

SMArticles

December 5th, 2014

Science and Mathematics Academy

Volume I, Issue 9

Snow Days' Effect on School Courses

By: Cassie (Freshman)

Winter in Maryland is known for its unreliable weather. This means that schools could be closed or delayed on any given day. For most students, these are relaxing and joy-filled days. Unfortunately for you and your fellow SMA students, these days can be stressful. The advanced classes that we are all taking require time, planning, and dedication. Luckily, we've all survived so far, so we must have at least a smidgen of these qualities, right?

So when that peaceful snow day everyone else gets comes rolling around, we're trapped up to our noses in homework and classwork. Listed below are some tips from colleges and other students on how to pass a day of school without actually going (it doesn't literally translate to 'you can skip school').

- Avoid procrastination, manage the work load and add breaks
- Email teachers to get classwork and lesson for that day
- Get a hold of a friend to study together, although it may be hard in immobile weather
- Check edline and email for updates in class schedules

Hopefully not too many days like this visit us during the hectic school year. When they do, beg Mother Nature to aim for the weekend. Enjoy those snow days with a grain of salt.

Which Test to Take for College Entrances?

By: Nathan (Junior)

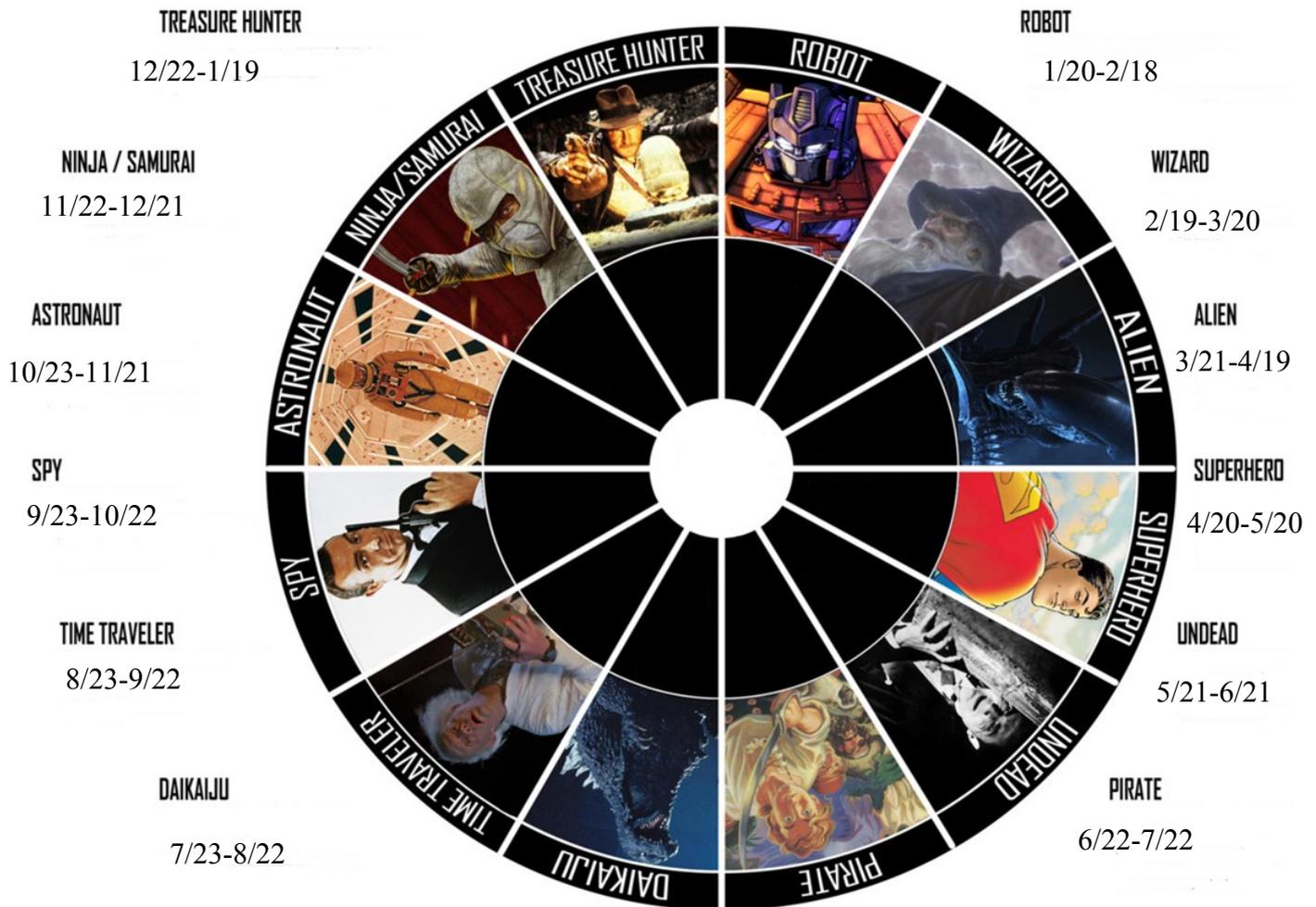
As a high school student, many things may be on your mind. Depending on how far along you are, these can range from not-so-important, to very important to your future. Considering high school is meant to prepare you for college or the real world, it is good to be thinking about your future. As a junior, many of my friends are now focusing on college scouting to find out what college is right for them. In fact, it's

