

The East Rock Record

133 NASH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511 DECEMBER 2015 · VOL. 3, NO. 1

MAYOR TO FOCUS ON EDUCATION, CRIME, JOBS

Mayor Harp wins 2nd term, shares plans with reporters



New Haven Mayor Toni Harp meets with East Rock Record reporters during an October press conference at East Rock School.

BY MYA CARDWELL, NELLIE JACKSON, DIERDRE LAWSON AND NYASIA DONEGAL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JACQUELINE SALZINGER

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp was re-elected last month, beating two opponents by a 10 to 1 margin. This is her second term as Mayor. Students at East Rock said they were not surprised that she won.

“I heard it on the news,” said seventh grader Victoria Praseuth, who couldn’t picture anyone else winning or running. “You didn’t think they were even going to try to elect another mayor after Toni Harp.”

Mayor Harp met with East Rock Record reporters on October 22 to ask questions about issues from bathroom cleanliness to immigration to “how being mayor changed your life.” She answered that by explaining that “before I was mayor I used to work five days a week. Now I work seven days a week and 14 hours a day.”

What will Mayor Harp do in her second term? She plans to focus on crime, education and jobs. She said the three issues are related. “There’s a connection between crime and the access to opportunity that people feel,” she said, adding that people will commit fewer crimes if they “feel

SEE PAGE 8

Trump fueling immigration worry

EAST ROCK STUDENTS CONCERNED

BY MELANIE CONTRERAS, ANALYS RIVERA, ROSALIND WATERS, VICTOR KLUTSEY, FALLOU SOKHNA AND LITA TUBA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY CHRISTINA BARTZOKIS

The presidential election is almost a year away, but people in New Haven and students at East Rock School are listening to what Republican candidates say about immigration.

Donald Trump’s negative statements about immigrants are making students nervous. Trump has called immigrants “the worst elements in Mexico.” He also said that Mexico is “sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing these problems with them. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime.”

The East Rock Record Fall 2015 survey showed that half of students say their families “worry” about Mr. Trump’s immigration plans. That’s because a large part of the East Rock School community is affected by immigration. Of the 292 stu-



Sandra Trevino, Executive Director of Junta for Progressive Action, speaks to East Rock Record reporters about immigration issues.

SEE PAGE 7

Is there enough music in school?

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

Many kids play on their computers and phones. Might it be more useful to play in the school band? The students at East Rock think so.

In fact, many students enjoy playing in the school band. But there’s one problem: not everyone can join. Some people want this to change.

The school band at East Rock School is open to students in grades 5-8. There are more than 60 members. The band is very popular and more students would like to join. The East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey showed that 77 percent of students in grades 2-4 think students younger than 5th grade should be able to be in the band.

“I think every student who wants to play in band should have the opportunity to do so,” Ellen Maust, Supervisor of Performing and Visual Arts

for the New Haven Public Schools, said when she met with East Rock Record reporters.

Reporters talked to teachers, students and school district administrators to learn about the school band. Reporters investigated who can be in band, how to get in and what the experience is like. Many people believe band is important and should be open to more students but some limitations keep this from happening. Students in band say that it helps them in school and life.

Amani Al Saigh, a fifth grader who plays the trombone, said that joining band gave her confidence to explore new interests. “It makes me happy and makes me try new things,” she said. Ms. Al Saigh also wants to have band more than once a week. “I don’t think Thursday is enough. Students need more time to get better at their

SEE PAGE 4

Test scores: Work needed in math

BY GERNO ALLEN, JESSICA BEDOYA, HECTOR CRUZ, JOHN SANGARI AND ARYANA SNEDEKER
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JIAHUI HU

Students at East Rock Community Magnet School think they are good at math. But test scores say otherwise.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Course (SBAC) test scores released in September showed only 13 percent of East Rock students met the state standards in math. This is below the state average of 40 percent. At the nearby Worthington Hooker School, 64 percent of students met or exceeded standards in math.

Students say the test scores matter and East Rock School needs to improve.

“Test scores are important because they will see if you are going up or down,” said Javari Brown, a fifth grader at East Rock School.

SEE PAGE 2



INSIDE THE NEWS

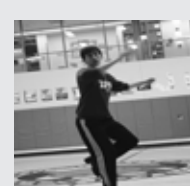
ART TEACHES KEY THINKING SKILLS

SEE PAGE 9

CALLING ON SUPERTUTORS! SEE PAGE 3

MESSY BATHROOMS SEE PAGE 12

WHICH PIZZA IS BEST? SEE PAGE 11



FAST FEET WITH YALE TAPS

SEE PAGE 13

SCHOOL NEWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY NEWS

- MAYOR HARP PLANS 1,8
- IMMIGRATION & POLITICS 1,7

SCHOOL NEWS

- TEST RESULTS LOW 1,2
- ENOUGH MUSIC IN SCHOOL? 1,4
- SUPER TUTORS HELP 3
- BATHROOM MESS 3
- NEW STAFF @ EAST ROCK! 5

ART & LEARNING

- ART TEACHES KEY SKILLS 9

FOOD NEWS

- PIZZA TEST 11,12

BOOKS & IDEAS

- BOOK REVIEWS 12

DANCING & FUN

- 13

EDITORIALS, OPINION

- 14, 15

LETTER FROM EAST ROCK

- PRINCIPAL PEGGY PELLEY 14

Students trying hard, but test results low

TEST SCORES FROM PAGE 1

Wilson Coronel, a seventh grader, said that some students are better at test-taking than others. But in the end, all students should be able to do well on the tests, Mr. Coronel said. Nasir Anderson, a fourth grader at

67 percent of East Rock students say they “always” try hard in school

East Rock, said the low math scores should motivate students to improve.

East Rock was not the only New Haven school to do poorly on the tests, which students took last April. Many city schools did not meet state standards. At the John S. Martinez School, only eight percent of students met or exceeded the standards. At the Beecher School about 10 percent met or exceeded the standards.

Mayor Toni Harp told East Rock reporters that the city must address the low scores. “I am concerned and I want to do everything I can to improve those math scores,” she said.

The math scores can help school leaders see how well students are learning material and how well teachers are teaching, said John Kennedy, East Rock teacher who teaches seventh and eighth grade and coaches the MATHCOUNTS team. “They give us a standard for which to aim and allow us to see our progress.”

Mr. Kennedy said math is important because it can help students one day get jobs in STEM fields. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Many future jobs will be in these areas, Mr. Kennedy said. He said the SBAC scores at East Rock show students are not on track to be prepared for these jobs.

Imma Canelli, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the New Haven Public Schools, met with East Rock students to talk about the test scores. She agreed with Mr. Kennedy.

“STEM are the jobs that we are going to have in future and you have to have math to be able to get a STEM jobs,” said Ms. Canelli. “You need math for science. If you are building buildings you will have to have engineers who understand numbers and know how they work.”

East Rock students do take the tests seriously. The East Rock Record 2015



Reporters talk about SBAC results with Imma Canelli, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Fall Survey showed that students try hard in school and care about the scores. The survey found that 67 percent of students “always” try hard in school and 78 percent said SBAC tests are “very important.”

Why were test scores at East Rock so low? Teachers and officials gave several reasons. Some teachers said they did have enough resources in the classroom, but Mr. Kennedy disagrees. Students have math books, calculators and white boards, he said.

What can make a difference, he said, is that some children have parents who can help their children with math at home—and others do not. “One of the things I will do with my children is that when we do repairs, we’ll talk math,” he said. They will also talk math while doing cooking.

Ms. Canelli said one problem is that students need more chances to practice using computers because the tests are given on computer. Students had varied levels of comfort and experience with technology, which influenced test scores, she said.

“Some schools have had a lot of technology and access,” Ms. Canelli said. “Schools with students who had more access to computers not only for tests, but also for learning, those were places where students were actually able to do better.”

Ms. Canelli said the schools can help improve scores by focusing on students’ technology skills.

Mayor Harp told reporters that she, too, had heard of students struggling with the computer technology. “Some of our young people had not had enough experience using a mouse so they got frustrated and didn’t participate,” she said. Mayor Harp said she

wants all classrooms to have at least one computer so that students can use it and get comfortable with the mouse and keyboard.

Mayor Harp said she was also concerned with low reading scores across the city. At East Rock, 34 percent of students met or exceeded the state standard compared to 55 percent of students statewide.

“I have asked the New Haven Public Schools staff to develop a reading plan,” she said.

