



Patriot Press

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Apex Friendship High School's Student Newspaper

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Luck Of The Patriots: What Brings Them Luck

By: Katelyn Bohn

Sarah Gardner (11)—

Kate Dumas (11)—



Jagger Garfield (9)—

"I don't believe in luck."

"A necklace my Grandmother bought for me. I wear it when I feel like I need a lot of luck for something."



Mary Kenedy (10)—

"We wear headbands for luck in our lacrosse games."

"Everyday in the morning I have to do the same thing at the same time for me to feel like my day is going to be okay."



HSM Behind The Scenes

By: Grace Twomey

This weekend marks a very important date in AFHS history, our first school musical. Most students already know that this year's musical will be *High School Musical*, but a lot of mystery still exists about what went into making this show the best it can be.

The actors in this show started their rehearsals immediately after returning from winter break. Rehearsals have been just about every weekday until 5pm with some Saturday rehearsals added to the schedule as the performance got closer. Countless hours have been spent choreographing, singing, dancing, and blocking this show.

A lot of technical aspects go into the show as well. Three people stage manage this performance (Spencer Kodadek, Marysa Gavanker, and Sarah Cam) as well as a crew to help with lighting, sound, set-building and costumes, among other activities. The crew

spent a long time building the set for this show, which will be a giant wooden platform that reaches eight feet in height. The crew had to create a set stable enough for actors to stand on it, but as one crew member, Tyson Jones (10), said, "Nothing's ever actor-proof."

On top of regular rehearsals, actors often had to meet during lunch as well as review at home. Videos of the dances usually posted online for the actors and they took time to review those videos to make sure their dancing met expectations. Ms. Hamblen, in charge of the choreography for this show, often emphasizes the importance of actors practicing at home to make sure they don't forget their parts.

High School Musical, also a popular movie, made many of the songs easy to learn because most students had



Photo By: Grace Twomey

High School Musical actor's view as they wait to join the scene.

already been familiar with the soundtrack. However, there will be some new songs that the cast and Ms. Holcombe worked very hard to learn.

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Editorial

Cultural Appropriation

By: Sierra Sanchez

Cultural appropriation, according to Oxford Reference, can be defined as “a term used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another.” In 2014, Isha Aran wrote an article for *jezebel.com* explaining why wearing a bindi, the decorative mark worn on the forehead by many Indian women, to a musical festival can be classified as cultural appropriation.

Aran says, “The issue that so many people have with the recent bindi summer festival trend is that it doesn't take from Hindu culture on Hindu culture's terms. It takes from Hindu culture on American terms and negates the Hindu aspect through ignorance and exoticism of an ‘alluring foreign culture.’ Bindi trend-sporters aren't celebrating a cultural symbol. They're celebrating themselves and the thought-of-it-first appeal of disposable fashion.” The problem had been the bindi being treated like a “trend” in American culture without the knowledge of what the bindi represents. According to *ancientorigins.net*, the bindi, a physical symbol in Hindu culture represents wisdom, spiritual development, and the third eye while addressing dualisms like potential and kinetic energy.

Now, how can someone admire

Wall Of Division

By: Neda Dabbagh



Well known for their similar cultures and raging crusade, Palestinians and Israelis have thrived

side by side as far back as the 1930's. However, in the mid 1990's, a barrier formed in the Gaza Strip, isolating the Palestinians from communicating to the outside world. Later, in 2002, the Israelis constructed a concrete wall that put a final divide in the West Banks. Palestinians became adrift with the dwellings of separated family relationships, loss of homes and the uprooting of their heritage because of the negative impacts of the barrier wall.

The disunion of the Palestinians

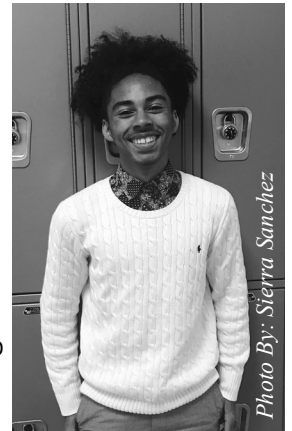
another's culture without appropriating it? Cultural appreciation proves to be the simplest answer. *Pysch2go.net* defines Cultural Appreciation as “learning about another culture with respect and courtesy. It is appreciating a certain culture enough to take time to learn about it, interact with people among the culture, and actually understand the culture.”

