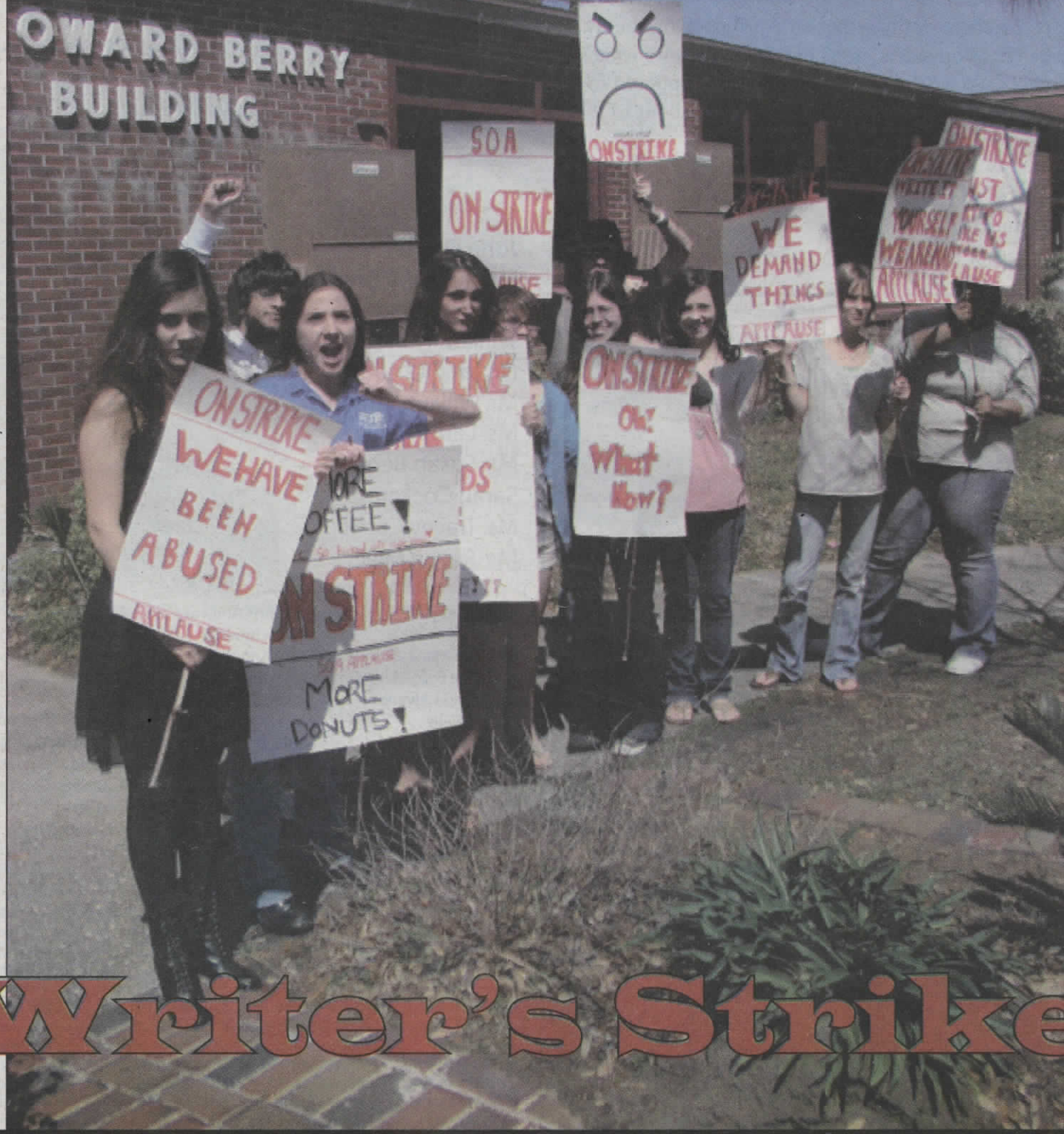


# Applause

Vol. 9 No. 8

School of the Arts April Fool's Day 2008



**Writer's Strike!**



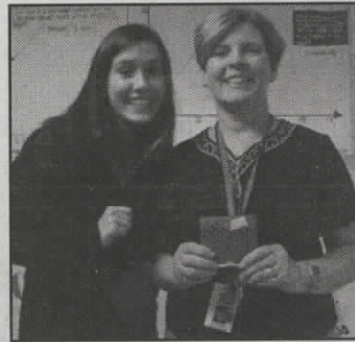
## Letter from the Editor

Temporary

So here it is, folks. The Applause staff has gone on strike. Why? No one knows. In any event, the administration called in replacement reporters to put together an April issue on the fly. But there's a catch: as outsiders, none of us really knows what's going on at school. So we did what all writers are supposed to do, and we got creative. You heard me. Nothing you're about to read is true. Happy April Fool's Day, SOA. Enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Ycul Retnuh