In October, Harp announced she would appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission on reading. “We want the experts who understand reading to help inform our questions and what we do here in New Haven,” she told reporters.

Ms. Canelli also emphasized the importance of improving East Rock reading skills. The ability to process and summarize writing is so important for not only reading, but also writing, researching and other skills for students’ futures.

To improve math scores, Mr. Kennedy plans to focus on teaching students the problem solving skills that are emphasized on the tests. He said that extra practice would also be part of his upcoming lessons.

EAST ROCK RESULTS:

East Rock English		East Rock Math	
Level 1	8	Level 1	0
Level 2	26	Level 2	13
Level 3	29	Level 3	28
Level 4	37	Level 4	56
State English		State Math	
Level 1	23	Level 1	17
Level 2	32	Level 2	23
Level 3	23	Level 3	29
Level 4	22	Level 4	32
Level 1 and 2 meet and exceed standards			

SCHOOL NEWS

Don't understand? "Super Tutors" can help

BY TANIYA CHERRY, NATALIE DAYANA,
JULIANA SNEDEKER, IRVIN SIMON, MEET
PATEL, RAVI PATEL AND ALEC SAMSEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY TAYLOR ELDRIDGE

Have you ever needed help in school? Well, have no fear—the Super Tutors are here!

The tutoring program at East Rock is called "Super Tutors," and it is part of a three-year district-wide program to help students improve how they are doing academically. The district received a three-year federal grant to provide funding for the program.

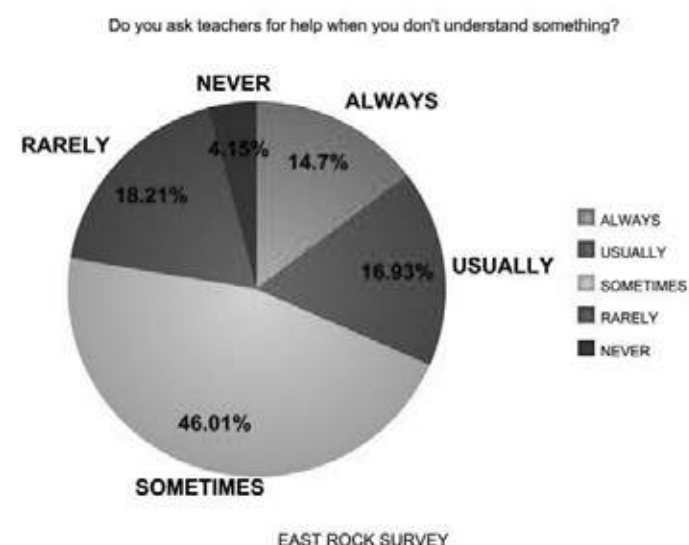
The question is: Are students asking for the help they need?

The East Rock Record Fall 2015 survey students in grades 2 through 8 showed that only 16 percent said they "always" ask a teacher for help when they need it; five percent said they "never" ask a teacher for help—even if they need it.

The Super Tutors program sets up small groups for teacher tutoring. Two times a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m., Super Tutors meet with students to go over math, reading and science homework. There are six Super Tutors at East Rock School, said Jason Catala, who is in charge of the program at six New Haven Public Schools.

Giancarlo Ocasio, a seventh grader at East Rock, said he likes to "come to Super Tutoring to do homework instead of going home."

A student can get involved in the program in one of two ways. Either a teacher can notice that



a student may need extra help in certain subjects or the student thinks they may need extra help with homework. To join the program, teachers give students an application to take home and fill it out with help and permission from parents or a guardian. Once a student has permission they can attend.

If a student wants to join, but the teacher doesn't think the student needs tutoring, they will give a student extra homework instead.

Some of the Super Tutors at East Rock are people you already know!

Ms. Kayla Iannuccilli and Ms. Kelly Ross are two of the tutors helping students after school. Ms. Iannuccilli told East Rock reporters that doing after school tutoring "helps me become a better teacher" and gives her a chance to know her students in a different way.

Not everyone who wants or needs tutoring can

get it. Sometimes students can't stay after school because they don't have after school transportation. Other times, there is not enough space in the Super Tutor program because each group can only have at most eight students. "Currently there are a few students waiting to find a tutor and I am working on finding spots for these students," said Mr. Catala.

According to Ms. Iannuccilli, the Super Tutor program is effective for students because it is "time set aside where they can do their work." Sometimes Super Tutors give students a chance to use computers to do their homework when they don't have access to a computer at home. No one subject is more popular for tutoring than another, with equal numbers of students needing help in math, reading, social studies and science.

During a press conference at East Rock School, Mayor Toni Harp told reporters that when she was a child her school didn't have tutoring. Her parents had to pay for a special tutor which she said, "really helped me."

There are also less official ways to get help at East Rock.

Of students surveyed, 88 percent said they have helped another student who didn't understand something in class. Diedre Lawson, a fourth grader, told reporters that she helps other students in her class because "I feel nice after helping people."

Bathroom mess must be addressed!

BY AMANI AL SAIGH,
MOHAMMED KHAN
AND OSIANA BROWN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY DEVYANI AGGARWAL,
KELSEY SNEDEKER, MARC GONZALEZ
AND VALAMAE JENKINS

Have you ever walked into a bathroom and seen lumps of tissue paper on the floor? Toilets that weren't flushed? Have you been stranded without soap? Or toilet paper? How about having wet hands and no paper towel?

Unfortunately, these problems exist in the bathrooms at East Rock School. The East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey showed that 41 percent of students say the bathrooms are "rarely" or "never" clean. More than one-third said the biggest problem was toilets that were not flushed. The next biggest problem was "no soap" followed by "trash and soap everywhere."

What should be done?

East Rock School custodian Alex Malendez told reporters that to solve these problems, students should have good manners and be responsible while in the bathroom.

Many students may not realize

how much time is spent cleaning the bathrooms after school. According to Mr. Malendez, a lot of hard work goes towards cleaning the bathrooms. When everyone goes home, his team comes in at night and prepares the bathrooms for the following day.

"I expect the building at a certain level," he said. If East Rock School is to do better, he said students must be more considerate and spread awareness about being clean among classmates. He suggests students wash their hands, flush the toilet and not leave an unnecessary mess.

"Treat it like you would treat the bathroom in your house!" he said. "You don't want to leave a mess behind when you graduate and go



East Rock custodian Alec Malendez and reporters.

high school."

East Rock reporters investigated the problems, venturing into 10 student bathrooms after the school day ended. Our reporting team found dirty tissue papers scattered across the floor. Several toilets were not flushed and, as a result, the bathroom did not smell very good.

Jon Sangari, a third grader at East Rock, said the bathrooms, "need to be respected by the people." He went on to say that the bad smell in bathrooms leads him to not use the bathroom if he can avoid it. Most people do not misbehave in bathrooms. The East Rock Record survey showed that 93 percent of East Rock Students have never played around in the bathroom. But seven percent

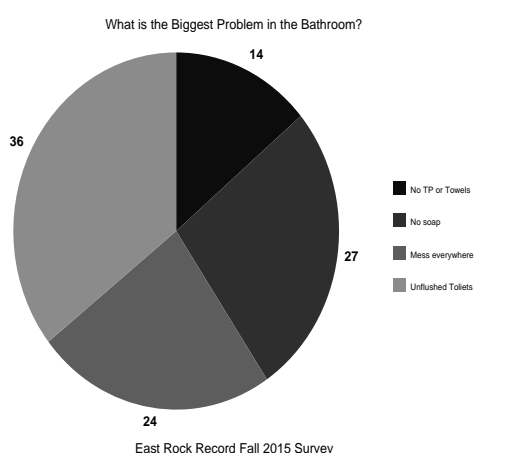
admitted leaving a mess.

Last year, said one fifth grader, "my friend was going to wash his hands and threw soap on the walls, and I clapped my hands and the soap just went on the walls and in the sink." He said he has not messed the bathrooms this year.

Another student went into the bathroom because "we were doing hard math and I wanted to take a break. So me and my other friend started flushing erasers down the toilet." Several years ago, she said, she played with soap, putting it on her face and hair. She also put it on the mirrors.

Other students admitted flushing toilets until they flooded. Yet another said, "I took a lot of soap and started throwing it on people."

This is very concerning behavior. Can students behave or do we need to do something more serious? Should we have signs reminding students to flush? Should we have cameras? Mr. Sangari said cameras would be "problematic." He thinks a better idea is to have someone check bathrooms twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon.



SCHOOL NEWS

Band is popular, but not all may join. Start a chorus?

