

# SMArticles

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Science and Mathematics Academy

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## **The Cure for Earworms**

**By: Sierra (Freshman)**

We have all experienced the phenomenon of having a song “stuck” in our head, as if our brain has the track on constant repeat. This condition, known as an earworm, may last for days, and can be enjoyable or extremely irritating. It is still unclear as to what exactly causes an earworm, but research suggests that it has something to do with activity in the brain’s motor cortex while you’re listening to the song. Repetitive listening and song structure also contribute to the likeliness of getting an earworm.

So what do you do when you have an earworm? It is often suggested that you read, do a crossword puzzle, or something involved with language to get rid of the repeating song. Also, listening to the song repeatedly to get it out of your head is a commonly suggested cure. However, new research indicates that the solution might be as simple as chewing a stick of gum. Chewing gum is considered an act of sub-vocalization, which research has proven to degrade short-term memory. Therefore, by chewing gum, you are essentially distracting your brain and preventing the annoying repeat of the song. Finally, chewing gum while listening to music can prevent earworms altogether.

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## **Laying the Road to the Future**

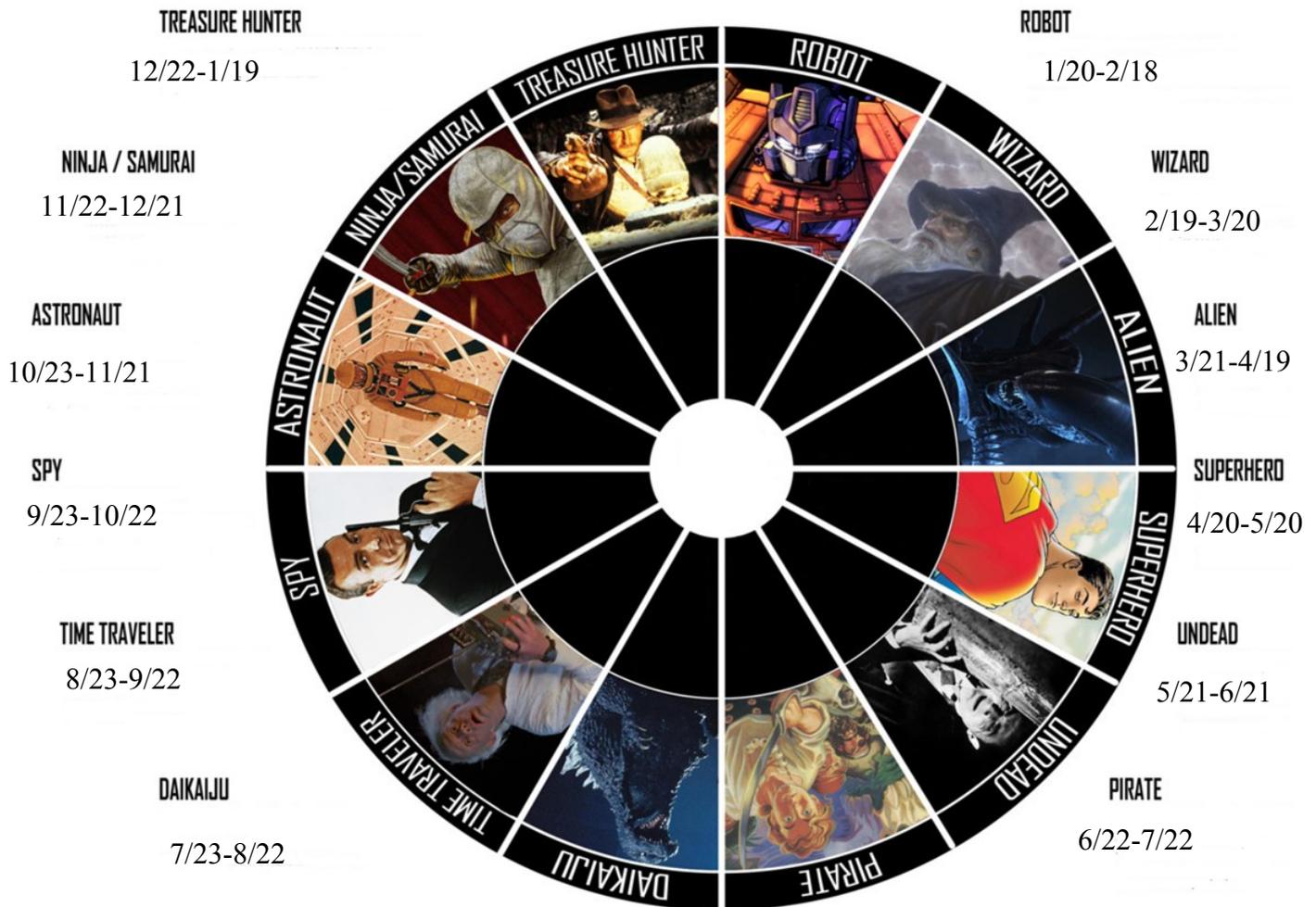
**By: Peter (Senior)**

As a senior, I look back satisfied at my accomplishments and actions. No one is perfect, no one can do everything, but you can do what you love. As this year closes or approaches it’s end I look and judge my decisions; especially as I hear from colleges and my future is paved before me. The options of roads I can take have been forged over the years of high school and so I say choose wisely. Music, sports, leadership, extracurricular clubs, robotics, boy scouts, videogames, friends and numerous other activities are the things that take our time and dedication. Some say choose

wisely. Music, sports, leadership, extracurricular clubs, robotics, boy scouts, videogames, friends and numerous other activities are the things that take our time and dedication. Some say choose what you love, others say choose a few and those that “colleges” look at. I say there is a balance; it’s sort of like a juggling act. I would put academics first. SMA is an amazing program and the opportunities that you guys get, are not always available elsewhere. Yes, students in other schools may be taking courses like you but do they learn as much or have as much experience? The next thing is your choice. I chose music like many others. Some choose athletics to stay fit and compete and win. Some choose robotics because they love programming and engineering. Some choose leadership because they have good people skills and want to make a difference. Some choose personal hobbies because those are what they have done in the past and love what they do. Whatever you do, do great in it. For those