for The Connecticut Mirror at the state Capitol.

Negative home environments can contribute to youth involvement in violence. If parents do not give kids enough love or interest, a child could seek love in dangerous places, including by joining a gang. One East Rock student, Michael Gaskins, in 8th grade, said that he thinks youth

violence comes from “bad neighborhoods” and “no parents at home.” Police Officer Dean Reynolds agreed. “Gangs create a sense of family that a lot of kids don’t have,” he said. Young people also use violence as a way to gain pride, said Henry Green, a youth activist who is appearing in a documentary about being shot. “A lot of violence is senseless,” Mr.

NHPS survey: 34 percent of New Haven middle school students reported seeing someone shot or stabbed.

Green explained to students. “It was not that they wanted to take my money; they wanted to gain pride for themselves.”

Although there are many causes, legislators and activists are focused on finding solutions. “We can blame the kids, we can blame the parents, but what we should do is try to take the pressure off of them,” said Sen. Gary Winfield, assistant majority leader in the State Senate.

To accomplish that, some propose school programs to create alternative social spaces for kids. Officer Reynolds said the police department is hosting summer basketball programs and sponsoring other recreational programs. “Parents need to be involved as well,” he said.

Mr. Green believes the most effective way to curb violence is the “old-

fashioned” way: Talking to kids and developing one-on-one relationships with them. “They won’t respect organizations as much as they respect relationships,” he said. “Since they know me, they’ll talk to me.”

Rep. Porter proposed a bill to reduce youth involvement in crime, encourage education by reducing truancy, and provide mental health and educational resources to youth who have committed crimes. “I believe that we have to implement reform that allows restorative justice,” she said.

Youth violence is a big problem. Students do worry about their safety—especially as they become teenagers. The East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey showed that more than half of students said they worry about being exposed to more violence once they reach high school.

Ms. Suero thought there would be more fights, jumping, drugs and alcohol in high school, and that she was afraid to go to high school because of the violence. “I’m afraid it might change me, and not good change,” she said.



New Haven Police Officer Dean Reynolds with reporters.

Pets can be cute, cuddly, friendly (but also lots of work)

BY ISABEL FAUSTINO,
LITA TUBA, ALIN SPEARMAN,
IRVIN SIMON-HERRERA
& JESSICA BEDYOA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY MARC GONZALEZ AND
KELSEY SNEDEKER

Pets are cute, sometimes furry or friendly. They also need lots of care. Sometimes people don’t realize what a big job it is to be a good owner.

“Pet adoption is important,” said New Haven animal control officer Joe Manganiello. “Most people who walk into the shelter aren’t ready for the responsibility.” The New Haven shelter takes in dogs and cats, but has mostly dogs. Mr. Manganiello said it is sometimes hard to tell if a cat is lost or wild so they have to be cautious.

The shelter takes in pets without homes and gives them a place to live plus food and medical care until they find an owner. Many people like the idea of adopting a shelter pet. The

East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey results showed that 75 percent of students would like to adopt a pet from a shelter. About half of students surveyed said they have a pet. Of those with pets 41 percent adopted their pet from a shelter.

If you want to adopt a pet, the process begins the minute you walk into the shelter, said Mr. Manganiello. Everyone there is trying to see if you are the perfect person for the pet.

Sen. Gary Winfield has a cute little white rescue dog named Peanut. “He looks like one of the those dogs that looks cute but when you come into the house he turns into a werewolf,” he said. Even people who don’t have pets are interested in them. Henry Green, the actor and community youth leader said he doesn’t have a pet but really wants one.

“I have a list,” he said. “The first pet I want is like a big dog like a pit bull. Then a tiny dog. The tiny dog

is always the boss of the big dog.” Rev. Eldren Morrison, pastor of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church in New Haven and a community leader, said his wife would like to adopt a dog. However, only service dogs are allowed in his church. He does have a pet frog and fish.

Teachers at East Rock love pets, too, and some have adopted. Noreen Polio, an ESOL teacher has four cats and rescued them all. She rescued her cats from the Greater New Haven Cat Project. Ms. Polio believes adoption is great.

Laura Generoso, a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher, has a cat adopted from a shelter. She felt great because it needed a home.

Kayla Iannuccilli, a 7th and 8th grade Language Arts teacher, has had her cat since she was in 7th grade. She loves to look on petfinder.com, a website where people can find adoptable pets near them.

She always adopts. Ms. Iannuccilli thinks everyone who wants a pet should adopt.

Amy Binkowski is a 6th reading and social studies teacher. She has no pets but if she were to get a pet, she would go through a rescue.

