



The Pershing Post

Logo by Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

"For the students. by the students"

April 2019

School Chancellor Announces: School will be All Year Long! - Written by Yu Chen Lin (Class 804)

It has just been announced by Richard Carranza, the chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, that school will be all year round! For what reason, I will tell you in a second, but many protests have started ever since he tweeted this out on his official Twitter account. The first protest started in City Hall, with almost 525,000 people - standing at the entrance, screaming as hard as they could to achieve their goal of having their old school system back.

One reason he decided that school should be all year round was because he believes that with this new system, students will be able to better remember things they've learned throughout the school days. According to a research study done by the state officials, many student forget what they have learned after having summer break. However, many people still argue that there is not enough time in the year for such a long break. The solution to this is to have the break time be broken down and place it in between school days. The benefit would be that the breaks would be more often, but a bit shorter in length. Would you rather have a long break, but only a few times a year, or short breaks more often throughout the school year? The state officials have decided for us that it would be better to have shorter breaks more often.

The second reason was because during school time, kids are much more stressed out if there is

homework during two months of summer break. According to a research study done in Manhattan, many students have too much stress doing homework given by the teachers while also trying to enjoy their vacation. Some predict that on shorter breaks, the teachers will not give homework at all. Some may ask, "Does that mean teachers will focus on teaching rather than giving homework to practice independently?" Well no, that means more homework every single day! It will take

**TURN TO PAGE 2 TO
SEE HOW YOU CAN
GET INVOLVED IN
THE NEXT PROTEST
TO SAVE OUR
SUMMER BREAK!**

ATTENTION ALL PERSHING STAFF!

Have you been enjoying the Pershing Post this year?
Do you appreciate the hard work that the Newspaper Team puts in each month?

IF SO - HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US!

**Stop by our Pershing
Clothing Boutique on
Tuesday, April 2nd!**

**Where: Room 213
When: 2:45PM - 3:15PM**

Shop children's brands, such as Nautica and Calvin Klein, and classroom posters - at only \$5 per item!

(All proceeds will go towards the Newspaper Team's trip to the MSNBC studios to learn tips of the trade from professional journalists!)

Table of Contents

Page..

- 1.. Front Page
- 2.. Staff Interviews
- 3.. Pershing Events
- 4.. Pershing Bulletin

- 5.. Pershing Bulletin
- 6.. Activities
- 7.. K-Pop Article
- 8.. Monthly Comic

Teacher of the Month - Mrs. Abraham

By: Han Zhang (Class 801)

Mrs. Abraham teaches 8th grade science. This is her 5th year teaching at John J Pershing. She has been chosen for the Teacher of the Month for the month of April. Here is an interview conducted by our reporter, Han Zhang.

How did you become a teacher?

Answer: After I finished college, I wasn't sure what career to pursue. And when my fiancé at the time suggested teaching, I laughed and said "Me? Teacher? No way!" and here I am today. Teaching can be one of the most rewarding jobs! The few "thank yous" I get at the end of the year make it all worth it.

What motivated you to teach science?

Answer: My two favorite subjects in school were math and science. However, since I can't explain how to solve math problems to anyone, I decided to go with science. I have always loved science, biology and physics specifically. The human body fascinates me in how it is constructed and how it functions. It's an amazing feeling to be able to fulfill some of the students' curiosity in the subject.

What is the greatest challenge about teaching and why?

Answer: The greatest challenge about teaching is finding the time to reach out to all of my students that need help. Teachers usually only have one school year with students and it isn't always enough time to make a meaningful impact.

How do you encourage class participation?

Answer: Not all students participate the same way. Some like to answer questions, others like to ask the questions, while a large population are just shy. It is important to set expectations from day one and to always encourage students to share their thoughts and ideas with each other and myself. I also like to make connections between what we do in class to the students' lives, so it's easier for them to relate and reflect.

How would you deal with a student who regularly misses school?

Answer: I try to make phone calls to check on them as much as I can. When they come back to school, I always try to meet with them during my lunch period or after school to catch them up with whatever they missed.

