

10 Years of...

SIGNATURE SCHOOL PRESENTS

The Signal



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Signature School
610 Main Street
47708

FALL REFLECTIONS

By Nick Ebertz

Autumn is a fleeting time of year. It comes on quietly, almost timidly, not at all like the bitter onset of winter or the sudden embrace of summer. Autumn colors show with such subtlety that they often are easy to miss. Almost as soon as leaves finish changing, they turn brown and fall, leaving only a cool breeze in the air to hint at their memory. Memories not just of flashing reds and vibrant oranges, but of the last year, its

successes and its failures, its lessons learned.

In these final days of fall, it is time we look back over everything we have accomplished. As individuals we look at our activities, academic and otherwise. As classes, especially those of the freshmen and seniors, we see how far we have come into this journey that is the Signature experience, the Signature family. As a school, we have seen so much come

to pass, and, most notably, we have heard the announcement of the resignation of three of our most respected teachers: Mr. Becker, Ms. Gregg, and Ms. Snyder.

Autumn is bitter-sweet, hopeful, filled with apprehension and anticipation. The past behind us is filled with memories formed with great friends and wonderful teachers. The future is uncertain but bright and holds endless possibilities. So in these brief few moments

when time stands still and the last of the leaves hang suspended in the air, we must take time to reflect, to look at the things we have grown and nurtured, remember how they came to be, and know that a time is coming when we will have to move on and let those things go. We must "take time to sit and watch the leaves turn."

"Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn."
-Elizabeth Lawrence

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

By Juliana Pajdo

The holiday season is upon us! What better way to celebrate all of this year's festivities than by learning what they mean to students at Signature.

One that recently occurred was Thanksgiving. Our staff at *The Signal* has some interesting traditions concerning our nation's greatest food-related holiday. Junior Andrew Dam's family eats lobster on Thanksgiving, although not *live* lobster, as he was quick to assure me. Senior Kyleigh Estes spends the week of Thanksgiving toasting

bread for one of her grandmother's recipes. Sophomore Allie Hitchcock and her family shake up each Thanksgiving through the art of pie-baking: "We find the strangest recipes and always try to one-up our record. The pie baking [...] gets pretty intense."

Over winter break, many students will be celebrating Christmas. No Christmas, however, is quite the same. Senior Katie Ward and her family play a game called "Find the Pickle" wherein she and her brother search for a hidden pickle ornament for

the reward of opening a present early. Some students, like Senior Belle Junge, spend time with their families by looking at neighborhood Christmas decorations.

Our Muslim students recently celebrated Eid al-Adha, a holiday in commemoration of Abraham's promise to sacrifice his son. "It's important to me," says Hadi Yousef, senior, "because it reminds me how important it is to make sacrifices throughout my life." Another recent celebration is

the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali. Senior Samyuth Subramanian loves the tradition of lighting fireworks to celebrate the "light that we take for granted." Another festival of lights occurs this December. Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday, also celebrates the miracle of light for eight glorious days of presents and fried food.

No matter how you celebrate, take this time between semesters and put it to good use – spend time with your family, read a book, sing a song, and get some sleep!

Newspaper Staff Picks: DVDs

Compiled by Megan Perry

After the stress of finals, your brain can feel dead and useless. Here are a few movies worth watching as your mind recuperates after the tiring semester.

Clifford- "Not the big red dog...it's with Martin Short playing a ten year old boy. It's really offbeat and strange but also funny." (Allie Hitchcock)

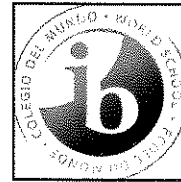
Ferris Bueller's Day Off "It's the perfect movie for teenagers with a hilarious plot!" (Ciara Doll)

Ocean's Eleven- "It is a clever remake of a heist film from the sixties, this time starring Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, and George Clooney. Just watching it is sure to make you feel cool and sneaky, no illegal activity required." (Juliana Pajdo)

Defending Your Life- "It stars Albert Brooks and Meryl Streep. Part fantasy, part comedy, part drama. It will make you smile but also ponder the reasons why we can and do take chances in life" (Jean Hitchcock)

Singin' in the Rain- "A musical about the transition from silent to talking films full of humor and excellent dancing. It may not provide any thought-provoking questions, but it will at least make you smile." (Caroline Ellert)

Rain Man- "It's a beautiful story of two adult brothers forming a friendship, even though the older battles with autism. It will make you laugh, cry, and think about the complexity of human beings." (Megan Perry)



IB News

-IB senior students are nearing the end of their internal assessments for TOK. Students presented their projects through November. The presentations were real life issues that are connected to TOK topics, such as ethics and artificial intelligence.

