

# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

Garfield's Student Newspaper  
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## FALL ISSUE

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### A note from the editors:

Hello everyone! Rudy and Eli here! We will be your senior editors this year. We hope that through the school newspaper we can help create a platform for students to express themselves outside of the classroom. Join us on Mondays during lunch in Mr. Murchies classroom for informational meetings about our upcoming issues! Room:420

## UNSOLICITED ADVICE FROM AN 18-YEAR-OLD

Melissa Barales-Lopez

The advent of a new school year is upon us. For many of you, that means the inception or continuation of high school. For a lucky few that means the culmination of years of hard work and endless, sometimes unnecessary, stress. As for me,

former editor of *The Scuttlebutt Newspaper*, I'll be starting my fall quarter at Dartmouth, located in The Middle of Nowhere, New Hampshire, in less than a few weeks. The word "excitement" could be appropriately used to describe (cont. on pg.2)

how I'm feeling, but so could "anxious", "apprehensive", and "absolutely terrified."

Admittedly, I have countless concerns about the upcoming school year, as I'm sure you all do, whether that's the level of rigor of your junior class schedule, the daunting college application, or the academic and social transition from middle school to high school. But, as a recent high school graduate, I have acquired a handful of varying experiences that I can now dispense to you in the form of unasked-for pieces of advice.

**Just go for it:** Perhaps, the most important piece of advice that I can offer is to go for it, whatever *it* may be. Personally, the biggest source of my anxiety this summer was the looming self-doubt I experienced. In planning my class schedule, researching potential clubs I wanted to join, and preparing for the eventual move across the country, I undoubtedly kept undermining myself. The intangible notion of inevitable failure consumed my thoughts day after day. More notably, the mere thought of a lack of success in my future environment prevented me from truly enjoying the greater half of my summer.

These thoughts are hard to overcome, and, at one point or another, we all question if we're good enough. But, taking risks *is* worth it. Yes, failure may be an outcome, but it doesn't always have to be. Further still, limiting yourself to what you know to be "safe" or "good at" is no way to live your life. So, join whatever club you want to join (even if you think you won't cut it) and apply for the "reach" schools you've been dreaming of (even if you think you're not good enough). I've realized that risk, although scary, is something to be celebrated not rejected.

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## LEARNING INDEPENDENCE

By: Ulises Ruiz

When I entered high school, on my first day, I set my alarm for 5:50 AM. I showered in the morning, I scrambled to change, and I ran out the door. I needed to catch my bus. Halfway to school, I started panicking, thinking I was going to be late. Do you know, when I got to school? I got here at 6:50am. What a waste of sleep.

I didn't know anyone. I came from South Central, so none of my old friends attended Garfield. I only knew two people and they were teachers, so that doesn't count. I sat in the quad by the 400s waiting for the bell to ring. My first day was pretty uneventful but during lunch, I met three people: Melissa, Isaac, and Isidoro. Even though they were juniors, they accepted me pretty quickly.

Continued on page 3



juniors, they accepted me pretty quickly. I ended up joining the Academic Decathlon team and I was introduced to a slew of new people, all older than me. The year went by relatively quickly and my sophomore year began.

I only grew closer to my teammates and had the fortune to get on the A team, the team that competes. I found myself developing adoration and genuine affection for these people. There were numerous days and nights where all we did was sit in a circle and talk. We could have talked about anything, but we knew this friendship of ours was meaningful beyond words. Now, they've all left to grow into adults and I'm left behind by myself. I have friends to talk to and all, but they're the ones where you talk to them only in certain contexts, such as about classes we're taking. However, I'm learning something else: independence. I've been managing my classes on my own and now that nobody is there to be the team leader for Decathlon, I have assumed that position. Now, the title of captain isn't an official one but people began adopting it. My new teammates, despite some being older than me, are my responsibility. They are my children. The pressure is heavy, and with my classes piled on top of my head, it can get difficult at times. Yet, when I see the interactions between my teammates as they sound off their scores for a quiz or answer flashcards, it gives me the satisfaction a caretaker would have.

I'm developing more resilience and learning what it means to actually be an independent person. I'm doing this for myself, for my parents, and most importantly for my friend, both the ones moving into their dorms and the new ones I'm being introduced to. Despite my attachment to my friends in other parts of the world, I know I must adapt. I love them very much, but right now, I must focus on what's been given to me: new classes, new friends to make, and new "children" to take care of. Despite the thought of not seeing my good friends for a long time, I'm more than excited to become more mature, to grow into a young adult, and to take my teammates and me to new heights. This new independence of mine is being used for the good of others and I have no problem with that.