What do you find most frustrating about teaching?

Answer: Teachers are tied up to certain curriculums that prevent us from exploring a variety of topics. Also, there isn't enough time in the day to finish all the work that we need to do.

What do you like most about teaching?

Answer: Teaching is like planting a seed and watching it grow. I love sharing my students' journey as they grow academically, as well as socially.

Staff Member of the Month - Ms. Kathy

By: Adayani Magdaleno (Class 801)



As we all know John J. "As a student, I did very Pershing is filled with many well and worked very hard amazing teachers, deans and to achieve good grades." school aids. During lunch, Now that she works here in you may see a kind woman Pershing she says, "I enjoy with curly blonde hair. Her coming to work everyday, name is Ms. Kathy and she working with my fellow is one of the best lunch aids school aids, staff, faculty, and here is why! She's students, and especially our always smiling and making principal, Mr. Dempster. sure that us students are We are like family towards getting what we want for each one another. I've been lunch. She is always asking in John J. Pershing Middle kids how their day was, and School for 18 years and I she's always showing a can honestly say that I have great positive attitude. truly enjoyed being part of Kathy was raised "in the the Pershing family. I am greatest borough" (quoted truly blessed." To close this from Kathy), Brooklyn, off, Ms. Kathy would like to New York. She has lived say "Always believe in here all her life. "I had a yourself, dream big; stay wonderful childhood with focused and you can loving and caring parents, accomplish anything in grandparents and family." life." So next time you see This definitely explains why Ms. Kathy, make sure you she is such a ray of sunshine say hi to her, as she is during lunch. Ms. Kathy honestly the mother of John attended St. Ephrem's J. Pershing. It was an honor Elementary School and then writing about such a went on to St. John Villa beautiful woman :). Academy High School.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE
NEXT SCHOOL PROTEST TO NOT
HAVE SCHOOL ALL YEAR:**

APRIL FOOLS!!!

THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS JUNE 26, 2019! :)

John J. Pershing's Water Line is Contaminated - Reminiscent of Flint, Michigan?

By: Walin Wasee (Class 703)

There are many things disposable plastic to this very day. Fast that the students of bottles.” Now forward to 2019...where Pershing are not aware of immediately that raises in New Jersey, 16 homes – and let’s be glad some red flags to me. were found to have because the Newspaper Why does drinking water elevated levels of lead in Team discovered help eliminate waste? the water. It was soon something absolutely Unless we are drinking found by water experts, infuriating! waste. OVIVO, that the Remember when we got Back in 2014, Flint contaminated water came the new water fountain on Michigan experienced a from the water line in the first floor back in crisis. They're water line Michigan. 2017? It looked high tech, was switched by the city Now where do you but I always felt that there and it soon became think we get our water in was something peculiar contaminated. The water NY? That’s right. New about it. On the top right was causing skin rashes, Jersey! I’d be careful side, it says, "Helped hair loss and itchy skin. drinking the water from eliminate waste from Some people still suffer the school’s water fountain if I were you!



(didn't see how you can help!) on this modern epidemic some legitimate research Please feel free to do harm to many Americans. real issue that is causing the Flint water crisis is a perfectly okay to drink, fine! (Though our water is perfectly water source is perfectly April Fool's! Pershing's

State Exams - Tips and Tricks

By: Angela Chen (Class 820)

The various state exams are coming up in the next few weeks! These are tests that can help determine if you are able to move on to the next grade – so take them seriously! For instance, if you get a 2 and below you might not pass, while if you get a 2 and above you will pass. So, I am here to give you some tips to do a good job on these exams so that you can show off everything you've learned this year!

Some tips you should know and follow:

1. Always copy your notes when the teacher tells you to – these are skills that you will need to do well on the exam.
2. Before an exam, some teachers might give you a review packet, always look over the review packet for important details!
3. Don’t change your normal routine, because if you change, you might not get used to it and can get stressed out on the day of a big exam
4. Eat a healthy breakfast that will hold you over for a few hours.
5. Do not study the night before one of the state exams – just relax and make sure you have everything prepared for the next day.