**Congratulations  
to the  
March Patron of  
the Month,  
Jayce Doose!**



Ms. Emmie Hammett accepts her prize from  
FORMER Applause staffer Chaney Long

# Applause

the official student newspaper of  
Charleston County School of the Arts

Lucy Hunter, Editor-in-Chief

**STRIKE**

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## Fed up *Applause* writers strike

By Yuki Yamamoto

The *Applause* staff has finally had enough.

After suffering years of under appreciation and zero benefits, the writers of SOA's school newspaper have called it quits. The nine staff members went on strike this month in an attempt to bring their suffering

aren't any! They don't give us anything!"

Then again, Mr. Sass is known for his dissatisfaction with every aspect of human life.

Nevertheless, for no food, no pay, no health insurance – for nothing at all, this paper's staff has worked grueling hours, year after year, for the sake of making the SOA students and teachers a more informed population.

Dr. John Cusatis, the paper's advisor, could not be reached for an official comment, but the strikers claim that his extreme editing tactics and dictator-like supervision also played a part in their abandonment of the publication.

Despite the MIA status of the original staff, the *Applause* must go on. Therefore, to



Chaney Long and Mr. Roy Davis duke it out on SOA's front lawn.

into the public eye and gain some recognition for the hard work and effort they put into every issue.

Founded in 1999, *Applause* has acted as the school's main news source for nearly ten years now, breaking major stories and giving a voice to the student body. However, the staff feels the publication – and the writers behind it – have never been given their proper dues.

"Where are the donuts? The coffee?" David Sass, author of the popular "Sass Attack" column, rhetorically asks. "There

keep the publication running for however long the writers may be on strike, a new staff has been instituted. Members were recruited from various juvenile detention centers across the county, drawing from the only people in the area that had nothing better to do than take on this task. The second-hand staff, though certainly not as trained or qualified as the original, promise to make the most of the situation and distribute SOA news to the best of their abilities.

## Graduation "reinvented"

By Lechesa Nedat

This year, graduation is taking on a whole new look.

Rather than give performances unique to their majors, various seniors from all majors will do interpretive dances that reflect on their years here at SOA. Whether they have been here all seven years, or just a year or two, the dances will surely give the guests an idea of what SOA is really like.

The guest speakers this year will be Chad the Alltel guy, joined by his group of representatives from Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon and Cingular. It turns out that all five of them were theatre graduates from SOA. They will be speaking about their experiences while at SOA and how it has helped them in the real world.

The location for graduation is normally the North Charleston

Performing Arts Center. This year, however, will be held at the Citadel Mall Food Court. This location was chosen for two reasons: it holds the expected number of guests, and it's cheap. Also, free smoothies and French fries will be provided for every attendee.

The final change will be the gowns. Instead of the normal bright red, they're going to be tie-dyed in bright colors. Since SOA is an arts school, the decision was made to show the artistic abilities of graduates.

When asked about his thoughts on the new plans for graduation, academic coordinator Mr. Bill Smyth said, "I'm looking forward to a change of venue and a more vibrant graduation experience."

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rounding third  
mar. 21 - apr. 5, 2008

enchanted april  
apr. 15 - may 10, 2008



## NHS Update

By Yuki Yamamoto



The past month has proven fruitful for the National Honor Society. We have recently begun employing a new fundraising tactic that involves ambushing elderly women and stealing their Social Security checks. This original and unique method has actually yielded better results than expected, more than doubling the Society's current financial account.

So please, if your

grandmother comes home weeping and distraught one day, on behalf of the SOA National Honor Society, gently remind her: it's for a good cause.

Also, we decided it was time we came clean and informed the student body that grades really aren't that important. Therefore, as of today, the peer tutoring program has been terminated. We will also no longer sell breakfast in the morning, because it's your problem that you can't wake up early enough to fix your own food anyway.

## Cafeteria attempts healthy menu

By Shannon Walker

Across the country, school food systems are being updated and improved to include healthier lunches and snacks for their students. Due to the future plans of the new school and a shared campus between School of the Arts and Academic Magnet High School, it has been proposed that the new Center of Arts and Academics will rid their cafeteria of greasy, high calorie foods and incorporate natural and organic foods in an effort to rid students' diets of pesticides and genetically engineered ingredients. Instead of snack and drink machines being stocked with Dr. Peppers, Twix chocolate bars, and Ice Cream Sandwiches, they will provide better snacks such as soy chips, low fat organic yogurt, wheat pretzels, and pita chips, foods that contain no high fructose corn syrup, genetically modified organisms, or hydrogenated oils and fats.