Recently Angelina Jolie has emerged into the public eye with a beautiful form of cultural appreciation. While visiting Cambodia for the premiere of her new film, Angelina Jolie and her children talked with BBC News about culinary excellency of cooking spiders. While many rolled their eyes and stuck out their tongue, others widely appreciated Jolie's gesture. In Cambodia, eating these creatures ranks as a delicacy. Jolie adopted her eldest son from Cambodia in 2002 and the viral video shows Jolie educating her children on the history and tradition of the Cambodian fried spider. This beautiful act screams appreciation and admiration. When someone takes the time to learn, educate, and fully immerse themselves into a culture, then they cannot suffer from appropriation but thrive from appreciation.

Sophomore Teiari Matthews and member of the BSA (Black Student Alliance, led

by Ms. Johnston in room 1206 during A lunch) says, “Cultural appropriation is like plagiarism. Most people wouldn't copy something offline and get mad when you criticize them, so don't be shocked when someone becomes angry at you for appropriating

someone else's culture. Like, you're copying someone, what else do you expect?” AFHS students would benefit from becoming culturally aware and diverse by expanding their knowledge since we live in the “melting pot” of the world. As Kofi Annan once said, “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”



Teiari Matthews (10), member of the BSA, explains cultural appropriation.

duplicates the history of the Berlin Wall and both issues led to disasters in socioeconomics and civilizations struggling to withstand isolation from neighboring countries. It undermines the natural principle of equality and non-discrimination since the wall targets the Palestinian civilians based on where they come from.

Not only does the cement wall contribute to colonial segregation, but also adds to the constant inefficiency of traveling to workplaces in Jerusalem. “95% of Palestinians from the areas ‘outside’ of it and 77% [from] the areas ‘inside’ the wall (relative to Jerusalem) report that they have difficulties getting to their workplace”, exclaims Israeli citizen Bryan Atinsky. The wall prevents civilians from traveling on the main routes through Bethlehem and Ramallah, leading to unemployment for qualified residents. Specified areas such as the Closed Zone require the Palestinian residents to obtain permits that allow them to remain in their own home and travel to work more efficiently. Despite the rulings, an estimate of

75% of Palestinians do not own permits, preventing them from entering in Jerusalem or living in their own homes. Overall, it leads to a decline of job employment and decimates the possible opportunity of allowing Palestinians to return home.

Mayor Barkat of Israel releases pretentious and empty promises. The walls lead to isolation of the Palestinian people from necessary resources, families, religious worship, and medical care. To accommodate these issues, demolishing the wall would lead to a united country with fair laws and regulations. A possibility exists for Israel to focus on both countries in order to enforce equality amongst all.

Without this barrier, Palestinians and Israelis will learn to coexist in the means to prosper as a nation for economic and humanitarian prospects. Bestowing the Palestinian heritage and culture back with residents who lost their homes and family represents a step forward in putting an end to this world wide conflict.

Want to voice your opinion? Send your Letters to the Editor at: afhspatriotpress@gmail.com

News

Defunding Planned Parenthood

By: Kierney Leonard

Power has transferred from a Democratic President to a Republican President. A lot of talk has circulated the United States since the transition of power, and the defunding of Planned Parenthood has been one of the most recent topics of conversation. A lot of people remain unaware of what the Planned Parenthood organization does, why the government wants to defund it, and what the effects may be.

Planned Parenthood offers reproductive healthcare for people across the United States, and throughout the world. More specifically, plannedparenthood.org explained that it offers contraceptives, provides STI/STD testing and treatment, supplies sexual education, gives general health care, and offers reproductive cancer screenings. Many people mistakenly believe that Planned Parenthood only provides care for women, but it actually provides care for men and teens as well. Teens can access Planned Parenthood's website to find information about their anatomy, learn about birth control, and receive information about relationships.

