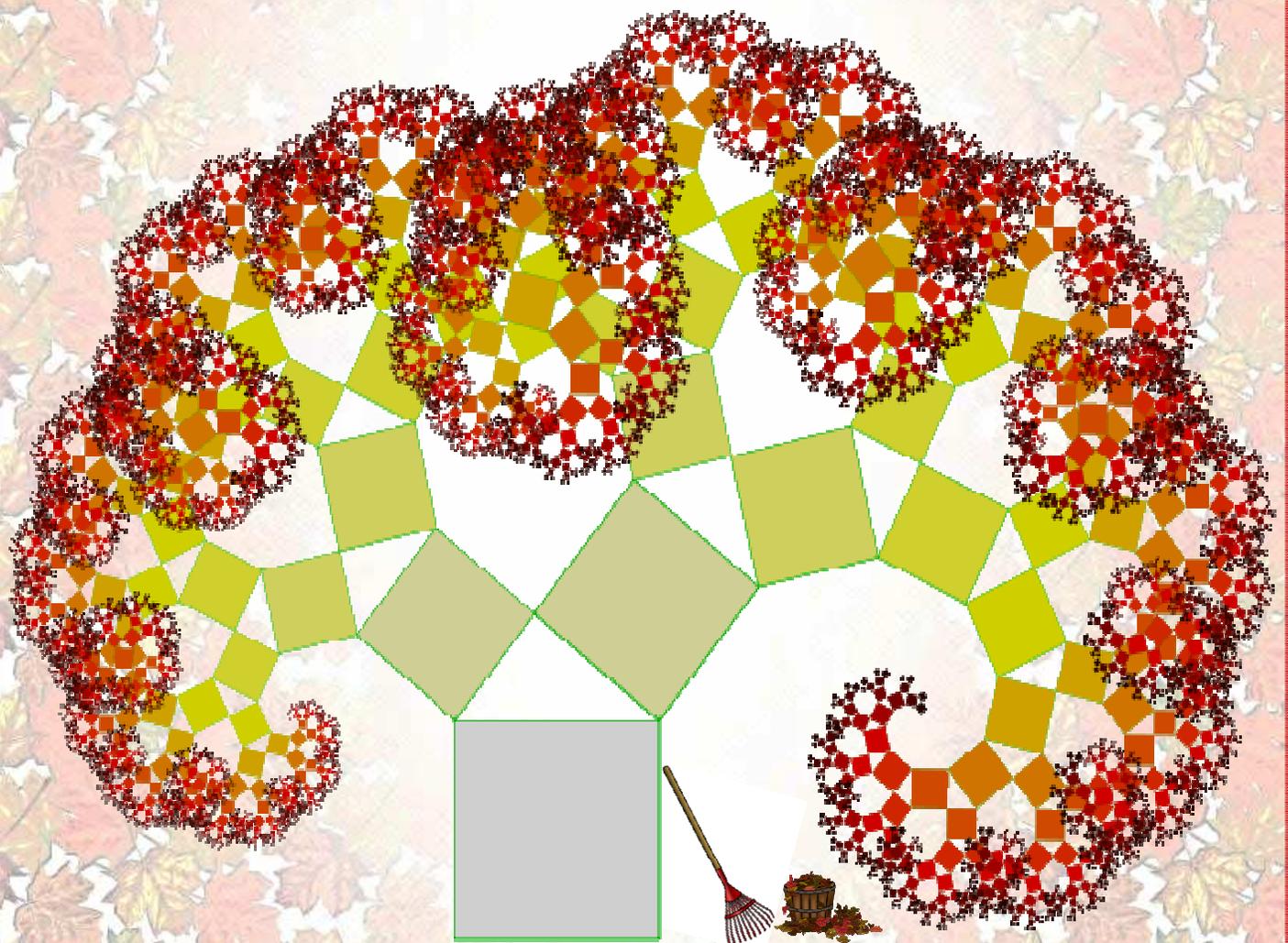
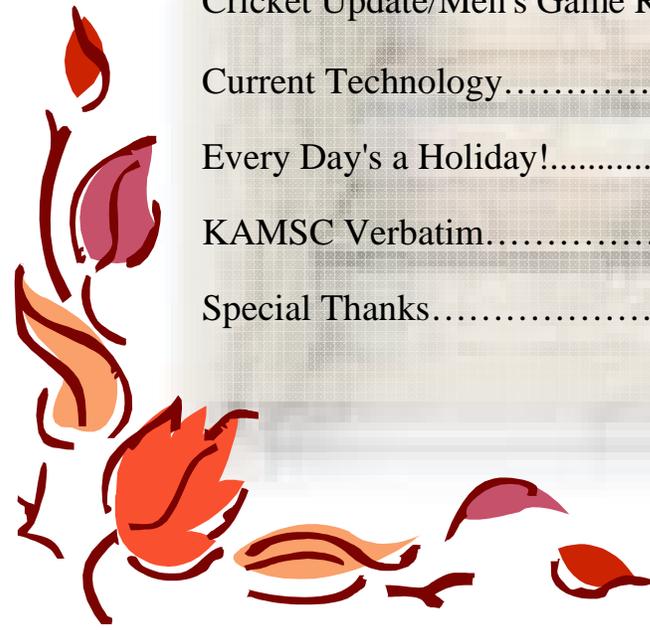
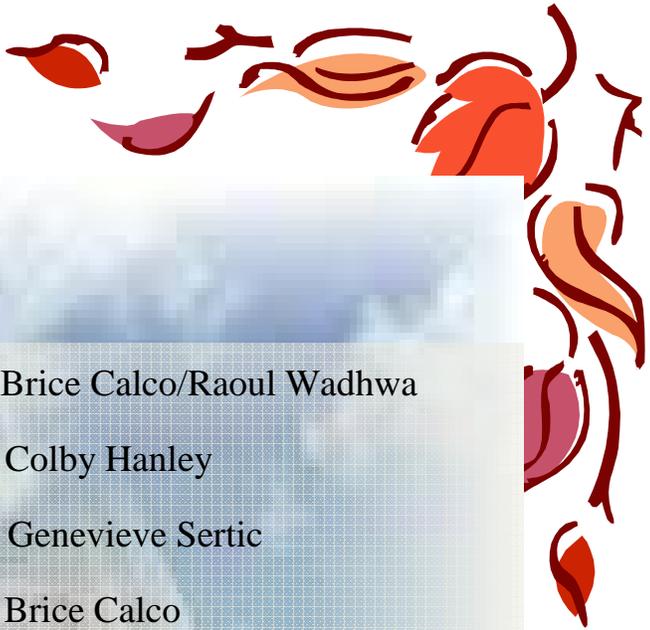


KAMSC's

84 Steps



Fall 2012



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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

As we get ready to start the 2012-2013 school year, all KAMSC students are getting ready for some big changes. Whether it is the start of your freshmen year here at KAMSC and you are beginning a new experience entirely, returning as a somewhat knowledgeable sophomore, a rising junior, or a senior ready to finish high school, be sure to enjoy this year! In this brand new and revamped version of KAMSC 84 Steps, we have packed in more tips on how to survive the rigors of KAMSC than ever before.

