

My Biology Project



Kennedy George
Weiss High School

Biology is one of my favorite classes this year. We have a great teacher who pushes us to be our best, and the topic is pretty interesting in general. We had a 3d model project due recently and the project was

harder to do than I expected. I was doing cortisol and cholesterol which I thought was a good sized project and it wasn't too challenging. When I went to work on it with a friend, putting the project together took more time than I thought it would.

At first I didn't put it together right. Then it was falling apart. Even when I was about to head home, my friends' dogs started to attack it. The model itself just wasn't really working out for me. Thankfully there was also a poster we had to do to explain different biomolecules, and my poster looked nice and colorful.

This project has been a pretty rough one for me.

Study Habits



Jalen Moore
KIPP Austin Collegiate

I've recently had to begin readjusting my study habits to compensate for the greater influx of assignments that I've been given. College appli-

cation season has officially begun, and in addition to completing my own applications, I am striving to help make my friends' applications as strong as possible; not to mention the fact that I will be having midterms in about a week. Consequently, I recently began staying after school to ensure that each of these tasks gets completed, and I found it to be very helpful because it grants me the ability to remove myself from distractions. I generally prefer studying in a library, but staying after school has proved to be a sufficient alternative.

Book Club



Erika Lipscomb
Manor M. S.

At school, we recently started a book club with our librarian. I joined because I like to read ghostly books, and also get to find what's new in the fantasy world of reading. Our first book that we've been assigned to is called The Missing book: Found.

It's about a boy who wants to find out who he and his friend are when they find out that they are adopted, but they find other people in the same awkward position. It is really interesting to me because they both have help from his step sister along the way to solve where they came from.

My other book that we got to choose by choice is called Anna Dressed in Blood. I haven't quite finished the book yet but my librarian said it was scary so I can't wait to read the rest. Reading these books would really help me with vocabulary. I wonder what next book we're reading.

The Battle of San Jacinto



Montrae Nelson
Four Points M. S.

Hello, We have been studying and learning about the battle of San Jacinto in our history class this past week. History is my favorite subject so I was fascinated to hear about this battle, and why it happened.

Santa Ana was a Mexican politician and general

who fought to defend royalist new Spain and then for Mexican independence. April 21, 1836 the Battle of San Jacinto had began, The decisive battle of the Texas revolution led by General Sam Houston was over in 18 minutes.

Lastly, The Texian army engaged Santa Ana's and defeated him 630 Mexicans were killed and 730 taken prisoner. Only 9 of the 910 texans were killed or mortally wounded. After the victory by the Texian army Santa Ana disappeared before being caught and his capture was worth 17,000 dollars.

Christmas



Jaelyn Stone
Kealing M. S.

Why do we like Christmas? For some people Christmas is their favorite holiday. We like Christmas because you're around your family while you eat ham and other foods. Honestly, in my opinion, people like Christmas because of the presents.

What about those who are less fortunate than us? What about those who don't have anything to eat or a place to stay? What about children

who only get a hug for Christmas? People say that Christmas is the time for giving but I don't always find that to be the case. Our generation is being raised to believe Christmas is about "RECEIVING presents and santa coming down good little kids' chimneys.

An estimate of 0.5% of the population is homeless and that's about 1.56 million people. There are around 12.9% or 795 million people that are starving. What would happen if for Christmas instead of focusing on receiving we GAVE? What would happen if everyone just donated 10 dollars to those in need? What could we accomplish. We could finally end world hunger everyone could have a roof over their head and a place to sleep. If we just choose to give instead of receiving it would be a true Merry Christmas.

Manor Early College Petition



Alyssa James Winn
Manor H.S.

The Manor Early College programs 10th and 11th graders wants a house meeting with the supper attendan about al-

low us to move to Manor Senior High School. The school board is debating whether or not to allow us to go. The Early College teachers and students are trying to figure out a way to get the super attendant to have a meeting with us but it's real difficult for us to talk to the super attendant.

The Early College 10th and 11th graders are thinking about putting a petition together and get almost every 10th and 11th grade students. Almost all of us feel very strongly about going to the new Senior high school.

"This Is Hunger" Free National Exhibit: A Must-See Experience

Sat December 9th | Thu December 14th
9:00 am - 8:00 pm



Come on a compelling journey, one that draws you into the lives of everyday Americans – and deepens your awareness about who struggles with hunger and why. This 45-minute FREE exhibit tells intimate stories of dozens of Americans using portraits, state-of-the-art storytelling techniques and hands-on activities.