## I FORGOT MY HOMEWORK WHO?

By: Eve Sanchez

The new year starts and responsibilities as a student, both personal and from home, pile up. There are just not enough hours in a day to do everything that needs to get done! For example, school ends at 3pm, then we have English, science, and math homework until 7pm, hit the gym at 8pm, wash the dishes your mom told you to at 9pm, scroll through Instagram at 10pm, fall asleep at 11pm, wake up at 1am because there was Spanish homework, and have the rest of your day ruined because your non-existent schedule was thrown off. Who has had one of these days? Clearly, I have.

Our daily lives are so rigorous we forget the smallest tasks throughout the day, but there are measures we can take so that our schedule is not ruined. Many, but not all students, have these books known as "agendas". You might be thinking "agendas are lame", "they're too extra to be carrying around!" As a person who has used an agenda since freshman year, let me tell you, agendas are not "lame", they are actually very helpful. I have used mine to remind myself of the homework I would have from my every other day classes. The block schedule we have usually lets me relax between days for my every other day classes but as a result I tend to forget what the homework was. Yet, I knew I had every assignment I had to do in my agenda, so before deciding it was an excellent time to take on 2 episodes of American Horror Story, I would open my agenda to the month and date and skim through the week to refresh my memory on the work that would be due.

I'm not going to lie, in the beginning, it was a little difficult. Sometimes during class, I would forget to write down the work. Sometimes I wouldn't use it for weeks because I would forget it existed. The truth is that it becomes a habit, after a little while. So every time your teachers mention homework, go to your backpack and reach for your agenda. What people think of you using an agenda is their own personal sour business, you my friend, are picking up good habits on your way to success. Or before you leave the room make sure to write down everything. It really is better being the last one to leave the class than being the last one to turn in a late assignment.

So agendas are useful and you know now how to use them daily, but what about the space it will take up in your backpack, or what about the price? The truth is that Staples, the 99 Cent Store, CVS, and all the places that could possibly have agendas, have a variety of agendas. There are agendas ranging in price from \$5 to \$15, there are yearly agendas or agendas that coordinate with the school year. There is an agenda just for you at your local office supply store. But maybe after buying the iPhone X Max, you have no loose change. All phones have a calendar, so use it, write down when things are due, and they also have a notes section where you can write the homework daily. There are all types of agendas that can fit your needs.

As your life gets busier, it is good to have somewhere to look to so you know what might be due. Having and using an agenda is really just helping yourself out. So the next time you come into class and remembering that there was homework due that day, think about investing in an agenda, it can really help your grade.

## **JUNIOR YEAR: A YEAR FULL OF STRESS**

By: Juliana Sandoval

Oh, how time flies. I remember when I was just a freshman filled with anxiety and excitement to begin the next horrible chapter of my life: high school. When I was a child I always thought of high school like “High School Musical,” but no. They lied to us. High school is not about singing your feelings out and dancing. It’s all about stressing out, especially junior year, also known as “hell year”. Junior year is known to be the most vital year in high school because it is the year that colleges pay attention to the most. You need to make yourself stand out from everyone else and make yourself shine. Junior year is your last chance to take AP classes, join clubs/extracurricular activities, and make sure you’ll get a high score on your SAT/ACT exams in order to impress colleges. AP classes are a great way of demonstrating to colleges that you are ready for college-level work. However, it’s just not about passing the class, it’s also about passing the AP exam. Passing the AP exam won’t only look good on your college application, but it can also guarantee college-credit for that course, depending where you go. If you are going to be taking AP courses, you have to ensure that you won’t procrastinate and that you’ll manage your time wisely. Other than taking AP courses, you should always try to

join a club/extracurricular activity to show colleges that you can manage your time wisely. Even though you are taking AP classes and in an extracurricular activity, you need to make sure to maintain your GPA no less than a 3.0. Besides lots of schoolwork, junior year is all about testing.



