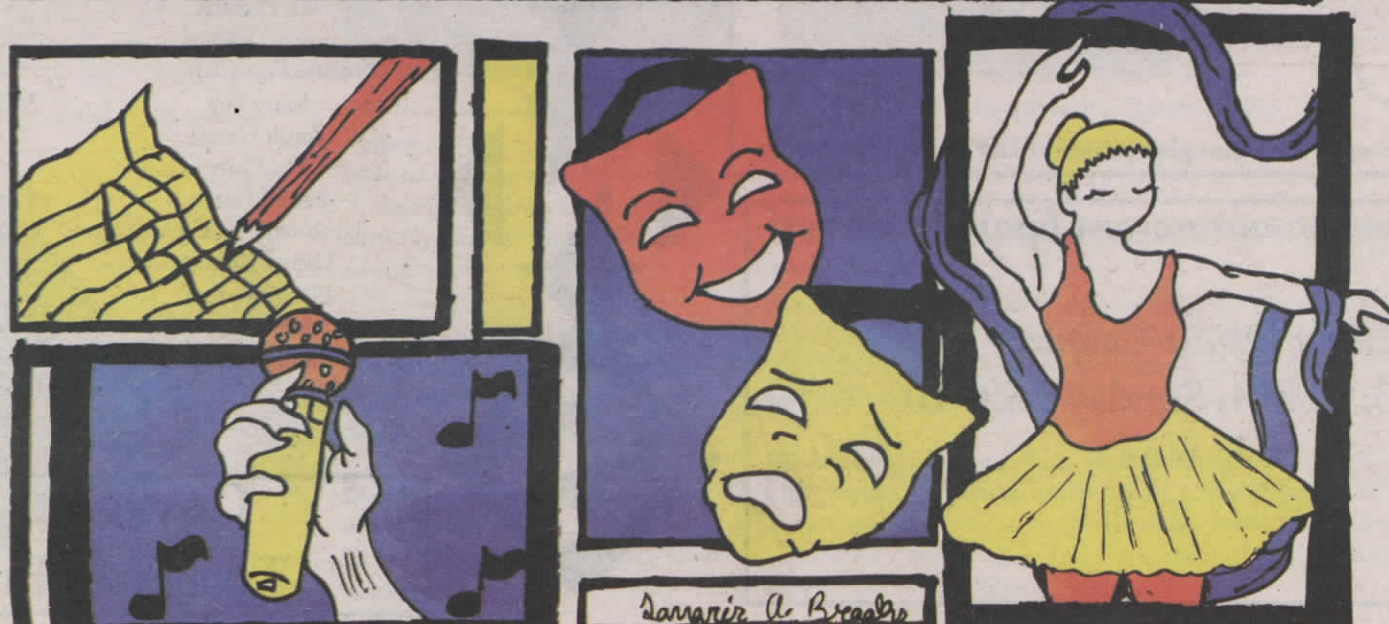


# APPLAUSE

Volume 12 Issue 2 School of the Arts 5109 W. Enterprise St., North Charleston, SC October 19, 2010

ART  
SMART 2010



Darwin A. Brooks



## School Calendar

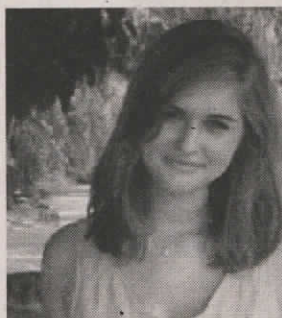
### October

Tues. 19- Jr. Ring meeting, 2:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater  
 Tues.-Thurs. 19-21 - Art Smart, Rose Maree Myers Theater  
 Fri. 22 - Teacher workday, no school for students  
 Tues. 26 - Report cards issued  
 Wed. 27 - Early release day, 1:10 PM; parent-teacher conferences  
 Thurs. 28 - Piano Ensemble Recital, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater

### November

Thurs. 4 - MS Theater Improv, 4:00 PM., Black Box  
 Mon. - Tues. 8-9 - Theater Senior Thesis Practicum, Black Box  
 Tues. 9 - HS Band Chamber Music, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater  
 Tues. 16 - 6th grade Theater Monologues, 4:00 PM, Black Box

## Editor's Note



First, I would like to welcome all of our fifth grade visitors. Everyone knows School of the Arts is different. But beyond these classrooms, can others visualize piano majors entertaining the cafeteria at lunch, dancers swinging to the jazz band, and the artists painting murals on the walls?

Art Smart, a long standing tradition, shows our potential sixth graders what this school is all about.

In this issue of *Applause*, we present the daily life at SOA, complete with an explanation of every art major and the day in the life of a sixth grader.

Thank you so much to our new advertisers and patrons for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Letters to the Editor? E-mail your thoughts to [savannah@soa-applause.com](mailto:savannah@soa-applause.com)

## Congratulations to our newest family member!

*Linda Denise Colquitt*  
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# P A T R O N S

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## SOA welcomes new teachers: Part Two

By Allie Augustine and Bailey Gaskin

## Ms. Pitman

**Ms. Pitman**, a new dance teacher, attended Columbia College in Columbia, SC where she earned a B.A. in Dance Education and a B.F.A. in Performance and Choreography. She was born and raised in Greenville, SC and worked for the Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville as a part of their "arts integration program" for Greenville



Ms. Pitman, dance

County Schools. She decided to teach at SOA because she felt like she "could offer [her] knowledge and expertise to those up and coming artists of the future" and felt the experience would help her grow, not only as a teacher, but an artist as well. Ms. Pitman likes Hootie & the Blowfish, traveling, college sports, and South Carolina history! Interesting trivia information: Ms. Pitman danced professionally at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL in shows such as *The Lion King*. She says she "could not have asked for a better start to a new year."

## Mr. English

**Mr. English** has several interests including fishing, impersonating bands in the *Legends and Legacies the Show*, and listening to the Beatles. He is a lover of the book *The Agony and the Ecstasy* and Will Smith. He's lived in several places including New York, Columbia, Rock Hill and Colorado. He earned his bachelor's and master's degree at USC and he taught at Rock Hill High, Stall High and Rawlinson Road Junior High. Coach English decided to teach at SOA because of the students. When asked about his experience so far at SOA, he exclaimed "Wonderful!!!"



Mr. English, student help

**Ms. Anna Gorriti** is the new Spanish teacher here at SOA. She has grown up at Virginia Beach, Charleston, and Honduras. Her hobbies and interests include salsa dancing, spending time with her family and traveling. Ms. Gorriti went to CSU and received her de-



Ms. Gorriti, Spanish

## Ms. Fennessey

**Ms. Fennessey** grew up in Massachusetts and went to Roanoke College and got a Bachelor degree. Her Masters is in counselor education. She's also lived in 7 other states. Her hobbies are reading, designing, decorating, canoing and And of course, she loves and "GLEE." She's been a counselor at James Island Charter High School, Middle School and The Charles- for Math and Science. She decided to teach at SOA because she always was very impressed by the school and the talents of the students. She considers herself to be a patron of the arts. She describes her experience so far as "jam-packed with wonderful opportunities to get to know the students."



Ms. Fennessey, guidance

## Ms. Gorriti

gree in Spanish. She then attended College of Charleston to complete her master's degree in language. Ms. Gorriti has taught previously at Stall High School, but came to SOA for a new experience. So far her time here has been great!

## Ms. Hartsell

**Ms. Dora D. Hartsell** is our new campus receptionist for SOA and AMHS. She was born and raised in North Charleston, but has also lived in Orlando Florida, the USC campus and Boston University's campus. Ms. Hartsell enjoys napping and shuttling her 6 year old to various activities. She also enjoys journaling and working on her Great American Novel. Ms. Hartsell graduated from USC with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, and is also eligible to teach middle school arts in South Carolina. Ms. Hartsell has worked numerous jobs including reporter for the Post and Courier, a preschool teacher, a coffee shop barista, a sales representative and a telemarketer. Ms. Hartsell played flute from grade 6 through 11, and worked on her school yearbook in high school. Her favorite musicians are U2, Hootie and the Blowfish, Third Day, and Sting. Her favorite book is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. Ms. Hartsell has two family members that attend AMHS and can usually be found at the front desk in the main building.



Ms. Hartsell, administration

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear *Applause* Editor,

Sweet Jesus, Magnet is off its rocker with *Shrimp & Grits*. Most of their grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure is awful, but in "The Coming Battle," their editor claims that Magnet's brains will be buying our "pretty art" with their "above-average salaries." Actually, in case you missed the first issue of *Shrimp & Grits*, half of the first and second pages are dedicated to challenging and digging on what they call "the School-That-Must-Not-Be-Named" (right above the headline "Foreigners Accepted With Open Arms").

Obviously, the whole paper is a joke, but is there even a teacher editing this? Apparently, SOA students are "easily fooled," and act like bullies. I've never seen an SOA student be rude to a magnet kid (a bunch of them used to go to SOA!), but when I was running an errand during their lunch, they were nasty. I think someone threw a pickle at me.

Anyway, the other articles were hilarious. The "time-honored tradition" of Magnet freshman fighting lobsters for respect made me giggle. The half-page column about a "cereal killer" made me worry.

Why can't we be friends? It makes no sense to have a some weird rivalry with the school you share a campus with. It can only lead to bad things.

I could go for an inter-school kickball game, though.

Thanks,  
MLC

P.S.-- at the request of (a bunch of) SOA students, I'll be condensing the entire South Carolina Driver's Handbook into a quick, easy-to-read format for the "Magnetees."