underclassmen, work hard and in the end you choose. Do you want to take that extra AP class over dropping a language or music? Some say it is worth it, but you can make the call. Do you want to join that other club to spend your afternoons more productive and become a part of a community? Some choose to do sports or volunteer. If you are wondering, yes academics, test scores, and some involvement are what are important to colleges. How you balance them is your own act. I do not regret the decisions I made to do what I do and although people say I spread myself thin, which I may have, I enjoyed doing it all somehow. If you ask other seniors they will most likely say similar words of satisfaction or little regret in their choices of commitment. Good luck and may the odds be ever in your favor.

## The Geek Horoscope

By: Jeremy (Senior)



### Robot:

Your mom will be so touched by the power and beauty of your prose that your dreams of making “Star Wars and the Avengers vs. the Zombies” into a movie will finally be realized. A story that will amaze your grandkids each time the two of you tell it.

### Wizard:

Good news! By this time next year, the Nobel committee will recognize your achievements in the area of chemistry. Bad news: outside of the lab you will still have no achievements in the area of chemistry.

### Alien:

Charity begins at home. So when you get home remember to give something to your loved one that is unexpected.

### Superhero:

Ancient and mystical forces are compelling you, Superhero. They are compelling you to question the reality around you and not be so gullible all the time. Be cautious of Treasure Hunter, for they are on the lookout for people to fool this month.

### Undead:

Lay low for a couple of months and act natural. When you stop seeing black cars parked outside of your house, renew your efforts to purchase plutonium.

### Pirate:

As you step into incoming traffic this week, the next to last thing to pass through your mind will be the Klingon proverb: “Today is a good day to die!” The last thing to pass through your mind will be your wire retainer.

**Daikaiju:**

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.

**Time Traveler:**

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.

**Spy:**

This is your future self! Don't give up on your time-travel research. Soon it will pay off big. Speaking of which, go down to the track and put your savings on a horse named Blind Fury.

**Astronaut:**

Your extensive knowledge of 50s Sci-Fi movies will finally come in handy this week as giant tarantulas and cardboard robots attack your school.

**Ninja/Samurai:**

Don't stop reading, this really works! Prank five people each week, and you will be kissed by the love of your life by the end of the month! Aliens are really gullible this month, so target them.

**Treasure Hunter:**

You are about to arrive in a strange parallel universe where you still live in your parents basement, Dungeons and Dragons is no longer cool, and extensive knowledge of Battle Star Galactica is considered a social stigma. Do your best to coexist until the next wormhole opens up.

