



THE COLUMN



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Editor in Chief: Antonio Perez

VAN ARSDALE LIBRARY REDESIGN Written by: **Antonio Perez**



On January 5th, 2019, all of the schools in the Van Arsdale campus joined together for a good cause. Students from WHSAD, Brooklyn Prep., and Williamsburg Prep met to discuss the redesign of the V.A. library. The library as of now is outdated and has been in dire need of restoration. All the students proposals for what they wanted in a school library. Students then discussed with each other and offered valid and respectable criticism of their designs. This reflection is an essential part of any design proposal as all those involved get to each have a say in what choices will be made. This helps not only to please everyone but also to represent a wider audience in the design of the library.

Mr. Codio, WHSAD's Senior Architecture teacher, had this to say about the library redesign: "Students from all three schools came together to pitch in their ideas for the proposal. They looked at what the library looked like right now

and what it could possibly look like in the future, especially in terms of new technology. A big aspect of this project is the incorporation of all three schools into the entire design process. The library belongs to the all three schools and it is only fair that the redesign is conscious of that by including all three schools. It is as much of A&D's project as it is WP, and BP alike."

Chamonte Greenfield said this about the redesign: "The redesign was an amazing idea because it incorporated all three schools into a collaborative project to better the school. It was nice seeing the schools work together for the project, which is a new experience for many of us."



WHSAD senior, **Brandon Ortega**, writes, "The school library is dull, messy, and doesn't even look like a library. For that reason, students from each school in the building are working together to design a new library. I'm one of the students working on the project to renovate the library, and we met on Saturday to research other libraries so that we could come up with ideas for the design of the new library. Working on the project is an interesting experience because I rarely get to interact with the other schools in the building. We all had to work together to measure the library. After, we all presented the ideas we had for the new library. It was a productive meeting and there were many creative suggestions for the new library."



VAN ARSDALE CHEERLEADERS Written by: **Melina Jorge**



Interview with Ameina Als (Captain) & Kiyana Williams (Co-Captain)

• **When did you become a cheerleader and how did you find out about it?**

I became a cheerleader freshman year and I found out about it by seeing flyers and posters on the walls of school to join and tryout for the team,

• **Is cheerleading only for girls?**

The team is for everyone! It doesn't matter if you're a male or female if you feel that you have school spirit and want to showcase it during games then you are more than welcomed to join.

• **What made you want to be a cheerleader?**

I become a cheerleader because It is a great way to get to know different people around the school and be apart of something we all can get involved with and enjoy together.

• **What challenges or obstacles do you face as captain of the cheerleading team and how do you overcome them?**

A challenge I face is being able to prioritize. I am a senior and I have a busy schedule because I have to do school work, complete my college applications, and make up cheers. Having Kiyana as co-captain helps tremendously in keeping the balance because she is reliable and organized.

• **When you graduate, how do you want the team to remain the same?**

When I graduate I want the team to remain organized. Ameina and I worked hard to keep the team how it is now by talking to administrators, making sure practices are happening, and keeping track of the necessities so when I leave staying organized and consistent is all I ask for.

• **How can people join?**

Tryouts for the team begin in the ending of September or the beginning of October. Flyers and Posters are usually held all around the school so no one should miss them and remember ALL students are welcomed no matter gender or age.

• **What do the cheerleaders at VA do?**

The cheerleaders at VA cheer for all basketball games, we're working on being able to cheer at all sports games.

• **How are the cheers made?**

The cheers are made by the captain (Ameina). The members on the team and I give feedback and if any cheers need to be revised or changed we all help as a team to make it as best as can be.