Many factors can determine your chances to get into college. According to the University of Maryland website, GPA and SAT/ACT scores are very important. GPA seems to be self-explanatory in how it is important, however many people do not consider the importance of the SAT's and ACT's. It seems that SAT scores get most, if not all, of the attention, but ACT scores can be just as important. Colleges can look at both if you wish them to. The ACT differs mainly from the SAT in that it includes science in its testing criteria, which could give you an edge. If you have the means to do so, try to take both tests. Another frequently asked question is how many times the SAT's and ACT's can be taken. The truth is, they can be taken as many times as you want. However keep in mind that each time you take it, it will cost money and these fees can quickly add up. The good thing about these tests is that each section is treated as a different test, and the best score from each section may be presented to colleges, depending on the college. For example, if the first time you take the SAT's you get a 670 on reading and a 760 on math, but the second time you get a 690 on math and a 720 on reading, colleges will be presented from the best score of each category, a 760 in math and a 720 in reading. This may lead to the idea that the more times you take the test, the better. According to collegeboard.com however, after more than about 4 attempts at a single test, the college may seem to think that is "weird". Do note, some colleges require you to send all your scores and so they will see all the attempts and different scores you have received.

In conclusion, both tests are important to take, and utilize the best-score aspect to your advantage by taking the tests at least twice. Good scores on your tests do not mean you will get into your dream college though, keep your GPA up and show your teachers your good attitudes and work ethic. It will all pay off graduation year.

The Geek Horoscope

By: Jeremy (Senior)



Robot:

Heaven knows what kinds of things are going to happen you today. All I'm able to tell you is that it's going to be hectic and possibly traumatic. It's hard though because that could just be what's on television, and not what's going to happen to you. It's a hard life being an astrologer and trying to see exactly what's going to happen to YOU. Specifically you. Sorry.

Wizard:

Charity begins at home. So when you get home remember to give something to your loved one that is unexpected and rude. When questioned you can be armed with the ready response "Charity begins at home..." and so on.

Alien:

Romance is in the air today, just over the north of France. If you don't happen to be near the north of France then chances are you're going to strike out again throughout this week. However, wind directions can vary as much as the accuracy of these horoscopes, so don't panic yet!

Superhero:

You set your sights too high, it's time to lower them in order to find true love. Be aware that marrying your own pets is not allowed in most countries.

Undead:

Fire, brimstone and the devil himself - none of these will get in your way as you chase your way through Beelzebub's lair in order to land yourself the prize catch you aim for. One of the problems with getting your own way with love is that sometimes you have to be a bit evil. Thing is - you're a natural, that's all.

Pirate:

Significant other, or S.O., is a fairly disturbing way to refer to a loved one. Why not call them "that thing I know" or "unstranger".

Daikaiju:

Cheating is going to occur within the next day, although it is unsure who is at fault. It could, actually, just be in a game of cards or monopoly.

Time Traveler:

Love is a wonderful thing that can truly change your life for the better. However, the chances of this happening to you anytime before lunch tomorrow are so remote that you might as well quit pretending that you're well liked, go home and eat ice-cream until your brain freezes. Really living up to your name there, Virgo

Spy:

The simple things in life will return to haunt you this week as you begin to mourn your unhappiness and take it out on others. Alienating yourself from your friends and family will harm your chances of them wanting to help you in your quest for happiness. And totally stuff up your chances of getting anything good as a birthday present. Think of the presents - it may help you get through their constant grinding regarding your relationship.