## Applause

the official student publication of

**Charleston County School of the Arts**

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

**Hailey Bowers, Co-Editor-in-Chief**

**Savannah Miller, Co-Editor-in-Chief**

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## Editorial

### "Amazing" new music

Perusing the *Applause* archives, I found an article from 2008 in which a staff writer talked about a new item in the *Applause* Style Manual: "Writers will not use the word amazing for any reason." I thought, wow, that's amazing advice, probably the best advice ever.

As I write this editorial the most popular song in America is "Just the Way You Are," not the Billy Joel classic; there is no threat of this song hanging around for over three decades like its namesake. Apparently, my peers find this song amazing. It seems that the more lack-luster our culture becomes, the more we refer to it with what have become meaningless superlatives. Take a look at the opening verse of Bruno Mars' "Just the Way You Are": "Oh her eyes, her eyes / Make the stars look like they're not shining/ Her hair, her hair / Falls perfectly without her trying." WOW! Shakespeare Schmakespeare! As you can see I'm incredibly excited about this song. But wait for the chorus: "When I see your face / There's not a thing that I would change / Cause you're amazing / Just the way you are."

I promise you, I only revived the expressions "wow," "amazing" and "best ever" for the current issue of *Applause*. But I could not hold back in describing this incredibly popular song. Be prepared SOA artists: the bar for artistic greatness continues to be raised.

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# Jefferson Service Club recognizes October award recipients

By Shaless Robinson

The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students who prove to go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are senior, Sylvester Rodd and freshman, Justice Murray. Congratulations to both winners!

## Sylvester Rodd

Sylvester Rodd has been active in his community since he was four years old. His parents, who have been a driving force behind his love for community service taught him to read at the early age of two and enrolled him in a neighborhood Student Help Program where he taught other children how to read. "Helping others becomes a part of your character. My first experiences in community service are still a part of me today," he says about his youthful beginning in community service.

As Sylvester grew older he started helping with Vacation Bible School, a program sponsored by his church whose goal was to reach local youths and provide them with a place to learn about the world around them and grow spiritually.

What inspired Sylvester's love to help children were his own life experiences. "Since the fourth grade I've dealt with teachers who didn't

care if you learned or not. Ever since then I've wanted to be a good teacher so that kids who are truly interested in learning don't have their learning spoiled by negative attitudes," he explains.

The youth group, which Sylvester has been in charge of for the past two years, organized a picnic for the local kids and a "card drive" benefit in which the church gave gift cards to people of the community based on need. As leader of the youth program he organized lesson plans and a picnic, taught music, and helped the kids with a lot of their social problems. He also helped organize the church gift card drive which helped out with funds to fight the recession. Sylvester says in reflection of his service experience, "I had to deal with behavior problems, emotional issues, and family conflicts. It was a hard two years but I loved the children and getting to work with them. They are part of my family now. They will always be a part of me as will the work we did together."



Justice Murray has been volunteering in her community since she was in the fifth grade. Justice states: "It affected me because I never really cared about giving back to the community but once I tried it I started liking it and learning the importance of it." For her first project she went to a local nursing home and played various games, including bingo, with the residents. Her volunteer group also performed a skit for the elderly. Her favorite project was when she assisted in painting over the walls of a West Ashley shopping center. Additionally, Justice has led a game booth at an orphanage fair hosted in her community.

Another service event that Justice participated in was a youth mission trip at her church. She and other young people from her church traveled to Guatemala over the 2009-2010 summer break to help in a local school and in a few homes. While on her trip she was "able

## Justice Murray

to show the kids love that they usually don't get to see at home." She dedicated over 180 hours of her time to help the local children. She helped teach the students certain subjects in classrooms and also played sports with them during lunch.

While helping with the school in Guatemala, called Proximos Pasos (an all girls school), she led the students in a PE session, passed out food, helped with the rebuilding and painting of a family's kitchens and lay concrete in homes, and helped with a festival for the kids of a small town.

Justice helped at a field trip, and reorganized the school's kitchen. She also helped a survivor of the tropical storm that turned into Hurricane Agatha to dig tons of mud out of their house.

After the mission trip Justice felt that "you can get a lot out of serving others. You can hear life stories from veterans, make someone feel loved, and it could even change your mind about your career after you graduate."



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## An interview with Carl Barnwell Jr., first RMM Theater Manager

By Allie Augustine

**Allie Augustine:** When did you first get interested in sound technology?

**Carl Barnwell:** My first interaction with sound was in high school when I decided to direct a show for my senior thesis called, *This is a Test* by Stephen Gregg. It's a one-act show about a student taking a test, and we get to hear his inner-monologue in the form of a three person chorus who are constantly playing the theater game, *This is a Test*. I decided to add under-score music and a bevy of sound effects to differentiate the "real" world from when we were in the main characters head. The timing of the cues were really precise so my theatre teacher bought me two pieces of sound software, one to playback the sound and layer it on top of each other, and the other to edit and record the sound files so I could make my own effects. Since then I've been super interested in sound technology in the form of editing music, to recording and all points in between.

**AA:** What college did you attend?

**CB:** I attended College of Charleston and majored in Theatre with a concentration in Theatre Technology: Lighting, Scenic and Sound.

**AA:** What were you doing before you came to School of the Arts?

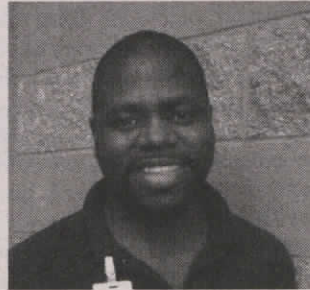
**CB:** Most recently I was working for Stages St. Louis as a Master Electrician. Stages is a professional theatre company that produces 4 Broadway quality shows during the summer. This year we produced *Big River*; *Promises, Promises*; *Aristocats* (of which I also got the opportunity to do the lighting design) and State Fair. This was my fourth year at Stages. My favorite show that I did there was *Full Monty*.

Before going to St. Louis, I spent the last school year working at Beaufort High School helping them open their brand new

Performing Arts Center that's a similar size to the Rose Maree Myers Theater.

**AA:** Do you enjoy working with SOA for performances in the new auditorium?

**CB:** I've been having a great time working with everyone in the theatre. I've been



Mr. Carl Barnwell Jr.

overall impressed with the talent of the students here from 6th grade all the way up to the seniors.

**AA:** What is your favorite part of working with School of the Arts students?

**CB:** So far my favorite part is that everyone seems to want to be here and want to learn

as much as they can. I guess that's part of the culture of a magnet school but it's vastly different from other schools that I've worked at. The sad part, however, is that I haven't had a chance to work with a lot of students yet. I hope that changes

when I start the after-school Tech program. Look for more information on that coming soon!

**AA:** Any interesting facts about you that we have not covered?

**CB:** My full name is Carl Barnwell Jr. or Carl (no middle name) Barnwell (no comma) Jr. As far as a middle name I just don't have one. As far as the "No comma" when I started in middle school, I was in the same school district where my father had gone to school, and they were in the process of transferring all the old hand-written records to computer records. So both my dad and I were in the system. In the early days of school computing systems, everything after a comma would be truncated, so when they would type in my grammatically-correct name, "Carl Barnwell, Jr." it would register as "Carl Barnwell" and my dad's records would come up. So I got in the habit of telling the guidance counselors "Carl Barnwell no-comma Junior" and it kind of stuck. I'm very proud to be a Jr.

## Mr. Younts to perform in Charleston Stage Company's *39 Steps*

By Cory Stegelin

**Cory Stegelin:** Mr. Younts, for the purposes of this interview, can you tell me a little bit about your role in Charleston Stage Company's *39 Steps*?

**George Younts:** I play a role that is defined as "Man 1 or 2 - I can look - and it's also known as "Clown 2." I play probably about ten to fifteen different roles, supplying anything from policeman, to a train porter, to a salesman, to an old Scottish crofter, to even a couple women too.

**CS:** What is it like playing so many roles?

**GY:** We of course keep them straight. We physically try to do things so you know which role is which, be it a walk, a voice, or just an attitude, or tempo, or some type of rhythm. So you just try to put it in there from muscle-memory, and then it'll be there when you need it and you can play it.

**CS:** In the rehearsal process, what do you do to prepare for all of these different characters?

**GY:** I memorize the lines and get them down, and I visualize and do the walking, then after we block some, I'll go home and go through it again and work it in my house. Actually get up and work it and do it, and then I'll come back here and work it. So I'm not just rehearsing here. I'm also rehearsing at home, and figuring out things and how to do things differently, and just repeating it so that I know where it is, just because it's a very chaotic play that kind of has to seem effortless.

**CS:** How much time total do you spend rehearsing, be it at CSC or at home?

**GY:** For CSC, we have six days a week for, I guess three hours or so, sometimes more on a Sunday or a Saturday. Then at home or during the day, I'll grab maybe twenty minutes in the morning working on lines, twenty minutes around lunch time working on lines, and then after school I'll spend twenty minutes or so. Then after rehearsal I'll

go home and look at lines and run things. And of course once we've blocked it, it's easier lines, and then of course after I get the lines memorized, I'm really there, and I'm just kind of honing and tightening things up when I work at home, or doing research or trying to figure out a voice that might be different character so they don't all sound alike.