WHY ANDRE 3000 IS ONE OF HIP HOPS MOST UNDERRATED G.O.A.T.S

Written by: **Silas Rodriguez**



If you were to go and ask people to list their greatest rappers of all time, they would say something along the lines of Biggie, Pac, Jay-z, Nas, or Eminem. Yet the one name I doubt you will ever hear is Andre 3000. Among other rappers, Andre is widely considered one of the best to do it, getting shout-outs from big names like Eminem and Kendrick Lamar. In case you don't know, Andre 3000 (Andre Benjamin) along with his high school friend Antwan Patton (Big Boi) made up the legendary rap duo known as Outkast, who in 12 years released 6 critically acclaimed albums winning multiple awards. In the 90's Andre and Big quickly grew their status as one of rap's most interesting new voices, using beats and sounds that the game had never experienced before while simultaneously putting Atlanta on the map in the midst of the East coast vs West coast rap feud. The biggest knock against Andre's GOAT argument has always been that he doesn't have his own traditional solo album away from Big and the Outkast label; therefore, he can't be compared to the other greats. Even Big Boi himself has several of his own albums. So why is it that Andre is always considered better of the two? "The Love Below" which is one half of a double LP he did as Outkast is the closest thing to a solo album we have from him. Even weirder is the fact he didn't even rap on that album. He was straight up singing. That decision had many people questioning what he was thinking. Understand while relatively common now, at the time rap had a stigma around it that every rapper had to be tough and that the genre only glorified violence and money. And so coming from that industry for Andre to say he was going to make an album where he sang about love, lust, and the status of relationships was questionable.

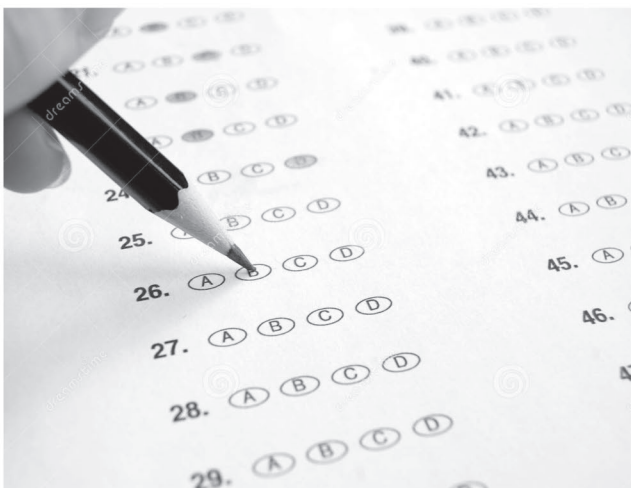
Even though he was always known for rapping about those topics in hits like "Ms. Jackson" and "Da Art of Storytelling," this was a drastic departure from the formula that made him popular. One song you've probably heard from the album without knowing is "Hey Ya!," which has been labeled as one of the most influential songs in hip hop history. He essentially changed the way people looked at rappers. In an interview with Hip Hop DX, regarding the creation of that song here's what Andre had to say about it: "As far as doing songs like Hey Ya I was completely terrified because it's even worse I'm coming from a rap world where everybody got their face frowned up and wanna be as tough as possible and you out there singing... even when I presented the song to L.A Reid (CEO of Epic Records) he said 'To be Honest I don't understand this song but it's exciting to me.' 'So he stood by it and I'm glad he did. But there are some nerves. I think you gotta have some nerves. I think if your'e too comfortable with things you ain't really pushing nothing. You gotta stretch out.'" Nowadays it's considered common to see big names like Drake have some of their biggest hits be love songs, which in my opinion started with Andre letting people know that rappers weren't just 2 dimensional artists and that they can also have range in topics.

Another fact about Andre is that on "The Love Below" Andre is given sole writing credits to 12 of the albums 20 songs. Additionally, he is also credited with composing, electric and acoustic guitar, keyboards, producer, programming, tenor saxophone, soloist, and both lead and background vocals. Not many artists can say that about their music. And no disrespect to his partner Big Boi as he himself is a legend, but Andre proved that rap was more than what it was being labeled while he helped create 5 genre defining albums that pushed the boundaries of what an artist could be. This ability to do so is what, in my opinion, separates names like Dr. Dre, Andre 3000, and Eminem from the plethora of other rappers. Those names are just a few who helped shape the genre step by step by pushing the limits of music and leaving their own signature flow for future artists to admire. André doesn't seem to get enough credit for helping revolutionize modern RnB and detouring from the norms of rap. Everything from his style and flow is unlike any other artist in recent memory. It's rare that we get an artist who is willing to step outside their comfort zone to bring us something new and that alone should solidify his spot among the greats.

Q & A with E & A

Written by: **Errin Mickels & Ariana Lowery**

Q & A with E & A is an exclusive advice segment for the newspaper written by students, for students. Have any questions or concerns regarding school or your future? If yes, see juniors Ariana Lowery and Errin Mickels to submit your questions.



Q: How do I get on honor roll and maintain a high average?