We have a breakdown of all four years and tips and tricks from our awesome editorial staff! We have updates for Student Senate, the KAMSC Cricket Team, and Earthlings; all of which have taken on new leadership and are ready to sprout fresh. Read the horoscopes at your own risk; they are nothing short of...well you'll find out! Make sure to take a look at the ninth grade survey; it looks like we have an interesting incoming class. As well, be sure to check out an interesting creative writing piece about dreaming; something all KAMSC students do. Be sure to also check out the exclusive interview with Mr. Chopp, who teaches biology (Honors and AP) we have incorporated as well.

Get ready for another year of KAMSC everybody! It is going to be a blast.

Brice Calco & Raoul Wadhwa





How to Survive Ninth Grade

by Colby Hanley



First year, ninth graders, whatever you call it, the first year of KAMSC can be one of the most challenging, enjoyable, strengthening years of school anyone will have! Coming from middle school into KAMSC can be a major adjustment for many students, but with the right balance of fun and hard work, anyone and everyone can have a successful year for their first year at KAMSC! And the first part of the equation for success at KAMSC involves each ninth grade class!

Every ninth grader will take Biology with Mr. Chopp. This class requires much studying, hard work, and deep thinking. The first tip for this class I can give is **STUDY EVERY NIGHT!** You'll be told this throughout the year too, but this tip really saved a lot of people last year who had Mr. Chopp's biology class. With all of the vocabulary and concepts that need to be learned, for the vast majority of students, just trying to memorize material during class isn't close to being sufficient for tests and exams. In biology, turning in homework on time is also very important because you will be penalized if you do not do so. (Although honestly, everyone should be doing that in every class!) When studying, you should study **ALL** material you're given too. This includes labs, notes, homework, worksheets, quizzes; anything you think may or may not be on the test is what you should study! Biology can be enriching and intriguing, but studying and completing assignments is critical in being successful and staying as stress-free as possible!

All first year students are also going to take a math class, although they range from Geometry to Calculus. The majority of ninth graders will be taking Geometry and there are a few tips that can be given specifically for that class, and a few more general ones that apply to every math class. For all math classes: biology is going to seem all-consuming at times, but remember that for at least some students, math is still going to require at least a bit of studying especially before tests! Don't get behind on homework too, because that can become really messy when assignments start piling up and it starts affecting your grade! In Mrs. Kalnins' class, a great tip with which many upperclassmen would probably agree is **NOT** to use all of your homework passes right in a row or at the beginning of a quarter! Homework in Mrs. Kalnins' class is guaranteed to have multiple questions per assignment that will be on the test, so not doing your homework will lower your homework grade and most likely your test grade too. All of the mathematics teachers are inspiring and experts in their subject areas and KAMSC math should be a class considered not only popular but enjoyable by everyone!

Last but not least is **IT!** This class is full of fun, interesting projects that you won't find at any school in Kalamazoo County guaranteed! This class is taught by the wonderful Mr. Cardwell who will brighten up your day each and every day with his intelligence, knowledge, and humor! **IT** includes not very much homework really but projects including Scratch programming, Prezi presentations, career presentations, and creating movies. If you're able to stay on top of projects in this class, it will be educational, fun, and motivating!

We all know that KAMSC is a glorious educational opportunity, but there are also **AWESOME** social experiences to be had by any student! These include Open Lab on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30; Student Senate that meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:00; the Frosh Mixer in September where you can meet many fellow ninth graders via fun activities and pizza; Class Clash, a fun day of activities and a dance at night; KAMSC Formal, an amazing night to have fun and get dressed up with everyone at KAMSC; Sci-Fi movie night where everyone is locked in on one night in March and watches a whole bunch of Sci-Fi movies; and Cricket, our intermural sport that is a blast! KAMSC is only as fun as you make it, so a golden tip is to make many friends, because they will be the best you've ever made, and balance studying and homework with being involved and having great times with fellow students!

How to Survive Sophomore Year

by Genevieve Sertic

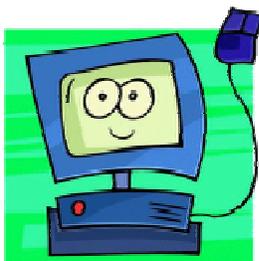
You're not new to KAMSC anymore. Your study habits and time management skills have improved to get you through your first year, you know the benefits of study groups and Open Lab, and you know that there are more opportunities here at KAMSC to learn and grow than you can fit into one life. Sophomore year is a great time to be a KAMSC student, wedged between the unknowns of your first year, the proliferation of college testing combined with Junior Year, and the craziness of college applications and Senior Year. But all years have their ups and downs, and tips on how to survive your sophomore year may help smooth some rough waters.

Where Mr. Cardwell's IT class showed you applications of computers, Computer Science with Mr. Houtrouw more extensively introduces you to the world of programming. Mr. Houtrouw has energy and enthusiasm to spare, and he gives you many chances to apply your knowledge of programming. Take the time to do the extra USACO programming challenges and go to as many computer competitions as you can; it really helps you along the path to better programming!



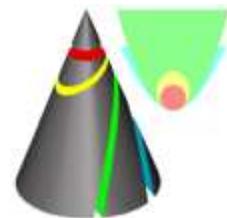
In Chemistry, thank Dr. T for not retiring this year! Dr. T is a great teacher, and makes the material very understandable by using anecdotes (and sometimes puns). I don't think I'll ever forget the square-dancing elements in a double-displacement reaction. Still,

If



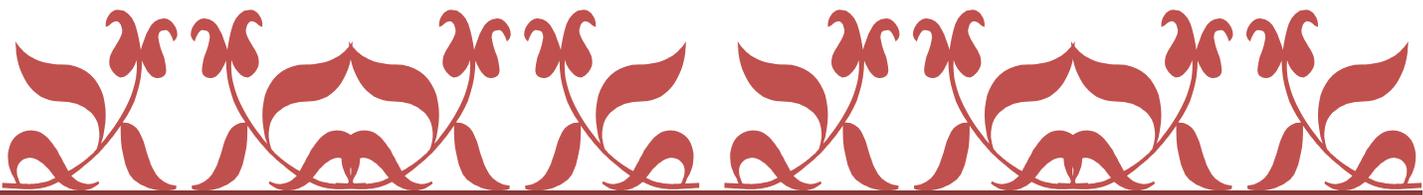
don't put off the reading, and keep up with the work in class on a daily basis. you don't understand something, ask! In Chemistry this year, your research project will be done in groups of four. It's not a bad idea to think about your group and possible ideas in the first semester. And get started on that group research early; when you are coming up with your own hypothesis and test methods, there is great potential for an "iterative" procedure (that is, it might not work exactly right on the first try) so give yourself time! And enjoy Dr. T's ties!