The main reason for the defunding of Planned Parenthood comes down to one word: abortion. The organization provides women with abortion options, and this upsets a lot of pro-life supporters. Sean Spicer, President Trump's spokesperson, said, "Trump wants to stand up for all Americans, including the unborn." Trump has also signed the Mexico City Policy. This policy, which has been continuously put into place and suspended by previous presidents, stops the federal funding of international abortions in third world countries, including The International Planned Parenthood Federation, according to lifesitenews.com.

The defunding has caused an outcry because this organization makes healthcare affordable. Statistics from plannedparenthood.org revealed that 75% of their 2.5 million patients "have incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level."

By defunding Planned Parenthood, many of these people will lose access to affordable healthcare. The New York Times revealed that health experts have not found a decline in abortions in developing nations from the Mexico City Policy. In fact, it revealed that research has found that abortion rates have increased due to the closing of health clinics because of the lack of funding. The New York

Times said, "Others say the restriction only heightens the risk of illegal and often unsafe abortions."

Donald Trump stated in a speech, "[The government is] not going to fund [Planned Parenthood] as long as you have the abortion going on at Planned Parenthood." The healthcare organization revealed that out of all of its services, only 3% deals with abortions. When it comes down to these numbers, should Planned Parenthood be subject to defunding?



Photo By: Kierney Leonard

The Symbolism of a Clover

By: Julia Uhlman

According to the Irish, each leaf of a four leaf clover symbolizes a different characteristic of luck. Centuries ago, Celts believed carrying a three leaf clover or shamrock would allow one to see evil spirits, and give a chance to escape, according to bhg.com. A four leaf clover represented a Celtic charm, offering magical protection and warding off bad luck.

Today, four leaf clovers symbolize luck because of their rarity. The odds of finding a four leaf clover equals one in 10,000, according to the dailytelegraph.com. Their rarity comes from four leaf clovers not being natural. Four leaf clovers actually come from a genetic mutation of the natural, three-



Photo By: Kierney Leonard

leafed clover. According to bhg.com, legend says that Ireland has more four leaf clovers than anywhere else, "giving meaning to the phrase, 'the luck of the Irish'."

Today, people think of clovers as weeds or pests. But why does this weed symbolize luck and good fortune? Should

clovers be considered weeds? Actually, clovers have a lot of benefits. Clovers may be the weed of need. They happen to be drought tolerant, almost entirely immune to disease, and discourage many insects from lawns. According to spruce.com, clovers fall under the legume classification, meaning they take their own nitrogen from the air. This means they don't need fertilizer. They also have a low growth habit, meaning they don't need to be mowed like grass.

Four leaf clovers, or shamrocks, tie to St. Patrick's Day because legend says St. Patrick used one to illustrate the doctrine of Trinity. According to goodlucksymbols.com, four leaf clovers represent hope, faith, love, and luck. With this in mind, we might want to start looking for some good luck.

Student Life

Wanted: Interns

By: Braylin Campbell



For those seeking to build a better college resume, apply for an internship. Since 2014, volunteering, internships, and other career building activities have become increasingly important for high school students who want to better their chances for getting into college. Internships also increase chances of getting a job related to students field of interest.

When obtaining an internship, make sure to act professional. The way one performs before an internship will either better

or lower the chance of actually getting the internship. Maintaining good grades will also better one's chances. According to schoolguides.com, when building a resume for internships, incorporate any part-time work experience, awards, and GPA. For any part-time work that doesn't relate to one's choice of career, employers recommend still incorporating them; that demonstrates how seriously a student considers their future.

"Internships provide an integration of core and technical instruction, which enhances the overall curriculum, increases learning, promotes instructional rigor and helps students prepare for the future," Apex Friendship's Career Development Coordinator, Mrs. Tomey stated. "Students who participate in these learning experiences are better prepared to be college and career-focused and globally competitive." For those seeking an internship, Tomey suggests searching social media and visiting students.linkedin.com. Students can also visit Mrs. Tomey for help with the application process and even getting advice.