MUSIC FROM PAGE 1

instrument," she said.

Visiting artist and filmmaker Diana Greene agrees: more practice "will make it stick. It is easy to forget something if you do something once in a week." Students in fifth grade have band class once a week and students in grades 6-8 have band class twice a week.

Who gets to be in the band? Firstly, you have to be in fifth grade. Secondly, Clay Selmont, a full-time music teacher at East Rock School who is also the band teacher, said he "looks for students that are interested in music, that are well-behaved and that do well in school."

Being in band can be very beneficial, he said. "It rounds out students' educations, giving students different ways to look at subjects. We even do this in class: science and music, social studies and music, math and music," said Mr. Selmont. He said learning new music and playing in band helps students get used to hard work.

Listening to music is fun and easy, but Mr. Selmont said when students learn about musicians, they find out how much practice it takes to be really good. "You learn what it means to be a musician, and how much hard work it takes," he said. "You also learn what it means to be on a team, because a band is a team."

Student band members agree. DaVonna Benson, a seventh grader who plays flute in the school band, said that playing in band helps her think about math problems. Gerno Allen, an eighth grader who plays percussion, agreed: "In band there's a lot of counting, which helps with math. Actually, there are a lot of different kinds



Band and music teacher Clay Selmont with East Rock reporters.

Mayor Harp: "I would love to see a school-wide choir and all of your beautiful voices singing."

of thinking we have to do."

Some of students' favorite moments have been playing songs from Disney's Frozen and other popular tunes. If band is so great, why do only and some students get to play in it? Time is one big reason why band is not available to everyone.

"The hardest thing is that I just don't get that much time with them," Mr. Selmont said of band students. "I don't get any one-on-one lessons." This gets difficult when students enter band at different skill levels and learn at different paces. "The beginners sometimes struggle, and the advanced students can get bored," he added.

To address this, Mr. Selmont makes careful choices about repertoire. "I pick something that beginners have to strive to play, intermediate students play well, and advanced students still find interesting," he said. Mr. Selmont alters arrangements to make parts easier or harder to fit skill levels.

Ms. Maust said her job is to make sure each school in the city has strong performing arts teachers, including band teachers like Mr. Selmont. When reporters asked her if she grew up playing music, she said recalled, "Singing, sing-

ing, and more singing."

During a press conference with reporters, Mayor Toni Harp said that she played violin in her school's orchestra until her father had her switch instruments. "I studied the violin for a very short time because my father couldn't stand when I missed a note," she said. "They switched me over to the piano because that was a little easier in the ear."

Mayor Harp said she would like to see more students doing music at younger ages. "I believe that the younger we start engaging our young people in music, the better," she said. If it's not possible to have students play instruments, Mayor Harp said they should sing. "I would love to see a school-wide choir and all of your beautiful voices singing."


East Rock School does not have a choir. Ms. Maust said she wished more students at East Rock could be in band and agreed that time and scheduling can be a problem. When asked if this was caused by tight school budgets, Ms. Maust said funding was not a problem, and she makes sure that schools get the money they need. "The New Haven Public Schools," she said, "have some of the best arts funding."

Students and teachers agree that being in band can be a positive experience. Special education teacher Norine Polio said that playing in the band "makes you learn teamwork, because you usually play together." For now, as long as students in grades 5 through 7 behave and show interest, they can have this experience, too.




Ellen Maust, Supervisor of Performing and Visual Arts for NHPS.





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SCHOOL NEWS

New ER staff bring surprising skills, hobbies

BY JAVARI BROWN, NASIR ANDERSON, EDISON CONTRERAS, GIOVANNI OCASIO
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

When you're new in school, it can feel exciting and scary—even if you are a teacher.

“I was very excited and a little nervous for East Rock,” Danielle Benner, a new staff member, said of the night before starting her new job at East Rock School as a speech and language pathologist. “I always take a deep breath when I am feeling nervous and close my eyes and think happy thoughts (usually about my kids!).”

This year, there are new faces at East Rock School and some of those teachers and staff are interesting people with special talents. One of them used to be a short order cook at a golf course. Another performs songs in American Sign Language (plus does home remodeling and has used a jackhammer!). Another is a wizard at crafts.

Karen Ruggiero, Mary Good, and Ms. Benner are new to East Rock School this year. Ms. Ruggiero is a registered nurse in the health room. Ms. Good teaches deaf and hearing-impaired students in the district including at East Rock. If you see them around, say “Hi!”

Guess what? Like many students, they also enjoy snow days and summer vacations. They like ice cream and have pets. Most of all, they love helping students.

“The best part about teaching is the smile on a person’s face when they realize they learned something they didn’t previously know,” said Ms. Ruggiero.

What do students like best about teachers? The East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey showed that 28 percent of students said the most important quality in a teacher is that they are “nice.” Twenty-one percent said the top quality was that

teachers didn’t give too much homework, followed by 20 percent who care most that teachers were good at explaining information.

Several East Rock School teachers said they are excited to work with the new teachers and staff. “The new teachers are energetic and eager to teach,” said Erin Salzano, who teaches third grade. Rebecca Ryalls, who teaches first grade, said that, “It would be nice to get to know the new teachers more.” Giovanni Ocasio, a student in fifth grade, also wishes that the students knew the new teachers better. “We should have an ice cream party with the teachers,” he suggested.

Students are excited to have new people at East Rock. So don’t be shy: step up and talk with them!

Ms. Mary Good

Teaches: Deaf and hearing-impaired students, all subjects

Favorite ice cream flavor: Dinosaur Crunch (it’s blue ice cream with malted milk balls and fudge swirl!)

Best part of teaching: When a student tries so hard, but struggles, then finally understands and can work independently. I like to see the student proud of himself.

Worst part of teaching: Disrespectful behaviors, especially back-talk.

Most interesting thing about East Rock School: The “new” building. Was last here in 1985. The building was old. It is upgraded and beautiful.

Interesting hobby: I like to perform songs in American Sign Language. I interpret stage productions in which professional singers sing and I do sign language.

Pet: Jazzy is a “morkie,” a Maltese and Yorkie.

Ms. Karen Ruggiero

Works as: R.N. in the health office

Favorite ice cream flavor: Vanilla with rainbow shots

Best part of teaching: The smile on a person’s face when they realize they learned something they didn’t previously know.

Worst part of teaching: You don’t always know if the person you educated actually understood the information or if they will use that information again.

Most interesting thing about East Rock School: The diversity and talent of the students. I also like the big windows!

Interesting hobby: I love to go kayaking.

Pet: Sasha is a mixed breed dog from a rescue shelter.

Ms. Danielle Benner

Works as: Speech and language pathologist

Favorite ice cream flavor: Vanilla

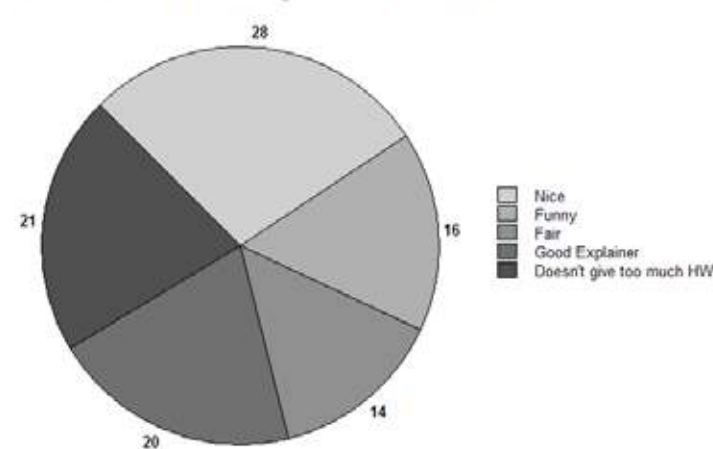
Best part of teaching: Laughing every day!

Worst part of teaching: Paperwork.

Interesting hobby: Enjoys making crafts.

Pet: Two cats named Peri and Riley.

East Rock Students' Favorite Qualities in Teachers



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Presidential race stirs up strong feelings and fears about immigration

IMMIGRATION FROM PAGE 1

dents who answered the survey, 18 percent said they were born in another country and 64 percent said a family member was born outside the U.S.

One student, who asked to remain anonymous, said that she is nervous that if Donald Trump becomes president, “me and my family will be deported to Ecuador.”

Many in New Haven also worry about plans by Mr. Trump and other Republican candidates, said Sandra Trevino, Executive Director of Junta for Progressive Action.