**CS:** Is it difficult balancing so many characters at the same time as being a teacher?

**GY:** No, I have two other plays that I've done where I'm a one-person show. I did a poetry show where I do sixteen different poems, so I play a lot of different characters, and each poem is kind of done differently. So there're all like different scenes and one acts. And then I do a one man *Christmas Carol* and that's sixty-

five minutes and I play like ten to fifteen roles in that, so I've kind of been doing this type of theater, playing multiple roles, and playing with it, and I also teach it too, so where I'm at playing different parts and doing stuff like this I really find challenging, so here there's three other people in the play, so I don't feel necessarily that I have it all on my



Mr. Younts

shoulders. I have other people to play off of, so it's actually, for me personally, it's really nice. I don't feel that I'm going to be - I will be tired - but I don't feel necessarily that it's all just on me. And then of course, there's all the sets, and the costumes, and the lights, and all that stuff is

all coming together, so there's a lot more energy on the stage because of that, so I don't find it too hard balancing it.

There's one part of the play at the end, the whole death monologue with Mr. Memory, the first feature of the new engine, that's all technical terms that I actually started memorizing before rehearsals began about two weeks ago because I knew that would be - there's no logic to it - and so it's hard to memorize. I worked on that for two weeks, now I got that down pretty good because when I get to the end of things, I have more on my plate, I get more stress and my brain won't work as

good, and I won't retain things as well. I knew that was tough and I bothered Ms. Clarke to break down the roles. Once I knew I was Mr. Memory, I said 'okay, I'm going to memorize that right off the bat' to get that out of the way. Then I don't have to stress about it, there's logic to the lines, there's a reason for saying it, and there's a reason for coming where you're coming from, there are a couple tiny little speeches here and there, but not that much. I have people to play off of that tell me what my line would be, as opposed to one person shows, you have to know what goes on for every single role and character and just kind of got to know everything. It's a long day, I'll leave school from doing things, grab a bite to eat and come directly here and sit in the parking lot. Like today, I sat in the parking lot for about thirty minutes working on lines and then I'll go to rehearsal.

**CS:** Have you taken anything from this that you could use in your teaching?

**GY:** There's a lot of fun stuff I know I'm going to see in this show that - technical stuff they're going to do - because I've never seen this show and they have, and so I know there's a lot of fun technical things that I can take and turn later on and have fun with. Some of the technical schticks or tricks or things like that that are going to be fun and exciting, and light tricks and things like that I can use at school where we don't have as many technical people doing all the full-time tech stuff. It's basically just me.





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## Arts majors pitch in for Art Smart 2010

By Bailey Gaskin

It's Art Smart time again! Running October 19-21 with performances in the morning and in the afternoon, Art Smart is a long trek for everyone involved. This year, Art Smart is a free bird; featuring no solid theme and a wide range of performances and performance topics. Each art major has a three to five minute slot to perform and showcase all their major has to offer. This year, with a new theatre available, Art Smart is able to expand and grow, displaying a larger range of student talent. This October, Art Smart is sure to please, with a highly capable 8th grade class performing many diverse pieces.

Each major contributes a different performance showcasing the hard-work and talent of the eighth graders. This year, theatre majors will perform a skit taking the audience on a tour of the school and the art majors. Vocal eighth graders will be working in tandem with the dancers in a performance of the Beatles' "Let it Be." Piano majors are performing a piece called "Four Arkansas Travelers" using a combination of 2 pianos and a possible synthesizer. Also

from the piano majors, Mr. Clark is working on a Little Big Band to perform jazz piano in the Rose Maree Myers Theater lobby to be enjoyed before each performance. The strings majors will perform "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay. Creative Writing eighth graders will be creating their very own script describing the writing process with an insight into a writers mind, and Visual Artists' work will be displayed via projection screen during transition times and throughout the entirety of the show.

Art Smart is a huge showcase that brings a lot of new faces onto the campus. Fifth graders from all over the county come to these performances and some are even inspired to audition to get into the school. Each person attending Art Smart will have the full School of the Arts experience: watching a performance and taking a tour of the school. Art Smart's purpose is to represent the school in a positive and incisive way. Every year Art Smart makes the whole school proud, and this year will be no different with an incredible line-up and an immensely talented eighth grade class.

## SOA teachers coaching at other schools

By Gordon Hay

Three SOA High School teachers are lending their athletic talent to other Charleston County schools. Perhaps, our teachers were inspired to coach by our new neighbor, Academic Magnet, a school with an athletic program. Ms. Bronk just finished coaching the varsity swim team for Goose Creek High School, Mr. Lindgren is coaching the Academic Magnet wrestling team, and Dr. Cusatis is coaching-cross country at Military Magnet Academy.

All three have previous experience in their sport and with coaching in general. Mr. Lindgren coached at Stall High School for one year and he was an All-State wrestler in Virginia when he was in high school. Ms. Bronk has decades of experience in swimming, having taught aquatic lessons for the last twenty-two years. She also swam on a scholarship in college and is certified as a water safety instructor. Dr. Cusatis ran cross-country in high school, coached middle school cross-country for six years, and has completed eleven marathons, including the Boston Marathon. While at St. John's High School, he was named South Carolina Boys Track Coach of the Year. "It is good to be coaching again," he said.

Mr. Lindgren's daily practices will involve a lot of cardio and strength training

in addition to practicing wrestling techniques. Dr. Cusatis said his practices will mainly consist of running long distances. Ms. Bronk's practices were more reminiscent of military training. She made her swimmers do everything from one hundred flip turns in a row to swimming in tennis shoes for the whole two hour practice. She also made them do the "Ring of Fire," which involves the swimmer treading water with a ten pound brick while reciting the alphabet.

All of the coaches have lofty goals for their teams this year. Mr. Lindgren hopes that his team will be a state tournament qualifier. Dr. Cusatis, who is starting from scratch, is glad to have recruited a full team. He looks forward to hosting at least one meet with a respectable showing by his runners. His team's course circles the Bonds Wilson campus. Ms. Bronk hopes her swimmers not only achieve their goals in the pool, but also out of it: "I believe in teaching important life time skills, like determination, teamwork, confidence, dedication, work ethic, and stress management."

Applause wishes Mr. Lindgren, Dr. Cusatis, and Ms. Bronk the best of luck and we also send a prayer to those who had to swim for Ms. Bronk.



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**Beach Rides:** This exhilarating ride tours the North Beach area and is for advanced riders only. The rider must have a minimum of two to three years riding experience and have good control at a walk, trot and canter. Advance reservations are required.



# What do you do

## Band

### Grace Novak, seventh grade

Band is such a fun and unique major!

Something we do in band everyday is sight-reading. That is where you look at a piece of music for the first time ever and play it with the whole band. We also have to learn a minimum of seven scales for class, which we play together at the beginning of each class so that we can tune to each other.

All of your practicing is to get ready for the first performance! **Ms. Reed** puts together certain



pieces that show you are different from any other middle school band.

The field trips are something to look forward to in band.

**Ms. Reed** only takes her best behaving students, and she takes them to the best places like Disney World! Of course, at these field trip, we must play our instruments, but it makes it all the more fun!

Competitions are the most important part of band. These prove we are the best, and we are worthy to be called the Middle School Band of SOA. Every competition is different, but they never get old. Winning gives all of us such a sense of pride and accomplishment. Band is the best!

### Jen Smith, tenth grade, and Dana Gilg, twelfth grade

The music department at School of the Arts is phenomenal, especially the Band Program. At school, we participate in band everyday for an hour and a half. During class, we are given time to warm up by ourselves, and

then we warm up as a group. After that, we rehearse the music that we are currently working on. Concert Festival is a festival



hosted by the South Carolina Band Directors Association. At this festival we are evaluated by judges. There are other yearly events that we are required to participate in, such as All-Region Auditions and All-State Auditions, if we are given a call back. Going to All-State is a yearly trip to Greenville. All-state is for the best musicians in all of South Carolina and many people from our band make it. As a band major there are many musical groups you can be in. The bands are Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, and our two Wind Ensembles. All of them focus on different techniques and compositions. In reflection, I am very glad that I am a band major.

## Creative Writing

### Marin Miller, seventh grade

A day in the life of a middle school Creative Writer is really fun! I have learned about fiction, flash fiction, and



thousands of different forms of poetry.

In creative writing,

there are several competitions that you are required to enter and one of the most important is the national Scholastic competition. In seventh grade I was honored with winning a regional Scholastic gold key.

Field trips aren't very common for middle school Creative Writers, but occasionally we'll take a trip to observe our surroundings. Studying behaviors and traits are important because getting that character on page is much harder than it looks. By the way, people may be confused, but creative writing is also performing major. It's not just about the writing, but how you can present it at the literary reading each semester.

Creative Writing is the best major at SOA!

### Savannah Miller, eleventh grade

High school creative writing is much different from middle school. During middle school, students delve into character, and learn about personality traits and behavior. But with a lot of practice and experience, by high school a student learns to go deeper than character. I have learned how to craft metaphors, include themes, symbols, and description, and have begun developing my own unique style.

Although creative writing majors do not go on several field trips, every year upperclassmen take the envious trip to Lake Logan in the mountains of North Carolina. Seniors discuss their ideas and goals for their senior theses and juniors learn more



about the project. The students go hiking, have a bonfire, and have a talent show.

Unlike some of the others, creative writing is a major used in all careers, whether it be public speaking, sentence fluency, or creative thinking.