When planning on applying for an internship, make sure it fits into your schedule. If

your internship occurs during school, plan accordingly for schoolwork and extracurricular activities. While not required, internships during high school help better your understanding of the career choice and skills.

HSM Behind the Scenes

Continued from front page

The show has a lot of main characters as well as a strong ensemble. An ensemble contains a group of actors who may not have a lot of lines, but they do play a major role in the show. One ensemble member, Nina Sehgal (10), said, "Being in the musical is a really great experience. It's a lot of hard work but it's worth it."

High School Musical will be performed at AFHS on March 16, 17, and 18. Buy your tickets for \$10 at the door or at <http://apexfriendships.seatyourself.biz>

5 Best Jobs For Travel Lovers

By: Katelyn Bohn

People full of wanderlust; anyone who has dreams of seeking out the most breathtaking of views, traveling all over the world, and discovering unimaginable curiosities, keep reading. The job descriptions given not only pertain to world traveling, but also to those who want to have a steady income while sight-seeing. They also represent some very unusual and fun jobs.

Archaeologist

An archaeologist explores prehistoric artifacts. Most specialize in the excavation of fossils, as well as dinosaur and human remains, plus ancient relics. They help to dig up and then analyze different primordial findings all over the world, not just Egypt. Archaeological digs happen all over the world; in Greece, Israel, Spain, and Italy. Anywhere that has a decaying castle or an old temple, needs an archaeologist.

English Teacher

Although this may not seem like a job that would involve much traveling, it definitely could be. The current demand for fluency in English provides the perfect

opportunity for a gift taken for granted by most students in America. The relative ease of getting a job as an English teacher creates an opportunity in countries outside of the United States, and the more foreign the country the better.

Interpreter

Being bilingual helps to get a job as an interpreter. Some interpreters charge as much as fifty cents a word to translate for someone. Whether a restaurant needs a menu translated, or someone wants to know the translation of a song, having a translator helps a lot of people and can be performed in virtually any country.

Photojournalist

For someone that wants to be a world traveler, this career provides the perfect job. Photojournalists constantly travel and try to get the most incredible shots possible, and if writing about travels and their context has appeal, this may be the perfect job. Journalism in general can be competitive, but talented photographers and excellent writers who love to travel around the globe may find photojournalism an ideal job.

Scuba/Ski/Yoga Instructor

Being an instructor of scuba diving, skiing or yoga may be the job for an athletic traveler. Scuba diving instructors obviously enjoy

swimming, and plenty of beautiful places in the world can be found with clear water and coral reefs where one can instruct. As for skiing instructors, wherever a ski lodge exists, so does a teaching job. Lastly, yoga instructors can pretty much set up shop in any kind of community center or facility in the world.

Finding an internship anywhere in the world while in college, or after college, provides the opportunity to explore the aforementioned careers, as well as many others. Even while in high school summer internships exists in different regions of the country, or even remote areas of North Carolina. The Compass Studio on the second floor, run by Mrs. Tomey, provides an excellent resources for internships or jobs related to current interests.



See Mrs. Tomey in the Compass Studio.

Student Life

Peer Pressure

By: Braylim Campbell



“Do it, it won’t hurt you.” The anticipation aches as your gut feeling says no. “Come on! We’re all doing it. You’re not scared are you?” Your mind is running wild, and you only wanted to fit in. “What are you, a punk?!” Every one faces peer pressure.