In Math, many of you will have Mr. Milka for Algebra II. Mr. Milka's sense of humor makes Algebra II entertaining. Stay current with the problem sets and do the work, and you should be fine. I can't speak personally to AP Calculus BC with Mr. Sinclair or Integrated Math III with Mr. Alshieri, but I have it on good authority that success is yours in either class with dedication to the problem sets and use of Open Lab for any questions you might have!



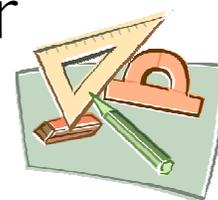
In general, make sure you don't burn yourself out by giving yourself break time. It's important to remember that if you start falling asleep on your textbooks while studying, sleep will probably help you more for the test the next day. If you have a bad day and don't do well on an assignment, don't let it get you down; let it motivate you to improve. Mistakes are okay.

Work hard in sophomore year. Try to get a feel for what classes you might like to take your Junior year by pushing yourself as much as you can in the subjects you are studying, and that will help you decide better when it comes time to choose electives. If you're like me, you'll have a difficult decision because there are too many great choices!



How to Survive Junior Year

by Brice Calco



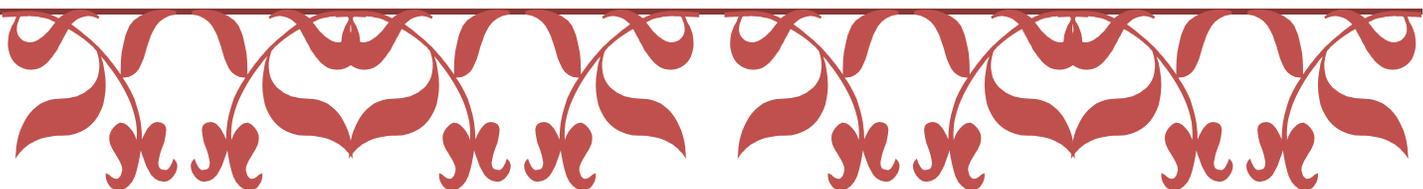
Welcome to junior year, deemed by many to be the most difficult year of KAMSC. You've made it past two years of KAMSC Math, a couple of computer courses, Chemistry, and of course ninth grade Biology, but being a junior will present many rigorous challenges of its own.

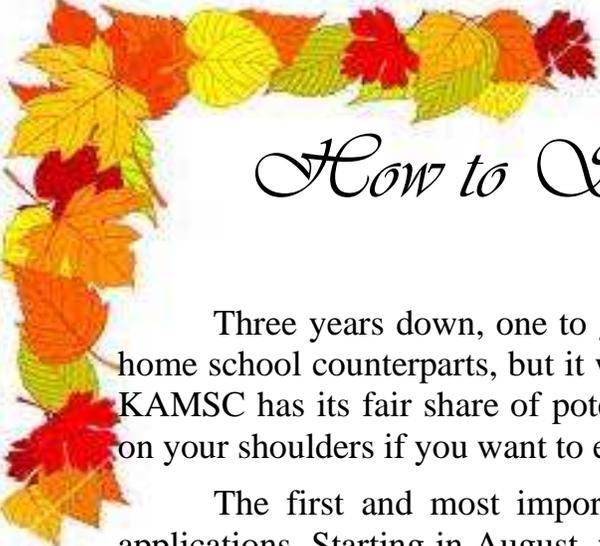
While it's true that the first two years of KAMSC are comparable to a rigorous high school experience, the latter two will feel much more like college. Beginning now, homework assignments will challenge you more overall, even if there are fewer problems or questions. This means that you are guaranteed to spend more time studying and doing homework for your classes this year than ever before. However, that is not necessarily a bad thing because this year you can start choosing electives. Do you have an interest in computer programming? Then Mr. Houtrouw's AP CS class is the one for you. Or are you looking to become a doctor? Maybe AP Biology or BioMed are for you. Regardless, you will find that whatever elective you choose, you will be in class with the students who really want to spark discussions and contribute to a rewarding learning atmosphere. Of course, when you are interested in a subject, you, too, will want to know it frontwards and backwards.

Then of course, there's Physics, which as any senior will tell you, can be quite difficult until you figure out what you need to do in the class. The weekly quizzes can be tough if you don't have a good schedule in place. Often times, studying your notes for fifteen minutes a night is a small time investment that really helps. The tests are tough as well because they assess your ability to solve physics problems not only correctly but quickly so that you can finish within the 45 minute time limit. Despite this, many seniors will be quick to tell you that Physics at KAMSC was their favorite class in high school, which may seem strange to you at first but it's likely that you'll one day share their opinion.

Additionally, junior year is also the Year of the Standardized Test. The ACT is automatically scheduled for you as part of the MME, which is a great way to ensure that you have at least one set of scores under your belt. Others may as well be scheduling an SAT Reasoning Test (or SAT Subject Tests, if you think you might be interested in one of the schools which require them) before the end of junior year too. You might be tired of bubbling in answers by June, but it will be well worth it to have your testing done by then!

One of the most important parts about KAMSC junior year is to not give up. You may face some setbacks along the way, but it's crucial to remember that the teachers are here to help you and that you should take advantage of class time and open lab to get any questions answered. Also, remember that there are many in the grade above you who have taken on your same challenges and are more than willing to lend a helping hand. Before you know it, you will be a senior, but we'll save that for next year!





How to Survive Senior Year

by Grady Sertic

Three years down, one to go. KAMSC's senior year may not be as easy as its home school counterparts, but it will still be a lot of fun. That aside, this final year of KAMSC has its fair share of potential pitfalls, and you'll need to keep a sound head on your shoulders if you want to excel during it.

