

**KAMSC's**

**84**

**STEPS**

**Valentine's Day Edition**



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## Letter From The Editors

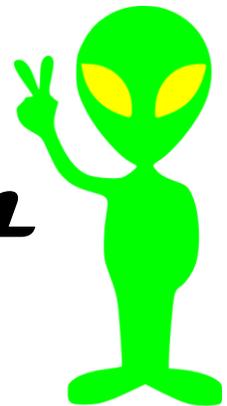
It's February already! The school year is really flying by and, wow, hasn't it been a great one! We here at KAMSC are finally done with exams and are ecstatic to be starting the new semester. The second semester should fly right by because as they say "Time flies when you're having fun!" and we have lots of fun events coming up soon: KAMSC Harry Potter-themed Formal, KAMSC Sci-Fi Film Fest, Spring Break, Research Day, and for the seniors, GRADUATION!!

In this edition of "84 Steps" it's all about celebrating the love that is in the air and Valentine's Day! We have many excellently written articles brought to you by our amazing student writers. Some are funny, some are emotional, but all were written with time and care. As always, please feel free to contact us at [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com) if you have any inquiries or would like to join our staff. We hope you enjoy a little peek at how KAMSC students celebrate Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,  
Your Editors (Colby, Miles, and Pete)



# *Come to Sci-Fi Film Fest!*



*Come see some  
beautifully terrible  
sci-fi films!*

*March 13-  
14*

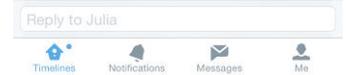
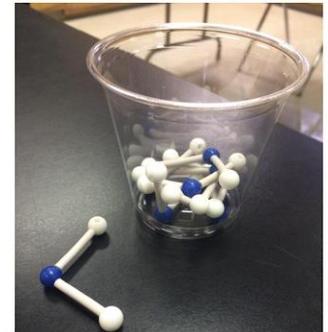
## KAMSC Funny Quotes

By: Boemin Park

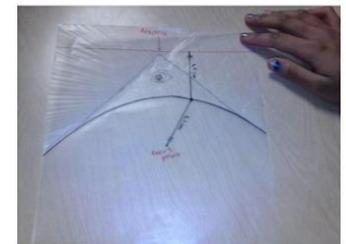
- "Other kids draw smiley faces on their hands. KAMSC kids draw wave speed equations." –Matthew Krinock, Junior
- "Cats are good at physics!" –Mr. Alsheri
- "I like you guys, unlike your parents." "Are you saying our parents don't like us?" "I mean, I like you guys, and your parents love you." –Mr. Cardwell and Alexa Vanderhoff, Junior
- "KAMSC spring break is 12 days long, so that is a beautiful thing." –Jess Wile, Senior
- "I have nightmares about my calculator dying in the middle of an exam." –Maggie Benjamin, Junior
- "I don't know why, but the lord has blessed me with an amazing CS team." –Lena Wood, Sophomore
- (Talking about how chickens are cannibals in a statistics problem) "That's why they'll cut off the beak of the chicken, so they can't eat each other. Think about that while you have your chicken dinner tonight!" –Mrs. Kalnins
- "Mr. Milka, do you remember anything funny you've said lately?" "Funny, what's that? I'm not funny."  
\*Chelsie laughs\* "Stop that, what I said wasn't funny." - Boemin Park, Junior, and Mr. Milka
- "You're killing me, Jawad." -Mr. Sinclair



I spilled my cup of water

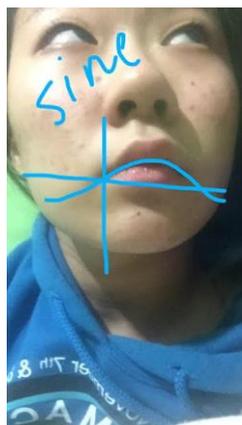
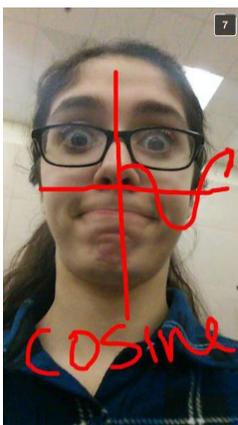
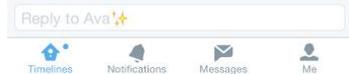


Proof that kams is part of the illuminati



1/16/15, 19:59

5 RETWEETS 21 FAVORITES



How KAMSC kids Snapchat



Congratulations to Mr. Chopp and his Family!