When asked her opinion on this, Junior Creative Writer Monique Collins stated, "I think it would be good, because it would force kids to eat better. Instead of buying candy bars and ice

creams from the machines, if they are hungry, they will have to buy something healthier." Instead of the average lunch of a SmartMouth Pepperoni pizza (which has 66 grams of carbohydrates and 1040 mg of sodium) or a Charleston Chicken Sandwich, carrot sticks and snack bars will be available to the students. The School Food Services Director, Lynn Johnson, thinks it would be an excellent idea, "Students are quick to grab snacks when they are hungry, because they either don't have the time to sit down and eat a full balanced meal or don't want to. There is nothing wrong with that, but the snacks they grab should be healthier things...not large bags of Doritos and Ruffles. If they get into the habit of grabbing an apple cinnamon bar from a vending machine at school, maybe they will do this outside of school also instead of just grabbing for the nearest thing to eat." If this policy is adopted, the SmartMouth pizzas, Charleston Chicken sandwiches, and pretzels will no longer be available for students to purchase.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Apr. 1** April Fool's Day
- Apr. 12** Hurricane make-up day
- Apr. 17** Nation-wide snow day
- Apr. 23** Halloween
- Apr. 30** Apocalypse

## School uniforms for '08-'09 year

By Claudia Monroe

Free spiritedness and individuality are no longer accepted at SOA. Beginning next year, the school will be instating a new uniform modeled after the Bishop England uniforms. In addition to the uniforms, there will be a ban on tattoos, eccentric makeup, nail polish, unnatural-colored hair dye, and piercings anywhere other than the ears.

For girls the uniform will consist of a red and gold plaid skirt with red cable-knit knee socks. Boys will be wearing red uniform pants complete with gold dress shoes. All students will wear grey sweaters. These sweaters will be helping to promote school pride at SOA because they will all be emblazoned with an

image of our school mascot.

Some on the uniform committee felt that the sweater should display our official mascot, Pegasus, while others argued that SOA's better-known icon, Einstein, should be shown. A compromised was reached (see photo).

Uniforms will be required at all times. This includes extracurricular activities and school field trips. There will be no waiver to get out of the uniform policy. Students who break the new dress code will be punished using a demerit system that will also be set in place next year.

SOA's faculty has shown mutual approval of the plan. They feel it will bring a sense of academic harmony to the school.



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## Getting 6th-grade revenge

By Alice Chesire

It is time for a change! It is time for a revolution that has been years in the making! It is time to take revenge on the 7<sup>th</sup> graders! They plague the hallways, referring to you as *cute* and as *little people*. Show them how un-cute it is when the little people band together in an army determined to end the injustice that is grade prejudice!

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have somehow gotten it into their heads that they are superior and dominant. Have they forgotten the feelings of social injustice that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade population has to live with every

day? Now is the time to remind them that they were once 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The age of upperclassman dominance must come to an end! The next time an upperclassman dares to degrade you, remind them that we are entering the age of 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

Class of 2014, now is the time to band together and bite the ankles of upperclassman superiority. Remember: Big, dangerous, and radical things *can* come in small sizes.

## New "Fat Diet" works!

By Mittens Letmeloveyou

Recently, health researchers have discovered that eating low-fat foods is not, as we once thought, good for you. The CDC has issued a report on a new diet that will change the way you look and feel. Here I outline some of its key points.

Eat fat – lots of fat. I suggest Krispy Kreme products such as Krulers, Original Glazed, and whatever those ones with the blueberries in them are called.

Increase your intake of bacon – not turkey or vegetarian bacon, but the real

kind that comes from a cow. Beginning your morning with bacon and lots of biscuits with gravy and butter will not only improve your health but will also freshen your breath.

Add more Little Debbie, Häagen Dazs and butter to your diet. The fats and carbohydrates from these fine products surround your body with a thick, jelly-like sayer of warm protection.

Resist any kind of exercise. By sleeping all day or watching television, you give your body time to rest and relax.