Peer Pressure, the influence from members of one’s peer group. Many teens undergo the influence of peer pressure every day. According to aacap.com, peer pressure plays a major role in social and emotional development of children and adolescents. By the teenage years, the most influential group tend to be peers. Depending on the peer group, peer pressure can be both negative and positive. Peer pressure can help develop new skills or stimulate interest in certain activities. According to teens.lovetoknow.com, of the teens surveyed only 10% said that they had not been influenced by peer pressure. In the same

group, 28% agreed that giving into peer pressure has improved their social standing. Negative peer pressure usually consist of drugs, alcohol, sex, and more. Being uncomfortable or feeling guilty, shows negative peer pressure. The biggest concern for parents, relates back to drugs and alcohol. According to the Canadian lung Association, they found out that the 70% of teens that smoke also have friends who smoke or started because of peer pressure. According to Underage Drinking Research Initiative, 2/3 of 10th graders and 2/5 of 8th graders have tried alcohol. As for sex, 1/3 of teenage males and 23% of females feel pressured by friends. Most kids or teens tend to give into peer pressure because they want to fit in. Teens often worry about being liked and don’t want to be or feel left out.

When faced with peer pressure, make sure to stand your ground. Try deflecting the attention away by using humor. Humor can help take the pressure off the conflict without offending anyone. Seeking support when getting rid of peer pressure. Talking to a parent, relative, teacher, and even a counselor can help in finding positive solutions to the problem. Also, try talking to the person who’s pressuring others. This will help dictate

whether they really care or not. If not, getting out of that relationship with that person would be advised. Most importantly, be true to oneself. Be aware of one’s values and believe in what you know is right. For more information please visit kidshelpline.com

Negative or positive, all teens should go through peer pressure. When people hear peer pressure, they automatically think negative but the outcome can be positive. Most teens have either seen peer pressure or have been pressured themselves. Moments like those help teens establish self-identity, allowing teens to realize their potential, and the people who have their best interests in mind. Most importantly, peer pressure gives a sense of authority. Teens often prove prone to making mistakes, but knowing how to say no and dictating between wrong and right help conquer situations involving peer pressure. To help others fight the battle, let them know they’re not alone. Make sure they also have a sense of identity and authority. As long as one still cares for others acknowledgement and acceptance, peer pressure will remain a constant struggle. Take the negative and turn it positive. Live, learn, and continue to strive.

New Tech

By: Riley Smith

Looking for a new phone? Interested in the latest tech? The LG brand just announced the release of their new phone the LG 6. The phone’s design has a polished glass screen, strong metal and a waterproof feature. The phone uses Gorilla Glass, which contains a metal band that adds strength and will minimize the damage when corner drops occur. The majority of the phone itself consists of screen, meaning less of an outside frame around the device. Even though the phone has a 5.7-inch screen, it has a relatively light weight and can be held comfortably.

The phone contains 32GB of storage, but can be expanded with a MicroSD card. Using Google Photos helps to keep storage from being taken up by photos. The G6 sports not only one but two 13-megapixel cameras on the back. The one camera has a wide angle lens with 125 degrees of viewing. The front selfie camera has a 5-megapixel with a 100 degrees of viewing that will take normal or wide angle pictures. A fifteen percent charge

should only take ten minutes. The U.S. models of the phone have wireless charging, but the international countries won’t be getting that feature. The pricing has not been announced, but the phone should hit shelves around April or May.

Another new gadget that will be hitting the market sometime this March will be the new Apple line up. The lineup will be consisting of the iPad Pro being introduced in two new sizes. The Cupertino based company sounds like they plan to unveil the new 7.9 inch iPad Pro, and a 10.5 inch version. The new versions of these iPad Pros should have upgraded processors and a new design update. The other gadget the company may be planning to unveil will be a new variant of the iPhone 7; this one should be in the color red.

Nintendo had exciting news for those who like to use gaming consoles, a new Nintendo gadget arrives March 3rd. The new handheld console, Nintendo Switch will allow gaming to occur anywhere. The device includes a 720p screen, feels rigid and durable, with a carbon black slate. At only 300 grams, this the equals what the iPad minis



Photo By: Riley Smith

weigh. Even when it gets tiring to hold, the mode of holding can be switched so then it can still be used wirelessly. These new technological gadgets will be flying off the shelves due to

all the new advancements as well as the support for these companies. In reaction to all the new technology, Andre Olmeda Santiago (11) said “Yeah it’s cool, it’s good to have pastimes like that”. These new devices definitely create interest for people of younger ages. This new technology keeps the buyers interested as well as engaged while using these brand new products that have more advancements that appeal to the consumers.