TIPS:

1. Scoop up poop
2. Make sure your pet does not have ticks
3. Make sure your pet gets a lot of exercise
4. Feed and water your pet daily
5. Make sure to bathe your pet once in a while

COMMUNITY NEWS

East Rock Record reporters visit Capitol

CAPITOL FROM PAGE 1

money, he said, they need to prioritize. State leaders will spend all spring working to solve the budget problems.

After East Rock students left, state lawmakers agreed on Wednesday on a budget. When we visited the state was spending \$220 million more than the money we actually have. Later, leaders found more money problems so there could be layoffs and big cuts to services.

East Rock Record reporters visited the state Capitol on March 29 and met with state leaders, including Lt. Gov. Wyman, Rep. Walker, Sen. Winfield, Rep. Robyn Porter, Rep. Roland Lemar, Sen. Martin Looney and Mark Pazniokas, the bureau chief of the Connecticut Mirror who works



State Sen. Gary Winfield answers reporter questions in Senate chambers.



Rep. Toni Walker talks about the state's \$20 billion budget.

in the press gallery. Reporters asked questions about youth violence, the refugee crisis, climate change, the presidential election and whether they have pets adopted from shelters.

Sen. Winfield said when families do not have access to jobs or transportation, it contributes to youth violence. "We could look at blaming the parents or blaming the child, but we should look at, 'How do we pull this off the young people?'"

Rep. Porter said that kids can act one way at home and another way outside. "It is important that you choose the right friends," she said. "You should not be afraid to be a strong leader when people are doing things they shouldn't. If you say 'no,' someone else might stand up with you."

East Rock Record reporters were impressed with the building and how it looked and the people we met there. It seemed very busy because the Lt. Gov. Wyman did not get a chance to finish answering every question because she had to go to a meeting.

When we entered the Capitol, we had to go through security. The building is like a palace. There were high ceilings, giant bathrooms and gold. Even the top of the trash cans were gold, but it was not real gold. We recommend this as a place to visit.

We spoke with state leaders in a huge, round room with wood that was the Senate chamber. It had a red carpet with the state seal in the center. You are not allowed to step on the seal. We also visited the House of Representatives, which was a larger room with desks for all representatives.

Inside the Capitol, there are staircases and you can see from one floor down to the next. The press room is on the top floor. It was messy with piles of papers all over the place. When we entered, reporters were working and very focused. The room was so messy because they have a lot of work to do. Mr. Pazniokas answered a lot of questions. He is going to the Republican Convention this summer. "I have never seen anyone like Donald Trump in politics," Mr. Pazniokas said.



Reporters meet with CT Mirror Bureau Chief Mark Pazniokas



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FITNESS & FOOD

GET FIT WITH—YES—YOUR FAMILY!

BY JULIANA SNEDEKER, ALEC SAMSEL,
MYA CARDWELL, MOHAMMED KHAN, TANIYA
CHERRY & HECTOR CRUZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY CAMILA GUIZA-CHAVEZ

Some people think exercise is something you do alone, or only in P.E. class or sports practice. But New Haven leaders have a new message: Work out with your family!

“Everyone can benefit from a healthy lifestyle—no matter how old,” said East Rock School P.E. teacher Mary Glickman.

That’s why Althea Brooks, director of Coordinated School Health for New Haven Public Schools, helped organize the Family Fun Nights.

“The goal of these events is to promote the importance of social, emotional and physical health for New Haven Public School students and families,” said Ms. Brooks. She said the goal is to “engage parents and families in out of school wellness activities.”

Family Fun Nights are held the second Friday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at different schools in the district. On Friday, February 26, Family Fun Night was at East Rock School. Students and parents played basketball, jogged around the gym, played hockey and did Zumba. There was also a health fair in the cafeteria.

The Family Fun Nights get support from community organizations including the New Haven Parks Department, Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, the New Haven Health Department, New Haven Farms and New Haven Healthy Start, among others.

The Fun Nights started in January 2015. The



Jogging around the East Rock School gymnasium on Family Fun Night on February 26. The citywide event is held on the second Friday of the month.

first one was at John S. Martinez School. More than 170 children and families attended. There were seven Family Fun Nights scheduled this school year, from November to May.

At Family Fun Nights, families can participate for free in physical activities. There are also healthy cooking demonstrations, information about gardening, help connecting to health and wellness services in the city and more.

These Family Fun Nights are an effort to help kids be healthier by not eating junk food and exercising more. The 2011–2012 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey reported that “an estimated 16.9 percent of U.S. children and adolescents aged 2–19 years are obese, and another 14.9 percent are overweight.”

In response, the Obama administration created the “Healthy Schools” initiative. Ms. Glickman is the school’s wellness facilitator. Ms. Brooks said East Rock School received national bronze level recognition by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for being a healthy school.