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**AP Mock Exams****By: Nathan (Junior)**

If you have taken an AP mock exam in the past week or two, you have been exposed to helpful experience for the real thing. Whether you were impressed or disappointed in your score, taking a mock test can only help you. In years past, students would usually be taken outside of the school to take a full, unadulterated mock test. These tests would take upwards of 3 hours to complete and would very well mimic the grueling monotony of the test.

These were never fun, but offered the best approximation to the real test that you could get. So why did we instead take many class days to complete a mock exam, stretched over a week rather than the tried and true method? Many students and teachers wondered this. There are pros and cons of each however. Taking the full 3 hour mock test is truly the best practice for the real thing. Weird things happen to your judgment after sitting for 3 hours staring at a test. This may help reveal weaknesses you may not have thought you had. However, taking the whole test requires the students to miss at least one other class, and likely part of a second. Many teachers would find this unfair. Also, students traveling to different places outside of ABHS can often lead to problems with accountability. Because of these reasons, ABHS administration decided to hold the tests in place of many class days of the subject being tested. Teachers and students displayed mixed opinions on this decision. What do you think?

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**HSA? Wait PARCC? Common Core?****By: Cassie (Freshman)**

We've all heard of this PARCC test, but what really does it mean and why should we care about it? First of all, PARCC stands for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. A mouthful, right? To sum it up, the PARCC test measures whether or not students are on track for college and future careers. The results are used to track your learning progress and relay teaching information back to teachers to help them customize their lessons to your needs. Frankly, I believe it's a lot of work for teachers to accommodate every lesson to each student's needs. (Isn't that what tutoring is for?)

The PARCC test covers Algebra II, English 10, and English 11 for high school students past Geometry. The tests usually have several parts to them, and are considered "very hard". We are required to sit through it for now, but there is some controversy about whether or not colleges will be looking at the PARCC scores. In conclusion, the PARCC is just another high school test we are forced to take.

# The Earth Day Festival

By: Reagan (Senior)

If you are a part of Aberdeen's Green Team, then you already know about the Earth Day Festival. Every year, the Green Team works together with Harford Glen, the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, and the Lions Club in order to put on a day long experience for kids to learn about earth day. This yearly event took place at Aberdeen Festival Park, and was a free event that has activities for all ages.

The festival includes games for children to play to win prizes, crafts, T-shirt tie-dyeing, food, live music, booths by local companies and environmental groups, and more. Every game made for kids to play is made from recycled materials, including Frisbees from recycled plastic, racecars made of helmets and records, milk and water jug football, and many more. New this year to the festival was a life size chess board and pieces made from recyclable materials, with a chess tournament going throughout the day. There was also an adoption station for wye oak trees grown in the SMA.

We hope you were able to enjoy the Earth Day Festival! And if you missed out, make sure you go next year, cause it will be even better. Keep the planet clean, it's not Uranus!

Harford County		SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2015 (Rain Date 4/19/2015)		
<b>EARTH DAY</b>				
Celebration at Aberdeen Festival Park		11am to 4pm		
Located at 60 N. Parke St. (2 blocks from Route 40 & West Bel Air Ave) Across the street from the Aberdeen Library.				
Native Animals 	FOOD: 	Environmental Exhibitors 	Recycled Crafts 	Live Music 
Play Music on bike parts 	Pedal Bicycles To Paint Frisbees & Make electricity 	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Chess Revival (come see live recycled chess match on large 10 x 10 feet board) 	Scrap Hockey 	Bike Spun Flyers 
<b>Recycled Games:</b> Wiffle Dog, Toe Jigger, V-8 Chucker, LP Derby, Ocean Jungle, Slot Ball, Tide Slide, Bottle Cap Rumble, Cardboard Canyon & more!  Still 3 plays for \$1.00		All game prizes have recycled content or "green" theme  Green Activities, Moon Bounce <b>Free Tie Dye</b> (bring your own shirt or buy a blank here)	<b>HELPING OTHERS</b> Donate these items and receive FREE game tickets: Cell phone= 1 Ink cartridge= 1 Bag full of pet or people food= 3 Baseball equipment (bats, balls, gloves, cleats)= 1 to 5 Blue Jeans = 2 to 5 	
<b>Earth Day Sponsors &amp; Members:</b>			<b>Fun for the Family!</b>	
HARFORD GLEN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER				
ANITA C. LEIGHT ESTUARY CENTER				
HARFORD BANK				
PNC BANK		ABERDEEN LIONS CLUB		
FRITO LAY		ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL		
Hosted by The City of Aberdeen			For Details or rain info. call 410-297-4215	