**Dear Grace**  
By: Grace Beverage

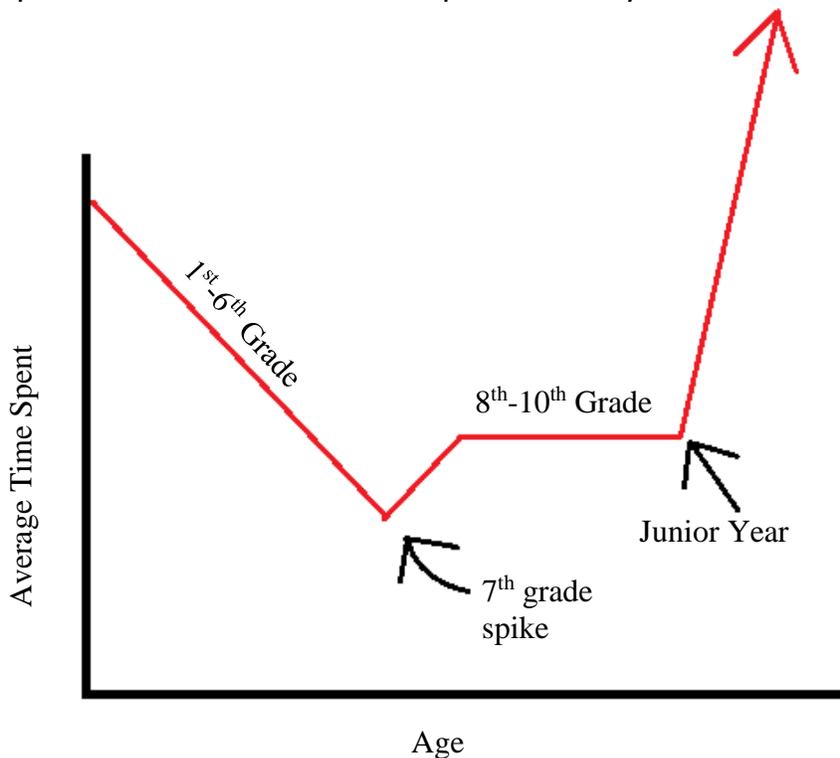
Dear Grace,

Why does junior year suck?

Sincerely,  
Juniors.

Dear Juniors,

It all has to do with maturation of tear ducts. As can be seen by the graph below, normal crying patterns more or less levels out after the horrible experiences of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. However, at this point in one's life tear ducts are not fully developed and therefore there must be one more terrible year in a young person's life in order to complete healthy human development.



Dear Grace,

I feel like I'm a zombie. A code zombie. When Houtrouw gives an assignment and I invariably start it after all my other work and sometime around

10 I lose myself to the code... By the time I wake up from the haze of for loops and trace logic it's 3 am and my vision is a blur. The rush of successful ACSL outputs may be gratifying but I'm not able to function the next day, so how do I streamline my coding process?

Sincerely,

Code Snore-ior

Dear Code Snore-ior,

Hard work can definitely be tiring, I get that. But when it comes to code, planning beforehand is key. Pseudo-coding, or really just any logical program layout, saves a lot of time when you're actually writing your code. Save time with syntax with 'ye olde copy paste from old programs and definitely keep a shell of a program backed up on your flash drive. As a final measure, maybe start the programs the day he assigns them? Normally you have a few days to finish a longer assignment, and I can tell you based on experience that it's easy to code from 8 to 10 three days in a row than 8 to 2 all in one day.