Ms. Trevino said immigration is an important issue because “immigration laws right now aren’t helping families stay together.”

This is especially important in New Haven because so many people have come here from other countries. According to Ms. Trevino, one out of every eight New Haven residents is an immigrant. She said immigrants come here seeking a better life and, sometimes, to escape violence in their countries of origin.

“America is a country where people can be successful,” she said during a meeting with East Rock Record reporters. “Immigrants look to America for opportunity.”

Immigration is also important here because New Haven is a “sanctuary city.” That means that the New Haven Police Department will not seek out illegal immigrants in order to deport them or send them back to their country of origin.

“Most immigrants feel safe here because they know our police force will not be an extension of the INS,” New Haven Mayor Toni Harp told East Rock reporters during a press conference. The INS stands for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which is part of the federal government and responsible for deportation.

Teachers at East Rock feel that New Haven is a safe city for immigrants. “People in New Haven are more accepting of immigrants than other places because it’s a very diverse city,” said Allison Atkin, who teaches seventh and eighth grade at East Rock.

Many people believe immigrants make New Haven a better and more interesting city. Caprice Taylor Mendez, Strategic Program Manager of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, said that immigration made her childhood more colorful by adding diverse food, music and language to the city.

“As much as people can learn how immigrants work hard, this country wouldn’t be who we are without immigrants,” she said. “I wouldn’t be who I am if it wasn’t for my experience.”

A 2015 report on the impact of immigration in greater New Haven by The Community Foundation said that the immigrant population grew by 50 percent from 2000 to 2012. Over that period 27,000 new people came to New Haven, making it the fastest growing city in Connecticut. Three-fourths of those new residents were immigrants.

The report also found that immigrants contribute to the economy. They own 13 percent of new businesses started in Connecticut between 2000 and 2007.

Mayor Harp said that the U.S. is “a country of immigrants. Almost every single one of us, unless



Sandra Trevino, Executive Director of Junta for Progressive Action, and Caprice Taylor Mendez of The Community Foundation meet with reporters.

we have pure Native American background, our relatives and ancestors came from another country.” She said it has gotten more difficult recently for people to come to the U.S. She and other mayors want laws changed. “What we have been asking for in Congress is that they take a look at our immigration laws and improve them particularly for people who have parents who might not have been born in this country,” she said.

In Connecticut, Ms. Taylor Mendez said the state is “really working hard to find a way for these immigrants to stay.” According to Ms. Taylor Mendez, federal government laws override state and local ones. Some federal legislation, like

als Act and want to end “birthright citizenship,” which allows children of illegal immigrants who are born here to be U.S. citizens. On his website Mr. Trump says, “no sane country would give automatic citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants.”

On his campaign website Mr. Trump says, “Mexico’s leaders have been taking advantage of the United States by using illegal immigration to export the crime and poverty in their own country.” He wants to build a wall between Mexico and the United States and make Mexico pay for it.

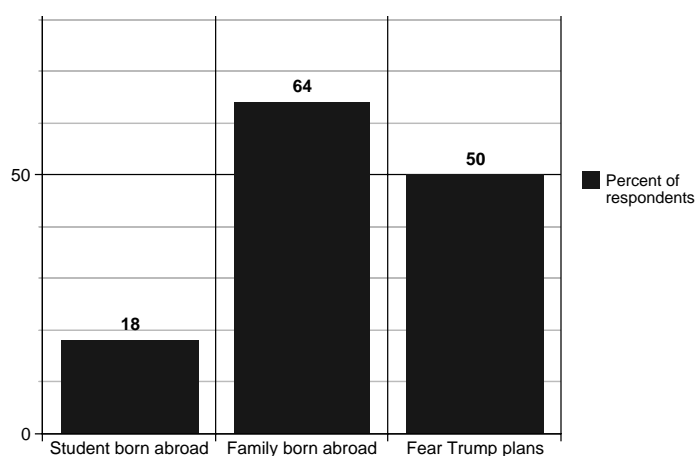
Many immigrants work hard and become successful. For those who come to the U.S. and East Rock School, it is not easy. Immigrant students must learn English. They enroll in a program to learn English, run by East Rock teacher Norine Polio.

Students also have to learn about a new culture, said Ms. Atkin, the seventh and eighth grade teacher. “The first challenge is to figure out how a fast-paced society works,” she said. Immigrant students, “are trying to grow in almost two places: where they are now and their own culture and where they came from.”

Eighth grader Marquis Mitchell worries that “Donald Trump would send all of the immigrants back to Mexico. Everybody deserves freedom.”

Even though it is a big political issue now, immigration has been going on for a very long time. “What makes our country great is that we came from so many places,” said Mayor Harp. Ms. Trevino agreed, “This country wouldn’t be who we are without immigrants.”

SURVEY SHOWS IMMIGRATION PERSONAL ISSUE FOR EAST ROCK STUDENTS, FAMILIES



Source: East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey

the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA), helps immigrants. It lets children who came to the U.S. when they were very young stay in the country.

But other policies put them at risk. Even though children who are American citizens cannot be deported, their parents can be. That breaks apart families, which is painful.

“Because of U.S. federal government immigration policies,” said Ms. Trevino, “a child could be born in New Haven, and if their parents are not, that child could wake up and have their parent not be there.”

That is very scary to students. “If I was an immigrant, I wouldn’t know what to do. I would be scared because [Donald Trump] would have a lot of power,” said East Rock student Julian Rodriguez, who is in eighth grade.

Several candidates including Mr. Trump do not support the Delayed Action for Childhood Arriv-



East Rock record reporters take notes during interview with Sandra Trevino of Junta and Caprice Taylor Mendez of The Community Foundation.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harp says she will not seek higher office

MAYOR FROM PAGE 1

they have a future here in town.”

The East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey asked students what top issue the Mayor should tackle. Results showed that 52 percent of students said “crime.” Eighteen percent said “education” and 15 percent said “jobs.”

Before becoming Mayor, she was a state senator for 10 terms and a New Haven alder three times. Mayor Harp said she does not plan to run for a higher office. “I want to be the best mayor possible, and I think that will be the end of my political career,” she said.

Even though her opponents didn’t win, Mayor Harp said she learns from those running against her. “Even if they don’t win, they have good ideas,” she said.

Survey results also showed that 72 percent of students said kids should care about the mayoral election. Many students have strong ideas about politics. Some even think kids under 18 should be allowed to vote.

“Kids should vote because kids do care,” said Ms. Praseuth. “We want our mayors to be fair—fair for kids and fair for schools. Some schools don’t have budgets for kids to play instruments or have good food.”

Other students disagree. Valamae Jenkins, a ninth grader at Co-Op High School, worries kids would just vote how their parents wanted them to. Kids “won’t have their own opinions.”

The turnout in last month’s election was very low, less than 20 percent of eligible voters. Mayor



East Rock Record reporters talk with New Haven City Clerk Michael B. Smart about voting. Someday, he predicts, “you will be able to vote on your phone.”

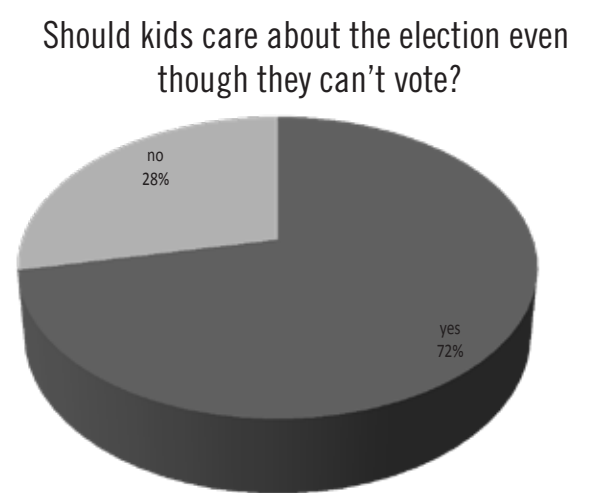
Harp got 10,784 votes and her opponents got 1,339. Although it was not a close race, Mayor Harp believes residents should vote. Mayor Harp said she grew up “during the Civil Rights Era,” and when she was a girl, “my father took me to vote with him at the polls.” Even though they can’t vote, Mayor Harp said students have a role. “Kids can get involved in politics by encouraging parents to vote, learning about campaigns, and sharing information. Some of you might have access to information that your parents don’t have.”