## Dance

### Grace Engle, eighth grade

"There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good." --Edwin Denby. I can't say dance is all work and no play, but we really are passionate about what we do. From



the minute we enter the room and start our warm-up, to our rehearsal and cool down at the end, we as dancers commit

to our dance, but not without a little bit of "insanity". We dress out, put our hair up, take all jewelry off, and enter the class. In **Mrs. Cline's** class we usually start with a modern warm-up on the floor, a series of core strengthening exercises, muscle and joint looseners, etc. Then we move on to standing combinations; body swings, spinal rolls, and tondus. As you all know, Art Smart is coming up soon so then we rehearse our dance. Although we can buckle down and get to work, we also have some fun getting there.

### Samantha Molony, tenth grade

In high school dance class, we will usually have one technique class, and the other is some sort of dance history. As a freshman, we studied dance history and in sophomore year we are focusing on our bodies by learning anatomy. When you are a junior, you do "junior composition" which is kind of preparation for senior thesis. As dance majors, we experience all of the varieties of dancing. Some days we will do modern dancing, and on others, we could practice classical ballet, improvisation, jazz, contemporary, or musical theatre.

Throughout the year, we have Junior Composition performances and Senior Thesis performances. Each grade in dance is re-



quired to go to a certain number of Senior Thesis performances or Junior Composition performances. We usually have one big dance performance in April. In that performance, all of the grades will do a few numbers to show what they can do! Most of the dance majors have been dancing for years and years, so we are all constantly trying to be better than someone else (You always need to have a little friendly competition!). As dancers, we all get along well (for the most part), and are more like a huge family. We all have our strengths and weaknesses when it comes to genre of dance, but the one thing we have in common is our passion for dancing.

## Piano

### Maddox Johnston, seventh grade

In piano there are two theoretical "sub-majors", classical and jazz, in piano. This schedule makes for a more interesting agenda every day.

In Classical Piano, taught by **Mrs. Debra Benson**. We play scales and cadences, work on theory, and learn about some of the history of piano. After perfecting our music, we get chances to show it off. Yearly, we get an opportunity to play at the Solo Ensemble Festival at Lander University. Another way to show off our talent is in the recitals we have. Everything we do adds to what makes classical piano so wonderful.

Taught by **Mr.**

**Joe Clarke**, Jazz

Piano is an awesome experience. We play classic jazz songs,

write bass-lines, work on blues songs, and learn chord progressions among other things. We also have Jazz cafes where we play our jazz tunes along with a saxophonist, drummer, and a bass player.

Piano is a very unique major in this very unique school; every day is different and exciting. From scales in classical, to performing with the jazz trio, piano is an overall amazing experience.

### Ellen Underwood and Dylan Walsh, twelfth grade

A Day in the Life of a Piano Student Piano consists of two distinct classes, jazz and classical. Jazz piano focuses more on the chord techniques and the mastery of multiple different pieces in a short amount of time. Individuality is encouraged in

our pieces, such as clever chord voicings and solos. We perform in concerts that are very laid-back in a cafe setting, with the opportunity to perform

with professional musicians. We do not practice beforehand, so the music is more organic. In classical piano, we work on techniques such as arpeggios, scales, and cadences. Working on an extensive repertoire is also encouraged, which is especially useful when considering senior thesis. Ensembles are also a part of our daily activities. We also have the opportunity to play and critique each other's pieces, as well as obtain a professional opinion from the teacher, **Mrs. Benson**. Field trips are another opportunity to expand our horizons. Every year we attend Solo and Ensemble Festival in Greenwood, South Carolina. We play two memorized pieces in front of college piano professors.





# Are you an art major?

## Strings

## Theater

## Visual Arts

## Vocal

### Austen Day, seventh grade

Personally I think strings is the best major because we do cool and awesome stuff every day! One of the things we do every day is we get our instruments out and tune up and play awesome songs. One time we played rock songs like crazy rain, smoke on the water, sunshine of your love



and many more. We usually split up after we tune and go into different practice rooms and play songs with our friends. Sometimes we have practice days and we can do whatever we want to do. We can play on the smart board, on the computers, or we can just do whatever. Strings is an awesome major to be in.



### Abby Lewis, eleventh grade

One day in the life of a high school strings major: when a strings major walks into the orchestra room, they're supposed to immediately grab their instrument, rosin, bow, a cello belt (if they're a cellist), music, and a pencil. In good fashion, the regular high school orchestra member forgets at least two of these things, much to the frustration of the conductor. A days, orchestra up to the name's obnoxious shrieking they usually individual or quartet. The winds on B days, tune to the oboe. After that, they play pieces for winds and strings.

I hope this has given you a new perspective on strings majors. When you run into one, give them a hug and say, "I understand you now!"

### Legare Hay, seventh grade

In sixth grade, we studied Shakespeare and did improv and monologues. We played many theatre games where we learned concentration, cooperation, blocking and acting skills. In our Shakespeare unit, we learned about iambic pentameter and gained skills that will help



us understand Shakespearian writing. Improv was my favorite unit where we learned how to create scenes with no script. Some of the improv exercises included "freeze" which was when two people began a scene and 30 seconds in, someone in the audience would yell freeze and tap out a person and take their spot. We also wrote monologues and my monologue was about Tiger Woods and a sushi chef.

So far in seventh grade, I am learning about more improv, like "yes...and" which is a technique where you build upon what was last said by the previous actor. We have also studied The Acting Handbook where we have learned theatrical terms and acting theory.

I really have enjoyed my time in theatre at SOA. You can't do that at every school!

### Gordon Hay, twelfth grade

As a theatre major, I have learned how to be a proficient and confident actor. My experience has also helped me learn important life lessons like collaboration, teamwork, and the ability to handle difficult situations.

everything from Shakespeare, to learning stage theatre is one of the fieriest majors at SOA; the range and things we do in theatre are almost unparalleled compared to other majors. We also learn basics like singing and dancing.

High school theatre picks up the pace and allows for more performance opportunities to be direct.

Overall, I feel my experience at School of the Arts in theatre has been positive. The skills and lessons I have learned will not only benefit my acting, but will also help me with basic life skills. I feel that I will be able to use the skills learned in theatre throughout my life in whatever I choose to do. For anyone considering School of the Arts, I recommend theatre as a solid and enjoyable major.



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### Courtney Young, seventh grade

Visual arts in 7th grade is a lot more than just drawing. We use pencils to shade, which I find to be the most important thing in visual arts. Using different shades of your pencil is incorporated in just about every piece; it makes a picture realistic. This year



in seventh grade we chose to draw either an insect or a reptile. Drawing either critter is so important because it was a step by step process. We started out by choosing a picture to draw from. Next we drew four thumbnail drawings, which is a paper folded into fourths with a different drawing of the resource per space. After that, we chose the best and made a bigger picture of it. Finally, we started the final piece, putting all the detail and shading in. Seventh grade visual arts shows me steps for not only art, but for school, and it gives me a chance to get a better education about something I have a passion for.

### Allie Acierno, eleventh grade

A typical day in visual arts begins with instruction from one of our three teachers. They teach us techniques and then set us up with a project. Throughout the week we might have class wide critiques where everyone provides constructive criticism.

Competitions are also a frequent part of our day-to-day art life. We often take first, second



and third place in almost every competition we enter!

We take field trips to art galleries and museums to immerse in the different cultures and styles of art. Last year, we even had a guest speaker of Native American heritage who taught us how to make paper. We used this paper later to paint on! Visual Arts is as diverse as artists, and allows a student to grow and expand his or her own style.

### Shekina Campbell, seventh grade

During next week, the seventh and eighth grade vocal majors will be auditioning for the All County choir. It is about a two to three day process. We will be singing a song called "Sing a New Song." The process

of what we will be doing is as follows; we will be called up individually to be recorded. After we have recorded, we



will go back to our original spots. On the day that we don't have school, our recordings will be judged by high school vocal teachers from across the county. The best recordings out of each county in South Carolina will be picked for the All County choir. These recordings will be going on during Art Smart week, so it could get a little bit hectic at times. But, I think it will be a very fun experience because this is the first year the seventh graders will be doing this.

### Allie Augustine, eleventh grade

There are lots of different opportunities that students are given as a vocal major. As a high school sophomore, junior or senior you may audition for all-state chorus. Even with all of the different audition processes the high school vocal department manages to put out 3 concerts every year; a fall, holiday and spring concert.

An average day as a vocal major always starts out with warming up and then we begin practicing. Vocal majors try to sing all different types of music ranging from songs from glees, to pieces composed by Bach, and back to the Phantom of the Opera.



We work extremely hard every day in class and are always rewarded with a great concert.

At SOA we have several different choirs. Upperclassmen may audition for the honors choir. This choir is smaller so it moves faster and learns more music. For the students that do not make it into honors choir are put into the choral class. All of the different choirs seem confusing at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's not too bad.



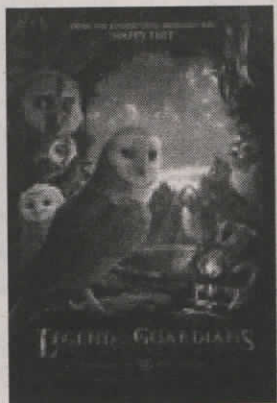
## Legend of the Guardians: the Owls of Ga'Hoole, WHAT A HOOT!

By Chaisson Dangerfield and Bailey Gaskin

Getting in touch with your inner child can be a very difficult experience. However, going to see *Legend of the Guardians* is a very easy first leap towards that goal. Featuring the voices of Jim Sturgess, whom you might know from *Across the Universe*, and Geoffrey Rush, Captain Barbosa in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Legend of the Guardians* is a hoot from beak to tail feather.