A: Every student has a different schedule. Some may have classes above their grade level or classes that require a regents exam or an AP exam. Regardless of the case, making the honor roll is always feasible. Just follow these simple instructions. Step #1: Plan out your day. Whether it's on the train ride home or at home, make a plan of what homework you have to do for the week or scheduling the hobbies you must work around so you're able to stay organized. Step #2: Pay attention in class. Slacking off in class might be fun, but when you see your report card and you realize your grades are dropping, don't wonder why. What is taught in class is what is on the classwork, which is what is on the homework, which is what is on the test. Paying attention will pay off in the long run. Step #3: Keep track of your grades. Constantly keep up with PupilPath because you'll be able to see what you're missing, what you need to improve on, and your overall progress. With these simple steps you will make it to the gates of success, and possibly even honor roll.

Q: How do I get higher grades on my tests?

A: Every marking period there are 2 tests, so you have to make them count because they can honestly make or break your grade. First and foremost, ask your teacher what the test is based on. This way your able to make a study guide with all of those topics included. Now that you have your study material, ask your teacher to review with you during their office hours, whether that's during your lunch period or after school, because they made the test so they know what you need to study. Lastly, and here is the most helpful tip, don't study last minute. Making the time to review the test and making sure you fully understand each topic will make all of the difference than studying the day before the exam.

STUDENT PROFILES

Written by: **Maya Ortiz & Mayra Gomez**

LEIS BARTHEL - CLASS OF 2022



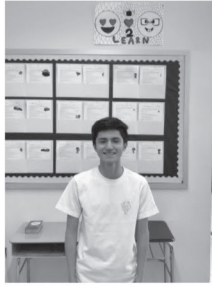
Leis believes that in order to succeed you have to truly focus on your academics. If everyone were to pay attention to the right things and keep the talking outside of the classroom, achieving good grades would be easier for all. Doing well academically is not only receiving excellent grades but also understanding the topics in each subject.

HAILEY LOPEZ - CLASS OF 2021



Hailey Lopez, thinks she was selected as student of the month because of her output and energy given in school. She thinks she is very great when it comes to helping others and very handy in giving advice to others, whether it is educational or personal. She is committed to her school work since it is the only thing that can give her the future she has always wanted.

DIEGO SERNADAS - CLASS OF 2020



He thinks that he has had a great experience in this school while still growing as a person. He was able to put his games aside and definitely focus on his work since this is one of his most important years in his journey of high school. He advises for others to put time and effort into their work because once it's done, there's no going back. Distractions can still be there, but the chance to improve your school work may not always be there.

TYASIA BROOKS - CLASS OF 2019



Tyasia said she loves this school because it has a lot of great opportunities and even if you were to fall off, they give you a lot of chances to rebuild. Teachers have seen her at her lowest moments and have seen her grow as a person despite every negative thing in life. Although her grades may not be the best she keeps going and she thinks many people have noticed her effort.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Written by: **Antonio Perez**

Ms. Como - Sophomore Global History Teacher



Q: Last year was your first year in WHSAD, what did you learn last year that has impacted the way you taught this year?

A: Last year I learned a lot through teaching students, sometimes even the hard way. The biggest take away for me personally, was how students learned in certain environments and what methods of teaching were the most efficient in maintaining students' focus. Certain students flourish in certain conditions; whereas, others may need assistance in attaining what is required of them, finding a balance in methods is necessary for ensuring that no students are left behind and that all students in the classroom can learn effectively and stay focused and on the same page.

Q: If you weren't teaching what would you be doing?

A: I've always had an interest in cooking, so if I wasn't teaching, I would be pursuing my career as a chef. I would most likely be enrolled in a culinary school, which would allow me to achieve my passion for cooking.

Q: Since you are a global history teacher, what is your favorite time period and why?

A: If I were to choose my favorite time period, it would most definitely be the years within the Cold War. The Cold War is a very densely packed time period with so much occurring throughout the world at the time. To also think that many people at the time, such as my parents, lived in constant fear of nuclear annihilation is something very scary to think about, to say the least. Lastly, it's definitely interesting to see how the events that occurred during the Cold War somewhat mirror what is occurring in today's worldwide political climate, and serves as a reminder that history has a tendency to repeat itself.

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Thank you Administration for allowing students to have the opportunity to create a paper and have a voice.

Thank you Teachers and students alike for giving ***The Column*** a chance to flourish and thrive.

