

Youth of Today  
Hope of Tomorrow



## Pen Pals



**Zaila Pearl Rowland  
TOPS**

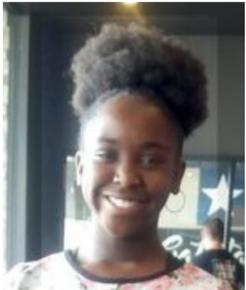
This past week I started writing Pen Pals. It's completely different from texting or emailing someone. When you send a text or email the recipient gets your message within a few seconds or minutes. I am writing an actual letter to 3 different girls my age who live in Texas but not in Austin.

Since my Pen Pals

live in Texas they should get my letter in a couple of days. If they lived in a different state or country it would take longer. The weird thing about a Pen Pal is not knowing who im writing or what they look like, but that's why you write them to learn more about who they are. I made sure to include all my favorite things in my letters so they can learn about me. I'm sure once we get to know each other more we can send a picture to put a face with our letters.

I am excited about receiving mail and learning about different people and where they live. One day I would like to go meet my Pen Pals. I'm looking forward to learning all about my new friends.

## Rock Climbing Intersession



**SaNaya White  
Ann Richards**

Thursday, January 3, I returned to school from my Holiday break. Instead of it being a normal class day, my school participated in a special activity only held by our school called "Intersession". Intersession refers to a short break or small term between the traditional, standard academic term. At Ann Richards, intersession is a time for students from different grade levels to come together and become acquainted if not already. Before Christmas break, we were asked to select a activity to participate in for our time during intersession. There were many different choices that we were given. They varied from activities such as cooking to skating. The intersession I signed up for was rock climbing.

Thursday and Friday I spent both days rock climbing and learning a lot about the sig-

nificance of it. There is so much more to simply trying to climb as high as you can when rock climbing. I learned new terms, phrases, and tips. My group and I took the city bus to a place called The Crux Climbing Center. The center holds many areas for all ages to climb. It provides many levels of challenge for people to choose from. I had an amazing time climbing. I actually completed a course that I did not believe I could accomplish. The most important thing I learned is that when climbing, you will fall, but you have to get back up and try again. The two days that my group climbed, we all complained about how sore we were. It takes a lot of muscle for the courses there. Upper body strength is definitely something you'll gain when climbing.

I really enjoyed my intersession and I will definitely be returning to Crux. I recommend visiting Crux and trying it out to anyone who wants a challenge, or likes to climb in general. Besides that, as we return to school, I hope everyone flows smoothly back into the groove of classes and starts 2019 off great.

## End of Winter Break



**Averill Topps  
Stephen F. Austin H.S.**

Hello everybody, today I'm afraid I have some bad news to share with you. Sadly, the winter break is coming to an end, which means school has started.

This semester is going to be a bit different in regards to my classes because I took courses that only lasted one semester like Business In-

formation Management and Logic. I'm now taking Track and I have an off period as replacement courses. The off period is very helpful because now I'll be able to do my homework at school instead of at home when all I want to do is relax.

This Christmas break was really special to me because of the things I did over it. I got to go to LA and saw celebrities while at the mall, I went to the beach and had fun seeing how far I could go out into the ocean, and the most important thing - spent time with my family.

That's all for this week, Until Next Time. Go Austin high Maroons!

## Getting My Nails Done



**Ruby George  
Cele Middle School**

I was having a sleepover with two of my friends on Saturday. It suddenly hit me that my nails would look better if I had them done! I also wanted one of my friends I was having a sleepover with to come too. I texted my mom to see if she could come and she said yes! We stayed up all night looking on the internet to see what kind of nails we should get. We both wanted to get acrylics, which is like the long

nails the people put on you. There were so many choices to choose from as far as shape. We didn't want our nails to pointy but we didn't want them to flat or square.

Finally in the morning my mom picked up my friend and I from our other friends house. It was my mom's birthday! We got on the road towards Elegant Nails. My sister came along too, so it was all girls. When it was time to pick our colors, my friend and I had a hard time at first. But then we picked out some pretty colors. I got a nude brown with a separate bottle of glitter for my ring finger. My friend got a pink color, and glitter for her ring finger. Our nails came out so pretty! This is definitely my favorite thing to do when I have free time!

## YMCA Holiday Camp



**Joshua Moore  
Manor New Tech M.S.**

YMCA of Austin had holiday camps at different locations in Austin and surrounding areas. The dates were December 26-28, 2018 and January 2-4, 2019 from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. The locations where the camps were held are: East Communities YMCA, Hays Communities YMCA, Presidential Meadows Elementary,

Jollyville Elementary, and Cowan Elementary.

The theme of the camp was polar expeditions where you learn about the Arctic. The camps had arts and crafts activities, games, skits and songs, opening and closing ceremonies. For the opening ceremony you would sing, make a pledge, and listen to the plan for the day. The closing ceremony was the same as the opening ceremony but included daily recognitions. For arts and crafts you could build an igloo using toothpicks and marshmallows or make your own snow using baking soda and water.

## Winter Break



**Ava Roberts  
Pflugerville M. S.**

Winter break for the Pflugerville ISD started on December 21 with early release and went through January 7. The two weeks seemed like a long time, but it passed very quickly. I was able to do a lot of fun activities.

My family traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi to visit family for Christmas. I was very excited to spend time with both of my grandmothers at the same

time. Both of my grandfathers are no longer living. I loved all my Christmas gifts and felt very blessed to have gotten them.

Some other things that I did during the break were shopping, dinner and movies, playing at the Main event, roller skating with my Girl Scout sisters, and playing games on my new PS4. I performed concerts on my euphonium for all who visited my home. I did not get to practice basketball on the court. But I did practice dribbling and passing.

January 7th was my last day off from school. But my basketball coach scheduled team practice for a few hours. I attended and am excited about getting back to school!

## My Football Team



**Kevin Parish  
Hendrickson H. S.**

As everyone should know, my favorite NFL (National Football League) football team is the New Orleans Saints and my favorite player is Michael Thomas who holds the NFL record of the most receptions by a player. I am also a die-hard LSU (Louisiana State University) Tigers fan. And speaking of that, they won the Fiesta Bowl where my good friend Devon White did well playing in that

game.

The past 2 years for the New Orleans Saints have been good. We, and yes I said "we" because although I am still in high school, I have made myself part of the team; have made it to the playoffs 2 years straight and this time I think we will play all the way to the Super Bowl.

The Saints have the best record in the NFL as of right now and they are really good players who are dedicated. This coming Sunday they play the Philadelphia Eagles. We beat them in the regular season, 48-6, so let's see if The New Orleans Saints can do it again in order to advance to the AFC (American Football Conference) Championship

## School is Starting



**Kennedy George  
Weiss High School**

These past few weeks have been pretty great. I have gotten to catch up on sleep and read a lot. I normally am very busy with school and I don't have time to really stop and relax. As I am writing this, school

will start up again tomorrow.

I'm excited to see my friends, and to meet my new band director. I am also excited to get a fresh new start on my grades, and to improve them. I would like to study more than I did last year, even though that may be a challenge.

The classes I struggled in last year were Algebra 2, Chemistry, and AP World History. I am planning to get mostly A's in all my classes this year. 2019 seems very promising and full of motivation. I can't wait to see what the rest of the school year will bring.



TheVillagerAnd  
BlackRegistryCompany



@TheVillagerATX