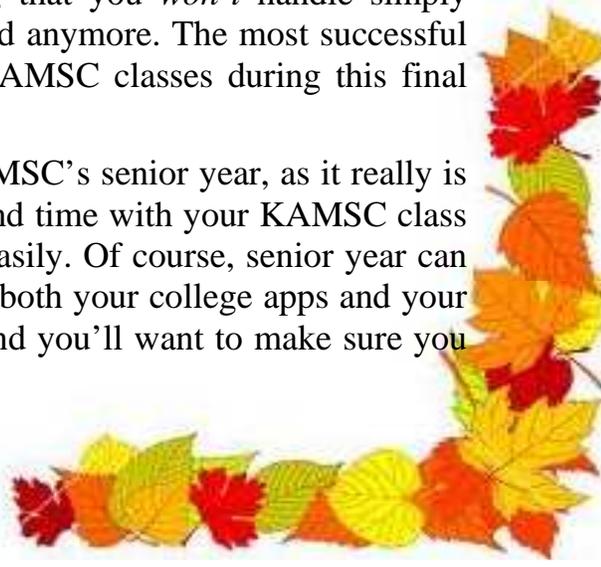
The first and most important challenge that senior year presents is college applications. Starting in August, you were able to begin filling out the Common App as well as many of the individual applications for the colleges of your choice. Hopefully you've already spent some serious time on this, but it's not the end of the world if you haven't; it just means that your September and October will be that much more hectic. When filling out applications, remember to show your sincere interest in each school to which you are applying. Write your essays as soon as possible and have multiple people review them. Writing about yourself can be difficult, but under the review of an objective party (as in, someone who isn't related to you) you can write a pretty decent essay.

In the same vein as college applications are the recommendation letters. Ask any teacher who knows you well personally and academically to write you a letter of recommendation as early as possible, especially those who have many letters to write. Be sure to thank whoever is writing your letter profusely! It's a lot of work for the teachers and it can be very stressful for them as well. Let them know how your acceptances and rejections go later in the year; they'll want to know as soon as possible.



Make sure to keep up with your schoolwork, too. Senior year is, overall, just as difficult as junior year, although there are some classes that are easier than others. Thankfully, after a year of being a junior, senior year is nothing that you can't handle. Unless you're careful, however, it can become something that you *won't* handle simply because you're tired and you don't want to work hard anymore. The most successful seniors continue to care just as much about their KAMSC classes during this final year as they did during their earlier years.

Don't let these pitfalls scare you off from KAMSC's senior year, as it really is a lot of fun! This will be the last time you get to spend time with your KAMSC class en masse and you'll be able to make the most of it easily. Of course, senior year can be much more fun if you know that you're on top of both your college apps and your classes all throughout the year. College is up next, and you'll want to make sure you finished high school on the best note possible!



Ninth Grade Survey

by Brice Falco and Raoul Padhwa

1. Which subject at KAMSC most interests you?

I don't know...(89%) Math...(5%) Computer Science (5%) Biology...(1%)



2. What would be the best mascot for KAMSC?

Calculator...(60%)
Flash Drive...(17%)
Test Tube...(14%)
Darth Vader...(7%)
Spock...(2%)

The nerds have spoken among the long debated and often pondered mascot for KAMSC...

3. Who is your favorite character from Star Wars?

Chewbacca...(34%) Jar Jar Binks...(29%) Darth Vader...(23%) Yoda...(9%)

Luke Skywalker...(5%)

Seems fair enough, but last time I checked I wouldn't exactly want to be a giant hairy creature who no one can understand...oh well!

2. What color lightsaber would you choose and why?

Xanad (Greenish Grey)...(77%) Feldgrau (Gray)...(9%) Falu (Red)...(5%) Gamboge (Yellow)..(5%) Malachite (Green)...(4%)

Just to let everyone know we can all thank Raoul for these exotic colors...even I had no clue what most of these were.

3. How many years has KAMSC been in action?

150...(74%) 20...(13%) 25...(7%)
30...(3%) 15...(3%)

Seriously? The correct answer given was 26 years. Hopefully KAMSC will complete 150 years, but come on people let's try to be at least a bit serious here!





4. If you could have a superpower, which one would you choose?
 Flight...(33%) None...(29%) Super-Strength...(24%) Invisibility...(24%)

Nothing too out of the ordinary here, except that “None” got more votes than “Strength”. That’s right. Here at KAMSC, we’d rather have no superpower at all than to be able to throw heavy things and smash stuff with our bare hands.

5. What word best describes your feelings towards coming to KAMSC?
 Excited, nervous, crazy, ecstatic, apprehensive, scared...



One person even put down euphoric! Impressive vocabulary...

6. Would you be interested in joining KAMSC’s Cricket Team?
 Yes...(57%) No...(43%)

Looks like we will have some new recruits coming in this year Mr. Sinclair! Check out our article on the KAMSC Cricket Team if you were one of those smart first year students to check the yes box!

7. Would you be interested in joining KAMSC Earthlings?
 Yes...(23%) No...(77%)

If this was you with an interest in KAMSC Earthlings check out Genevieve's Article on KAMSC Earthlings and contact her for more information!

Raoul Wadhwa & Brice Calco

A Conversation With Mr. Chopp

Interviewed by Kitu Komya

Q: *As a child, what did you want to become?*

A: I wanted to become a Park Ranger, a Field Biologist, or a Naturalist... basically a career that had people to people interaction, and nature or biology!

Q: *What do you like most about teaching Biology?*

A: Biology looks at the necessary interactions involved in the diversity of life, which I feel is very crucial to understand, since it affects us on a daily basis.

Q: *What do you think of your students?*

A: The students here at KAMSC are wonderful! Some of them ask amazing questions and are really enthusiastic and motivated to learn.

Q: *During college, what did you major?*

A: For undergrad, I double majored in Biology and Secondary Education. In graduate school, I received my masters in Educational Leadership.

Q: *Outside of KAMSC, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?*

A: I love to cook and experiment with different recipes. I also like to spend my time outdoors with my wife. We'll hike, snowboard, mountain bike, and do other activities outside.

Q: *Where else have you taught?*

A: I taught four years at New York City! The population there was very diverse and energetic... something that was new to me, yet still very exciting.

Q: *What kind of novels do you enjoy reading?*

A: I enjoy reading non-fiction about travel and food. I like Cook's Illustrated's cooking magazine. Mark Bittman, an American food journalist and author wrote one of my favorite cook books How to Cook Everything. My favorite book is A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold, or Walden, by Thoreau.

Q: *What's the strangest experience you've encountered?*

A: Well, in Nicaragua, I was a part of a team of teachers and students that built a school for a rural village. There was a tradition to welcome guests by hanging a duck from a line and trying to pull it off the line while riding a horse. I thought it was absurd!