The East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey showed that most students exercise a few times a week. About seven percent exercise one time or

not at all each week. About 46 percent exercise 2-4 times per week and another 47 percent exercise 5-7 times each week. Impressively, 28 percent say they exercise every day. About half of students have exercised with their parents.

What do students say about exercising with their families? Third grader Irvin Simon Herrera does not exercise with his family, except to play with water guns with his dad. Lita Tuba, a fourth grader, goes to the park with her family to run. “We like to play soccer,” she said. Ms. Tuba went to the last Family Fun Night. “My favorite was when we were coloring and making necklaces. I would go again.”

Hopefully many students come to the next Family Fun night, and hopefully they turn out to really be fun. East Rock School PE teacher Chad Rowan said health should be part of everyday life.

“I’m strict with a schedule. To me physical health is about sticking to a routine,” he said. Mr. Rowan said being fit is important. “To me, healthy is way more than just your physical health. It’s not just about looking a certain way. I like to focus on social and emotional health. It’s more than eating good food and exercising.”

Think before you bite—or gulp: Is this healthy for me?

BY NASIR ANDERSON, JAVARI BROWN
& EDISON CONTRERAS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY SEMHAL TSEGAYE

Kids just do it. They gulp Coca-Cola without thinking about how healthy it is—or isn’t.

Sodas like Coke are junk food, which means they provide no nutrients but have lots of calories. You may not think about it, but junk food can affect your health now and in the future.

“If you’re fueling your body with junk food that has no vital nutrients, then your body will be starving for vitamins and minerals and start to feel sluggish and tired,” says Mariangel Champang, a Diabetes Educator at Cornell Scott Hill Health Center.

East Rock School students don’t always have the best diet. The East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey showed that more than one-third of students said they eat fast food at least three times every week.

Sodium, sugar and fat are not always bad for you. You can have them from time to time but not all the time. If you have too much, it can cause big health problems. For example, eating lots of sugar can lead to type-2 diabetes, heart disease and other health issues. Too much fat can also cause problems. “It makes you not do things like you used to. If you have kids, go to the park, ice skating, you can’t do that anymore,” said fourth grader Osiana Brown.



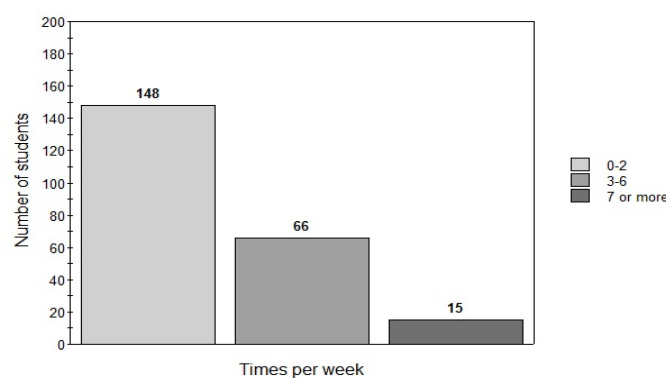
Coca-Cola has 39 grams of sugar. The American Heart Association recommends 25 to 37.5 grams per day.

More than half of the calories in a small bag of Lays potato chips are from fat.



Sometimes we don’t know when we are eating a lot of sodium, sugar or fat. Prevention Institute, which researches health and safety issues, reports that as much as 40 percent of children’s diets come from added sugars and fats. Sugars are often in foods you would not even think would have a lot of sugar.

How many times a week do East Rock students eat fast food?



“It is better to have fresh apples than apple-sauce because sometimes there is added sugar and flavors,” said Nurse Karen Ruggiero.

Many people eat fast food because it tastes good and is cheaper than healthy food.

“I want to know what to do if salad does not taste good,” said fourth grader Lita Tuba.

There are ways to make healthier food taste good. Ms. Ruggiero suggests mixing healthy food with tastier food. For example, mixing Honey Nut Cheerios with regular Cheerios can help you eat less sugar. Even if soda, chips and candy

are cheaper than healthy food, paying more for healthy food now could save money on medical problems in the future.

“People can prevent diseases by eating healthy food,” said Senator Martin M. Looney.

Another reason kids choose junk food is because the package looks better. “I choose Lays chips because I think they are healthier,” said sixth grader Eddie Salter. “They have pictures of potatoes on the bag.”

Sometimes, nutrition labels are confusing. Many students choose foods because of pictures and commercials.

It is important for kids to eat healthy food so that they have good habits. But how can you get used to healthy eating?

The East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey found that 21 percent of students who eat fast food 0-2 times per week prefer to eat a baked potato rather than french fries. On the other hand, students who eat fast food three or more times per week were more likely to choose french fries.