East Rock Record reporters also talked to New Haven City Clerk Michael B. Smart about why voting is important. “It’s a civic thing to do,” he said. Mr. Smart pointed out that East Rock School is a neighborhood polling place! He said students can learn about voting and politics at any age. “Following the process and meeting your legislators when you’re under 18 is important,” he said.

He also thinks that 18 “is a fair age” to begin voting. “By that time you have a grasp of what’s

going on.” He thinks voting in the future will be easier. “You’ll probably be able to vote on your phone,” he told East Rock Record reporters.

Laura Generoso, East Rock social studies teacher agrees that 18 is the right age to start voting. Before then, she said, “kids should have a say” but not a legal vote. “They don’t understand all the issues,” she said. They can still get involved and learn about how politics and government work, she said. Ms. Generoso wants people to make “educated decisions” when they vote. That’s why she teaches politics in eighth grade social studies. “I talk about the mayoral race as much as I can,” she said. “Even if you can’t vote, you will vote in the future, so you should learn as much as you can now.” Paying attention to the mayoral race just makes sense, said East Rock graduate Kelsey Snedeker, a 10th grader at Career High School. After all, “she makes decisions for everyone.”



Graphic by Nellie Jackson. Source: East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey



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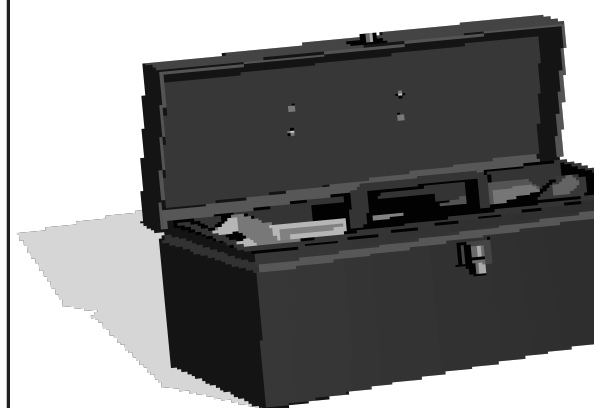
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ART & LEARNING

Art, more than just “fun,” builds thinking Some say not enough time for class that helps with all subjects



East Rock Record reporters interview art teachers Christina Crocco and Elizabeth Cassidy.



East Rock art teacher Elizabeth Cassidy



East Rock art teacher Christina Crocco

BY ANGIE TAFOYA, CHELSEA CORONEL, ALIN SPEARMAN, NATALIE MAYNARD, ISABEL FAUSTINO, PAULETTE JARA, BERNADETTE KARPEL AND DANIEL BEDOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY REDHA QABAZARD

Why do students at East Rock like art class?

It lets your imagination go wild and encourages you to find new ways of thinking. Plus there is no single way to create it. If you make a mistake—it could become art!

Reporters asked students questions like, “Do you like art? Do you think there should be art everyday and why? What’s something interesting you learned in art class? And do you think art is important for children?”

Fourth grader Nasir Anderson said art class helps him with writing and storytelling. “I like art because I think it tells a story without wasting so much paper,” he said.

Nellie Jackson, in fifth grade, loves art class because students are in charge of the ideas. “The best place to learn art is in East Rock School,” she said.

When you learn about art, you also find out about history, different cultures and even events happening around the world. It gives students fresh ideas, said Noreen Polio, who teaches English as a Second Language. “Art trains you to see a painting, a picture, a person or an object in so many ways, especially abstract art,” she said.

The East Rock Record 2015 Fall Survey found that 62 percent of students said art was a “very important” part of their education and 34 percent said it was “somewhat important.” Only five percent said it was “not important.” Even though students think art matters, it does not get very much time in the school schedule. Students at East Rock Magnet School have art class twice per week for 45 minutes.

Ellen Maust, Supervisor of Performing and Visual Arts for the New Haven Public Schools, told reporters that schools focus more on classes like computer, math and language. Even though arts are part of the core curriculum they don’t get the same attention. “The biggest challenge is time,” she said.

“We’re just skimming the surface,” she said. “We have math everyday, reading everyday, but art only once or twice a week. I would love art exposure to be everyday, just like math.” In fact, it could help with other subject learning, she said. “It teaches students about communication, time management, mathematical measurement, social issues and history.”

She said many schools struggle with arts funding, but Ms. Maust said that in 36 years as an arts educator with New Haven Public Schools, she has never seen a single cut to the arts budget. “New Haven has one of the largest arts programs in the country,” she said. “Nationally, funding for the arts is declining. More of the budgets are going toward technology and computers. Some schools only consider art and music instruments and materials if money is left over.”

With limited time, art teachers try their best to teach artistic ideas in creative ways. Christina Crocco who teaches art to students in grades K-4, said art classes today are different than many years ago. “Traditionally, students were asked to copy a drawing or cut and glue pieces of paper,” she said. “We now ask them to think critically, to express themselves and to learn skills they could apply in classes such as math.” She said students learn about history and techniques of artists like Pablo Picasso, Leonardo Da Vinci and Claude Monet.

Elizabeth Cassidy, who teaches art in grades 5-8, tries to focus on

the creation process in art. “We don’t ask students to create something to simply hang on the refrigerator at home,” she said. “We want them to see art class as an opportunity for personal development, to express themselves and inspire others.”

Students in Ms. Cassidy’s class do art in the art room. Younger students have art in their classrooms. Ms. Crocco brings a cart with supplies. Dierdre Lawson, in fourth grade, said Ms. Crocco taught her how to draw 3D shapes. “I think two days a week is enough but I would like one hour instead of 45 minutes so I don’t have to rush,” she said.

Ms. Crocco would like all students to use the art room but said, “it has not been possible for younger students due to scheduling conflicts

with class sessions for older students.” The art cart has supplies, but the art room is a more flexible space for students who want to develop or change art they work on, she said.

East Rock has recognized the interest in art by showing it off around the school. In addition to collages placed around the school, there is a mural next to the library. On the mural it says that “Earth without ‘art’ is just eh.”

Students like the clever message, but also see the deeper meaning that art is central to education and human life. Mayor Tony Harp told East Rock Record reporters that they live in a city where art is all around—and available. “Art is very important in New Haven.”



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FOOD NEWS

THE ER RECORD TASTE TEST: Which New Haven Pizza is Best?

Reporters evaluate Bar, Pepe's and Modern!



East Rock Record mentors serve pizza in a blind taste test and reporters rate tomato pies from Bar (pizza "A"), Pepe's (pizza "B") and Modern (pizza "C"), plus a specialty pizza from each: Mashed potato and bacon (Bar), white clam (Pepe's) and Italian Bomb (Modern). PLAIN PIE WINNER: Modern Apizza.



BY JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I'm not used to eating three small pizza slices and then writing a review about them. The first pizza we had was a cheese pizza from Bar that had a delicious aroma. The second pizza we had was yet another cheese pizza, but this time it was from Pepe's. The pizza was extremely decadent, with the cheese, tomato sauce, and the crust fitting perfectly with each other. The only problem was that it was a little too burned. The final pizza was from Modern Pizza. I believe that pizza was the best. It was the perfect combination between sweet and spicy, burned and chewy, hot and cold. Plus, Modern Pizza is my favorite pizzeria.

BY GERNO ALLEN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The "C" pizza was delicious, cheesy, and a once in a lifetime taste coming from Modern Apizza. When you first bite into the pizza you feel like the whole world just stops. The pizza was chewy instead of hard and crunchy. Pizza C is one of the best pizzas I've ever tasted. Before I tasted the pizza I was thinking how I wanted the texture to taste like something I never tasted before. The reason I like pizza C is because it didn't taste like any other pizza. I recommend people try pizza C.

BY CHELSEA CORONEL AND ANGIE TAFOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Hi, I'm Chelsea, and I think pizza "C" was the best. Hi, I'm Angie, I and think pizza "A" was the best. Pizza C was from Modern Apizza, pizza A was from Bar Pizza. Pizza C was cheesy and the crust was soft but it felt crunchy. It was a little burnt and I think the cheese could be better. Pizza A was chewy and the crust was soft and the cheesy was a little greasy.

BY EDISON CONTRERAS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The best pizza is from Modern Apizza because it has a lot of oil. I know it is bad for me but I still like it. I like brick oven pizzas.

BY JULIANA SNEDEKER
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was Modern because it was cheesy, tasty, crunchy and delicious. They have other flavors. Why does pizza have to be so delicious?