Ask Brice

Hello KAMSC nerds!! My name is Brice Calco and I am a senior here at KAMSC. Please feel free to ask me any questions and send them to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com. Or if you are feeling old school walk up to me in the hallway with a sealed letter and act really secretive as others ponder what is inside...? Enjoy the year and keep the questions coming!
~ Brice Calco

Dear Brice,
I have a Twitter addiction and I can never get any of my homework finished before midnight! My parents get super upset and I can barely manage to stay awake in classes. It doesn't help that I go to KAMSC and take all honors and AP classes either! I want sleep OMG please help me!
Sincerely,
Sleepless Nights

Dear Sleepless Nights,
I have some suggestions for you - it's simple - you need to delete your Facebook and isolate yourself from the outside world! Hahaha, just kidding, but you do need to seriously limit the amount of time you spend on social networks. Set specific times to get what you need to get done and if you don't meet the schedule stay off the computer except for homework!

Dear Brice,
I never seem to win anything and it really hurts my self-esteem. Sometimes I feel like all my friends get stuff that I never get! What is a person supposed to do?
Sincerely,
Forever Losing

Dear Forever Losing,
With that attitude I can see why you are never winning! Keep your head held up high and maybe things will turn around for you. You have to try to be positive and believe you will win and always hope for the best. And if it doesn't work out, perhaps it just simply was not meant to be!

Dear Brice,
All of my friends have iPhones and are always bragging to me about them. So I convinced my parents to get me a smart phone and so they got me a BlackBerry. Except it turns out the type that they got me was an off brand BlackBerry and when I went to show it off to all my friends they made fun of me. What am I supposed to do?
Sadly,
Cry Phone

Dear Cry Phone,
If you have a smart phone then what is there to complain about? It sounds like your phone is pretty close to the real thing anyway. And the important thing is not what others think about your phone- what really matters is what you think about it. So unless you can fork up the money to get another phone, your BlackBerry should get you by well enough. By the way, who compares phones with their friends?



BIG

by Gauri Rangrass



Sometimes, I like to dream. With my head pressed to the back of my lounge chair and my thumbs twiddling in my lap, I imagine that I am the president of the United States. The cool draft coming in through the open window makes the curtains flow gloriously like the American flag, and it becomes easy for me to pretend that I am giving a State of the Union Address. The audience roars with enthusiasm and banners with my name in pink font dominate my peripheral vision. As I intricately describe my legislative outline to Congress, my mind wanders to another scenario...

I stand tall (really tall) in platform heels at the traffic light, waiting for the daunting red hand to change into a walking white stick-figure. As I tap my toe impatiently, I mumble, “screw it,” and cross the street anyway. It is Manhattan, after all, and I am already late for my first day working as a fashion journalist. When I reach the Vogue headquarters, a cute doorman mumbles, “Good mawnin’,” and takes off his hat to reveal mussed up hair. After greeting him, I slip into the elevator, which takes me to the 55th floor, where my workspace lies. I feel giddy when I find out that I’m able to see the Brooklyn Bridge from my office room, and I touch my window pane in disbelief. That’s when the next dream starts...

Three-year-old slippers make a comforting home for my feet as I stand in the dusty classroom. This classroom, however, lacks many of the tools that American students consider to be essential. Instead of a computer, students use slates. Instead of a whiteboard, I use a stick to carve words into the clay wall. Dirt clings to my every cell; the crisp white shirt that I put on this morning is now a red-mauve color. I don’t mind, though, because working as a teacher in this country is rewarding. The children smile at me and say the newest word in their English vocabulary: “friend”.

Sometimes, when I dream, I go on for hours and hours. At some point, I am snapped into reality. I realize that I’m not the president, a fashionista, or a teacher in a third world country; I’m a student residing in Portage, Michigan. But, that can always change. I’ve got to start somewhere.



By Anna He & Gauri Rangrass



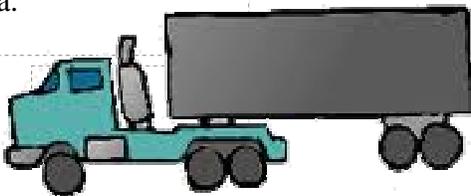
Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your curious and mentally active tendencies will quickly make you a teacher's pet this fall. Make sure to avoid getting in brawls with jealous peers who envy your vibrant personality and good grades. Don't get too carried away with your good fortune, though; make sure you think before you act before impulsively doing something that you will later regret (i.e. releasing Ms. Hach's cockroaches into the KAMSC hallways).



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You can be vain at times, putting up false appearances to look "cool" in front of others. One day you start speeding in the KAMSC parking lot, hoping to look swag. Out of nowhere, a semi-truck pulls into the narrow driveway, and you get in a car accident. Don't worry, though. It wasn't bad enough to put you in a coma.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There's no doubt that you'll make a hoard of new friends this fall, but be careful... your headstrong nature might rub people the wrong way. Let your strong leadership skills shine in the classroom but make sure you are willing to work with others as a team in your extracurricular activities and social sphere.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are usually the dependable one, but this time around when it comes to a group project, you will completely forget to do your part. This results in every person in your group getting extremely mad at you and making voodoo dolls of you. Good luck.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

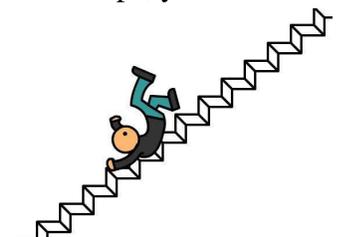
You tend to be clingy and others often find you annoying, so it's best to take some tips from an Aries and learn how to be a little bit more independent.

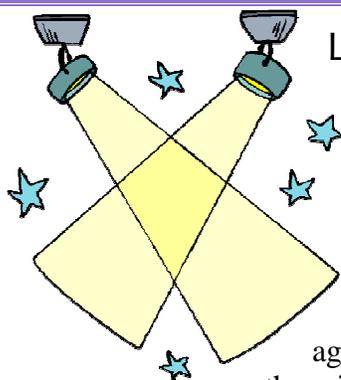
Since you probably don't want to have a mental breakdown in the middle of your first Chemistry lab, it's necessary for you to sign up for serious therapy to release stress and internal anger.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are very cold and often are not sympathetic because you tend to think with your analytical mind, rather than your emotions and feelings. Thus, the next time someone falls down those 84 steps, you will simply stand there and laugh. However, your actions will result in the victim getting angry and he will challenge you in a fistfight.





Libra (September 23-October 22)

You're giving...often times *too* giving. When a new classmate asks you for your spare kidney for their kidney replacement and you quickly agree, make sure not to also agree to give up your other one otherwise you'll end up dead. You are also self-absorbed, so make sure not to hog the spotlight too much this fall otherwise you won't make any friends and you'll end up being the only student without a lab partner.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

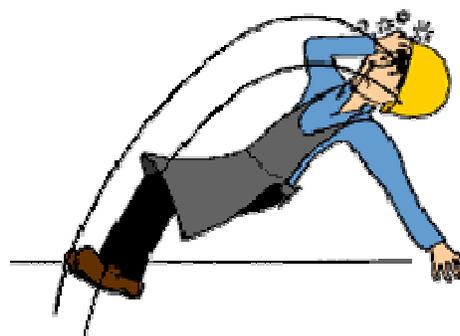
You love being independent, but keep in mind that it's not bad to ask for help occasionally.