COMING SOON

- FEBRUARY 5th: Lunar New Year (Schools Closed)
- FEBRUARY 13th: Progress Reports
- FEBRUARY 18th—22nd: Midwinter Recess (Schools Closed)

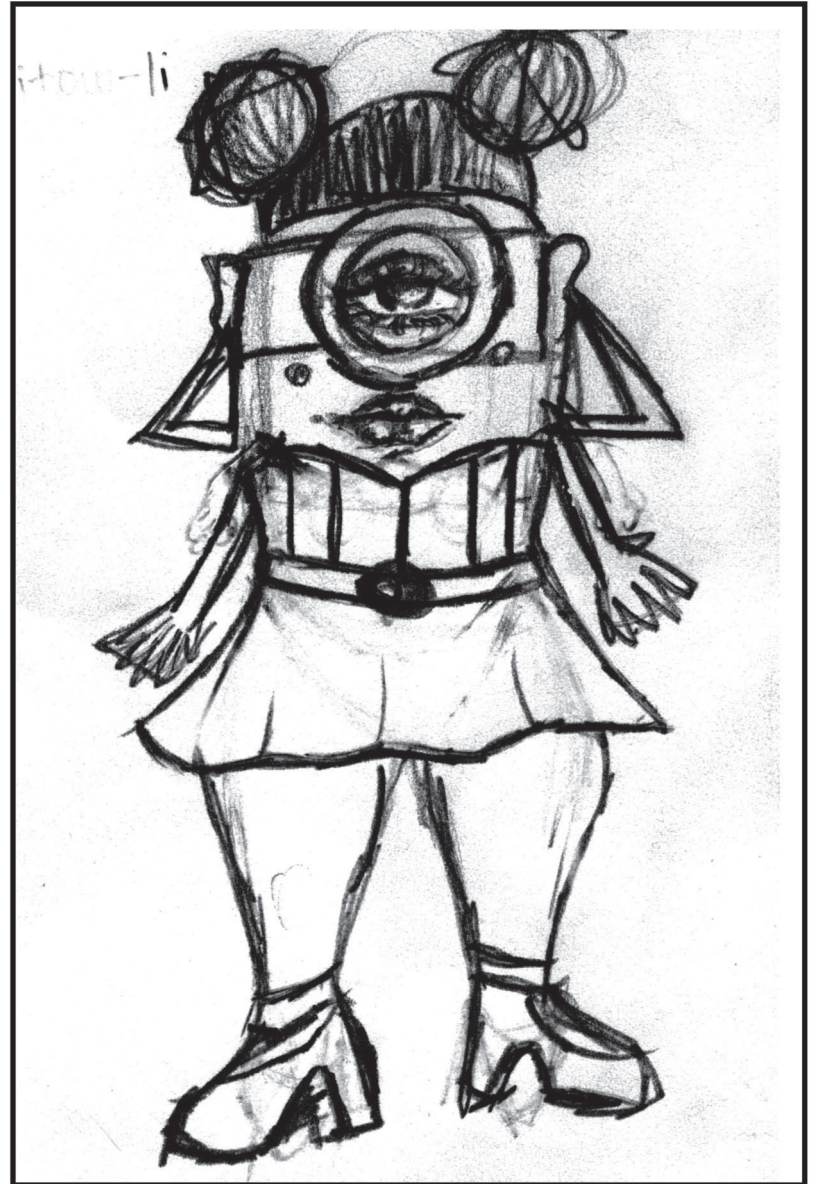
STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

Kemiah Frazier

I have a dream

I have a dream to let the birds fly when their nests are small
So blacks and whites don't think each other are wrong
I have a dream for blacks and whites to gather together to stop
police brutality before it turns into war
So we can form a big formation knowing we are not wrong
I have a dream for Brownsville to stand together to show the police
we aren't the enemy
I have a dream to stand hand in hand because we are strong
I have a dream that everyday won't turn into a war
that we can live the dream that Martin Luther King saw
My brother has open wounds and scars for taking two steps forward
to reach the stars
Blood, sweat, and tears but never question how much farther to go
to taste true freedom and how our taste buds overflow with the taste
of that sweet loaf
If I don't I'll make sure that my brothers will
Martin Luther King is still feeding me wisdom and I'm going to keep
eating forever because my tummy never getting filled
I have a dream, he had a dream, we have a dream.
My country just had a black President; I hope you see what the
dream means

"I have a dream" **Kemiah Frazier**



"Chun-Minion" **Benito Montalvo II**

"Adventures Of Wormie" **Jordan Gonzalez**



"Michelle Wazowski" **Benito Montalvo II**