Based on the first three books in the series, *Legend of the Guardians* tells the tale of a young barn owl and his adventures. Kidnapped from his nest, Soren is taken to St. Aggies, an owl orphanage notorious for "moon-blinking" owls and turning them into soldiers. Due to Soren's strong will, he and his friend Gylfie escape to the island of Ga'Hoole and reveal the evil plan of the orphanage. While there, they assist the legendary Guardians of Ga'Hoole in fighting the wicked army of St. Aggie.

Taking flight in 3D, the movie did not disappoint. We entered with high spirits and left flying high. From the amaz-



Warner Bros.' *Legend of the Guardians*

ing affects to the adorable owls, *Legend of the Guardians* is absolutely enchanting; it breaks the myth that 3D ruins all movies. The ability of the effects was beyond belief as each yarn-like feather was captured into each of the audiences' imagination and every rain drop was seen close-up as to reflect reality. The cinematography took the film to a whole new level. Each landscape and detail was crisp and exciting, adding to the look and feel of the movie (plus the fact that you can reach out and touch it is...AWESOME.)

Accompanied by a dramatic, amusing soundtrack, *Legend of the Guardians* is a one of those movies that you can't let fly by. A musical interlude from Owl City (ironic, eh?) was the highlight of the movie, creating a happy-go-lucky scene featuring the flight and fun of the owls. Although some parts where laughable and overdramatized (and somewhat cheesy), we'd have to agree that this movie deserves two wings up. Throw away the idea that *Legend of the Guardians* is a kid movie because it can make any person of any age leave with a big smile on their face (including two teenage girls).

## To Kill a Mockingbird: an American classic

By Savannah Miller

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, published in 1960, Harper Lee's masterpiece was awarded a Pulitzer Prize and the novel was crafted into an Oscar-winning film. And fifty years later it deserves every praise it receives.

The novel takes place in, Maycomb, Alabama, during three years of the Great Depression. In Maycomb, although Christianity is strong, equality is not. Atticus Finch, one of the main characters, is a prominent lawyer determined to defend a black man named Tom Robinson who is accused of raping a poor white woman, Mayella Ewell. Scout Finch, the young daughter of Atticus, narrates the novel, describing the strong racial



Lee's classic turns fifty

prejudice and inequality through the innocent perspective of a child. Lee's choice to use a child to display racial inequality combines the simplicity of childhood observation with complex adult situations complicated by unquestioned tradition. As Scout bluntly states in chapter 23, "I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks."

This book is especially recommended to anyone who wishes to explore the racial tension in a region where until the mid-twentieth century, had an undisputed culture of thick lines dividing blacks from whites. Through animated dialogue and characters, Lee entertains the reader while offering a closer look and commentary on racial prejudice and human dignity.

## Daily Dose: Get in touch with your inner vegan

By Chaisson Dangerfield and Bailey Gaskin

∞ Enlightenment (excellent!) ☯ Zen (Average) ☯ Chi (not the best)

Location: Folly Road, James Island  
Type: Hippie, Vegan Food  
Grade: A

Zen Consensus: ∞  
Upon entering the Daily Dose, we were immediately greeted by a good luck charm: a highly spastic and free winded bird. Right away, inside we knew this was going to be a new experience. Looking around, there were a few things that excited the hippie in each of us. As you entering through a black light, Daily Dose's walls were plastered with wild art and signs like Bob Marley floating in bubbles and "Menu Options: take it or leave it." Our eyes never ceased to read and critique the ever so unique shack-like restaurant. The environment is extremely relaxed and it is the perfect place to eat dinner and wind down. Welcomed by an intensely laid back staff, we walked up to the counter to order. Of course, Bailey's



Daily Dose on James Island

father asked if there were any specials, and when the man said "Yes, the Mexicali," her father was sold. We were also sold because our order consisted of a Mexicali wrap and a hummus plate. After ordering, we sat down with our organic sodas and our food to start the Daily Dose experience.

Without a single meat item at our table, we sat at our booth and began to chow down. Taking one bite into the organic wrap and Bailey into the black bean hummus (accompanied by cucumbers, a goddess sauce) our wildest desires were fulfilled. As Mr. Donnellon would say (and we highly concur), "if you don't eat at Daily Dose, you stink in the nostrils of God... something along the lines of that..." The taste and the ever so amazing atmosphere combined and laced into one unforgettable and extremely undoubtedly delicious experience which fulfilled our daily dosage of enlightenment.

## Mumford & Sons: folk rock making waves

By Bailey Gaskin

Hailing from West London, the debut album from folk-indie rock band Mumford & Sons explodes onto the music scene in February 2010 with a catchy, fun CD featuring songs like the hit "Little Lion Man." Trading Stratocasters for banjos and mandolins, Mumford & Sons creates a highly stylized album sure to please the ears of any listener.

The band formed in December of 2007 as the four men came together to create music that actually mattered. Taking their album back to the roots of American music, Mumford & Sons resembles the sounds of classics like Crosby, Stills and Nash combined with the rock-and-roll feel of Kings of Leon. Their album *Sigh No More* incorporates both the sounds of folk instruments with the interesting drawl of Marcus Mumford, the lead singer. As their

website says, Mumford & Sons have "fire in their bellies, romance in their hearts, and rapture in their masterful, melancholy voices."



Mumford & Sons' debut album

The twelve song set ranges from upbeat songs like "Roll Away Your Stone" to somber story-tellers like "Dust Bowl Dance." Each song resonates out of the dancing strings of the acoustic guitar and absolutely enchants whoever decides to tune in. Contrary to belief, this is not a country album. Even if the words "banjo" and "drawl" spark doubt about this album, throw it out. Mumford & Sons' *Sigh No More* is a guaranteed life-changer and my ALBUM OF THE DECADE.

Download it NOW!: "The Cave" and "Awake my Soul"



## Sass Attack: Long Live the Legacy

By Bailey Gaskins

Today, a new student, who shall remain nameless, told me a fact that is sad but true. He said, and don't quote me on this, that as a new student, it was hard to be part of the group because all the others have been here FOREVER and are such a close unit. The minute he said that, I knew it would be the perfect thing to address in this month's Attack, so with as much bravado as I can muster, "LONG LIVE THE LEGACY."

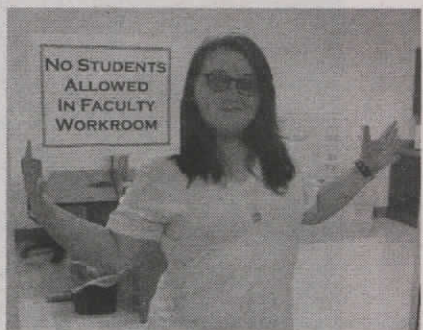
I, **Bailey Gaskins**, have gone to this school since the very start of 6th grade. More than six years later, I am still here along with the select few who have grown up with me. To all of you guys, BRAVO. As anyone who has stuck it out from the beginning knows, seven years can be quite a trek especially seeing almost the same people every year. So, in all honesty, meeting and talking to a new theatre or visual art major is refreshing. New kids, we love you. We welcome you. To make this clear, let me put it in school yard terms:

Let's just say, for sake of the example, that all the kids who have gone to SOA since sixth grade and all of those who haven't are playing Red Rover. (No one

DOESN'T like Red Rover.) For all of you newbies on one side of the field, do not be afraid to infiltrate. When we call you "right over," please, by all means, come right over. When we ask, it means we WANT you in our group! We may be an intimidating line with tight bonds, but there is always room for a new link to the chain. Seriously though...stop being shy and join the game.

Listen, to put it simply, the Legacy is great and all, but a fresh face can make the first day of school feel like a birthday...a Christmas gift, an Easter egg found in a lush grassy knoll, or perhaps a handmade heart on

Valentine's Day. You, as a new student, reassure the student body that the world is not a monotonous place, but rather a Narnia filled with potential and new experiences. We here at SOA are open to new experiences, aren't we? Can I get a highly emphatic YES?! (YES!) So, to the new student who inspired me at lunch today, thank you sir. And to all the new students whom I have yet to meet...see ya soon ;)



## Cat's guide to surviving a zombie attack

By Catherine Santos

Ah! It's that time of year again. The smell of delicious candy fills the air intermingled with the smell of small children shivering in fear. What a happy time. Of course the fun times can be ruined if a horde of the undead begins rampaging throughout your neighborhood. The likelihood of your getting devoured can be significantly decreased if you follow a few simple rules.

Step 1: Lock your doors. Zombies are incredibly unintelligent, and in most cases will be baffled by locked doors. Once they have been locked out it is incredibly easy to wait for the help of the military. Step 2: Do not make loud noises. Setting off fireworks, throwing Molotov Cocktails or making smoothies,

are not the smartest things to do. Zombies will hear these noises and immediately head for the source. Step 3: When evacuating an area be sure to take a bike. Not only is your car a deathtrap on wheels but the second you run out of gas, you and your friends become a can of sardines to hungry zombies. Step 4: Stock up on food. You may want to stock pile a few things, so that you do not have to go to a zombie infested super market in search of Twinkies. Step 5: Don't ever stare at a zombie. Many people, particularly when a zombie is rising out of the ground merely stare at it.

An excellent suggestion would be for you to run. Follow these simple steps and chances are you will not become a snack.



## Gordon Hay vs. Academic Magnet

By Gordon Hay

I'm not sure if any of you all are aware but as of this year there is another school residing on our very campus. Let me tell you about our new "sister school" Academic Magnet. Instead of focusing on the arts, like SOA, AMHS focuses on something called "Academics."