Dear Grace,

I can't schedule. I'm so worried about choosing the wrong classes. I want to be challenged but I don't want to go insane. I want to be with my friends but I don't want to let that influence my choices. But most of all, I'm pretty sure I want to take every class at KAMSC and that's not actually possible.

Sincerely,

2Scared2Schedule

Dear 2Scare2Schedule,

Think about it this way, if you can find something desirable about every class at KAMSC, then you can't make a bad choice. Of course, you still have to find a way to actually make those choices. For starters, think about what career path you may want to follow and then consider which classes connect to that occupation. If you really liked any of the underclassman sciences courses, take the next level. Of course, difficulty must also be considered, mostly for reasons of time management. Classes like Biomed and Advanced Calc are going to require a lot more time investment than Astro/Geo or Discrete Math, but the beauty of KAMSC is that none of these classes are offered at other high schools in the

region. If it comes down to the wire, pick the classes that cover the material you find the most interesting.

### **Top 10 Nerdy Valentine's Day Date Ideas**

By: Grace Beverage

1. An ice skating date! Nothing beats minimizing coefficients of friction to glide the day away on a cold Kalamazoo February night.
2. Marathon-watching Netflix to see if you can crack the show suggestion algorithm. Besides, the new show "The 100" is pretty science-ee, right?
3. Everyone knows a nerd's true love is their calculator, so this Valentine's Day pamper your date right: replace those batteries and disinfect those keys.
4. To grow your love, grow some cultures this Valentine's Day. Take your date to swab surfaces and inoculate cultures from local bowling allies, movie theaters and restaurants, all the while pointing out to other patrons how unclean their date destination really is.
5. Hack into Cardwell's 3D printers to make a super nerdy valentine. Mesmerizing your crush with wit or manner may be a challenge, but there is nothing more mesmerizing than watching a 3D printer in action.
6. Sharpen up your writing skills by opting out of the card and instead writing your loved one a properly formatted lab report. Lab objective? Mathematically modeling affection over time.
7. With project day looming just over the horizon, prove your attentiveness to your loved one's needs by buying them crafting supplies in bulk.
8. Songs have always been a way to express the deepest devotion, and this Valentine's Day you can show that devotion (and learn about harmonics) with a serenading love ballad.
9. Ask the apple of your eye to the next KAMSC dance, the most anticipated social event of the season (besides film fest, of course).
10. Homework! You and your valentine definitely have homework to do and you're certainly going to put it off otherwise, so you might as well treat February 14<sup>th</sup> like a regular Saturday and host study party with all of your loving KAMSC friends.

February 21

8- 11 PM

DJ Ice is

back!

# KAMSC Harry Potter



## Formal



Come for an  
enchantingly  
good time

Tickets:  
\$8 before  
\$10 at the door

## Valentine's Day Poem

By: Miles Pruitt



Roses are red, violets are blue, homework is so cute  
That crush, the hush, the mush  
Friday is the day for you to say  
This is the great time to pray  
May we all have a great day  
Letters, sweets, dinner, yay  
KAMSC let us go today  
Have a great Valentine's Day!

## Book Review

By: Lily Kitagawa

Everybody wants to get inside somebody else's head at some point; maybe an entire school is just dying to know why in the world the school board decided not to call a snow day or perhaps a class is wondering how a teacher thought scheduling a test on second day of school was a good idea. Everybody wants to get into the mind of that *special someone*. No matter the circumstances, getting glimpses into others' minds has been a preoccupation for ages. Snapshots into the brains of others not only give us information that can change our perception of others and the way respond to their actions, but also allow the opportunity to reflect inwardly and critically evaluate personal thoughts and behaviors by providing a comparison. Despite the drive to understand everything possible about other people, sometimes peeks into the most interesting cases elude scientists: autism is one such case. However, in *The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida and translated by David Mitchell and KA Yoshida offers, for the first time, a look into the minds of those afflicted with autism.