-Deadlines for seniors doing their extended essays are coming up! By December 15, Mrs. Sarol would like for students to turn in two hard copies, and the essays must be turned into turnitin.com. There will be no exceptions! Juniors will have a project prospectus in December to show what their EEs are going to be about.

—Favene Billa

MY STRANGE ADDICTION

BY ABIGAIL DUNIGAN AND KIANNA JACKSON

If you google "strange obsessions," your mind will be blown at the bizarre things people do with their free time, such as ripping the skin off of their feet or wearing a tail around the house. And while our "Strange Obsessions" won't get that strange, they are still interesting to read about. This issue, we will zoom into the lives of some Signature students to uncover their unique fixations.

There lies within Signature School a select few of individuals that spend their time "dueling" one another. Members of the Facebook group "Signature Duel Academy" confess that the card game Yu-Gi-Oh has become part of their everyday life. Some days you can find them on the Grassy Knoll munching on their lunch while focusing on the cards in their hands. Sophomore Bo Clark even has a "Deck Bag" that he uses to carry around all of his gaming cards he gets as rewards for receiving good grades. Clark became obsessed with Yu-Gi-Oh in first grade. He knew it was going to be a life-long love the moment he beat his neighbor at the game. His love for the game has only grown each passing year.

Olivia Schaperjohn is not your average "Theatre Kid"; she is much more. In her short three year high school career she has managed to be a part of 11 theatrical performances. Yes, that's right: Eleven. Schaperjohn is not only a part of Signature's productions, but also the Civic Theater

Main Stage and the Civic Annex. Anyone who knows her will unanimously agree that Olivia is *always* in a show. On top of her productions, she is also involved with the speech team and takes voice lessons every Monday evening. Schaperjohn is dedicated to something she loves and can't get enough of her obsession.

It was only this year that Belle Junge discovered her love for water aerobics, and since then she has avidly been attending classes at the downtown YMCA every Monday and Wednesday. Junge enjoys this aquatic activity because it not only allows her to spend time with her mother, but it's also an intense workout. While some of us might perceive this to be strange, Belle enjoys every minute of it.

Junior Wade Bieber also has a very unique interest: rock climbing. Bieber has team practice every Thursday, but he tries to go out to Vertical Escape at least three times a week. This endurance activity is no walk in the park, but Wade loves it. He loves the fact that he can burn at least 800 calories on a "light climb" and that "it is equal parts mental, physical, and technical." Some of you may be thinking, "Why on earth would someone enjoy working out that intensely more than once a month?" But remember this is an article about *strange* obsessions—you don't really have to understand why people do the things they do.

SOUTH PARK: INTELLIGENT OR INSOLENT?

BY JONATHON RUSCHE AND BOWMAN CLARK

Jonathon: Well come on down to South Park and meet some friends of mine (Sung)

Bowman: Stop talking about that infernal show, it poisons the minds of our children!

J: Well, it's not actually aimed at children. The show is clearly marketed for a mature audience.

B: It may be marketed that way, but the result is something akin to widespread underage drinking: younger and younger children are watching it, and they repeat the language in the show without understanding the meaning, or, even worse, with the full intent of hurting others.

J: I do agree that the intended audience and the actual audience are very different, but that is not the fault of Trey Parker or Matt Stone. The blame falls on the parents of the young children, who have become so absent-minded that they allow an inanimate box with moving pictures to baby-sit

their children.

B: Still, the entire blame cannot rest on the parents. They can't control what their kids watch when they are not at home, and it is exceedingly difficult to stop children from watching the show when every episode is on the South Park website for free, especially when no age verification is even attempted.

J: The language in the show is no worse than anything they would hear anywhere else, and with South Park at least there is some intellectual content.

B: There may be intellectual content, but how does it outweigh the language (which, I might add, is very vulgar in some episodes and much worse than one would hear anywhere else)?

J: I'm not saying that it outweighs the language, but you get more meat and potatoes with the language. For example in the episode "Grey Dawn" they parody the ferocity with which the AARP fights for seemingly meaningless issues such as senior citizens keeping their driv-

ers licenses even when endangering others.

B: Still, are these parodies not pointing out facts that are already apparent to the public?

J: These issues may be apparent to some people watching the show, and those people are most likely the ones who laugh at those jokes, where others may have no idea about any of the issues at hand.

B: But if that is true, then the show does nothing more than to act as a comedic relief, not educating, but still throwing racial slurs around as often as our teachers assign homework. However, I think we can both agree that the show is not for children, and that, for those of us who are informed enough to understand the satire, it can be an eye-opening experience. Whether or not this outweighs the cons of the show is something on which we will have to agree to disagree.