On a Race Against Time, Life During Passing

By: Anonymous

The bell just rang and the race against time has begun. I have to go from the first floor to the fifth floor. I only have 3 minutes and over 100 steps of stairs. My least favorite part of passing is the students that think running to class will get them there on time. They are the worst, mainly because they are a ruckus and they are the reason why everyone else is late to class. The teachers also get affected by this. They end up getting shoved around and sadly get pushed into students. Also, the kids that go up and down the wrong staircases make it so much harder for everyone else.

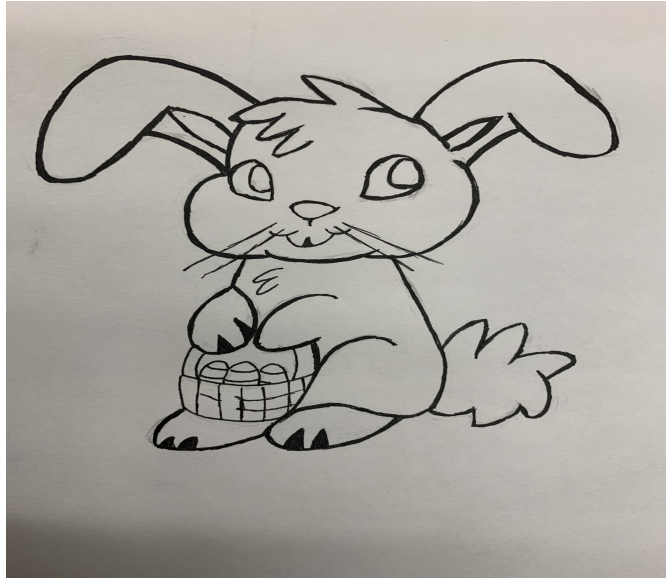
It's just making me more late and annoying others that are being shoved in this small space. The stairs are crowded and going up is so tiring. I’m exhausted by the third floor, but keep on walking. But I made it. I made it on time and out of breath. The only problem is that there are still students lingering in the classroom, so I’m stuck outside waiting for them to leave. Was it even worth me rushing? I’ll never know. I’m sure it’ll just get worse in high school with bigger students and smaller hallways, though!

Don't Forget!

Spring Break begins Friday, April 19, 2019 and we return to school on Monday, April 29, 2019!

The History of Easter

By: Qian Qian Lin and Jia Xin Li (Class 810)



复活节是基督教节日。我们庆祝复活节是因为耶稣基督从死里复活了。复活节前的星期五称为耶稣受难日。这是耶稣在加略山十字架钉在十字架上的那一天。复活节是基督徒最重要的一天。复活节的历史：在基督教信仰中，耶稣基督是上帝的儿子，他作为一个人来到地球上生活。在33岁左右，耶稣在以色列成名，并获得了许多追随者。耶路撒冷的领袖不喜欢耶稣，因为他声称自己是上帝的儿子。他们抓住耶稣并将他带到当地的罗马领袖庞蒂乌斯彼拉多。彼拉多无法发现耶稣做错了什么。然而，他最终允许耶稣被钉在十字架上。今天，在美国仍然有很多基督徒庆祝复活节。人们在复活节期间演奏复活节彩。复活节的意义是耶稣的诞生。

Early Morning Ponders (A Poem)

Artwork and Poem By: Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

This thriving world is amazing, I think,
While looking at flowers who are at the brink
Of a hill in a town at the far end of a countryside

I'm standing quietly and with no words,
Sat down peacefully and stared at the birds
Who are scavenging and searching for food with their eyes

These little things curiously puts up with
The fact that there will not be any monolith
Or any other type of way to remind people that they were alive.

I couldn't have done that even if I tried.