Case in point: lugging a 20 pound backpack plus four different textbooks, then proceeding to fall under the weight. Hope your fractured collarbone heals up soon! Xoxo.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You have high hopes for this fall; you want to have a fresh start and begin the year in a positive light. However, these first few months in school will not be nearly as perfect as you might want them to be. Brace yourself for your upcoming misfortunes: a blow to the head from a cricket ball, a D on your first math test, food poisoning from the Bagel Beanery snack you snatched on your way to open lab. Don't worry sweetie, hopefully 2013 will go well for you?

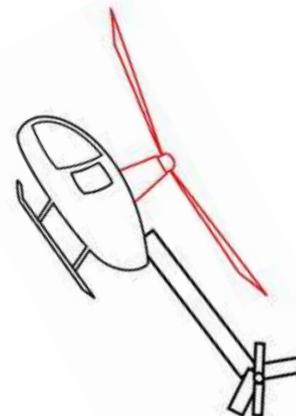


Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpios are very intense, deep people, and all that intensity somehow gives you an urge to race up the stairs. You are always preoccupied with your studies so you never exercise, so after racing up all 84 steps, you get dizzy and you faint in the computer room, knocking down a computer at the same time.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You will meet a new friend and ask them to be your lab partner, but the control freak inside you comes out. This rubs your new friend the wrong way, and they decide to get revenge by taking you up to a rooftop with a helicopter. Using their super strength, they throw you up and you get chopped up by the helicopter.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

As a very compassionate person, you are always willing to lend a hand to a friend in need. However, you will also start to feel sorry for yourself when all of your friends get that A on the first physics test. Perhaps focus on yourself and be more like the independent Sagittarius so you can get that A on your next test.





Top Ten things to Say Goodbye to From Summer



By Anna He

10. Sleeping until noon – self-explanatory, but this will be a rare occurrence with the start of the school year.

9. The Olympics – now that they're over, you'll have to wait another four years before you get an acceptable chance to geek out over sports.

8. The sound of random fireworks going off – really, why do you need to set off fireworks in the middle of August?

7. Heat – but then again, I guess you never know with Michigan.

6. Blasting embarrassing music with your windows rolled down – oops, was that just me...

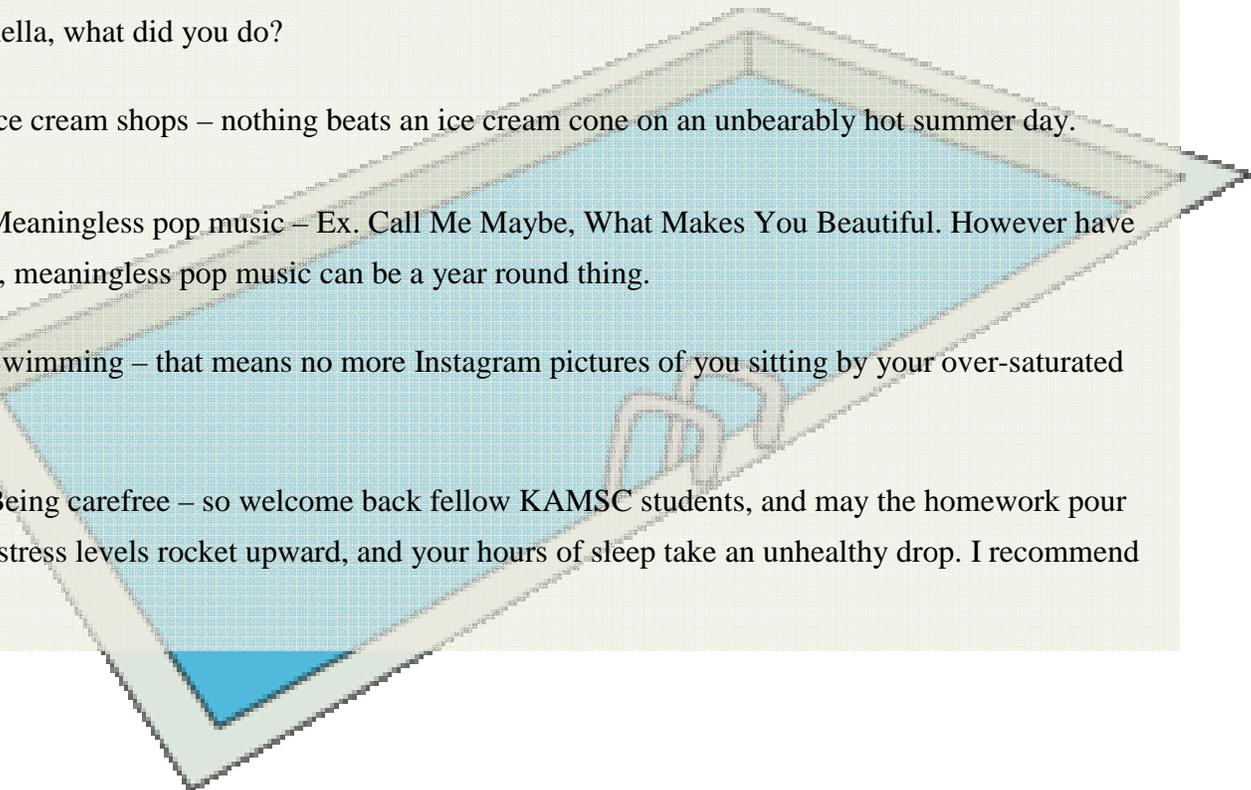
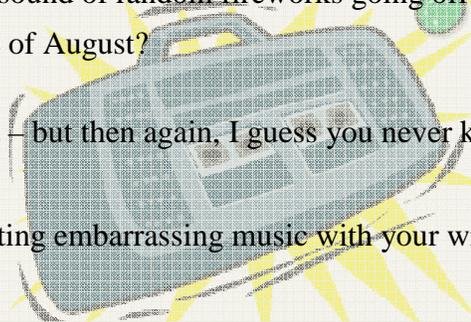
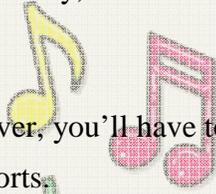
5. Being YOLO – I bought two turtles in Chinatown while at camp that may or may not carry salmonella, what did you do?

4. Ice cream shops – nothing beats an ice cream cone on an unbearably hot summer day.

3. Meaningless pop music – Ex. Call Me Maybe, What Makes You Beautiful. However have no fear, meaningless pop music can be a year round thing.