Naoki Higashida, born in 1992 in Japan, was 13 years old when he wrote this eye-opening book; since its publishing, he has graduated high school and is now a motivational speaker and professional writer. He had always taken an interest in writing; he found that he was able to use an alphabet pad to slowly elucidate the thoughts he could never speak because of his mental status. Doing so gave him a sense of freedom and expression and allowed him to connect with others on a level he never had before. Higashida wrote *The Reason I Jump* in an attempt to speak for the autistic community and give scientists and despairing

parents answers to their questions and ways to help those with autism. Higashida dedicates the first portion of his book to answering questions about autism, with brief but perspicacious responses that illuminate the mind of an autistic person. In doing so, he begins to unravel the mysteries that have confounded scientists for years. This portion of the book is paired with images that enhance readers' understanding of Higashida's words, providing views of the world through the eyes of somebody suffering from autism. The question-and-answer portion is also peppered with Higashida's original works, poems and very short stories that enhance the meaning of his responses. The book concludes with another one of Higashida's writings, this time an extended short story so incisive that it forces readers to question their very understanding of the world. The entire book takes perhaps an hour and a half to read, yet packs so much insight and wisdom into those concise minutes. Through his thoughtful answers to questions and his own artistic expression in the form of his prose and poetry, Higashida grants not only a glance into the minds of those who struggle with autism, but also gives readers the chance to become better, more understanding people themselves.

## Valentine's Day Film Reviews

By: Chang Yang



Whether you recognize February 14<sup>th</sup> as Valentine's Day or Singles Awareness Day, there's a movie out there for everyone! Here are a few notables to enjoy with your date/friend/pet/bowl of chips this Valentine's weekend:

### ***Scott Pilgrim vs. the World***

**Rating: PG-13**

Those who haven't already watched this movie should make it the next film on their checklist. *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* has something for every type of audience: quick humor, stunning visuals, a stellar soundtrack, and of course, romance. Based off of the original comic series, the movie uses a videogame-style approach to the plot as Scott battles his way through Ramona Flower's League of Evil Exes to earn the right to date her. Filled with adrenaline and quirky lines ("He punched the highlights out of her hair!"), the movie is definitely worth watching. 5 out of 5.

### ***Labor Day***

**Rating: PG-13**

The monotone life of Henry and his clinically depressed mother is interrupted one Labor Day weekend when a prison escapee intercepts them at the grocery store and forces them to shelter him from the police. As they wait for the search party to stop, Frank the convict begins to fill the hole that's been present ever since Henry's father divorced his mother for another woman. Packed with love, loss, and peach pie, Henry's narration gently paints the story of caring for his broken mother while slowly illuminating why Frank was imprisoned in the first place. The plot makes up for its lack of action with some stellar character development and Kate Winslet does a beautiful portrayal of the depressed mother (we'd expect nothing less from a woman who starred in *Titanic*). 5 out of 5.

### ***Warm Bodies***

**Rating: PG-13**

For those who are sick of conventional Valentine's Day movies, *Warm Bodies* offers a fresh twist: a romance set during a zombie pandemic. The movie is shown through a unique perspective—through the eyes of "R", a zombie who's just trying to live his life day by day. Falling in love with a human survivor seems like a plan that's doomed to fail, but R and Julie show that true love conquers all. The concept is original but sometimes the execution is a little cheesy. 4 out of 5.

### ***Soldier's Girl***

**Rating: R (WARNING)**

Barry, a soldier with a learning disability, takes a break from his life at the army base to visit a club with friends. There, he meets a showgirl named Calpernia Addams and has a conversation with her after her performance, falling head over heels for her. Over several dates, Barry and Calpernia become closer and closer until she's forced to reveal her secret: she's transgender, and is waiting for sexual reassignment surgery to complete her transition into a woman. Barry loves and accepts her nevertheless, but his roommate back at base isn't as tolerant, and rumors begin to spread, detonating into fatal violence over the Fourth of July weekend. Lee Pace, known for his roles as Ned from "Pushing Daisies", Thranduil from "The Hobbit", and Ronan from "Guardians of the Galaxy", showcases his talented debut as Calpernia. Based off of a true court case. Not for the lighthearted. 5 out of 5.