Getting used to eating healthy can make kids choose it instead of junk food. East Rock students do know which foods are healthy and which are not. Maybe we can all make better choices.



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FILM & ARTS

EAST ROCK RECORD REPORTERS DISCUSS POWERFUL NEW DOCUMENTARY “I AM SHAKESPEARE”

Film subject Henry Green talks about being shot — and living

BY ANALYS RIVERA AND ROSALIND WATERS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

East Rock Record reporters were privileged to hear from Henry Green, community activist from New Haven, who spoke about the dangers of violence. To help us understand the consequences, he told us his own story about being shot.

He collaborated with New Haven filmmaker Stephen Dest on the documentary *I Am Shakespeare* about his experience. The film will be released in June and will play at film festivals around the world.

Mr. Green and Mr. Dest shared a trailer of the film and answered reporters' questions. The film clip was very moving: Henry's rawness during his on camera interviews made it feel like he was talking directly to us.

Mr. Green shared with us what happened: When he was 18, he was walking down the street one night with his friend. A group of teenagers demanded they hand over their wallets. Henry refused so a young boy put a gun to his stomach and shot him.

He describes feeling like he was “punched in the stomach by God.” Over the next few years he had over 16 operations including stomach replacement surgery. He flatlined more than once and spent three months in a coma.

When he was released from the hospital he was in a wheelchair. He had to start his whole life over and had to learn basic skills. He couldn't even make himself a sandwich.

Many of us can relate to Mr. Green's story even if we haven't been shot or exposed to shootings. He says that the main cause of his shooting was pride. He wanted to keep his pride, so he did not run from the teenagers and refused to give up his two dollars. He also believes that the shooter wanted to keep his pride and prove himself to his friends.

The shooter, “wanted to gain pride and thought that the only way he could do that was by shooting me,” Mr. Green explained.

The power of pride could destroy people's lives. In schools, including at East Rock, students get into verbal and physical fights over pride, causing them to get suspended or expelled.

Mr. Green's story shows how pride can cause small problems to escalate into life-altering situations. He now works to teach students about the dangers of pride and encourage a safer lifestyle.

He is involved with several organizations to help youth avoid gun violence, including Family Centered Services of Connecticut's teen outreach program, New Haven Family Health Alliance, and multiple churches in the community.

He says the best way to do his work is directly with young adults, by forming individual relationships.

When students have conflicts, “they won't respect organizations as much as a relationship,” he said.

“And since they know me, they'll talk to me.”

The film will be released in June and play at film festivals around the world



Promotional poster for “I Am Shakespeare.”



East Rock Record reporters talk with Henry Green, left, and filmmaker Stephen Dest.

BY WILSON CORONEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

“*I Am Shakespeare*” is a documentary about Henry Green. He was shot at three times but hit once and calmly called the ambulance himself. He was shot six years ago, but still remembers it enough so that Stephen Dest, a filmmaker who was Henry's middle school teacher, could turn it into a 90-minute documentary. What was most amazing about Henry's story was the recovery. He flatlined three times and was in a coma for three months and had over sixteen operations. I could only imagine the pain he was going through. When asked how much it hurt, he said that, “it felt like God was punching me in the stomach.”

BY EDDIE SALTER
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I liked hearing from Henry Green and Stephen Dest because they taught us a valuable lesson about life: Pride doesn't matter. Like a tough reputation, it doesn't mean anything. And it's certainly not worth dying over, which Henry Green almost did. He taught us this lesson by telling about his own life in a movie called “*I Am Shakespeare*.” I don't know if I'll see it because my mom doesn't take me to the movies. But I want to.

BY ALEC SAMSSEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today we met Henry Green. He has an amazing story. He was shot I think one time and he still made it. He spent three months in the hospital. Someone was trying to rob him, but he did not give him the money. So the guy shot Henry. It happened in 2010. I feel happy because he made it. They are going to do a movie about it. I think that is a good idea.

BY NYASIA DONEGAL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Henry Green got shot. He said it was like God punching him in the stomach. He called 9-1-1 by himself. He and Stephen Dest have made a movie called “*I Am Shakespeare*.” He got shot because the person who shot him was willing to kill him for pride. By the name “*I am Shakespeare*,” he means to show how hard life is and how simple it can be if you just listen. When he got shot, he needed a new organ, so someone named Jake who had died gave it to him.

BY JAVARI BROWN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

East Rock Record reporters interviewed Henry Green. As an 18-year-old, he was shot by a 14- or 15-year-old. Why did the little boy shoot Henry Green? I learned from him that New Haven is not safe. He was in a coma for three months and couldn't walk or talk. It was a hard time for him but he survived. He had to learn to do everything all over. I felt sad he got shot because he was proud and was full of dignity.