2. Swimming – that means no more Instagram pictures of you sitting by your over-saturated pool.

1. Being carefree – so welcome back fellow KAMSC students, and may the homework pour in, the stress levels rocket upward, and your hours of sleep take an unhealthy drop. I recommend coffee.





Student Senate Update

By Colby Hanley

KAMSC Student Senate 2012-13! The new school year brings many exciting, new people, events, and ideas to KAMSC Student Senate! President Gauri Rangrass and Vice-President Brice Calco are already re-vamping and reviving Student Senate with great concepts and plans for the year. Already officers of Student Senate have met twice this summer in order to discuss a new Constitution created to bring more structure and guidance to the members of Senate. Volunteer opportunities, dances, and other events were also discussed at the meetings.

Many Student Senate members were also in attendance at KAMSC Ninth Grade Orientation at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Fun was had by all including volunteers, teachers, and incoming ninth grade students! Anyone attending the event could pick out the Student Senate officers easily by noticing their fun, glitter-covered, snapback hats! The officers decorated the hats the weekend before orientation and the hats were kindly purchased by Junior Representative Naveena Thota.

As the school year begins, Student Senate will begin meeting the second week of school. Senate highly encourages anyone from any grade to attend meetings and help prepare events like the first event of the year: Class Clash! Class Clash will be in October and Senate officers have already begun discussing how Clash can be improved from last year's festivities.

The future of KAMSC Student Senate this year is bright with fresh, new leaders and a new vibrancy! New president and vice president, Gauri Rangrass and Brice Calco, are working hard to kick off the year in Student Senate with a bang! The two leaders bring humor and happiness to Senate already with bright attitudes and refreshing ideas; this year is off to a wonderful start!



Greetings from Earthlings!

by Genevieve Sertic

Earthlings, KAMSC's Environmental Club, has a mission to support and promote green activities in and around KAMSC. Two years ago, we began a major recycling effort with the help of our faculty advisor, Ms. Hach. Now, new recycling bins have been situated in the Commons and each classroom to collect paper, plastic, and cans. Earthlings members gather and sort material from the bins for recycling weekly. This is an important initiative that we have maintained for the past two years. This year, Earthlings plans to expand its scope even further.

Beginning at this year's kick-off meeting during the first Open Lab, Earthlings will launch a grounds improvement initiative to enhance the appearance of KAMSC's exterior with low-maintenance ground cover and perennials. Nothing will be purchased; instead, we will share divisions of hardy, low-maintenance plants from home gardens. The difference should be noticeable in the spring!

Over the summer, we established a website for Earthlings: kamscearthlings.weebly.com. There, you can discover upcoming events, green ideas, the Earthlings calendar, and a new member sign-up. One of the green ideas on the website describes how to harvest seeds from plants which are dying back in the fall; Earthlings will be sharing harvested seeds at upcoming meetings. Here is a pictorial how-to taken from the website:



Identify the seed pod, located where a flower has died and the remaining area is no longer green.



Gently scrape the seeds from the pod



Store seeds in envelope. Label and store at room temperature for planting next spring.

Earthlings welcomes new members! We meet from 6:00 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays during Open Lab in Ms. Hach's room, #418, where we will be starting our grounds improvement initiative, talking about an energy conservation initiative, and recycling! I am leading Earthlings this year, so email me at kamscearthlings@yahoo.com or visit our website at kamscearthlings.weebly.com and click on the "Membership" link to join!



Cricket



Women's Cricket; Join Us This Year

Gauri Rangrass

As team captains make preparations for KAMSC's third official cricket season, they are simultaneously nervous and excited; excited because a new season means a new batch of ninth graders to recruit from, but nervous because they're not sure if their teams can sustain KAMSC's record of winning the state championship. You don't have to have any experience in cricket in order to join the team, but you must be committed enough to attend practice once a week. So, if you long to hear your peers cheering out your name and are eager to bond with other cricket team members, contact Mr. Sinclair or a team captain and let them know that you would like to be a fellow teammate. We hope to see you at practice... chirp!

The Men's Cricket Championships; A Remarkable Match

Humza Mirza

With another spectacular year of Cricket in the breaths and lives of our excellent KAMSC cricket team, the State Championships was a wondrous event to spectate; even more exciting to be a part of. With the second annual championship, the KAMSC men's Junior team with Raoul Wadhwa as the head of the team faced off against the men's Senior team headed by Samir Deshpande for a great match. The Senior team was joined by the Underclassmen Team led by Humza Mirza. With the Juniors batting first, the Seniors and Juniors started bowling. After intensive play, the Juniors managed to score a remarkable 24 runs. Anirudh Ghantasala took his batting skills to the next level as he pummeled through nearly every ball bowled. It was now the Senior's turn to bowl. The Senior team achieved a score of 17 while the final two batsmen headed up to face the Junior bowlers. At the moment of 19 runs, Quinton Colwell made an astonishing catch leading to end the match. The final score was 19 to 24 with the KAMSC Junior Team winning the State Championship.

Keeping Up With Tech!

by Raoul Wadhwa

The Perfect Camera for Astronomers

The Canon EOS 60Da is designed to take photos of stars. Compared with other DSLRs, the camera's infrared filter permits three times the red hydrogen-alpha wavelengths emitted by celestial bodies to reach the image sensor. The camera can take high-resolution images up to 18 Mega-Pixels and provides astronomers with a great tool to look deeper into the cosmos. This telescope to take clear, high-res pictures! For all you Seniors taking Astronomy, I'm sure this is one of the items on your bucket list!



The Upgradable Internet-TV

Many people today are faced with a dilemma when buying an Internet-connected television: while most high-quality televisions last up to 7 years, nearly all PC hardware becomes outdated in 3 years. As applications and programs evolve, more powerful processors are required in order to keep the user experience smooth. As a result, most buyers of Internet-TVs are forced to spend money on buying newer models every 3-4 years. However, Samsung's LED ES8000 solves these problems by having all of its hardware in upgradable form. It contains slots for the latest computer hardware, including CPUs, GPUs, and expandable RAM chips. Much like building your own computer, you can customize the speed and features of this TV simply by changing expendable parts! This is a TV that is truly KAMSC Nerd-worthy!



Every Day's a Holiday!

by Dhara Patel

September

5th: Be Late for Something Day – The perfect day to be a procrastinator.

6th: Fight Procrastination Day – This is a day to get things done. Maybe make up for what you didn't do the day before?

9th: Teddy Bear Day

19th: International Talk Like a Pirate Day – Ahoy matey!

20th: National Punch Day – This celebrates both the punch that you can drink as well as the kind of punch that is created with fists.

21st: International Peace Day

28th: Ask a Stupid Question Day – An opportunity to ask all of those questions you were afraid to ask before.