## ***The Secret Life of Walter Mitty***

**Rating: PG**

Walter Mitty is a quiet, introverted man who processes photography for *Life* Magazine, and who daydreams constantly to escape the monotony of his life. While the company switches to new management and begins firing employees, Walter loses negative #25, a valuable photograph taken by Sean O'Connell, who claims that it captures the quintessence of life. Facing possible unemployment, Walt uses the other photographs as clues to find O'Connell and the elusive negative, embarking on a spur-of-the-moment trip to Greenland. As he is forced to become more daring to follow the photo's trail, Walt's daydreams become reality as he scales the Himalayas, negotiates with warlords, and runs from a volcanic eruption to discover the photograph's secret. The movie is filmed with vivid and surreal plot, with amazing visuals and an awesome soundtrack to accompany it. While *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* has romance in it, it also appeals to being able to find love and pride in oneself, by fulfilling the limits of our imagination. 5 out of 5.



**Five Words: An, Binh, Yale, MIT, Soccer**

By: Jawad Aqeel

The odds of a mother having identical twins are extremely small. The odds of playing a sport at the collegiate level are also small. Now having a pair of identical twins both making it into colleges to play a sport: that's almost impossible. Don't tell KAMSC students An and Binh Le this, as the two have continued to defy the odds and are both going to top colleges to continue their soccer careers. Former Portage Central captain An has committed and signed with Yale Soccer, while his brother and fellow teammate Binh has committed to play at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

The legend of An and Binh started at the AYSO fields like most. However, from the very beginning the two stood out on the pitch as they weaved through defenses and scored goals. When talking to Binh he said, "Without playing AYSO, I don't think I'd be in the position I am today. Playing there laid a great foundation." After a few years of playing in Portage's AYSO league, the twins decided to try out for travel soccer and chose Portage Lightning as many of their friends played for that team. They ended up making the team, and this was a pivotal moment in both of their developments as soccer players. On Portage Lightning An consistently led the team in scoring and assists with Binh finishing a

close second to his brother, and this lethal combination of the two brothers resulted in their team being an MRL squad, which is the highest league a travel team can be in Michigan.

This dynamic duo wasn't only a success at Portage Lightning, they made an instant impact to Portage Central's high school soccer team making the Varsity squad their freshman year. Throughout their high school soccer careers, the team's record continued to increase each year. In their final year, the two played large roles in the team's success as they had one of the best records in recent memory for a sport at Portage Central. An was even named a captain of the team in his final year. The team in the end finished with a record of 19-1-2, and lost in the District finals to the #1 team in the state, Ocherous, in double overtime ending the Mustangs brilliant run this season. When asked to describe the season, An replied, "I would have to say that this soccer season will probably end up being my best moment of high school. I will always remember this team and what we accomplished this season." An has good reason to remember this as he racked up 21 goals and 15 assists over the course of the season. He had several game-winning goals this season including clutch scores against rival Portage Northern, a Free-Kick game winner against Plainwell, and one at Mattawan where the twin combination proved too much for the goalkeeper as Binh assisted An for the game winner. Binh also had a great season and ended up with 5 goals and 13 assists. He played a pivotal role to Portage Central's success and most of his assists came as a result of passes to An as their twin combo was lethal this season.

After this phenomenal season, the twins both ended with multiple awards. Along with several others on the team, Binh received all-district and all-conference honors for his play this season. His contribution both on the offensive and the defensive ends was pivotal for Portage Central to have the soccer season they had. An also received all-district and all-conference awards and had several other awards this season including all-region, all-state first team honors, and the Kalamazoo Gazette Player of the Year. These awards weren't the only forms of recognition the two received, as the twins had numerous college offers to play soccer. Binh and An both had tough decisions to make after the season as they had to decide if they wanted to continue playing together or split up and go different ways. In the end, they decided it was best to go to different colleges to play soccer with An committing to Yale and Binh accepting an offer to play at MIT. Both of these are outstanding accomplishments by current KAMSC students, and the two are well-deserving of these opportunities.