BY EDISON CONTRERAS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I learned that Henry Green was shot in the stomach and that he had no hope, but that he survived. I felt horrified that he got shot and that for a kid it must have hurt really bad. I learned that you do not go out on the street at nighttime.

BY CHELSEA CORONEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

When I first saw the video I was really interested. I thought it was going to be boring, but instead it was really good. It was creepy to hear when Henry Green got shot. It was also sad to listen to it while he was there right behind the bookshelf. It was hard for Henry Green to recover from his coma. He had to learn how to do everything. (He had to learn how to talk, walk, and more.) *I Am Shakespeare* will be really good. Check it out.

BY MYA CARDWELL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Henry Green was a young man who got shot by a young teenager. He wanted to rob Henry, even though he only had a little money. After he got shot, Henry felt bad. He called the ambulance himself. He went to the hospital. They put pipes from his neck to his stomach. It's a miracle that he's still alive. The movie “*I Am Shakespeare*” is about his experience. Now he works in schools and stops fights because he doesn't like violence.

BY IRVIN SIMON HERRERA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Henry Green's story was amazing and surprising because he survived when he got shot! He was in a coma for three months, then when he was awake he was skinny, weak and tall. After six years he is brave, strong and intelligent. I felt like he was important and respectful. SEE PAGE 12

BOOKS & MEDIA

READ AND LEARN THIS SUMMER!

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Septys

BY ANGIE TAFOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

“ONA!” Her mom called, “Go get some bread at the store.” Ona ran as fast as she could. As usual, the lady at the store gave her a free gallon of milk. When Ona got back, her dad got really mad because she drew a picture of the Russians threatening the Jews. The Russians were at their house to take away their dad. If they saw the pictures Ona drew, she would be sent to a camp. Ona’s brother backed her up by saying, “It was me that gave her the idea.” Ona was so mad at her father because her brother took the blame. He did not get as mad at Ona’s brother as he did at her. Ona had a journal of her own and wrote everything that happened to her that day, and the rest of her life. One morning, she left her journal on her desk. Ona was visiting her uncle with her mom and her brother, but in the middle of the ride cops were everywhere. But, they were the Russian cops. They took her brother, Jonas, and then her mother had to trade him for a watch. But they took the whole family! Most of the family was separated and died. I liked reading this book, you should read it, too.

Magic Tree House: Has Fun, Mystery, Adventure

BY IRVIN SIMMON HERRERA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

In the Magic Tree House books, there are two kids named Jack and Annie who go back in time by using a magic tree house. In *High Time for Heroes*, the 51st Magic Tree House book, Jack and Annie go to Egypt in the 1800s. They meet Florence Nightingale, a famous nurse who saved many lives in Egypt. Jack and Annie take the magic mist and ring of truth to find Florence Nightingale’s third secret of greatness. Then they only need one more secret of greatness to save Merlin. I liked the Magic Tree House because it is very mysterious and has adventures. I am reading three more Magic Tree House books so that I can finish the series.

More on Henry Green

BY MEET PATEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Filmmaker Stephen Dest’s movie, “I Am Shakespeare,” follows the life of 22-year-old Henry Green as he recovered from a gunshot attack. The movie was named after Shakespeare because Henry wanted to hold up a mirror to his world, like Shakespeare did for his world. In the movie, he talks about the time when a few kids in his neighborhood came up to him with a gun. The kids wanted to rob him for money. He says getting shot feels like God punched you really hard. Henry had only 2 or 3 dollars. The kids wanted to feel proud of themselves. The kid who shot Henry was 14 or 15. The doctors thought Henry died at least three times while he was in the hospital. Henry had 16 operations. After three months in a coma he woke up in the hospital. He had to learn to do everything over again. He had to learn to walk again. He also had to learn to drink and eat.

Works in Translation: Fun with Anime, Manga

BY VICTORIA PRASEUTH
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Do you ever have like a huge argument with your friends about whether or not anime is a cartoon? Well anime is considered a cartoon, because it’s animated just like cartoon. The main difference is that anime is a Japanese version of cartoons so many people do not consider it a regular cartoon. In my opinion, anime seems to be a better version of cartoons because it has more action.

Now, there isn’t anything wrong with cartoons. They are still entertaining to me. Many cartoon shows have characters that are goofy and entertaining for adults and little kids at the same time.

Anime is also entertaining for both adults and kids. There is some humor, but it is not as goofy. Anime action and entertainment has captured people all over the world. Both anime and cartoons are very popular; both have about nine to 10 million viewers.