Come face to face with hunger in America. It will change the way you look at your city and your neighborhood. Spaces are limited. Reserve your seat at the table now!

Recommended age: 12+ Exhibit space is equipped with a wheelchair-accessible entrance and transcripts are available for guests who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Please contact Michael Solka at michael@solka.net for help with registration or questions about the schedule.

Sickle Cell Pajama Party



Quinn Langford
Cedar Ridge H. S.

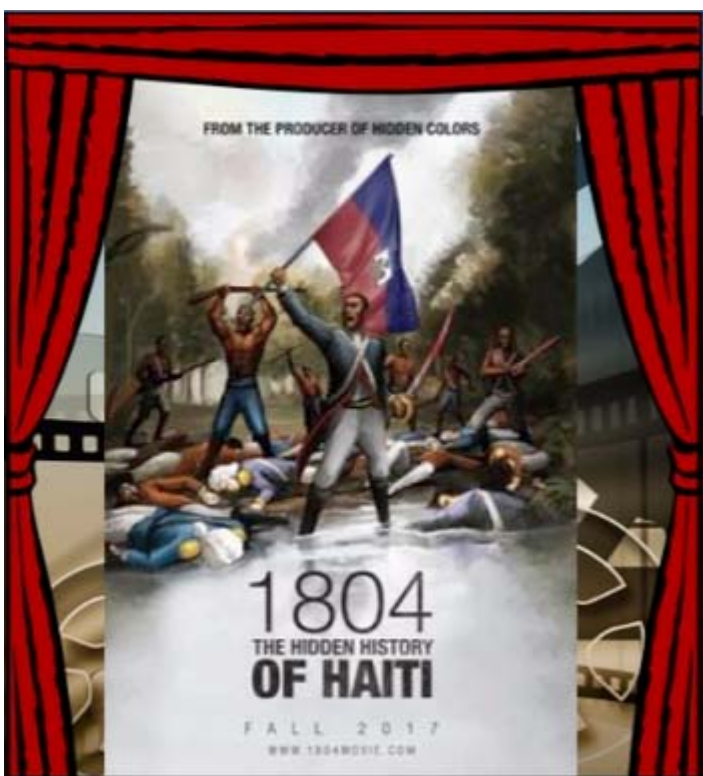
On December second, the Sickle Cell Association of Texas Marc Thomas Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to help alleviate the burden of sickle cell disease on families, hosted its annual Christmas pajama breakfast. Affected families from all over the Austin area converged in a rented room at the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 520 building, where they enjoyed free tacos, pastries from Panera Bread, hot chocolate, marshmallows, and a chocolate fountain. The room was festively decorated, and children participated in Christmas-themed arts and crafts and took pictures with a special guest from the North Pole. There were fun contests, such as the contest for the person with the best pajamas and the candy cane counting con-

test in which participants estimated the number of candy canes in a container. Family representatives were able to stand up at the front of the room and update everyone on their wellbeing or give advice to other families dealing with sickle cell disease.

The event was completely free, so there were many unpaid volunteers, including me. All of the volunteers worked hard and we were able to completely transform the room into a winter wonderland in only an hour. Even though a lot of effort went into the event, it was a positive experience for all of the volunteers. As one volunteer, Cyrena Matingou, puts it, "It's great to see the wonderful support system this organization has created for the families who suffer from sickle cell disease. Also, I love seeing all of the kids in their adorable pajamas!" Like Cyrena said, the support system created by the Marc Thomas Foundation is incredible. Families going through the same problems are able to connect, share experiences, and have fun together. Winter can be a tough time for those with sickle cell disease because of the cold weather, so it was rewarding to see so many smiles and hopeful faces.

Black Pflugerville Presents '1804 The Hidden History of Haiti'

Tue December 12 @ 8:00 pm | 10:00 pm



1804: The Hidden History of Haiti is a documentary film by filmmaker Tariq Nasheed. Nasheed is the producer of the #1 selling African history documentary series Hidden Colors. The new film 1804 talks about the untold history of Haiti and the Haitian revolution, which was the most successful slave rebellion in history.

For years, certain people in Hollywood have tried to come up with the resources to do a film about the Haitian revolution, but they were halted by different challenges because of the controversial subject matter.

But we feel that the unknown history of Haiti should be uncovered and taught to a global generation of people who will see the perseverance of the Haitian people as a source of inspiration.

This is the first time a documentary film has gone in depth into the history of Haiti, and the film will also explore the real reasons for the current state of Haiti. If you want food please purchase a meal ticket in advance. Thanks