Arts & Entertainment

Beauty and the Beast: A Preview

By: Katelyn Bohn



Beauty and the Beast, a fairy tale and movie created by Disney, will soon be recreated from the original animated film into a 'real life' production on this St. Patrick's day, March 17th. Famous actress, Emma Watson, best known for her brilliant role as Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* movie series, acts as Belle, and famous actor, Dan Stevens, best known for his superb role as Matthew Crawley in *Downton Abbey*, plays the part of Beast. A two-minute trailer has been released for the upcoming movie, and the plot appears to be nearly the same as the original film, with the only difference perhaps being that it has a bit more of a vibrant and emotional take on the fairy tale, as it should have a more humanized approach with actors and actresses.

The trailer begins with Belle, walking

with a book in hand, going about her village as usual. Her father suddenly comes into the picture on horseback, and gets knocked off because of a horrible beast, and then kidnapped. Belle, of course, being the heroine, goes to find her father and comes across a chilling castle. What she finds in the castle turns out to be even more bloodcurdling. She finds a beast, of course, and asks him to take her as prisoner instead of her father. Shortly after this, she begins to realize many different concepts after being in the castle; for one, the china plates and cups can talk and cook, and this beast has more to him than just her grisly perception of him.

Belle's character has been looked upon as a girl who many young ladies aspire to share character traits with, due to her disregard of appearance, and her intelligent, scholarly, kind and wise nature. She adores reading with all of her heart, and ignores all of the ditzy young girls in her village who obsess over the vainglorious and cruel Gaston. Emma Watson

says this about Belle, "There's this kind of outsider quality that Belle had, and the fact she had this really empowering defiance of what was expected of her. In a strange way, she challenges the status quo of the place she lives in, and I found that really inspiring. She manages to keep her integrity and have a completely independent point of view. She's not easily swayed by other people's perspective — not swayed by fear-mongering or scapegoating."

The movie has a broadly-ranged target audience; almost anyone will enjoy watching it, except for maybe younger children who could be prone to panic when Belle's father has been abducted by Beast, or when Gaston and his crew attempt to track down and kill Beast. Also, there's been some recent controversy regarding one of the characters sexual orientation.

The film has both extremely joyful and deeply grim aspects to it, but overall ends with an important and positive message. The movie comes out this St. Patrick's day, March 17th, 2017.

Banned Books

By: Kierney Leonard

The American Library Association recently released several book lists. These lists revealed books that sparked controversy in today's education. Surprisingly, many of the titles have been recognized as acclaimed novels and Apex Friendship, itself, reads these books in the classroom.

Several schools throughout the world challenged *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In this classic, a young girl named Scout observed the judicial process that a disabled black man endured when a white woman accused him of rape. The book's use of racial slurs and sexual content sparked great controversy among parents who did not want their children to read this book. The mentions of sexual assault and derogatory terms prompted adults to fight the educational use of the book, finding it to be inappropriate content for children to read. PBS revealed nineteen memorable cases of the famous book's controversy, and one took place in Warren, Indiana. In this case, African American parents explained that the book "institutionalized racism under the guise of good literature." On the other hand, many

people feel that despite the controversy, banning the book cannot erase the racial history of the United States. Chris Sergel, the Vice President of Dramatic Publishing, refuses to remove the controversial words from *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He said, "Being uncomfortable with history is not means to change it. People need to figure out how to confront issues."

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie made an appearance on one of the lists as well. This book follows a Native American boy named Arnold as he attends an all-white school. The use of foul and racist language, accompanied by sexual content, outraged many parents, sparking the attempts to ban the book. Jennifer Andersen, a parent who asked that a high school in Tennessee ban the book, explained her concern, "I began reading, and I started to cross out sections that I didn't want [my son] to read. Soon I thought, 'Wait, this is not appropriate; he is not reading this,'" she said. A chairman of the English department at the Tennessee school named John Whitehurst responded to the concerns. He explained that although the book uses vulgar language, the students will go through similar events that the main character faces and that the book contains

a strong anti-drinking message. He also described that the author wrote the book through the mind of a fourteen-year-old boy, which will appeal to the students and increase their interest in the novel.