You have AP exams, the SBAC, the SAT, and the ACT. However, the most vital tests that you will have to take are the SAT and ACT. Colleges look at your SAT/ACT scores carefully to examine how high you scored, relative to other high school students across the country. These tests are important because it helps determine your chances of getting into a particular college or not. You may have a high GPA, but if you scored low on the SAT/ACT colleges will notice that. In order to get a high score for these exams, you need to start studying as soon as possible. There is no point in studying last minute! One of the things you can do to start studying and preparing for the exams is to Khan Academy. Khan Academy is a really beneficial app that has a PSAT exam you can take. After taking it and getting your score, it shows you the subjects that you need help in. Taking advantage of this will definitely help you prepare yourself for the SAT/ACT exams, and will help you improve. In conclusion, junior year is a year that should be taken seriously. It is the year in which you need to be competitive and shine brighter than everyone else. Make sure you do your best, and I hope you survive “hell year”! Good luck.



## BUOYANT

By Belen Davila

It's senior year for me. It seems to evoke a sense of relief. The words billow out of my mouth like a cool breeze in the summer. For the lives of many high school students like us, it's solace, a much-needed break for the students working hard. But senior year is a double-edged sword.

At the beginning of the year, seniors are already bombarded by the anxiety of all the things they are now responsible for. That responsibility, though it's initially given to you by teachers and counselors, becomes fully yours. Personal statements, college applications, letters of recommendation, scholarships, and test deadlines are just some of the things we, as seniors, are now responsible for. All those dates and responsibilities weigh on. You can go home and lay in bed, play Fortnite for the rest of the night, but you don't rest. The thoughts rule your brain.

Up until the deadlines, when everything is due, you run things over and over in your head. And after everything is turned in, many, including myself, may think, "Finally, some peace." But then, it becomes a game of waiting. Sitting around waiting for results and scores. Hoping that there isn't anything you misspelled or left out, nothing left out of place or added incorrectly at the last minute on your applications.



By the second semester, seniors are a nervous wreck. They pass through their classes like ghosts. Longing for news, for a life that is at a standstill, a big blob of uncertainty and anxiety. Until finally a real piece of relief comes in the spring. Just like the spring seniors become bright and airy. Then, it's not anxiety that motivates us. It's the rush to finally just get the year done.

Senioritis hits like a wrecking ball. We shrug things off because it won't affect us, at least not seriously. But in actuality, colleges watch us like hawks, they make sure they picked the good ones of the bunch. When one sign of a slip up happens, they make it known, they don't want slip-ups if you choose to attend their school.

I think this year is the year of possibilities. It's the year where we can break barriers, the glass ceiling, reach higher limits, and all those other empowering quotes. But we have to remember to just have fun. This is our senior year, we have our last Classic, our Senior Banquet, Prom, and a lot of other things that make the list extensive. I'm antsy to turn applications in, to know about my future. I want to scream and boo at the Roosevelt team, and cheer on ours. I can't wait to dance with ghosts on the Queen Mary and eat cotton candy at whatever amusement park we vote on this year. But most importantly I can't wait to throw my cap up in the air on graduation day, and wait for my family to run to me and take way too many pictures of me in my cap and gown. To feel that rush of pride about myself, because in the end anything that I've succeeded in doing is because of me, and my will to succeed.



## HOW TO MAKE HARRY POTTER FLOATING CANDLES

By: Wendy Cubillo

Recently, I've been watching the Harry Potter films, and it really got me thinking about how interesting it would be if we lived in a magical world too. Throughout each movie, we can see many different otherworldly objects. Some include the Sorting Hat, the Cloak of Invisibility, the Elder Wand, or Tom Riddle's Diary, among others. However, we can also spot a decorative element multiple times throughout the movie series: the floating candles. These floating candles look marvelous in the films, and although we cannot just hop in the Hogwarts train and head straight to Hogwarts, we can definitely recreate these candles at home. What's great is it's really inexpensive to make, and will definitely look wonderful as room décor. I've actually done this myself, and after 2 years, they still look absolutely stunning. In addition, it's a great way to decorate your ceiling and recycle toilet paper rolls instead of throwing them away like we usually do. Not to mention, it's also a fun and easy craft to do. Anyway, without further ado, here is how to make the floating candles seen in Harry Potter.

### What You Will Need...

- Toilet Paper tubes (amount is up to you)
- Hot glue gun
- Glue for the hot glue gun
- Paintbrushes
- White acrylic paint
- Thumbtacks
- String or fishing wire
- White construction paper
- White, blue, grey, and yellow paint (acrylic)
- Black or dark blue plastic tablecloth
- LED candle top lights

### Let's Get Started!

1. Gather your supplies.
2. Prepare your hot glue gun by letting it warm up for about 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, take your toilet paper tube, and cut the top a bit so it looks like the candle has been burning for a long time.
4. Once your hot glue gun is ready, take your hot glue gun and start dripping glue down the sides of the tube. This is done to
5. paper tubes.