## Sass-Attack: "Last Minute Love"

By Liek Ohmuhgawd

Due to the writers' strike being conducted by the entire *Applause* staff, I have been called in by the extremely distressed journalism advisor to replace them until their demands have been met and their tempers quelled. When I was assigned this column, I quickly tried to get my hands on a previous issue of the *Applause*, but I was just distressed beyond belief when informed that the protesting staff had burnt every copy to be found. And when I approached the main culprit himself – the notorious "Sass" – to beg him for a single copy or even a scrap of one, I was beaten back quite savagely with a picket sign. I retreated swiftly with my tail between my legs; I just couldn't let him ruin my fabulous new outfit.

I forced myself to go on and reminded myself of what my hero, Tim Gunn, would say: "Make it work." So, due to my complete lack of knowledge concerning how the previous Sass-Attacks were written, I am apologizing in advance if it is not written in the *exact* same style as the violent (yet no doubt brilliant) Sass wrote it. And I commence...

Can you see it? Can you feel it? Can you smell it? (I can't, my nose is still stuffed up.) Can you hear it? I certainly can, for the most part, that is. Spring has finally sprung from the frozen wastes, to melt the chilly heart of Old Man Winter and send him packing! No longer are we trudging through banks of snow up to our waists (at least that's what it's like back in my native Canada), but instead we shall soon be frolicking across beaches, the sun-baked sand warm between our toes! Isn't it wonderful? Oh, how I just love the spring.

It is, quite arguably, the greatest season in the year. No longer is the earth held in the shackles of winter. Flowers are erupting

from the ground, to bless us with heavenly smells. Grass is shooting up, to spread the euphoria through our skin and into our bare feet. Leaves are sprouting on trees, to hide us with cool shade as we relax. Birds and other assorted small mammals are singing in joy at the return of warmth.

One of the greatest things about spring is how it reminds me of my favorite cartoon show, *The Powerpuff Girls*! I just cannot get enough of those three little girls! I mean, there's no way you can honestly tell me that you don't just love that tiny but tough tomboy Buttercup, or the brainy little leader Blossom. But my all-time favorite out of the three is that cute, innocent little Bubbles. And who could forget that adorably evil mutated monkey, Mojo Jojo, with his fabulous glowing green fur and abnormally ginormous brain? I can't, that's for sure!

Also, I just love how telemarketers start calling like crazy during the spring. Whenever they call me, I just sit there for *hours* talking to them! I don't understand why everyone hates telemarketers. I mean, they're just trying to make a living, just like you and me. I always greet them as nicely as possible, since it always makes me so happy to meet new people. I just wonder why none of them call me back...

Of course, all this is just my opinion on why I think spring is the greatest, and I'm not trying to force it on you or anything. I mean, I doubt even that temperamental Sass kid would be rude enough to try and force it on you! Anyway, I just want to apologize again if the column isn't written in exactly the same way as its creator writes it. And thank you all for reading it. I hope you all enjoyed reading it, and that all of you have a fabulous time here at School of the Arts! Go Pegasil!



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## D.C. trip cancelled due to danger Classrooms take to the outdoors

By Shalissa Shmeavo

The eighth grade teachers recently announced that the annual eighth grade trip to Washington, DC, has been cancelled.

This rite of passage has been eliminated for various reasons, among them the danger of schizophrenic tour bus drivers who do whatever the voices tell them, and the undead politicians from the Clinton administration who restlessly wander the streets of Washington. Also, said English teacher Ms. Tracey Castle, "The yuppie population in the surrounding Georgetown area has spiraled out of control. There have been several reports of packs of these upper-middle-classmen attacking tourists. We do not want to leave our students open to this danger."

However, the deciding factor was the cost. "It has gotten to the point where all \$300 will buy you in Washington is a souvenir t-shirt and a position in George Bush's cabinet," said French teacher Ms. Juliana Touihri in a recent interview.

The trip fees will not be returned to students who already forked over their money, because a replacement trip is being planned. This May, eighth-graders will be traveling to the rural city of Washington, Missouri.

"It has gotten to the point that the importance of

fine corn-farming techniques has overshadowed national politics in the South Carolina social studies curriculum," explained eighth-grade teacher Ms. Rosamond Lawson.

Science teacher Mr. Bret Johnsen points out that "Umm... it, um... sounds the same if you don't add the... um... Missouri part."

On this field trip, eighth-graders will get the full Midwestern experience. Students will be carpooled to and from Washington, Missouri, in an authentic Chevrolet minivan driven by an authentic Midwesterner. During their stay, they will learn agricultural techniques, how to drive a tractor, and how to avoid being chased in a cornfield by a crop duster.