One manga I like is *Sword Art Online II*. They do have an anime show of *SAO II*. I like manga because there are pictures like comics but in black and white. Manga books are entirely different than regular books because you have to read from the back of the book to the front of the book instead of reading front to back. I like this book because it has some fantasy and adventures that I really hope to have in the future.



More Magic Tree House!

BY ALIN SPEARMAN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I liked the Magic Tree House book, *Crazy Day With Cobras*, because it was exciting and is about helping animals. When Penny is turned into stone, Jack and Annie must find an emerald in the shape of a rose. It is the first thing they need to save Penny. Read to find out how they escape cobras and find the first thing to save Penny!

Educational Games Can Boost Schoolwork

BY VICTOR KLUTSEY
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Learning games are fun and also help you in school. I like Reflex Math because it has math fact fluency that can help my math grades go up. And it’s fun. There are also games like English, history, etc. They can improve your typing speed. You also use your IMAGINATION. You get rewards or coins and move to higher levels.

Reflex Math is more fun than Extra Math because Reflex Math uses the imagination, while Extra Math is just a lecture. I think teachers should give students access to more than two educational games. Giving kids more educational games will help us get smarter and pay more attention to math class or other classes because it’s more fun. Teachers can prevent students from getting distracted when they’re playing the games by giving prizes at the end of the week for kids that get a high score.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling is a winner!

BY CHELSEA CORONEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

What if you found out that you were a wizard? Harry Potter was a normal boy who lost his parents in a car crash. He lived with the Dursleys, a mean, horrible, and messed-up step-family. He had a hard time with his spoiled little cousin.

Everything changed after a letter arrived just for Harry. His aunt and uncle wouldn’t let him see it. Then, more and more letters arrived just for Harry. Then, a man called Hagrid came and told Harry there was a school for kids like him, for wizards. He went to the school and made friends called Ron and Hermione. They found out someone was going after the stone that could make anyone live forever. Will Harry and his friends save Hogwarts from the mysterious person going after the stone? Is anyone really going steal the stone? Are you up for this exciting book?



***I AM SHAKESPEARE* poignantly chronicles the turbulent life of a young man (Henry Green) living in an impoverished Inner-city by award winning filmmaker Stephen Dest (*Blind, My Brother Jack*).**

Tax deductible donations for Dest’s film project via [Neighborhood Music School](#) (the film’s fiscal sponsor) are being accepted. Checks can be made payable to: *I Am Shakespeare* c/o NMS, 100 Audubon St, New Haven, CT 06510.

Thank you for your support!

IDEAS & OPINION

SHOULD RELIGION AND POLITICS MIX?

BY JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

If you had a high-end job, would you incorporate your religious beliefs into your work?

Well, at the state capitol in Hartford, there are mixed reviews about this topic. Senator Gary Winfield said that he puts a lot of his beliefs into his work.

“There’s no way for that not to be a part of what I do. That being the case, I also have to think about what other people believe.” The Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman, responded with something similar. She said, “My religious beliefs are about helping people, believing people are good.” A lot of the workers at the Capitol said that they put their religion into their work, while others said that they did not.

I disagree. I think that people should be atheist about their decisions in a political point of view, because then everyone would have equal opportunities.

In other words, everyone has different beliefs, so if one person uses their religion to make a decision, it would cause a political uproar. This is because it might disadvantage someone whose religious beliefs do not agree with someone else’s.

This does not mean that I think people should be atheist all the time. I agree with Pastor Eldren Morrison of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church in New Haven, who was interviewed by

the East Rock Record, when he said that he would like a president who was religious because he said, “I think persons who are religious tend to have a more giving heart, a more loving heart.”

I also agreed with Pastor Morrison when he said that parents should be an example so that their children won’t grow up to be criminals. So, even though Pastor Morrison and I butt heads on religion, we agree that politicians should have big hearts, and should be fair in their decisions.



Rev. Eldren Morrison of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church

WARS HAVE NO WINNERS

BY EDDIE WIELIESZ
EAST ROCK RECORD
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Many countries are fighting wars around the world. In the war so many people are dying, but the countries hope they will win and get their way. There are no winners in a war.

Too many people, even children, die on both sides when fighting a war. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other’s children. If you are killing children they are not going to have a life. For example, on YouTube there was a video of kids eating grass and old food because people took over their village and they had no food left. It was sad.

In a war the side that gets its way is considered the winner. For example the war in Syria will have a winner when one side gives up. However, this isn’t true because people are dying on both sides. Houses, schools, food markets are being destroyed and many people are dying. Therefore, there really is no winner.

Although many countries fight for what they believe is right, wars kill children and families. They destroy lives and dreams.

Even though one side thinks they won there are really no winners in a war. Everyone loses.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Letter from Principal Pelley

Greetings East Rock Record Readers!