This means that the students actually do all their school-work and they enjoy it! All of this is probably getting you to think, "Who are these people?" Unfortunately, I know the answer to that question too well because my sister went to school there. By using her to stereotype all of the other students going to AMHS, I can conclude they are all uncool, smart (with no common sense), unable to have friends, 5'3", blond haired, and egotistical.

I have even witnessed AMHS's rudeness first hand when I applied for their school. I can remember their condescending looks and their prejudice against anyone

## A sixth grader's view: never an ordinary day at SOA

By Madison Harden, guest writer



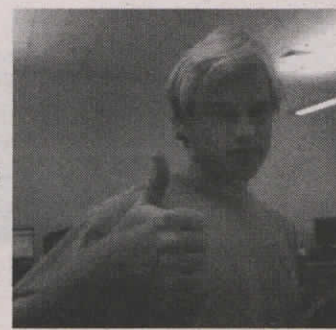
It seems to me that middle school is the marvel of many Sci-Fi movies and books, but when kids reach the end of their elementary school years, they begin to wonder, "What is an ordinary middle school day like?"

Okay, who wants to read a bunch of facts about a typical school day? Instead, I am giving you the real scoop, from a real 6th grader!

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP! That would be my wake up call. I get dressed, eat, brush my teeth, and drive to the bus stop, making sure I don't arrive to school with my pajamas on!

Next comes the bus ride, the coolest part of going to school because you can talk with your friends. But as soon as we reach campus, all papers, iPods, and phones are stuffed in backpacks, because school has now started. Kids pour into the busy halls that I have to walk through six times a day. The hard part is getting through the 7th and 8th graders, which can be pretty scary. My favorite part about middle school is my locker, number 118. I have five minutes between classes, so my locker is used quite often, even if I don't need anything!

lacking an IQ of 180 (in my case I have a 72). To this day, I still do not understand why I didn't get in! I know I wrote my essay on how my favorite movie was a surfing movie (Taj Burrows's Fair Bits), but I think they have no right to call my essay stupid, if they have not even seen the scene where Taj surfs on a door. I also remember the



audition test they gave me was too difficult; I got stuck on the first question! That inquiry asked for something crazy, called a "name" that's not even a question! I think it is obvious they created a different test just for kids who went to SOA so none of us could get in (even though **Kurt Nugent**,

**Calla Chuy**, **Nick Rindge**, **Emily Chong**, and **Kimberly Snodgrass** are all evidence against this theory).

Although I am not AMHS's biggest fan, I highly advise everyone at SOA to be kind and courteous to them because that is the right thing to do (but mainly because I have reason to believe that they have the ability to conduct biological warfare).

But when the bell rings, it's off to homeroom. For me, homeroom is the most comforting class. I have **Mrs. Moschella**. In homeroom, everybody knows everybody, and it has a feel of well at home. But after five minutes, class really begins. Mrs. Moschella teaches science, the hardest subject for me, so I know I have to work really hard in her class. By the end of class, my pencil is a little stub, my brain is fried, and my hand is throbbing. Just a typical science class.

On B days, I have **Mrs. Blake** first, so it's off to Social Studies. Then, like a time warp, I am sitting in my math class, Math Honors 6 with **Ms. Ellis**. We go to math everyday. I have never really liked math, but Ms. Ellis makes it easy to understand.

After a good lunch in awesome SOA cafeteria, I walk to the Fine Arts building to the class that I am here for; Creative Writing. It is really cool to see other students so passionate about writing as well.

The last class of the day has arrived. On A days, I have **Mrs. Mitchum's** reading class. This class seems to go by so fast. On B days, I have **Mrs. Newell's** English class. Mrs. Newell lets us write on Mac laptops! How awesome is that?

If you were to ask me what an ordinary day is like, the real answer is that everyday is different and there is no ordinary day at SOA!



**Same Hand, Same Brush**

by Courtney Carrick

I knew by the age of five that  
I was born into an unfortunate place  
of sticky summers  
and slightly cooler winters

where there were no  
orange, yellow, and red leaves,  
that floated on silver wind kisses  
to dance around brand new church shoes.  
I only saw sun burnt flora  
shriveled pathetically on chalk-marked  
driveways.  
To me, leaves never drifted.  
they fell.

I knew by the age of ten that  
I would witness a million lifetimes,  
and never have time to count my own

that I was intertwined  
by force, not choice, to everything.  
Everyone breathing the same air.  
That we were carved by the same hand,  
painted by the same brush.

The brush that painted the  
orange, yellow, and red leaves,  
I knew I would never see.

**Untitled**

by Ryah Dobson

People are not boomerangs;  
you cannot throw them away  
and expect them to change  
midflight, and come back for you.  
One cannot believe that someday  
things will fall back into place without work.  
One must learn to throw the boomerang,  
let it wander through the forest,

**Technology**

by Emily Fairchild

1  
Mine is the language of the on-off switch,  
of yes and no.  
Mine was the hand with  
two fingers, 10 digits.  
Mine is an alphabet with but two letters,  
and endless language.  
Mine is a code for a lesser being,  
one who uses me as a crutch.

10  
I was a wheel and now a key,  
open a safe door.  
I have no k in my name,  
and I am misspelled.

11  
Mine is the knowledge of  
gates and of nors,  
ands, and ors. Mine is the  
metal rail and the copper wire.  
Mine is the fan of near boiling air.

100  
Mine is the language of the on-off switch.  
Mine is the signal of a flashing light.  
on.  
off.

**Robe of Silk**

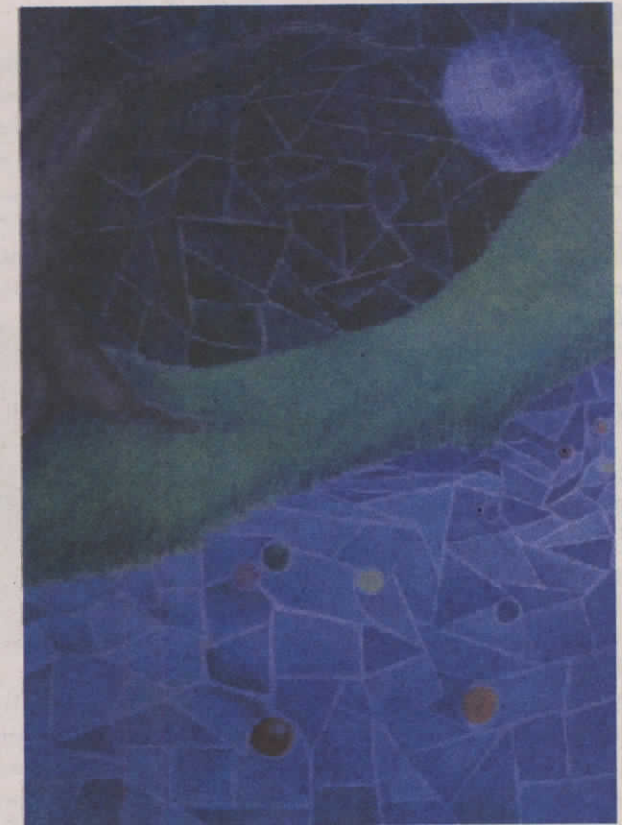
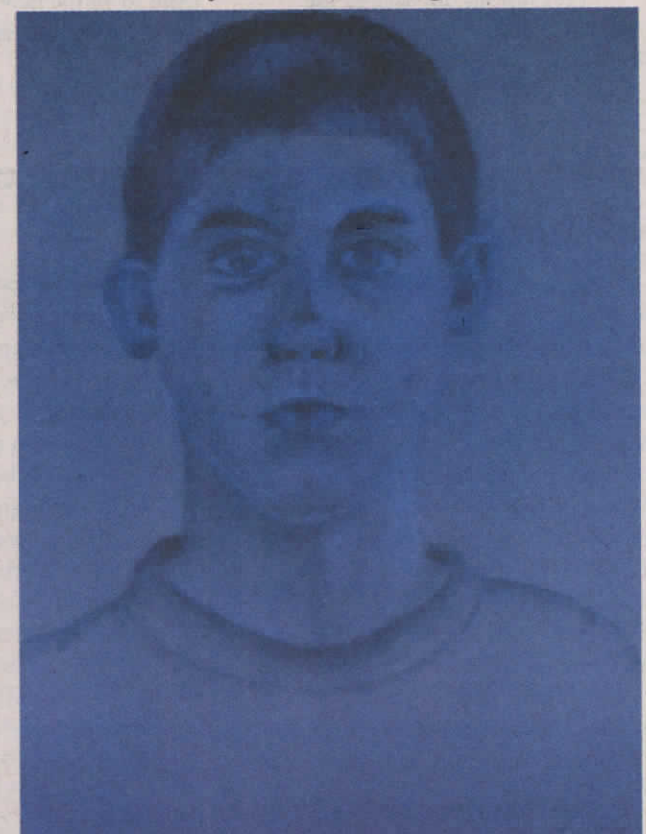
by Miles Counts

On lustrous summer days,  
when humidity spreads like butter on toast,  
and the sun pelts thick patches of dewy grass,  
I like to watch my father work by the tall oak tree,  
clad in his jumpsuit, his robe of silk.  
His shadow looms over the tangled shrubbery.

His robe sits loftily atop the hamper.  
Grimy, worn polyester  
wallows in a creek of faded gray jeans.  
Its collar is caked with red-clay mounds of dirt.  
A stripe flows down the back,  
a muddy back road of lint and spilled orange juice.