October

1st: Homemade Cookie Day – Anyone want to make me cookies?

5th: World Teacher Day – A day to recognize all the things that our teachers at KAMSC do for us.

7th: World Smile Day – Say cheese!

11th: Take Your Teddy Bear to Work Day

12th: International Moment of Frustration Scream Day

15th: National Grouch Day

16th: Learn a Word Day – Open up that dictionary! Or there's always dictionary.com!

19th: New Friends Day – Meet someone new today!

23rd: Stay Up Late Day – Isn't that every day for us?



November

3rd: Sandwich Day

8th: Cook Something Bold Day – Cook up a storm for dinner!

16th: Have a Party with Your Bear Day – Another teddy bear day? People must really like their teddy bears.

19th: Have a Bad Day Day – The power of negative thinking?

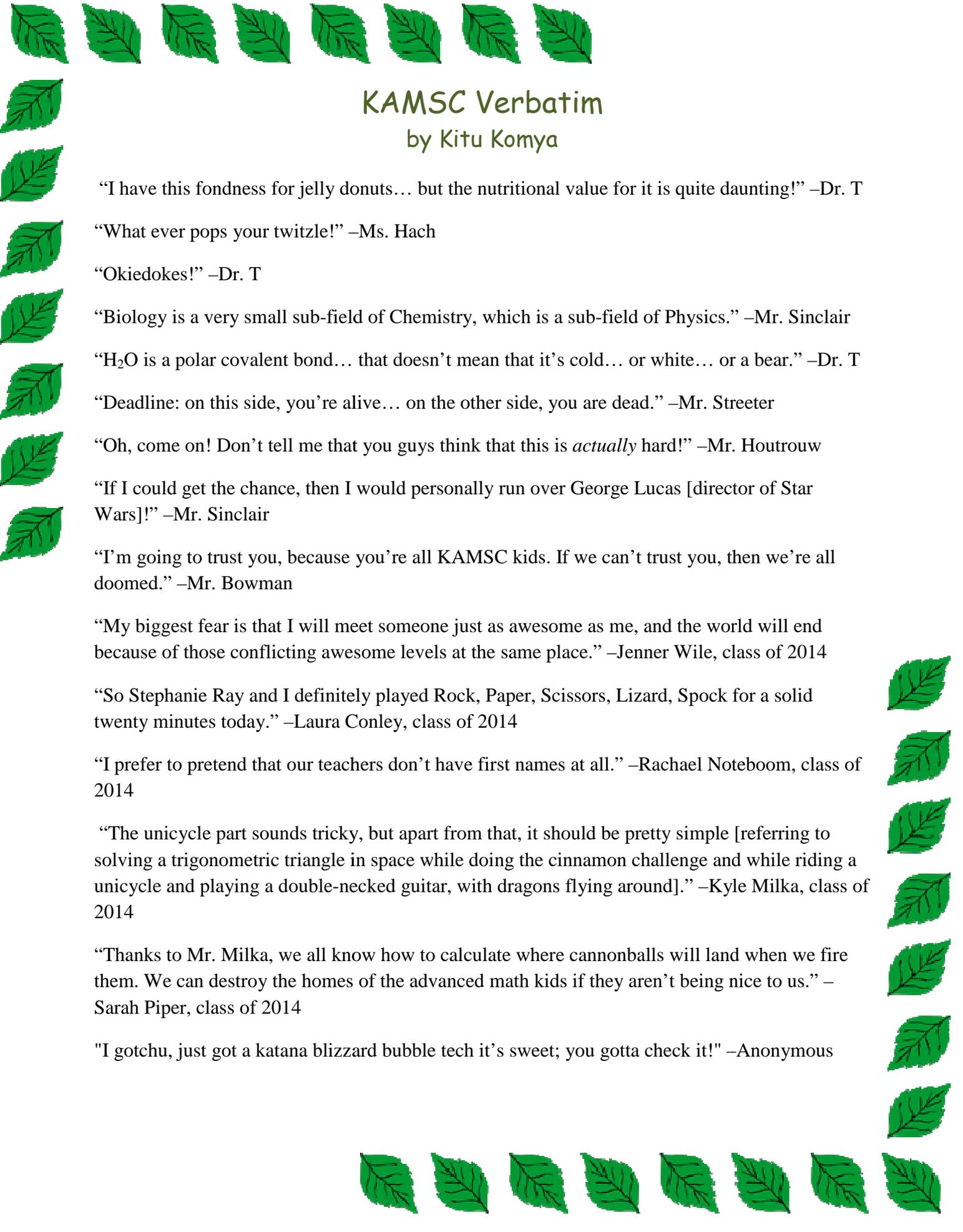
20th: Absurdity Day

21st: False Confession Day

22nd: Go for a Ride Day – This day was created for people to take break from their stressful lives and go for a relaxing ride.

23rd: Buy Nothing Day – Kind of hard to do since this day is also Black Friday.





KAMSC Verbatim

by Kitu Komya

“I have this fondness for jelly donuts... but the nutritional value for it is quite daunting!” –Dr. T

“What ever pops your twitzle!” –Ms. Hach

“Okiedokes!” –Dr. T

“Biology is a very small sub-field of Chemistry, which is a sub-field of Physics.” –Mr. Sinclair

“H₂O is a polar covalent bond... that doesn't mean that it's cold... or white... or a bear.” –Dr. T

“Deadline: on this side, you're alive... on the other side, you are dead.” –Mr. Streeter

“Oh, come on! Don't tell me that you guys think that this is *actually* hard!” –Mr. Houtrouw

“If I could get the chance, then I would personally run over George Lucas [director of Star Wars]!” –Mr. Sinclair

“I'm going to trust you, because you're all KAMSC kids. If we can't trust you, then we're all doomed.” –Mr. Bowman

“My biggest fear is that I will meet someone just as awesome as me, and the world will end because of those conflicting awesome levels at the same place.” –Jenner Wile, class of 2014

“So Stephanie Ray and I definitely played Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock for a solid twenty minutes today.” –Laura Conley, class of 2014

“I prefer to pretend that our teachers don't have first names at all.” –Rachael Noteboom, class of 2014

“The unicycle part sounds tricky, but apart from that, it should be pretty simple [referring to solving a trigonometric triangle in space while doing the cinnamon challenge and while riding a unicycle and playing a double-necked guitar, with dragons flying around].” –Kyle Milka, class of 2014

“Thanks to Mr. Milka, we all know how to calculate where cannonballs will land when we fire them. We can destroy the homes of the advanced math kids if they aren't being nice to us.” –Sarah Piper, class of 2014

“I gotchu, just got a katana blizzard bubble tech it's sweet; you gotta check it!” –Anonymous



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