I turn my head to gaze at the town
Filled with bustling people all around
And then, from them, heard lies, bursting at the seams

The lies that they won't leave and be gone
The lies that they will believe, and stay strong
The lies that seem all too easy to just break out and scream

The lies that gradually grow and grow
The lies that will never ever slow
The lies of these disgusting mouths rolling down in streams

The lies that shoot into my eyes in large, great, infinite gleams

I stood back up and walked away
With all these thoughts that left me frayed
The shattered pieces of a once placid, tranquil society

Bored? Need Some Time to Relax?

Here's Some Productive Ways to Pass the Time

By: Eric Lin (Class 801)

Take a bubble bath.

Why not? Let yourself relax!

Cook up a meal!

Scour your kitchen! Use the ingredients you have to make a delicious and healthy meal.

Look up some memes.

They're funny and entertaining!

Take a power nap.

There are many benefits to naps - no matter what age you are. Catch up on your z's!

Listen to music.

Put on Pharrell's "Happy" and feel happy!

Look through old family photos or yearbooks.

Fondly remember some of your favorite memories.

Learn a new skill.

Learn a new language online, design an app or do some research about your favorite subject.

Start organizing your room.

Start with something small - like a closet - so you won't be intimidated. Get rid of things you no longer need!

Organize the apps on your phone.

Delete any you haven't used in the past four months. Make space for some newer and more useful ones.

Play some games.

Spend time with your family or friends over a fun board game.

**A Healthy Spring Recipe -
Avocado Toast**

By: Shuhana Uddin (Class 801)

Avocado Toast:

Ingredients:

2 pieces of bread
Avocado
Salt and pepper
One egg (optional)
Butter

Procedure:

- 1. In a saucepan, place one piece of butter and let it sizzle.**
- 2. Place your toast on the saucepan for 2-3 minutes on each side;**
- 3. Once on the stove, begin to smash your avocado and add the salt and pepper.**
- 4. When your bread is finally toasted, begin to add your eggs to the saucepan (if needed, add more butter to your pan).**
- 5. Begin to assemble when finished! Spread your avocado on your toast and then place your egg.**



Movies Coming Out in April

By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

Disneynature's Penguins

April 17, 2019

An Adélie penguin, Steven, is going on an extraordinary journey with his fellow teammates to build their own habitat. Throughout the movie, he also struggles to find his own life partner to begin creating his own family.



Avengers: Endgame

April 26, 2019

Tony Stark is lacking the supply of oxygen in space, so he contacts Pepper Potts for help. When the team members of the Avengers fade away into the air, it's time for Thor, Black Widow, Captain America, and Bruce Banner to find the missing allies.



Blast from the Past - Childhood Cartoons

By: Amanda Ruan (Class 801)

When you were a child, what Looney Tunes is an American shows did you watch to pass the animated show by Warner Bros. time? There are many childhood During its air time, animation was cartoons that exist, but when I just starting to become popular. It think about childhood cartoons was also very famous in movie that I know and enjoy, I think of theaters during the 1900s-1930s, Doraemon and Looney Tunes. along with Merrie Melodies. The Doraemon started as a Japanese amazing thing is that these shows manga series and was eventually are still popular with young adapted into an anime series and children today! media franchise. It is known for Cartoons seem to be timeless the big blue character named to many, and those from our "Doraemon," and each episode is childhood can still bring joy to based on one adventure and leads children and adults alike! to a lesson learned for Doraemon.