Yet, when he drapes it over himself,  
a crown of gleaming silver appears atop his head.  
His once crumpled suit rises into a silky black robe.  
No more a common man,  
stuck in sordid trenches,  
a regal gusts of purple shrouds him,  
crowning him king.

My father wears a robe of silk.  
An ordinary ruler, a prince.

**Courtney Young, 7th grade****Amanda Russell, 9th grade****Casey Rudd, 9th grade**



## Where were they then: Ms. Bronk

By Catherine Santos

*Catherine Santos sat down with the beloved 10th grade English teacher Ms. Anna Bronk to find out more about her life before SOA.*

**Catherine Santos:** As a child what did you dream of doing?

**Ms. Anna Bronk:** In first grade I wanted to be an artist. Second grade I got eye problems so I was interested in optometry, so I wanted to be an optometrist. Third grade I wanted to be a psychologist. Fourth grade I wanted to be an orthodontist because I got a retainer. So I was fascinated by going to the orthodontist. Fifth grade I wanted to be a dietitian because I started to eat healthy and focusing on my athletics. When I got into junior high I wanted to be an art curator for a couple years. Then in high school I wanted to be a journalist because I was part of the school newspaper and the yearbook.

**CS:** What was your first job?

**AB:** My first job was a lifeguard.

**CS:** What colleges did you attend?

**AB:** I went to Ashland University in Ohio. I graduated with a bachelor's degree a year early. Three years instead of four years, so I had an extra year to play with. I went and got a second degree at the university of West Florida. I got my third degree from the Cita-

del.

**CS:** What field did you major in?

**AB:** I switched out of becoming an athletic director because I had to take macro and micro economics classes and I was worried about the math classes. Then I decided to be a sports newscaster instead and got a degree in broadcasting. I was a newscaster for about twelve years. I worked for CNN, NBC and FOX. I did that for quite sometime then I had my kids and decided I couldn't stay in journalism anymore. I got my masters degree and decided to be a teacher because my mom and dad were both college professors.

**CS:** What is the weirdest story you ever covered?

**AB:** A quadruple homicide at a club in the middle of the night.

**CS:** What is the weirdest thing that ever happened to you on the job?

**AB:** I got punched out by an arsonist. I was covering a court case and the bailiff showed me where I would have the best access so I could get a good shot of the arsonist as she came out of the court room after sentencing. I came out and surprised her while she was there and she was quite a large lady, towered over me and she clocked me. Hit me square

in the right end of the camera. All I could think about the entire time was that I was carrying a very expensive news camera. She had just gotten released on her arson case and they locked her right back up for assault.

**CS:** Have you lived anywhere interesting.

**AB:** I've lived in Ohio, Florida, and New York. I lived right on the Canadian boarder. There was so much snow that people were getting snowed into their homes. The journalists had to team up with the military to try to rescue lots of people in the community. We didn't have power for fourteen days.

**CS:** Who is your hero/role model?

**AB:** I admire the journalists who were very aggressive and did investigating reporting as opposed to what we see in the contemporary news. Which is a lot of flash news, entertainment news and social media. I admire the old journalists like Peter Jennings who really were out there on the front lines. As a child I always admired Joan of Arc, for her ability to push her way into a male dominated field. To stand up and fight for what she believed in despite all of the harassment she received.

**CS:** If your life was a novel what would the climax be?

**AB:** I'm really proud of passing on my

knowledge of journalism to the yearbook editors that I've had at the school. Another highlight would be translating the passion that I have for academics and athletics onto my children.

**CS:** What was your favorite memory from high school?

**AB:** I had the opportunity of running at Columbia University. I was entered in the eastern championships for all of the top half milers. I was seated thirteenth and I was able to get first place and drop my time by four seconds. I remember running around the track and my mom was sitting on the side of the track and the funny thing is she was just smiling and the funny thing is I remember just thinking "I think I'm going to win this for my mom today." And I crossed the finish line and she had made a bet with me. Because I was seated thirteenth we didn't think I'd be able to win and she had said to me jokingly before I went off to the race "Well you know you're seated thirteenth, if you can win this race I'll buy you a Mercedes." And I ended up winning the race and I went up to my Mom and asked her where my Mercedes was. She said "Oh, I'll get you one." The next day I got a little toy matchbox Mercedes car. Last laugh was on me.

## Where are they now: Micheal Anne Cardaronella

By Bailey Gaskin

*Class of 2001 dance major Micheal Anne Cardaronella talks to Bailey Gaskin about her life after SOA.*

**Bailey Gaskin:** How did you further your education after SOA?

**Micheal Anne Cardaronella:** I took the summer off from school as soon as I graduated from SOA and spent time in Kenya, East Africa, but returned home in the fall and attended Trident Technical College. Less than two years later I earned an Associate's Degree in Public Service with a specialty in Criminal Justice.

**BG:** Did you pursue your art after SOA?

**MAC:** I did for a while but not professionally. While in college and after I worked and danced at a dance studio in Mt. Pleasant that is owned by one of my favorite dance teachers. I also traveled as much as possible and fell hard for someone special, but once I turned 21 I did a 180 with my life to accomplish a life-long goal of becoming a police officer. While dance was and still is a passion, I needed to take another path for myself, and for me, that was the best thing I could have done.

**BG:** How did attending School of the Arts

prepare you for the future?

**MAC:** Prepare me for future, wow, there's a question I need to think about. Well SOA helped me become more cultured and spread my wings a bit. The fact that I was able to experience the different art forms, not only in school but on field trips and school trips made me realize there is more to art than I thought. It also made me more of a courageous person. I wasn't able to hide in the back at SOA, it was just small enough that there were many times where I was put front and center and made to grow.

**BG:** How are you currently spending your life?

**MAC:** As of right now I am a police officer and have been for 6 years. I am the School Resource Officer at a middle school in Mt. Pleasant. I bought a house a few years back and have had to learn to become a homemaker, which I totally stink at. I can

honestly say I never saw myself in the place I am today, but I am glad I am here. I have also recently returned to college in hopes of finishing my four-year degree, and who knows, getting a Master's, one step at a time though.

**BG:** Do you still participate in your art in your life today?

**MAC:** Up until recently I have not really participated in my art, but a friend of mine talked me into taking a Zumba class which is all dance. I was looking for some type of exercise program that was fun and since the first class I took, I have been addicted. It is all about dancing and moving, which has been a passion of mind for twenty-seven years.

**BG:** Any advice for students who are heading off to start the rest of their lives?

**MAC:** The best advice I can give is to experience as much as possible while you are young. Hold on to your dreams, and don't ever stop fighting for what you love. Don't let the drama of life overtake you and always use your art to help you escape.



Former dance major, Micheal Anne Cardaronella in uniform



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Collection bins are in both academic and major classrooms!

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## Medal of Honor Recipient honored in Rose Maree Myers Theater

By Grace Collins

"Be proud of your conviction to do what's right" **Major Drew Dennis Dix** told SOA and AMHS students on October 1st at

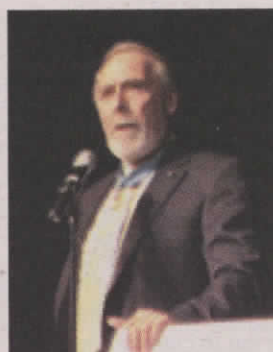


Weston Dewolff presenting Major Dix a painting

the Medal of Honor Ceremony in the Rose Maree Myers Theater. Major Dix was awarded the Congressional Medal

of Honor on 1969 for his extraordinary heroism during the Vietnam War.

Major Dix emphasized the subject of honor in his comments during the ceremony; "The greatest honor that I've ever had," he said, "is not receiving this medal, but the privilege of wearing it for so many others that I fought with, that have served after me, and that are serving now. There is no greater honor than to be recommended of something by your peers." Major Dix humbly down played his accomplishment and complimented our students repeatedly, "You already get it. You want to be here and you understand the importance of why you're here and that this is a place of knowledge and how you can focus on the rest of your lives." He specifically singled out junior **Sabrina McIntyre**, on her performance of the National Anthem: "That was sung about as good as I've ever heard." After freshman



Major Drew Dix

advised students to make the most of the privi-

**Conor Gatton** recited his original poem about loyalty titled "A Pigeon's Passage," junior **Weston DeWolff** presented Major Dix with a stunningly realistic painting of an eagle, one of Major Dix most valued symbols.

Major Dix ad-

vised students to make the most of the privilege to attend SOA or Academic Magnet: "This is one of the nicest schools that I've ever seen and the leadership of this school system is just absolutely incredible," he said. He also emphasized the importance of looking out for ones "buddies on both the left and right." "Take care of them because they take care of you and that's what we do in this country. We take care of each other." He added, "You are not America's future." You're America right now. How you act and the honor and integrity with which you conduct your lives gives great credit to this country of ours."

## SOA holds first convocation in RMM Theater

By Chaisson Dangerfield

September 22nd was the first SOA High School convocation in the new Rose Maree Myers Auditorium, and it was fabulous. For the first time, all of us high school students were together for one of these extravaganzas and we were not sitting on a carpeted band room floor! Instead we were comfortably seated in the rich, state of the art auditorium seat! Can I get a yehaw? How about a hooray?

Back on the subject of convocations; if you were unable to attend the exciting event, you sure did miss out. So here is a cover of the occasion just for you and a recap for those who attended.

The convocation started off with the junior creative writing majors' pieces collaboration with the band majors. The first creative writing piece was "The Dance of the Sunrise" written by **Sam Rames**, **Hadley Preganz**, and **Marisa Kate Henthorn** (who also performed the piece) along with the music of Gary Gackstater's, "The Sky."