In terms of food, students will be served Aunt Betty's Casserole, which consists of bacon, Velveeta cheese, bacon, and more Velveeta for garnish (angioplasties will be available free of charge at MUSC after the trip). Such fine souvenirs as John Deere hats, shirts, and undergarments are available for purchase at the local Tractor Supply Company.

The eighth grade faculty would like to remind students to leave any liberal filmmakers at home when packing (Mr. Michael Moore, that means you).

By Georgia Sevens

Due to complications in construction for the new School of the Arts campus, the entire SOA middle school will be relocated to a field up in McClellanville starting at the beginning of the next school year. Some tents will be set out, and maybe some trailers if possible, but no other facilities will be provided (however, students may

purchase their own outhouses).

Students are to keep in mind that if they see anything that is bigger than them and isn't human, they should not touch it. Also, any problems with grass stains, bug bites, mysterious odors, or other things that will be mentioned later are not the school's responsibility.

## Creative approach to graffiti:

### The "whiteboard wall"

By Wanna Awrner

SOA administration recently decided to crack down on rude comments, suggestions and gossip written all over the stalls of SOA bathrooms. Not only is graffiti a form of trash-talking and vandalism; it's also hard to take away. "Removing graffiti from bathroom stalls is one of the hard tasks a janitor has to perform," said SOA janitor Mr. Dawson.

"Graffiti on stalls was so bad, and punishment wasn't working," said assistant principal Mr. Bob Cook, to the point that we had to resort to plan W."

"Plan W" refers to a new

plan that school board officials devised as a way of dealing with this problem. In April, bathroom stalls will be walled with white dry-erase boards to prevent any permanent vandalism. Dry erase pens and erasers will be provided on the back of stall doors.

After the bathrooms are remodeled, students can graffiti all they want and it can easily be erased by anyone. "We are the guinea pig school for this new idea and sincerely hope it works," said Ms. Myrna Caldwell, SOA principal. See the results in an SOA bathroom near you!

**William Hunter**  
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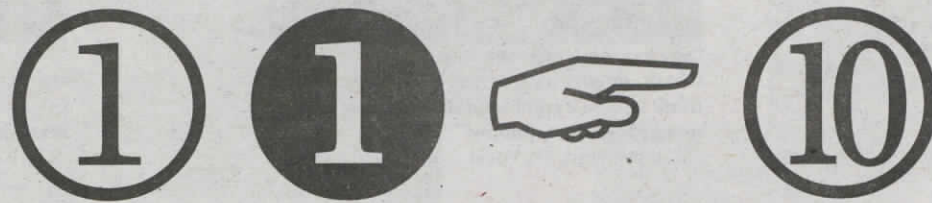
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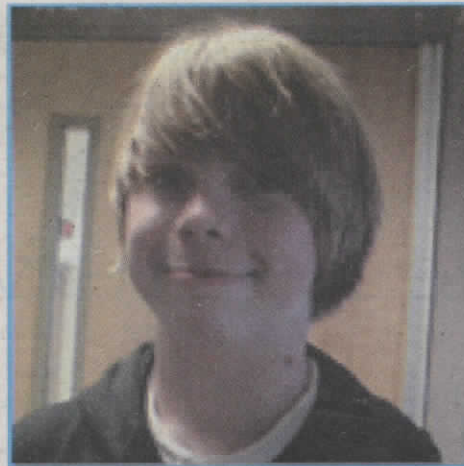
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"I'd go shopping. I'd buy clothes and perfume. And then I'd brag to my brother about it."  
- Isabelle Jur, 6<sup>th</sup>, Theatre



"She has more experience in the White House. Obama doesn't have as much experience, but I think he'd be a good candidate because he knows more about the economy."  
- Will Isaacson, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vocal



"*Junie B. Jones* by Barbara Park because the main character has a great personality and she's funny. I think my teacher recommended it. It's just funny what she goes through."  
- Chelsey Comyers, 8<sup>th</sup>, Dance



"*The Plague*. It's awful because it's really sad and it had no point. It rambles on and on."  
- Carly Snyder, 9<sup>th</sup>, Dance

## What are your feelings on the Theatre of the Absurd in post-World War I France?



"I would want the power to make more power."  
- Hannah Chilcote, 10<sup>th</sup>, Strings



"Power Rangers. Robot dinosaurs - need I say more?"  
- Chris Richardson, 11<sup>th</sup>, Theatre



"Some people need to not do it."  
- Carly Jones, 12<sup>th</sup>, Band



"*Goodnight Moon*. I just remember it with fondness. I think it's got a really good sound. A soft cadence when it's read to you."  
- Ms. Andi Awkerman, Video Production Teacher