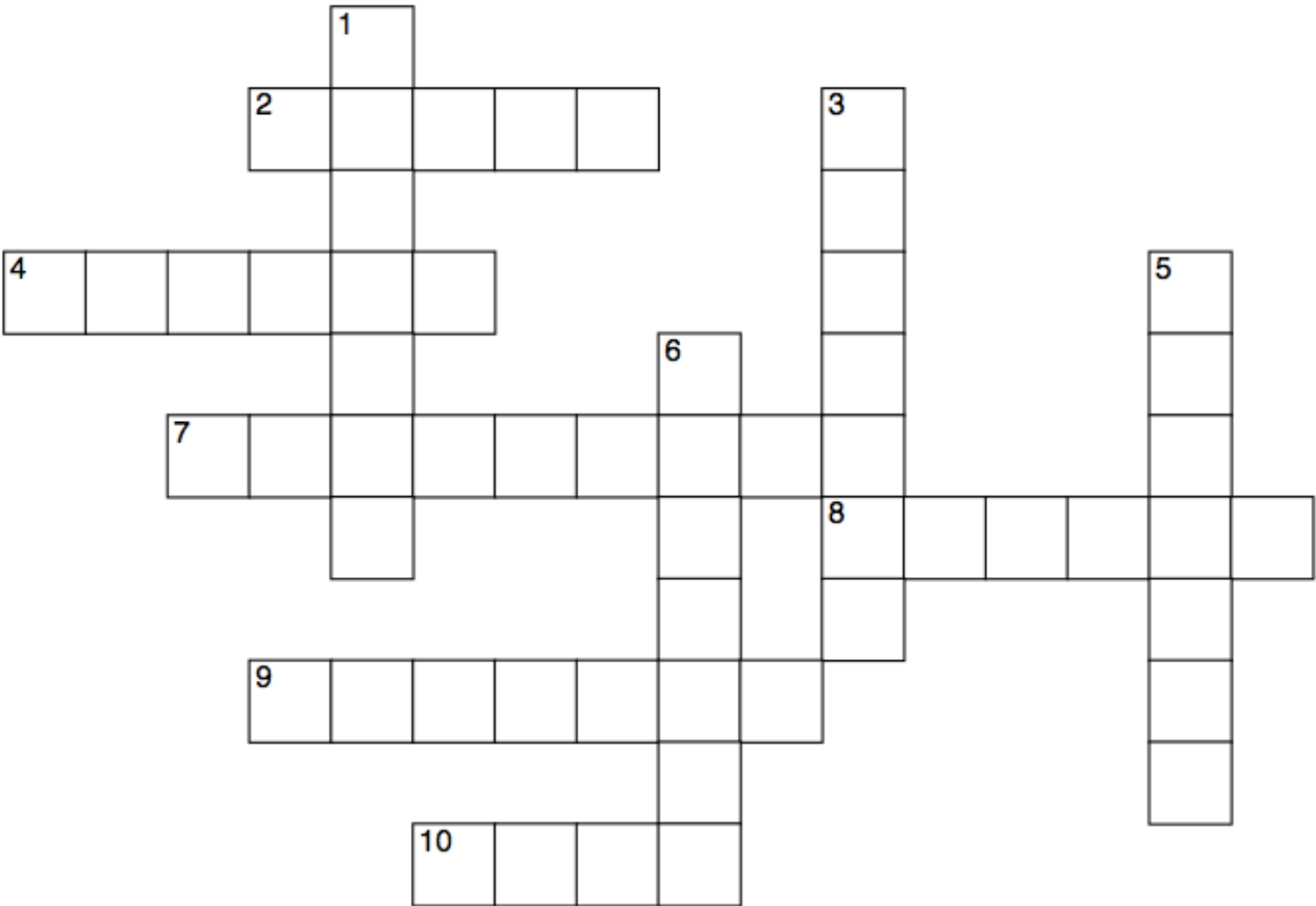
Sudoku

The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

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

Easter Crossword

By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)



Across

- 2. A substance used to design Easter eggs
- 4. One of the four seasons that begins in March
- 7. A sweet treat made from cocoa beans
- 8. The adult version of a bunny
- 9. An animal that shows up on Easter
- 10. Something you color and design as an Easter tradition

Down

- 1. Happens when it rains
- 3. Type of plant
- 5. The day of festivities
- 6. Something used to carry Easter eggs

The Cruelty Behind K-Pop Groups/Idols

By: Janine Liu and Jessica Qiu (Class 804)

Many people are huge fans of K-pop (Korean pop music), and others despise them due to different cultures and the feminine facade they have. However, life as a K-pop star is not as glam as it looks on the surface for these celebrities. On the journey to achieve their dreams, there are many unimaginable obstacles.