The third piece was "America's Journey" written and performed by **Jacob Elsey**, **Alex Hoffman**, and **Elizabeth Kitchens** along with the band's symphonic collaboration, "Heroes of Flight" by Brian Lewis. And the final musical piece, "Voices of the Sky" by Samuel Hazo in collaboration with **Savannah Miller**, **Katie Ridgeway**, and **Joseph Dubay's** performance and

creative writing piece "Transformation."

The next act in convocations was the oh-so-hilarious Fighting Gnomes Improv Trope who showed of their improvisational skills through improv games and performances such as story story, forward/reverse, machines, he said/ she said, and Jeopardy with the categories "X-men," "fruits," and "things that bounce." The improv troupe is made up solely of high school theatre majors; **Bailey Gaskin**, **Austin Cope**, **Eric Payne**, **Margaret Mevers**, **Sully Hamilton**, **Allie Larkin**, **Jacob Hallex**, **Dante Brown**, **Sam Funk**, **Alex Berlinsky**, and **Prentice Clark**.



Creative Writers (L-R) **Alex Hoffman**, **Elizabeth Kitchens**, and **Jacob Elsey** perform with **Wind Ensemble II**

Following the theatrical performance, senior dance majors **Kenna Sommer**, **Jessica Murray**, **Noelle Ikemoto**, and **Bree Holstein** performed parts of their in-progress senior thesis dances. Each unique performance ended in awe from the audience and a rising thunder of applause.

Lastly, the high school event of Convocation ended with SOA's talented Jazz Band who played a preview to the upcoming School of the Arts unofficial homecoming: Jump, Jive, and Wail. The music was absorbed through every audience member as **Tanner Cooper**, **Holbrook Platts**, **Brett Hubbard**, and **Ian Jones** showed of their jazz act with upscale musical talent.

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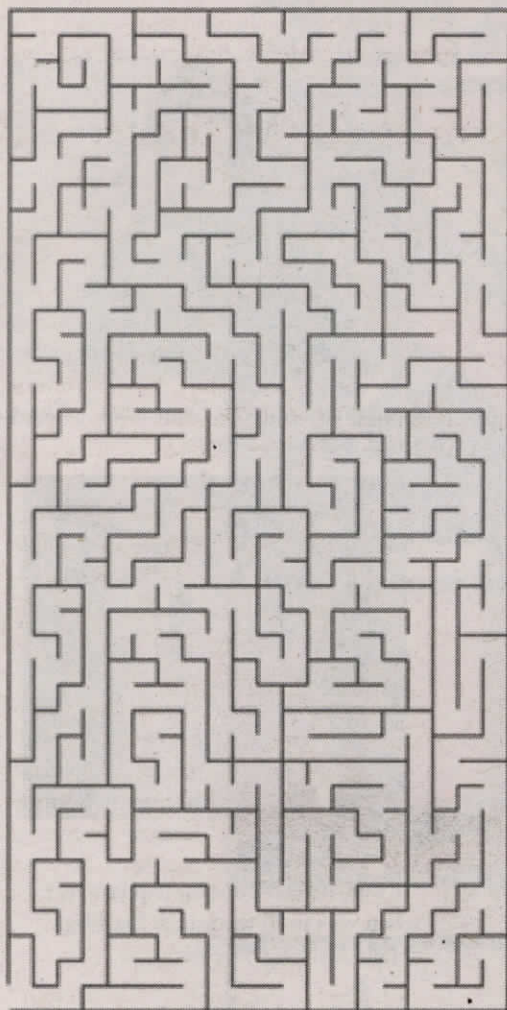


Help Ms. Bronk find her copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*!



## Sudoku

	8		1	4		7
9		3		2		4
		2				8
6		4	8			9
3	7					4 1
	9			6	7	8
	3				2	
1			4		8	6
8			5	1		3



AMHS's Walter Kunkle on SOA and the new campus.

**How do you like the new campus?**

"I like the big silvery dome you guys have. One day, I'm gonna find out what it is."

**How do you feel about sharing a campus with School of the Arts?**

"I'm fine with it. I'm worried about turf wars over the cafeteria."

**Do you miss anything about your old campus?**

"It had an atmosphere of some familiarity."



Ms. Vogot gives her opinion on the SOA and AMHS

**How do you like the new campus?**

"I like it. It's cleaner. It's brighter. The science lab is nice."

**How do you feel about sharing a campus with School of the Arts?**

"I actually think it's great. I hope the kids here get to know the kids at School of the Arts. Right now, they just kind of stare at each other. Academic Magnet kids stare at SOA kids and SOA kids just kind of stare back at Academic Magnet kids."

**Do you miss anything about your old campus?**

"Yes. When I was a volunteer at the old school, I got to be around the principal and the kids and everyone. Now I don't get to see the kids as often to say hi to them. I think the kids miss a place to play Frisbee, too."

## Horoscopes!

**Libra-** Those under cooked TV dinners are a way of your microwave expressing its devotion to you.

**Scorpio-** Do not iron your clothes while they are on your body.

**Sagittarius-** There is an angry mob of Vikings outside your door! Contrary to popular belief it is not a good idea to let them in.

**Capricorn-** The next time you go up to lover's lane remember to check the backseat of your car for ghouls.

**Aquarius-** Bad news for you, Edward Cullen is not your one true love. I guess it is time for you to move on to a new fictional character.

**Pisces-** The game. You lost it.

**Aries-** An excellent way to avoid getting bitten by a werewolf would be to stop wandering around in the woods at 3 AM.

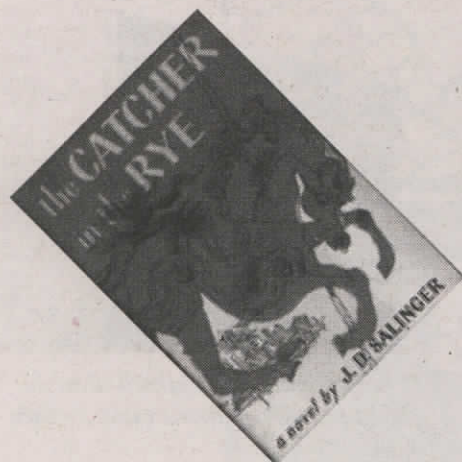
**Taurus-** A malicious cockroach is planning to overthrow the Russian government. Invest in RAID.

**Gemini-** That angry yeti that's been living in your closet for the past five months only wants a cookie.

**Cancer-** It would be an excellent idea to actually read those books that are assigned to you. 4 out of 4 English teachers would not be after you if you did it.

**Leo -** Bobbing for apples is the number one way to contract leprosy.

**Virgo -** Your kitchen utensils are planning an uprising. The stars recommend that you stop using those sporks.



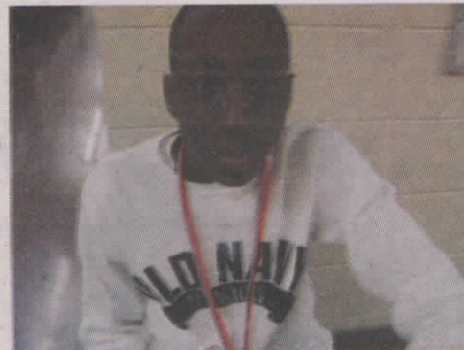




"Spending hours practicing the Maiehe Slave concert." -Jessica Baldwin, 12th Strings



"Jacob Elsey did not have pants until 2 minutes before he had to go on stage at the band and creative writing performance." -Joseph Dubay, 11th Creative Writing



"When I was in eighth grade band - we won Dixie Classic Festival and beat all the other high school bands in the country." -Gavin Smith, 10th Band



"In sixth grade with Mrs. Slowinski, we did a dance to 'If I were a boy'" -Margie Rhodes, 8th Dance



"All the ski trips." -Josh Miller, 12th Strings

## What is your favorite memory from your art major?

Compiled by Chaisson Dangerfield and Bailey Gaskin



"Messing around with Demetrius." -Chase Reiheld, 8th Visual Arts



"It was the first day of vocal and I was so excited and nervous and during class I asked everyone 'Hey, what's your major?'" -Sabrina MacIntyre 11th Vocal



"Mr. Younts went around and asked questions off the study guide and if we got them right, we would get to shave Mr. Younts's head- I was a part of that" -Samaria White, 12th Theater



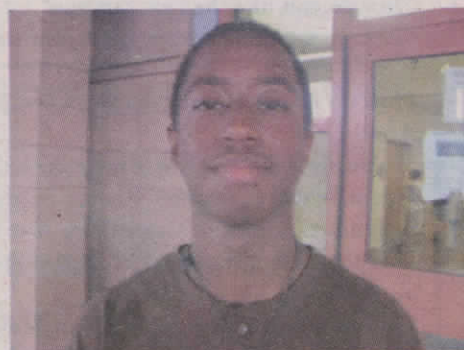
"We had a party at the old school, and we wrote on the walls." -Dallas Grant, 8th Piano



"It was the competition trip last year when we ran in the rain at Six Flags." -Halle Murphy, 9th Vocal



"Going on the Lander fieldtrips, cause we get to hang out with our friends outside of school." -Sarah Brown, 10th Piano



"The Atlanta trip in middle school where we got to have fun for a weekend with band." -Joshua Marsh, 9th Band



"Art Smart because we got to do something abnormal that we'd never done before." -Brianna Murray, 12th Strings



"I guess the last day of school when we played a bunch of theater games." -Zach Zuber, 7th Theater