Astronaut:

Crazy people have been known to fantasize about people out of their league before committing heinous acts. Make sure that if you're going to fantasize that it's about someone who is as desperate as you before committing those heinous acts.

Ninja/Samurai:

True Love is only ever one step away. But then so is it's ever present buddies, Abject Failure and Humiliation. You may start to wonder this week why True Love chooses to keep such rotten company.

Treasure Hunter:

Robots tend to have more luck than you at finding love. This week will see no alteration of that sad fact, however, it is possible that a robot may fall in love with you.

Are Smartphones Changing our Brains?**By: Sierra (Freshman)**

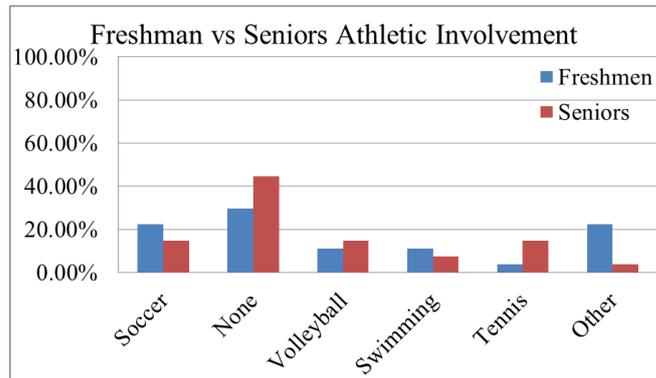
In our generation, it's hard to imagine a world without readily accessible technology; namely, smartphones. We can text and call, use the internet, play games, watch movies, and type documents all on a device that fits within the palm of our hand. We are very quick to name all the positive aspects of having access to things like smartphones, but rarely do we stop to wonder how constantly technology use affects our brain. A recent study published by Arko Ghosh, from the University of Zürich, in the journal *Current Biology*, provides evidence supporting that frequent technology use is changing our brains in ways we never imagined.

The study shows that the use of technology actually increases brain activity and due to frequent use of thumbs and fingertips on digital screens, the brain develops a heightened sensory representation of the thumbs and fingertips. Additionally, researchers found that the amount of activity in the brain was directly proportional to the intensity of smartphone use (Ghosh 2015). As of now, it is unclear if the new findings are positive or negative, but the subject is definitely interesting and one to keep in mind when using your smartphone. Ultimately, the decision is for the user to make. Next time you pick up your smartphone, ask yourself: What is going on in my brain?

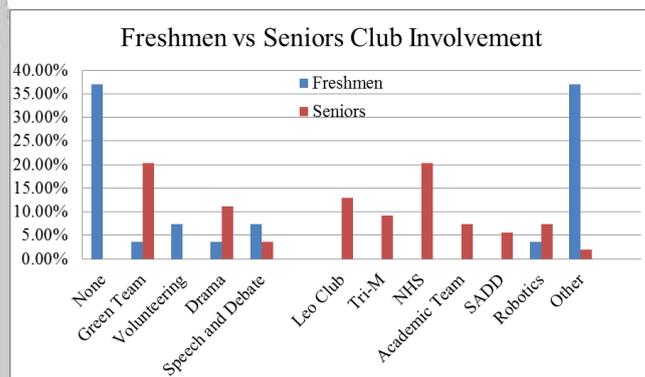
Freshman v. Senior Survey

By: Cassie (Freshman)

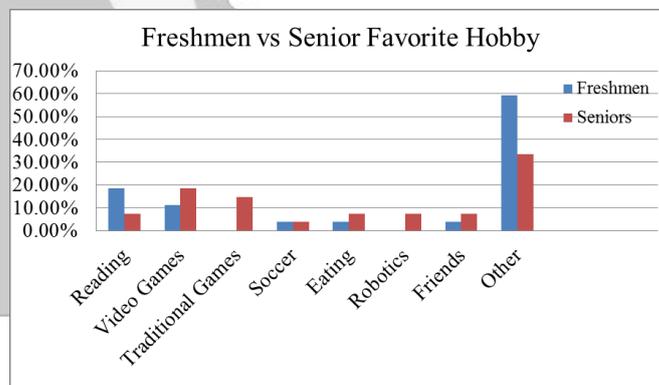
Do you play any sports, if yes, what are they?



Are you involved in any extracurricular activities, if yes, what are they?



If you had to choose, what would your favorite hobby be?



The most fascinating response as a favorite hobby from the seniors was: a scholarly consumption of Chinese cartoons. The most interesting answer as a favorite hobby from the freshmen was: parkour.