1. make it seem the candle is melting and the wax is dripping down the candle. Remember, it does not have to be perfect since wax naturally drips unevenly from a candle.
2. Repeat step 4 for all remaining toilet paper tubes.
3. Wait for the glue to dry effectively for about 10-15 minutes.
4. Cut circles the approximate length of the diameter of the candle on the construction paper.
5. Repeat step 7 for all other tubes.
6. Glue the circles at the bottom of each candle with hot glue, to close the opening. That will make it look more like a candle and not just a tube.
7. Once the glue is dry, paint the candles with white acrylic paint. Make sure to not leave any open spots for a more realistic effect.
8. Let the candles dry overnight.
9. Once the paint is dry, get a needle or another sharp object and poke two holes through the candle.
10. Put the fishing line/string through the holes you made in step 12. The length of the fishing line or string is up to you.

### THE SKY

1. Place the black/dark blue tablecloth on a flat surface.
  2. Place a bit of paint of every color in a container.
  3. Dip the paintbrush into the paint and splatter the paint onto the tablecloth. This is done to make the tablecloth seem like a night sky. The splattered paint would represent stars in a starry night sky, so there is no perfect or right way to do this.
  4. Repeat step 3 for all remaining colors.
  5. Let the paint dry overnight.
  6. Once the paint is dry, hang the night sky on the ceiling, using thumbtacks.
  7. To finish it all up, hang your completed candles with thumbtacks as well.
  8. You're done! Enjoy a chocolate frog under your mystical sky.
  11. Tie the two ends together.
  12. Place the LED candle tops inside the candle.
- Your candles are finished! But you aren't quite done yet

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## TEACHER INTERVIEWS

*As high school students, we are oblivious to some of the resources available to us. One of the most valuable of these resources that we take for granted, most of the time, are our teachers. We usually fear them because they have some control over our lives through grades. They can deem us worthy for college or not and that idea is terrifying. Yet, teachers aren't always what we think of them. We need to learn to be able to communicate to them and open up that conversation. If not we will continue avoiding them and never fully appreciating their worth. Garfield teachers, Mr. Murchie and Ms. Romero, are some these teachers that can be, if we open up, a great help and guides for high school and beyond. In an attempt to help students become acquainted with them, they were interviewed.*

### MR MURCHIE

#### WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVES INVOLVING YOUR STUDENTS?

*Not communicating and thinking that problems will just go away. Communication is the key to success in all of life though, not just school.*

## **HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH SAS AND HOW HAS THAT SHAPED YOU AS A PERSON AND A TEACHER?**

*When Mr. Talamantez retired in 2007 I was asked to step in and fill his void. I jumped at the chance because I love working with students who want to learn. It keeps me fresh and I get to learn a lot both with and from them.*

## **HOW HAS YOUR UPBRINGING INFLUENCED YOU AS AN EDUCATOR**

*Math came very easy. English did not but I enjoyed the arts so much more than the sciences I guess I liked being creative and having to work for success. There is a sense of self discovery involved. My upbringing was also very different culturally, so I feel like I come at things a vastly different point of view than my students.*

## **MS. ROMERO**

### **5 adjectives to describe yourself**

*A reader, athletic, love for photography, learning new things, learning about anything, I love pets except roaches. I hate bugs.*

### **What do you think it means to be a teacher?**

*To be a psychologist, help providing a sense of stability, to being a role model. It's an extremely hard occupation one of the hardest jobs out there.*

### **Why made you become a teacher in the first place?**

*\*laughter\* I didn't become a doctor. I always loved science. In junior high I realized that I loved biology and I wanted to be a doctor. I graduated with my degree from USC in biology to become a doctor. I applied to medical school s and didn't get in. I went into research and development for 4 years and i hated it. After 4 years, I decided to try my hand at teaching. That was 38 years ago and time just passed by.*

### **What's your favorite part of being a teacher?**

*The relationships I build with my students.*

### **What advice would you give your 18 year old self.**

*I lived a life I wanted to life. Live with no regrets*

### **What personal strengths do you find helpful during teaching?**

*Patience. Flexibility. The ability to laugh at the stupid stuff the students do. The ability to laugh at the stupid stuff the teachers do or what you do. Not basing your success on your students success.*