## Technology News

By: Maggie Benjamin

### Mercedes Benz Driverless Car



- Just a concept at the moment
- Shows how Mercedes thinks that our driving experience will be different in the future
- Automated driving option and interior living space design

### Intelligent Skateboard



- Can travel at 6.2 mph
- Powered by batteries and moves in response to pressure from the feet
- \$1,799.99

### Smart Belt that Adjusts How much You Ate



- Keeps track of your waist size and automatically loosens and tightens after a big meal to keep you comfortable
- Tracks your activity
- Nudges you when you have been stationary for too long

## **Photo iPad Scanning Dock**



- Allows you to scan photos onto your iPad
- Recharges battery in 5 hours
- \$169.95

## **Happenings Around Kalamazoo**

By: Simran Singh

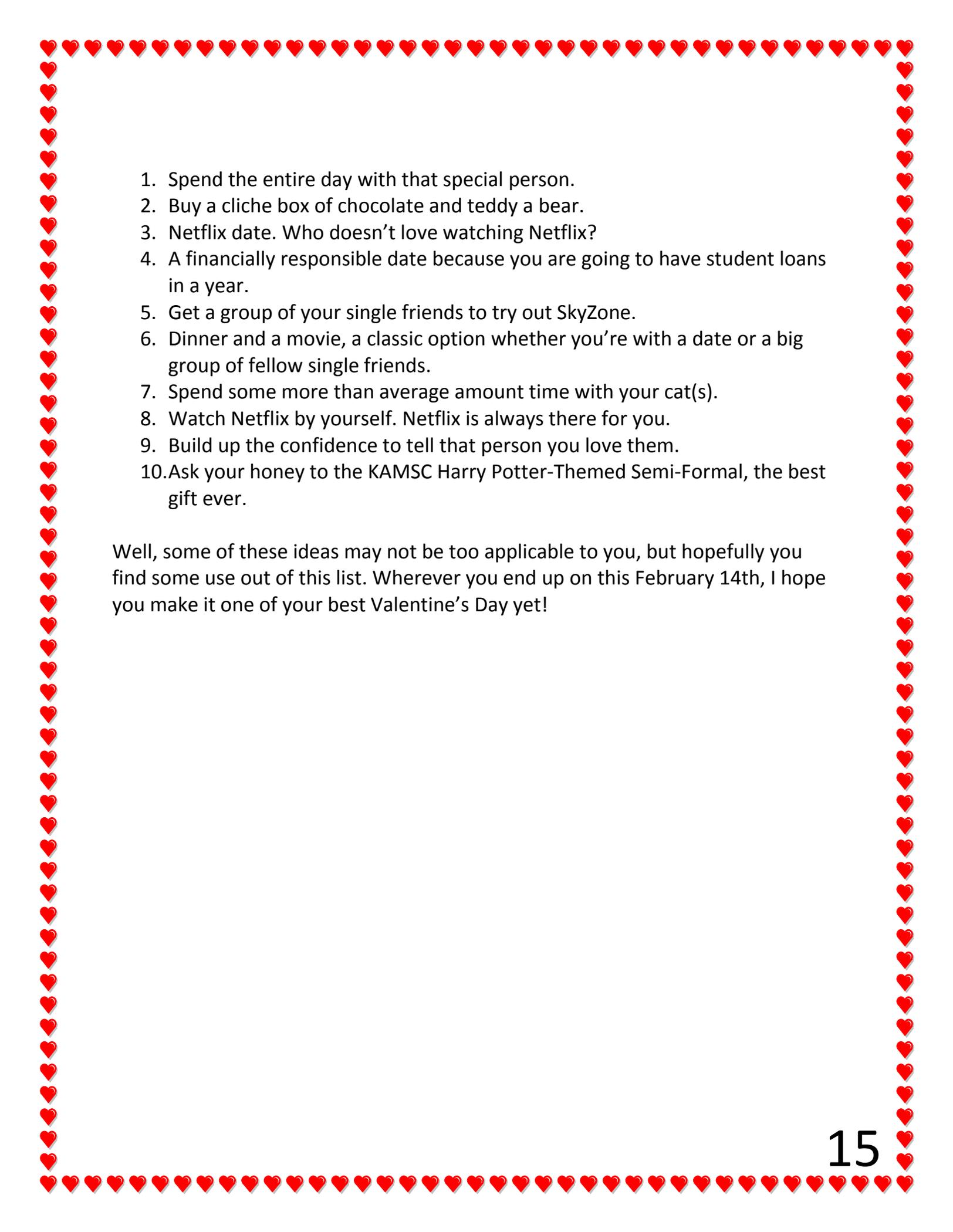
- February 14-21, 2015 USA Curling National Championship – Wings Stadium
- February 14, Valentine’s Dinner – W.K. Kellogg Manor House
- February 14, Polar Bear Fun Run (5K) – Haven Church
- February 14, Valentine’s Skate Date – Millennium Park, Portage
- February 21, Kalamazoo Dance – The Pointe Community Center
- February 27, No KAMSC!
- February 27, Twilight Skate – Millennium Park, Portage
- March 1, Portage Winterblast Half Marathon
- March 3, Kalamazoo Shrine Circus – Wings Stadium
- March 20, No KAMSC!
- March 21, A Walk to End Homelessness – Downtown Kalamazoo