Our East Rock Record Journalism Club participants have been quite busy chasing stories since our last edition came out in December. Our instructional focus this year is to encourage students to use persistence and patience to deepen their understanding of academic and social concepts by using evidence to support their reasoning. Participation in our journalism club lends itself to developing students' higher-order thinking skills by engaging them in the authentic work of journalists. Our students brainstorm, research, interview, write, edit and revise in the same manner in which professional journalists work. It is this type of process-oriented learning that requires students to think critically, and strengthens both their academic and personal development.

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.

I trust that you will thoroughly enjoy the 6th edition of the East Rock Record!

Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer filled with great books and special memories!

Peggy Pelley, Principal

East Rock Community Magnet School



Recipe for Lunch Success: More Pizza

I think the school should serve more pizza in lunch. Some people think pizza is not healthy, but it has tomato sauce which has vegetables, and it has cheese which has calcium. Also, the crust is good because it has grain. I also think we should serve more pizza because people really like it. If they don't serve food that people like, students might not eat their lunch. It's important for students to eat so that they can focus in class.

—Hector Cruz, *East Rock Record Opinion*

NEED MORE THAN POSTERS TO STOP BULLYING

There is some bullying in schools. I know there are posters that say no bullying, but people still do it. I want to make sure that it stops. We should have a bully patrol in the hallways in all schools (yes, we need adults to do this!). It is hard for kids to do it themselves. Can adults do this? Teachers should make sure there is no bullying in their classroom, period.

—Dierdre Lawson, *East Rock Record Opinion*

LOOK: Plan for more exercise in school

We should have more gym because students need more exercise. Not everyone can do exercise after school, so gym is their only form of exercise. Some parents end up searching for schools and picking schools for their kids because they offer more gym so their children can get more exercise.

Instead of adding more hours to the day, we can add hours of gym by taking half of the students in every class and letting them go to gym while the other half of the students stay in class and do academic class activities. When gym class is over, the two halves of the class will switch. The second half will go to gym while the first half goes to class.

Since exercise is so important for kids, adding extra hours of gym is a good idea. Adding more gym for kids in school would help make people healthier.

—Juliana Snedeker, *East Rock Record Opinion*

The East Rock Record

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

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HOLD FAST TO DREAMS

One day I want to be an astronaut and ride in an Endeavor space shuttle. But when I told this to another student in my class, he said that if I went into a rocket I would die and have a heart attack.

I think this student is wrong and I will be an astronaut anyway. Space travel is fun, and I can see how space is built. I know this person is wrong also because Neil Armstrong went up into space and he survived.

Space travel is important in general because it helps people learn more about space. When Neil Armstrong came back he told us all about what he learned while he was there. I want to be like Neil Armstrong and help teach people more about space.

—Mohammed Khan, *East Rock Record Opinion*

MORE ART CLASSES NEEDED

We should have art class all week. Right now we only have art on Mondays and Wednesdays. We should have art all week so we can learn more.

Also, having more art is important so that when we work in class we can have time to finish our projects. That way we don't have to go all the way back to old projects when we could do new activities.

Kids need to know about art because it helps them to learn about history. It can help you learn how to draw and make pretty pictures to give to your art teacher. My art teacher's name is Ms. Crocco, and she is really nice. Because art is interesting and we have fun in class, we should include more hours of art during the week.

—Taniya Cherry, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Fifth graders need band twice/week

We all love band. But fifth graders don't get enough. The fifth grade only has it once each week. Sometimes, fifth graders even miss it because of work. Most grades get more band. Fifth graders need to learn the music or we'll fall behind. If we do fall behind, we won't be able play well, or we won't get to learn new and cool songs. Also, if we never learn, we'll never get to play in front of people. We need band at least twice per week.

—Chelsea Coronel, *East Rock Record Opinion*

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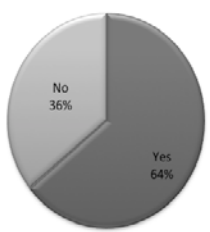
OPINION

REFUGEES SHOULD BE HELPED, NOT FEARED

Let me tell you about my opinion of refugees. When I was writing questions to interview a refugee it made me wonder how I would feel if refugees came to my home. I would help them because you don't know what they have been through all their lives and how many miles they have walked. What if you were them? How would you feel? This is my opinion but here is another person's opinion. Another student said that, "Maybe refugees might be mean or nice. It's tricky." That student also worried that refugees might come armed and so we should have refugee shelters. I disagree. Why would refugees come armed if they need to flee? Literally why would they?

—Aryana Snedeker, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Should New Haven welcome people who are leaving other countries that are not safe?