Disgruntled Ramblings

By Bailey Trela

Andy Rooney, who faithfully completed his segment, "A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney" on the CBS program 60 Minutes for more than thirty years, died nearly a month ago. For those who don't really know who he was, it's easiest to think of him as the original curmudgeon, the quintessential hunched-over old man with a knack for complaining (good-naturedly) about everything he could. Cell phones, reality television, even power-steering. If you can think of it, there's a good chance Andy Rooney was angry about it at one point or another. In the spirit of those disgruntled ramblings, I present some thoughts, looking forward to winter break.

The holidays are approaching, as are gifts and family members and free time. Every winter break for the past few years I've taken advantage of this pause between learning to read a few novels. I wait until the first big snow and

lock my door, flipping on my old space heater that sounds as if it's drowning emphatically, and I read for an entire day, tossing aside pages like so much wrapping paper.

I realize that for many people today this won't be part of their holiday routine. Yes, they might read, but they won't be cradling heavy texts with thick spines and dense bindings. Everyone I know has an e-reader, a slim, metallic device that seems to me the absolute bane of reading enjoyment. Don't get me wrong, I understand they're helpful and efficient, but I can't help but feeling that every person I see with an e-reader mistakenly believes that reading is all about, well, the actual reading.

Let me explain. Die-hard bibliophiles have always claimed that the feel of a book in one's hands is important: its heft, its scent, and even the paper-on-paper whisper of a turning page. I agree, but there are whole other aspects of reading that are lost with an e-reader. Take, for instance, the sweet serendipity of spying a stranger carrying

around your favorite novel. The magic is lost with e-readers because, although "What are you reading?" may be an effective conversation starter in a crowded café, asking "What all have you read in the past year?" is suddenly creepy and intrusive and not at all conducive to conversations. And what will happen to bookshelves, which always seem to tie the room together? Whatever might hold an e-reader (maybe a small wooden square) lacks the simple elegance of a shelf created to hold knowledge.

But, to be fair, I'm a technophobe, and despite the fact that I'll be holed up in my room over winter break, I can't really control how others spend their time or how they do their reading. But the next time you have to stare at a bland, blank wall that is obviously missing a bookshelf, or you pause, unsure how to approach that stranger with the e-reader in a crowded café, you won't be able to say I didn't warn you.

Overheard in the Classroom

By Allie Hitchcock, Andrew Dam, and Long Adams

Mr. Nelson stopping in the middle of one of the freshmen's first classes to ask, "Is it possible to choke on ice?"

Mr. Luecke when a student's phone went off in class: "Oh, you're so popular!"

Mr. Bosler after being told that, despite having one, he doesn't seem like the type of person to get a tattoo: "That's what my mom always says when I talk to her about it. Then she usually starts crying."

Mr. Thread: "Children. You can't beat them. You can't sell them. The only thing you can do is teach them."

Mrs. Sarol: "I don't want to go to jail...I don't look good in orange."

Top 5 Tips for Surviving Finals Season
By Kane Stratman

1. A positive attitude helps. However, a cheery disposition won't compensate for your lack of test preparation.
2. December is not the time for extra-curricular activities; you'll have plenty of time to waste on facebook or Yu-Gi-Oh after finals are over.
3. Remember that the world won't end if you fail, though your academic future is at stake.
4. Try to stay calm, but not so much that you become apathetic toward tests.
5. Study hard, because bribing teachers doesn't work at Signature either.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KENSINGTON BLAYLOCK

INTERVIEWED BY CAROLINE ELLERT

On November 17th, 19th, and 20th, many Signature students performed in the James Thurber play A Thurber Carnival, an anniversary performance of Sig's very first theatre production. This month's alumni spotlight showcases an original cast member, Kensington Blaylock.

Q: What have you been doing since you graduated from Signature?

K: I graduated in 2008 with a degree in Performing Arts from USI. Since then, I've founded my own theatre company, taught acting privately and through several studios in town, directed at the Civic Theatre, and acted at the New Harmony Theatre, in Kentucky and in Washington D.C.

Q: What were you expecting when you auditioned for *A Thurber Carnival* (since it was Sig's first theatre production)?

K: I didn't know! My friends and I didn't know the show, so we were looking forward to being a part of something new.

Q: What role(s) did you play?

K: That's a great question... my memory isn't great to begin with... I was a secretary in one scene... I think I was in two or three different scenes... do you have a playbill lying around anywhere? That's much more reliable than my memory. I do recall wearing bunny ears...

Q: How would you describe your overall Signature experi-

ence?

K: Fun. And very hard work. I met some really incredible people, some of whom I am glad to still call my friends and fellow collaborators in the arts.

Q: How has participating in theater at Signature affected you?

K: If I hadn't done *A Thurber Carnival*, I don't believe I would have gone into theatre. So... it helped change the course of my life.

Q: How would you describe Mr. Becker as a teacher?

K: A joyful support, a man of great knowledge, an entertainer... all around a great man!