BY JAVARI BROWN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

There are a lot of ingredients in a pizza. But some pizza stores use ingredients differently. The East Rock Newspaper Club put some pizzas from Bar, Pepe's, and Modern Apizza to a taste test. Pepe's was not so great. It had so much flour in it. Plus it didn't have that much sauce. On a rating scale 1 to 10, I gave it 6. Pepe's was a little too crispy and burnt on the crust, but it had a lot of texture in it. Modern tasted really savory but was a little too greasy for me. I still liked that one the best. Bar pizza needs a little more sauce on it, but Bar's mashed potato and bacon was delicious. It was interesting to really taste and try to see how the pizzas are different.

BY AREYANNA MORANT
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Many people did not like the clam pizza, but I liked that pizza the best because it was not crunchy. It was a little salty and chewy, and it was so tasty. The texture was nice and soft. It did not have that hard texture or that burnt taste.

BY NELLIE JACKSON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

We had a PIZZA TASTE TEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The best pizza is Modern Apizza. It is the best because it had lots of sauce. The crust was crunchy. The "Italian Bomb" pizza had lots of toppings.

BY VICTORIA PRASEUTH
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

It was amazing eating many different kinds of pizza. I usually eat normal kinds, but trying clam pizza and mashed potato with bacon pizza was delicious. I never thought it existed, but it does!

BY ARYANA SNEDEKER
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The white clam pizza was super gross to me. (I never want to taste that pizza again, but I like the restaurant so I just won't get the pizza when I'm there.) To other people, it was good. My favorite plain pizza was "C," Modern Apizza. It was juicy and really good.

BY MYA CARDWELL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was Modern Apizza because the cheese was really juicy. The crust was big and tasty. And the sauce was warm and good.

BY WILSON CORONEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The "C" pizza was actually from Modern Apizza. Almost everything was good; it was nearly flawless. I judge the pizza by three factors. One is the crunch factor. This is when you bite into the pizza and you can already hear the crunch along with the taste. Modern has mastered and conquered this factor. Then there is the mouthwatering factor. This pizza had this under its spell, too, because of the lightly seasoned pizza slice I can taste the cheese and the seasoning together without the flavor "getting into a fight." Then there is the fervor factor, which the Modern Apizza needs a just a little more help on. Overall, this pizza was great. I had never tasted Modern Apizza before, and I thought no other pizza was as good as my previous favorite, but it surpassed it.

BY MELANIE CONTRERAS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I really liked the "Italian Bomb" pizza from Modern because it had lots of flavor. I also liked it because it was a perfect pizza size with a nice shape and color. It had a lot of pepper and mozzarella cheese. It also had different meats like sausage, bacon, and pepperoni. I also liked the crunchy crust.

BY NATALIE MAYNARD
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Today I tried many different kinds of pizza, including Modern Apizza, Bar pizza, and Pepe's Pizzeria. They are all pretty good but the best was Modern. The crust wasn't too thin and it wasn't too thick. It reminds me of home, because my family orders the same pizza.

BY NASIR ANDERSON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Modern Apizza is the best we tasted. The dough is soft and the cheese is stringy without having to order extra cheese. The other pizzas were hard and there was too little sauce.

BY CRYSTAL WILLIAMS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The pizza I loved the most was Modern Apizza because it had the most flavor. When I saw it, I thought it looked greasy, but it was good. I loved eating it with friends. It was a little salty and chewy, which made it so tasty.

SEE PAGE 12

BOOKS & IDEAS

READ AND PLAY OVER THE HOLIDAYS!

\$1 Million or Adventure? “39 Clues” series is a winner!

BY JAMES MACIEL-ANDREWS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The 39 Clues is a book series books written by different authors. It starts with Dan and Amy Cahill. Their grandmother, Grace Cahill, has just passed away from cancer after five months of putting up a fight, and the children are attending the funeral. Dan is 11, while his sister is 13. Their mother and father passed away in a fire seven years earlier, and now they live with their aunt Beatrice, or as they like to call her, “The Bull Queen.” After the funeral service, Dan and Amy find an invitation under their seat that only a handful of other people got. When Grace’s lawyer leads them into a secret room in Grace’s million-dollar mansion, Dan and Amy finally realize that something weird is going on. It gets even weirder when Mr. McAlister, the lawyer, pulls down a slide screen and a video of Grace starts playing. She explains that their family has a family tree of very famous people, from George Washington and Napoleon, to Picasso and Beethoven. She tells them that there is a family secret guaranteed to give you power over the entire world, and she gives them a choice: to look under their seat and take the million dollars for each one of their family members, or take the first clue that will lead them around the world to partake in a race that will ultimately lead them to world domination. The first five family members decline the offer to participate in the Cahill race and take the million dollars. But the Spasky, Kobra, Wizard, Holts, Oh, and Aaron families choose to play a part in the intercontinental competition. Aunt Beatrice tells the kids that the race is nonsense and tells them to take their three million dollars and go home, but Dan and Amy decide to take their first clue from Mr. McAlister, and that’s where the adventure begins.

Harry Potter: The Prisoner of Azkaban

BY BY JON SANGARI
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

J.K. Rowling wrote *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. In the book, Harry goes to Hogwarts while the prisoner of Azkaban has gotten out. Dumbledore helps Harry fight Lord Voldemort. I like this because it involves a lot of magic. I recommended this book to Hector, my best friend who likes magic. I would not recommend it to my brother because he is too little. My favorite part was when Harry finds out that that the prisoner is his foster dad. My other favorite part was when Harry fights with Lord Voldemort. There were so many spells being cast! I learned from reading this book that I like magic and I like to cast spells on people.

Life with Magical Powers “Haunted” by Joy Preble

BY ANGIE LUZ TAFOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Haunted is an exiting book its about a girl named Anne who has magical powers. Anne groaned as her mother questions her because she was worried that she has been spending too much time with Ben, her boyfriend. (But not for long). Ben works as a lifeguard and whenever she visits she sees him looking at girls with bathing suits. Anne is only a girlfriend with Ben because he keeps her comfortable. Ben and Anne go on a trip the first day they met. The subway was really rough because on the way, Anne burned Ben’s cheek with her powers. She thought it was the ghost named Anastasia in her brain trying to destroy her life. This is an interesting story!

Hilarious teacher makes school funny

BY HECTOR CRUZ
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Miss Daisy Is Crazy! is one of my favorite books. It was written by Dan Gutman. In the book, Miss Daisy was crazy and funny to the entire class. She was the class’s teacher. The funniest part of the book was when Miss Daisy called a girl “Sir.” The girl had asked to go to the bathroom and Miss Daisy said “Yes, Sir.” I don’t know why, but it was a funny moment. Miss Daisy also did not know 1+1. My favorite character was A.J., a student. He was smart. For example, he knew 19 times 13. He is funny, too, because when he fell he hit his head and said, “I’m okay,” but then fell down again! I would recommend this book because it is funny. I have not recommended it before because other people in my class don’t like books similar to *Miss Daisy Is Crazy!* Other books in the series include *Miss Mary Is Scary!*, *Mr. Hobbles is in Trouble!*, *Miss Nicholas is Ridiculous!* and *Miss Nile Looks Like a Crocodile!*

Online play makes cell growth a game

BY IRVIN SIMMON HERRERA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Agar.io is a type of online game that is appropriate for kids age five and older. In the game you represent a cell in a petri dish and try to make yourself larger by swallowing other cells without getting swallowed yourself. You do this by moving your mouse around. You start with a 10 mass. You have to get big by eating other cells. If you “die,” you start all over. It is even better start with a 100 mass. I recommend that people play this game. Be careful: if you hit a green spiked blob you will pop into little pieces unless you are smaller. What makes agar.io fun is that there is a leader board. If you want to know if you are in the leader board you have to click the board. I like agar.io so much that I will tell you my favorite part: I love trolling. Trolling is when you hide sometimes in a virus until other cells come closer and then you pop out and eat them.

More pizza reviews...

BY PAULETTE JARA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was Modern Apizza. The slice I had was really really long and not that wide. It was the best pizza I’ve tasted in my life. Thank you to the pizza makers of Modern Apizza.

BY AMANI AL SAIGH
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I liked pizza “A” from Bar. It was amazing. It was thin and had a good amount of cheese.

BY JESSICA BEDOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

I like the bacon pizza with mashed potato. It was so good and the mashed potato was so soft.

BY DANIEL BEDOYA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was Modern Apizza. The taste was fabulous. It had a lot of cheese and I love cheese. I reminded me of the pizza I had in Barcelona, Spain. Pizza that tastes good, makes you feel good. I made sure to enjoy every single bite of the warm, crunchy and yummy crust.