These popular novels provide strong messages to the readers, but sometimes parents feel the content seems unfit for students. One solution to the inappropriate content in school novels came from Anderson who said, "We rate movies and put warnings on music and TV. What about books? There is no warning whatsoever if there is vulgar language in a book." Mrs. McClellan, an English teacher at Apex Friendship, said she feels that books should not be made unavailable for students. She went on to explain, "If you trust your kid with what you've taught them and the values that you've instilled in them, then it shouldn't matter what they read."



Photo By: Braylin Campbell

Want to see your own review here? Contact us at: afhspatriotpress@gmail.com

Sports

Athlete of the Month

By: Chase Parsons

With lacrosse season starting up again, Varsity Women's Lacrosse Coach Destaebler recommends AFHS junior Olivia Blake because she possesses qualities of a quiet leader, a great competitor, and she leads by example. Blake played soccer her whole life until freshman year. Blake played soccer when she attended Apex High. Her PE coach, also the Women's Lacrosse coach, persuaded her to try out for lax in the upcoming season. "I finally decided to try out and I actually liked it a lot!", exclaims Blake. When she came to AFHS, Blake decided to keep playing lacrosse instead of soccer. "I am so proud of how well the team has done."

Blake loves every aspect lacrosse has to offer. "Lacrosse is a lot different than soccer. It moves faster and requires a lot of teamwork. I also love how well our team can get along: we are always joking and

having a good time at practice." Her pregame rituals consist of hanging out and eating with the team in the coach's room. Then her and the team go watch the JV game to cheer them on. "It gets everyone so hype to see our teammates play."

Lacrosse has taught Blake so much. A lot of players and parents did not expect the team to win many games their first season. Their first three games gave them a lot of confidence and led them to a three game winning streak. "We all realized how much we were capable of doing and how far we were able to go in the season."

Blake's most memorable moment in her AFHS lacrosse history "was our first game ever against Panther Creek. We tied them 12-12 and had to go into overtime. When overtime started, we dominated the field, the crowd was going crazy, then Grace Fleming got the ball and scored! It was one of the best games we had as a

team." Be sure to attend the Women's Lax games this season, and keep an eye out for March's Athlete of the Month, Olivia Blake.



According to Coach Destaebler, Olivia Blake (11) possesses qualities of a quiet leader, a great competitor, and she leads by example.

Why the Patriots?

By: Kierney Leonard

Why do schools have mascots? Questions arise as to what purpose school mascots pose. Some believe they raise school spirit, while others believe they come from tradition in sporting events.

According to fisu.net, the word mascot derives from the French word "mascotte" which means "lucky charm." Mascots first made an appearance in the world of sports, when teams brought live, ferocious animals to games in order to entertain the fans. The website says, "Most of these animals were predators expected to roar and strike fear into the hearts of their opponents."

During the 1960s, the mascots transitioned from living creatures to life-sized puppets, inspired by the invention of Muppets. The introduction of the puppet-like costumes proved to be very successful for marketing and public relations, contributing to today's use of mascots.

"Mascots embody that desire to support your school and are a visual representation of what we believe to be the best parts of our school or organization,"



Daniel Wellish (11), the original AFHS mascot, dresses as a Patriot for school events.

says Jackie Esposito, Penn State Archivist and co-author of *The Nittany Lion: An Illustrated Tale*. Some schools choose to have strong animals such as bears or lions to represent their strength or fierceness. Other schools choose mascots based on what the school stands for. An example of this would be the UCSC Banana Slugs, which Esposito says emphasizes the school's focus on science and conservation.

Daniel Wellish (11), the original

Apex Friendship High School mascot, believes that mascots play an important role in schools. He said, "I think it's something to rally behind, because as a school—especially a new school—school spirit sometimes is lacking for the younger kids, so I think it's great to have something to look at and be like 'Oh! Let's cheer for the mascot!'"