## **Valentine’s Day Activities for Everyone**

By: Pete Schultz



Valentine’s Day is just around the corner and there is plenty to do: treat your significant other to some chocolates and a fancy date, make your closest friends feel important, or perhaps confess your undying love to that special person. If you’re drawing a blank on what to do, have no fear...we’re here to help with ten suggestions on what you can do.

- 
1. Spend the entire day with that special person.
  2. Buy a cliché box of chocolate and teddy a bear.
  3. Netflix date. Who doesn't love watching Netflix?
  4. A financially responsible date because you are going to have student loans in a year.
  5. Get a group of your single friends to try out SkyZone.
  6. Dinner and a movie, a classic option whether you're with a date or a big group of fellow single friends.
  7. Spend some more than average amount time with your cat(s).
  8. Watch Netflix by yourself. Netflix is always there for you.
  9. Build up the confidence to tell that person you love them.
  10. Ask your honey to the KAMSC Harry Potter-Themed Semi-Formal, the best gift ever.

Well, some of these ideas may not be too applicable to you, but hopefully you find some use out of this list. Wherever you end up on this February 14th, I hope you make it one of your best Valentine's Day yet!

# Our Staff

Thank you to Mr. Sinclair (faculty advisor) and Dr. Tanoff (director)!

## Editor-in-Chief:

Colby Hanley



## Assistant Editors:

Pete Schultz



## Junior Editor:

Simran Singh



Miles Pruitt

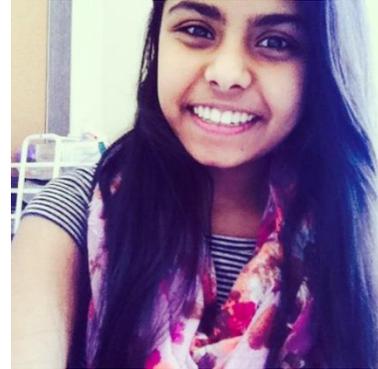


## Writers:

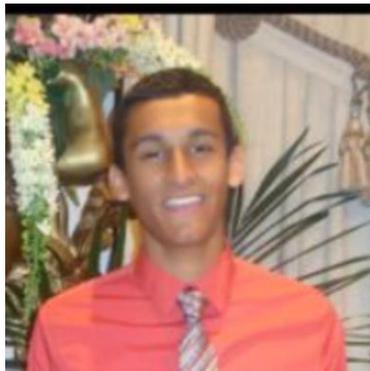
Grace Beverage



Nikita Bhatia



Jawad Aqeel



Aayushi Priya



Lily Krone



## Not Pictured:

Chang Yang, Emma Scheller,  
Lily Kitagawa, Sam Canfield