BY ISABEL FAUSTINO
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Pizza “A” from Bar tasted a little spicy and was juicy. Even though it looked a little nasty, it was okay. The one I liked best was Pizza “B” from Pepe’s. The taste was amazing! The best part was that it was so crunchy.

BY JON SANGARI
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

The best pizza was the one with mashed potato and bacon. All the pizza was good but that was the most good. I like mashed potato and pizza.

BY VICTOR KLUTSEY
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was pizza “B.” It was from Pepe’s Pizzeria. The appearance was good and the smell was amazing. The flavor was full of cheese and the texture was soft.

BY ALIN SPEARMAN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

My favorite was Pepe’s because it’s what I usually have at home. I like the flavors best. I like that it is strong, a little smoky and the crust is hard. It tastes like the pizza I make at home.



DANCING & FUN

FAST FEET WITH YALE TAP !



The amazing tap dancing team from Yale is called Yale Taps. Three dancers tapped for the East Rock Record reporters and then showed us some steps. The dancers were junior Kira Tebbe, sophomore Jessica Nelson and freshman Jacob Clemente. Mr. Clemente said he started tap dancing because he couldn't keep his feet still in kindergarten.



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

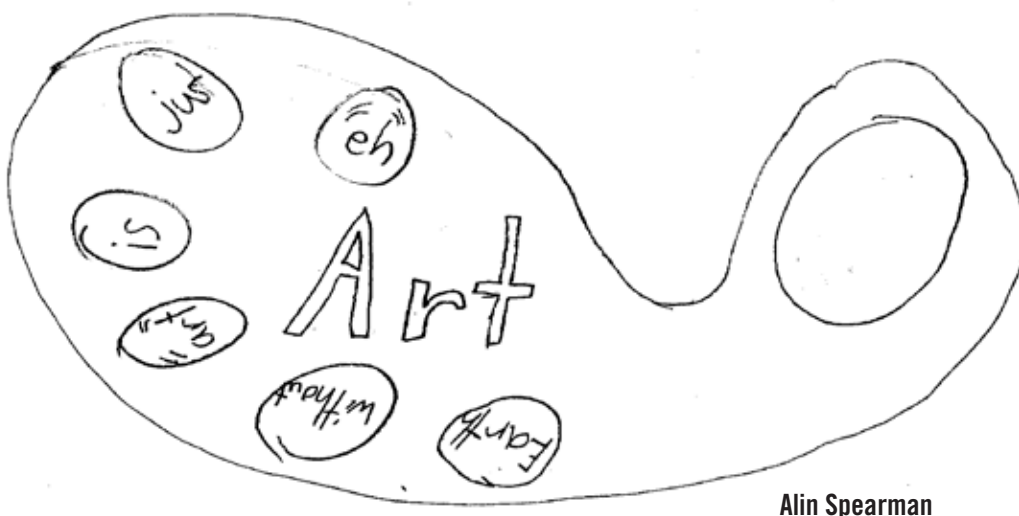
Letter from Principal Pelley

Greetings East Rock Record Readers!

Congratulations to the East Rock Record staff on the fifth 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 part of a school newspaper helps our students to become better writers, thinkers and citizens. Special thanks to the staff, students and parents of East Rock School, student mentors from Yale University, and nationally recognized journalist and author Laura Pappano for supporting our students in this collaborative effort.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2016!

Peggy Pelley, Principal
East Rock Community Magnet School



East Rock needs its own sports teams

At East Rock School, we do not have our own sports teams. Sport teams would make the school community stronger. They should at least have a running team because it would cost very little money. There are also a lot of people at East Rock School that are good at basketball. So we should make a basketball team. I bet people would try out. Sports would also help students make more friends and be popular.

—**Alec Samsel**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

MONITORS NEEDED TO HALT BATHROOM MESS

Some people don't care about the bathroom. For example, there are unflushed toilets, toilet paper all over the wall, and more. There should be clean bathrooms. Some kids don't listen to the rules. Some stay in the bathroom for 10 minutes. This should stop. Kids should do their business and get out. What do we do about this? We should have student monitors who check the bathroom every hour. If the monitors find a problem they should tell the principal. Students should take responsibility for themselves. This could make the janitor's job easier. And the bathrooms cleaner.

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

Bathroom solution: Be considerate!

East Rock bathrooms are disgusting because kids flood the toilets. This means they push the handle a bunch of times. Another thing they do is they put paper towel in the toilet then flush it. One day I went to the bathroom with my friend. When I went out of the stall I saw another student flooding the toilet! I tried to stop him, but he wouldn't stop. I feel badly because the janitor had to clean it up. I think we need monitors because you never know what people will do to the bathroom. It is not fair for most students and the janitors to have to deal with dirty bathrooms. The people that make the bathrooms dirty should think about the other people who have to use and clean the bathroom.

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

Math learning = happiness

We learned that math tests are important. Math can make you happy. This is because math tests include fun activities like multiplication and division.

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

The East Rock Record

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

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WELCOME IMMIGRANTS

Immigration is a common topic of discussion today because Donald Trump is running for president and has made it a big issue. He wants to put a huge wall on the border between Mexico and America. That is not a good idea. It would not solve any problems, and could actually cause more problems. Donald Trump is against immigration for what reason I do not know. If he becomes President, there will be more problems that no one in America—or in any country—wants.

Immigrants should be able to come to America in peace without problems. They should be able to live without any worries that someone will send them back to the place from where they escaped. Even little kids are worried that they could wake up without their parents. I would be so sad and frustrated if someone took

my mom or dad away from me or from our home.

We should do more to help immigrants by making it easier for them to become full American citizens. We should have free transportation for



“Donald Trump” by Bernadette Karpel

them to get here because maybe they don't have a car. Plus we should have more help for kids who are immigrants. It is hard for them to fit into a new country and a school full of kids they don't know. They also need help to learn English.

—**Rosalind Waters**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

TRUMP SPURS NIGHTMARE

I'm scared that Donald Trump could be our next president. I'm scared because he does not like immigrants. That is a problem because he could send immigrants back to where they came from. I was born here, but my parents were not. So Donald Trump could take them away. I worry about them a lot and sometimes cry in my sleep. I think about it when I am in bed and it makes it hard to sleep.

—**By Melanie Contreras**, *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
Paula Daitzman
Kayla Iannuccilli
Kelly Ross
Linda Pina-Morris

YALE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF NEW HAVEN AND STATE AFFAIRS

Lynda Blancato
Claudia Merson

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Laura Pappano
Kelsey Snedeker
Marc Gonzalez
Valamae Jenkins

YALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Devyani Aggarwal
Christina Bartzokis
Taylor Eldridge
Elliah Heifetz
Jiahui Hu
Redha Qabazard
Jacqueline Salzinger
Semhal Tsegaye

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.



OPINION

FLU SHOTS SHOULD BE GIVEN IN SCHOOLS

The school nurses should give out flu shots because some kids' moms or dads don't have cars to go to the doctors and get flu shots. So school nurses should give out the shots. Once, I had to go to the hospital because I had an asthma attack when I had a cold. I didn't go to school for two days. Schools should care if I get sick because I might miss a lot of lessons and not know what to do. I didn't have my flu shot because we didn't have a car. (It was in the shop). There are many reasons why nurses should give out shots in flu season. We should also think about germs. Teachers and nurses should give out disinfecting wipes so when kids sneeze in their arms they should get a disinfecting wipe to wipe off the germs and desks. After breakfast, the desks are super messy. And schools have a lot of germs!

—**Dierdre Lawson**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

More rewards for academics would boost achievement

It is great if you are "Student of the Month." But what about the other 25 children in the class? Kids should not just be picked on to be "Student of the Month" or be given a reading or math award. We need more recognition for more students who deserve it. When you do something good or helpful, you should be applauded and recognized. This would help underachieving kids want to get better at subjects. The things that you can win and get awarded for are Student of the Month, Reading and Math awards. The honor roll is only for students in grades 5-8. There should be ways for more students, including those who are younger, to earn recognition for good work.