AFHS Principal, Mr. Wight, explained why AFHS became "the Patriots". He said that while he came up with a few of the options, future AFHS students decided on the mascot before school started. "We went through a process of brainstorming different ideas and we had several to choose from, and that was the one that the group consensus was—the Patriots." Mr. Wight revealed that he read a quote by Jay Mike Blake, a local sports reporter, who said in regards to the AFHS mascot, "Please, no birds or cats." Mr. Wight also stated that, ironically, some of Apex Friendship's very own staff members have been revealed to be deathly afraid of birds and cats, so therefore, it worked in their favor to become Patriots.

As AFHS Patriots, one can't help but wonder what being a Patriot represents in this school. What do you think it means to be the AFHS Patriots?

BACH TO ROCK

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Playing music
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March & April Sports Calendar

March

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|--|---|
| 3/17 Baseball and Softball VS Middle Creek @ 4:30 | 3/30 Track VS Middle Creek and Fuquay at 3:30 |
| 3/20 Men's Golf vs. Holly Springs @ Devil's Ridge 3:00 | Men's Tennis at Apex 3:30 |
| Men's Tennis @ Holly Springs 3:30 | Stunt @ Cary w/ Middle Creek 5:00 |
| 3/21 Men's LAX @ Athens Drive 4:30 | 3/31 Baseball & Softball VS Fuquay @ 4:30 |
| Women's LAX @ Athens Drive 5:00 | Men's LAX at Green Hope @ 4:30 |
| 3/22 Men's Tennis VS Fuquay @ 3:30 | Women's LAX at Green Hope @ 5 |
| Women's Soccer VS Athens Drive @ 4:30 | 4/3 Men's Golf VS Fuquay @ 3 |
| Softball VS Garner @ 4:30 | |
| 3/23 Track @ Cary 3:30 | |
| Men's Tennis VS Middle Creek @ 3:30 | |
| Women's Soccer @ Millbrook 4:30 | |
| Stunt at Sanderson w/ East Wake @ 5 | |
| 3/24 Baseball & Softball VS Athens Drive @ 4:30 | |
| Men's LAX at Holly Springs @ 4:30 | |
| Women's LAX VS Holly Springs @ 5 | |
| 3/27 Men's Tennis @ Green Hope 3:30 | |
| Women's Soccer @ Holly Springs 4:30 | |
| Women's LAX VS Garner @ 5 | |
| 3/28 Baseball & Softball VS Holly Springs @ 4:30 | |
| Men's LAX VS Fuquay @ 4:30 | |
| 3/29 Men's Golf VS Green Hope @ 3 | |
| Men's Tennis @ Panther Creek 3:30 | |
| Women's Soccer VS Fuquay @ 4:30 | |

April

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|---|
| Men's Tennis VS Cary @ 3:30 |
| Women's Soccer at Green Hope 4:30 |
| 4/4 Men's LAX VS Panther Creek @ 4:30 |
| Baseball & Softball VS Green Hope @ 4:30 |
| Women's LAX at Panther Creek @ 5 |
| 4/5 Men's Tennis at Middle Creek @ 3:30 |
| Women's Soccer VS Panther Creek @ 4:30 |
| 4/6 Track @ Green Hope w/ Cary @ 3:30 |
| Men's LAX @ Apex 4:30 |
| Baseball VS Heritage @ 4:30 |
| Stunt VS Panther Creek & Apex @ 5 |
| Women's LAX VS Apex @ 5 |
| 4/7 Baseball & Softball VS Panther Creek @ 4:30 |
| Men's LAX VS Cary @ 4:30 |
| Varsity Women's LAX at Cary @ 6 |

March & April Events Calendar

March

- 3/17 Saint Patrick's Day
- 3/17-3/18 High School Musical @7:00
- 3/22 HOSA Blood Drive from 8AM-1PM
- 3/22-3/24 AFHS Hosting State Band Assessment Performances @ 7:30AM
- 3/28 Wake Tech Career and College Promise Information Session

April

- 3/31- Makeup Day for 1/11
- 4/10-4/14 Spring Break

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