To become an idol or sensation, people have to first become a trainee and debut their music. They need to audition and compete against millions of people to get into a company, and it does not guarantee success. The company, after selecting 1 or 2 from the thousands, will alter and mold them into an image they want. This can include plastic surgery and countless hours of practices and lessons. These procedures don't come free. Trainees usually work part time to pay back the company and sacrifice their personal lives to fight for the slim chance of debuting their music. Most companies only debut a group every few years, routinely and in boy- girl order. If a trainee misses the closest chance to debut, they need to wait for another cycle and by that time, they will be considered too old to be an idol. Even if they do get the chance to debut, they can easily be kicked out of the competition if they make one small "mistake" and break the rules that the society has set on them.

When debuting into a group or an idol, K-pop groups or idols get a lot of support from their fans. However, extreme/sasaeng fans take their fandom to the next level. Extreme fans are willing to do anything to get near their favorite idol. They even stalk them, write them love letters with disturbing messages, and try to get any romantic contact with them. It could creep out idols and make



them fear for their own safety. For example, Suga (Min Yoongi) from BTS almost got kissed by an extreme fan once. However, the security guard came and got the fan away to avoid any uncomfortable contact to Yoongi. On the other hand, there are haters or anti-fans, too. Some even put cameras in hotels and cars, or hack the idols' personal accounts. The most popular group can have the most haters. Anti-fans can threaten them with death if they decided to date anyone in the public eye. This could stress out idols and put them in danger. Companies will see this message and will take action on these anti-fans. However, even if most of the threatening messages are not true and companies take action, these idols will be constantly anxious and feel pressured.

Groups that were debuted in small companies usually do not have immediate fame because fans mostly focus on the popular companies such as Sm entertainment, Jyp entertainment, Yg entertainment, and companies with the most famous groups. Groups who were in small companies need to compete against popular groups in the popular companies to maintain their popularity and not be disbanded. Some say the third generation girl group, such as

Apink, Sistar and Girl's Day all have memorable songs, but don't have a large fan base so they are not as popular as they could be. Many groups will try to stand out by performing bizarre or childish songs and try to be the first on trends. Around the time of their debut, the 2nd generation, Snsd, Kara and 2ne1 were at the peak of their career. Following along the 3rd generation were new 4th generation groups such as Twice. In addition, the idols often overwork themselves in order to earn their place in the industry and keep the popularity up. This could include extreme dieting to fit the standard of an idol (which could actually cause physical harm to the members). They also feel the need to maintain their image and sometimes misfortune happens, such as stage accidents or neglect of health. If members in a group overwork themselves too much, they may pass out on the stage during a performance or practice.

Even if groups are successful, trouble still lurks. Tara and Miss A are two groups that could have been more successful than other groups but had controversy within their own group. These examples show how even the tiniest problems can kill a group. Tara, back before rumors first started, had one of the most promising futures, perhaps even more than

the legendary girl group, SNSD. However, when a rumor that one of the members was being bullied spread, netizens chose to ignore evidence of proving that no bullying had been happening. Thus, even though the group did not disband, they received an even worse fate - being outcasted and forgotten/ridiculed by fans. Recently, the group was able to regain their innocence and popularity when threatening messages to one of the members leaked to the public. It had been unfair to the girls, and even though they finally gained the respect back from fans, the damage cannot be undone. Miss A, a group from JYP, had a similar controversy where one member had more fame than the others. Although for the most part, they are all successful, fans are separated and unevenly dispersed. During stage performances, fans chant for one member, Suzy, more than the rest, and other member have been claimed to have hostile feelings towards her.

Besides the statements claimed above, many other shocking facts still remain. In regards to the K-pop industry, idols are merely viewed as an item companies use to make money. Nowadays, competitions are fierce and some companies, such as CJ (mnet/mama) have control over many idols' careers. Idols are looked down upon by foreigners, and even other Koreans themselves. Being an idol is not an easy journey but for the few that make it big, the fame and money may be worth all of these dark demons that lurk behind the scenes.

APRIL FOOLS

(THIS IS A COMIC)



It's April fools



Did you expected more?

Nope, that's the End. NO Plot-twist, NO Punchline.