Source: East Rock Record Spring 2016 Survey

Warming Earth Needs Attention

Global warming is a big problem. If it gets warmer it might melt the ice in the North Pole and South Pole. If the ice melts then the animals that live in cold places might become extinct because they will lose a place to live. There might be no more winter. We didn't have a long winter this year. Was it because of global warming? Some things we can do to stop global warming: ride bikes or walk to go to places. If it gets really hot, a lot of the water might dry up. We only have 1 percent of the water on earth to drink. Two percent of the water is polluted and 97 percent of the water is salty.

— Alin Spearman, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Be Thankful for Nature

All people should be thankful for having nature. Nature can be plants, oceans, lakes, land, and animals. Nature helps us with life. What we eat comes from nature. Plants help if someone is sick. Nature helps us get water. We should help nature right away because scientists think that in the future the Atlantic ocean is going to flood and nature will be destroyed. We should try not to get animals extinct. If we don't have animals we won't have food to help keep us alive. We won't have clothes or coats.

—Osiana Brown, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Climate Change Hurts Animals

Wake up, people! Cute animals are dying because of climate change! Help these poor animals by preventing temperatures because of greenhouse gas. Because of the heat some animals are moving north to live.

— Amani Al Saigh, *East Rock Record Opinion*

A few cooking tips for you

I love to cook. I would like to give you some tips. 1. If you are making an ice cream make sure you put eggs in it but while you are cooking the heavy cream, eggs, vanilla extract on your stove stir firmly so the eggs will not be like scrambled eggs. 2. While you are cutting make sure you have a parent or guardian around. 3. When making pancakes make sure that before you start putting the batter on the pan you spray baking spray or put butter and let it sit on the stove and melt a little bit so the pancakes won't stick to the pan. 4. If you want to change a color of a frosting use two drops of food coloring to the white frosting. (If you want to darken the color add more.) This doesn't just go into frosting, it can go into any food.

—Natalie Maynard, *East Rock Record Opinion*

DANCING WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG!

Have you really wanted to sign up for a dance group? The dance group I wanted to join is called "City Step." They realized I was too young. I am in third grade and I am eight years old. But City Step is only for fourth graders through eighth graders. So, I asked my mom if I could sign up. One day, my mom and I went to the main office to ask them if I could sign up. We tried it. The time came where I was excited because I was the only 3rd grader who was accepted.

— Isabel Faustino, *East Rock Record Opinion*

SAVE YOUTH FROM VIOLENCE!

Youth violence is the most dangerous thing in Connecticut. It's a problem because kids need an education instead of going to jail. Also, kids can get hurt or killed. When I asked Mayor Toni Harp about violence, she said she put a lot of police out at night because a lot of youth violence happens at night. Hopefully, police will be able to see what's happening and prevent kids from getting hurt. It's also important to talk to kids about why they shouldn't hurt people. Hopefully by talking to kids when they're in school, they will not be involved with violence either. It upsets me when kids get hurt or killed, so I hope that youth violence stops.

—Crystal Williams, *East Rock Record Opinion*



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

Newspaper Club is Chance to Think

Newspaper Club is very important. What I mean is that it's important to learn about news stories and about new things in the world. More people should be in newspaper clubs. Other people should do a lot of thinking. I like to think about a lot of things in Newspaper Club.

—Lita Tuba, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Kids need more to do after school

There should be more after school programs because kids might have parents that work a lot and they might not have anyone to watch them. Also students will be able to learn something new. Kids need to learn all there is to do after school. There is newspaper club. There used to be a gardening club. I wish there was gymnastics because I love it a lot. Teachers say you can learn after school but there are not a lot of after school programs. You might worry that kids won't have time for homework, but while they're waiting they can do half of it. If they don't finish they can get a head start and finish the rest at home. We need to have more after school programs. I am in newspaper club, and I love after-school programs that suit me because they are fun.

— Nyasia Donegal, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Add art and sports afterschool!

We should have more after school programs. We have the East Rock Record, Super Tutor groups, City Step dance group and the gardening club. The East Rock Record is awesome because I get to spend time with my friends and I get to work on fun articles. But we should have a couple more programs because it just does not seem like enough. We should have an art club or a sport club for a least a hour. The sport club can be in the gym once a week. The art club can be in the cafe once a week. Our school will be a better place with more after school programs.

— Alec Samsel, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Want to feel happy? Hug a tree!

Trees should not be cut because they give us oxygen and because they are important to people. When people cut down trees it hurts them. Just cut the branches or use old trees that are already falling. People don't care enough about trees. People don't feel the care because they don't hug trees. If you hug a tree you can hear it talking to you and it can calm you down. When you are bored, you can hug a tree and talk to it. When you hug trees, inside your body you feel really happy and excited.

—Lita Tuba, *East Rock Record Opinion*

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