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

Fair treatments for pets

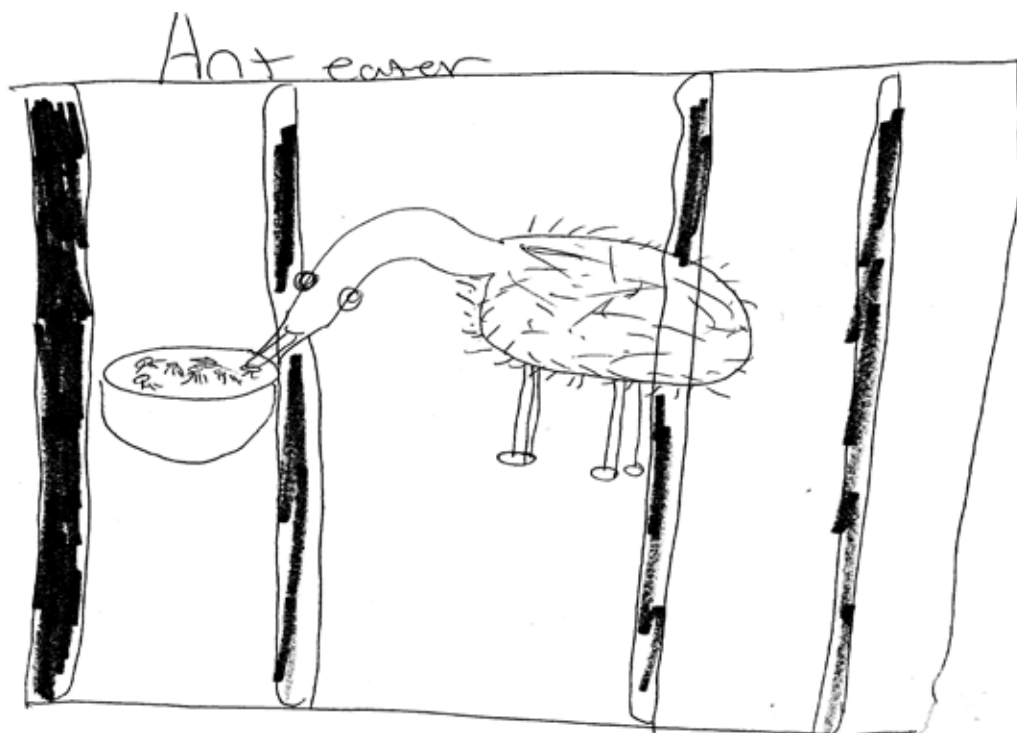
Animals can get treated badly by their owners and it's unfair. It happens in many different ways, such as leaving your pet in the middle of nowhere or, worse, leaving your dog chained to a pole with no food or water. Some people volunteer to find this bad stuff and keep it from happening or from starting. Sadly, some animals never get help and end up getting hurt badly. Sometimes pets will fight back against their owners and then be punished by their owners. They are fighting to be free from bad owners but get put down by the pound without anyone knowing what really happened. Animals can get pushed and dragged around by bad owners and can't do a single thing about it. This is unfair. Animals should be treated fairly, like people.

—**Giovani Ocasio**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

Better conditions for zoo animals

When I went to the zoo, I saw an anteater. It had a long neck like a giraffe and a long nose like an elephant. I thought it looked fluffy, hairy and cool. But when I looked to my left, I saw another anteater that looked weak and sick. This made me think that maybe the animals are not getting enough food. The zoo also takes these animals from their natural habitat and puts them into bars and cages. It made me think they feel trapped and they do not have enough space to run around. I feel that the zoo should decorate their cages like their habitats so that animals can feel like that is their home. They should put more animals together so they don't feel lonely. I hope the zoos keep their animals in better conditions.

—**Osiana Brown**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

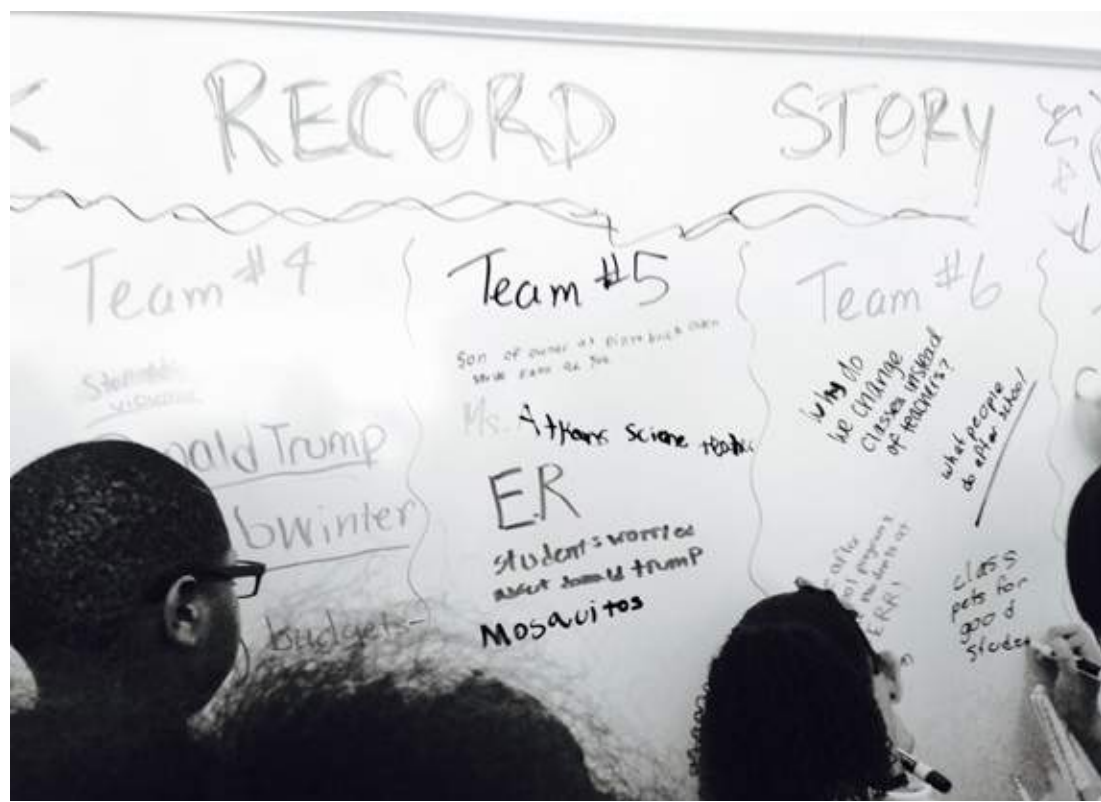


Osiana Brown

Action needed on test scores!

Clearly East Rock test scores are well below the state average. I believe East Rock test scores should be at grade level or higher. We need to improve our skills in math. We must practice more and use resources like math books and calculators to get better. East Rock test scores should be close to the state average. Math is important in case you want to get STEM jobs when you are older. You would want a STEM job because they pay better than many other jobs. Another reason we need to know math is because it can help in real life situations. Are we learning what we need to learn in school? It's a scary question because if we are not it's going to be hard to succeed. Sometimes students don't realize how this situation affects them not just in school but also in life. Knowing math can determine how we live, what we will do, and how far we will go. We depend on teachers and parents to help us learn what we need to learn. In other words, we trust them for some important stuff. Both students and teachers have the responsibility to improve the math test scores.

—**Gerno Allen**, *East Rock Record Opinion*



In September, student reporters brainstorm story ideas for December 2015 issue.

Students learn better when they are encouraged, not called out

Teachers should not embarrass kids in front of the class. For example, my friend got yelled at by a teacher who said, "We're moving on without you on multiplication." Then my friend started to cry. Last month, my teacher said she would help the not-so-smart kids on math. But after a couple of minutes she sent us back because we were talking. But, get this: we were talking about a math joke! Another teacher said, "If nobody knows this, they're going to fall behind." It doesn't help students when teachers yell, especially in front of other students. When teachers say we're going to fall behind, it makes me feel like other kids are smarter than me and that I'm dumb. It doesn't make me feel encouraged. A teacher's job is to make kids feel encouraged. Saying people will fall behind makes people feel bad and makes people cry, and then they ask, "Why are you crying?" It's because of what they said! Teachers say, "I learned all of this" too much. They don't understand me and they make me feel bad for not learning "all of this." Students can have a meltdown and think, "They know all this but I don't. Wait!!" Teachers should teach without yelling or making kids feel bad.

—**Nyasia Dongal**, *East Rock Record Opinion*

WHY MATH MATTERS

At East Rock School there is a lot of math going on. Why does math help children and teachers? Math class helps you learn things you don't know, like if I didn't know my times tables or division. It is important because when you get older you will want to know how much money is in your pay check because if you want to buy something you will know if you can buy it. That is why math matters.

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

Math is fun to do. In class we learn new things. Math can be difficult for some students. Maybe they don't speak the same language and that can make it hard for them. Times tables can be hard for students. Also division.

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

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