

# SMArticles

November 10, 2013

Science and Mathematics Academy

Volume I, Issue 7

## Go Green!

By: Alyssa (Junior) and Peter (Junior)

Green Team is a community service club whose members promote environmentally friendly activities. The staff advisor is Mrs. McDonough in room B307. Green Team consists of SMA and Aberdeen students ranging from freshman to seniors. There are 5 co-presidents; 2 are juniors and 3 are seniors.

Activities Green Team participates in include recycling, gardening, can-collecting (for can-offs), protecting the environment, green fairs, Earth Day, and teaching others about the environment. Green Team is responsible for weeding the gardens by the library and cafeteria on certain days and making sure the garden beds are not tampered with. Green Team aggregates volunteers for the annual earth day festival in Aberdeen Festival Park and helps with stands and creating up-cycled products. Green Team also marches in the homecoming parade with their ingenious and creative floats made of mostly recyclable products.

An important part of Green Team is recycling. Green Team recycles in the mornings every Wednesday and Friday which includes setting up and standing next to the bins by the teacher's planning rooms. Members insure that people are dumping the correct recyclable in the right bin. In the afternoons of the day before, Green Team takes out the bottles to the single-stream bin and empties the paper from the bins into the Abitibi dumpsters. Green team members are expected to participate in recycling once every two weeks. This may seem like a burden, but it's actually really fun!



The Green Team's abundance of crisp and delicious garden-grown vegetables.

Green Team also applied for and received the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant, which helped them start and pay for the raised-bed garden behind the cafeteria. Some of you may have seen some fresh new vegetables in the cafeteria; those are courtesy of the garden! Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the vegetable pizza!



One of Aberdeen High School's proud cafeteria workers prominently displays the garden vegetable pizza that was later served to the student body.

Green Team plans on maintaining the garden throughout the year. Along with the gardens, they plan on continuing their strong support in the Earth Day festival with their brilliant ideas. In previous years the Green Team has made jewelry out of recycled materials and a dog house from the cafeteria's recycled water bottles. They hope you join the Green Team meetings and activities to see in person and participate, hands-on, in the fun activities they do! If you are interested in joining, their next meeting is December 10th at 2:10 in B307, or you can see Mrs. McDonough, also in room B307. Protect the environment and get into the green scene, it's the only Earth we have!

## **Mentor Night**

**By: Natalie (Senior) and Abbey (Senior)**

Junior year is an important and very exciting period in every high schooler's experience. In the Science and Math Academy, not only do students begin to focus on college, but they also start work on their capstone projects. To begin the process, each student must find a mentor that will lead the way through the project. In order to give each student a chance to obtain a quality mentor, the SMA has set up Mentor Night.

Mentor Night is one night where a plethora of the possible mentors come to the cafeteria at Aberdeen High School to meet and talk with each student that is interested in their field of work. Mrs. Voskuhl will send out an email with the list of the mentors' names, places of work, occupation, and projects of interest so that the students can prepare for meeting the mentors. Many students single out a few people that they would like to work with. Each will spend time in their SRT III class writing a detailed resume to present to the mentors. In the days leading up to Mentor Night, the students talk to each other about the mentors and compare ideas and concerns.

On Mentor Night, the junior class comes dressed professionally with extra copies of their resumes. Everyone clusters in the center of the cafeteria with all the mentor's stationed on the outside of the room. Mrs. Voskuhl gives a brief introductory speech, and then the fun begins. The lucky students get to their choice mentors first, and soon all of the seats are taken. The remainders wait for a place to open up, hopefully with the mentor they wish to speak with. Each student spends a brief amount of time talking with each mentor that could be a good fit. Two hours later, at the conclusion of the night, both the students and the mentors fill out a survey in which they indicate who they would like to work with.

The students wait...and wait... and wait, for about a month, until the day they get their official assignments. Some people get matched up with the mentor's they met with on Mentor Night, others get matched up with different mentors based on project ideas and areas of interest. Our advice to this year's juniors and all other future juniors is to come prepared with a solid interest so that you have something to talk about with the mentors. Also, do not wait to talk to the mentors, be one of the first at the tables and talk to as many as possible.

Good luck this year juniors, and MAY THE ODDS BE EVER IN YOUR FAVOR.

## **Fiction - Monday Mornings**

**By: Olivia (Sophomore)**

"Come on, work," she growled at the printer. Its small screen flashed at her before displaying the words, 'Paper Jam.' She groaned and let her head fall onto the printer.

"Really, are we going to play this game?" Another beep came out from the printer, as if it was responding to her despair. "I guess so."

She sighed and lifted her head. No point in just standing around. "I will just print it out at school then." With that, she started to go to the stairs.

Walking up the stairs, she glided her fingers over the wood railing. At the top of the stairs she saw a white tail swishing. It soon disappeared, only to be replaced by a white cat head, the tip of the left ear black and the right eye also the same color.

"Opal, come here," she said, smiling at the cat. Maybe it would bring her some joy to at least hold her cat. Opal looked at her as if to say 'Why', then simply turned around and walked off. Frowning, the girl walked the rest of the way up the stairs.

Suddenly, a loud crash came from down the hall. "What could that have been?" Turning rapidly and looking down the hall, she saw where the bang had come from. A small white vase, which had once sat on the table, had smashed into the ground and shattered into millions of pieces, cutting the hardwood floor.

Surprisingly enough, a small white cat was right on the table in the exact spot where the vase had once stood. The girl groaned and looked at her watch. There were only 5 more minutes until she had to go outside and walk to the bus stop. This would have to be cleaned up though. Getting the broom and the pan she cleaned up the mess well enough. After throwing away the last piece, she looked down at her watch again. Her eyes widened.

"No, no, no, no, no, no," she began to panic. Quickly, picking up her bag and book, she ran out the door. How had so much time been used to clean up that little mess? Running down the street, she got to the stop just in time. Her bus was pulling in just as she got there. The girl ran onto the bus quickly, breathing hard and moving towards the back. She practically collapsed into the seat.

As she fell into her seat, her coffee fell as well, right onto her and her favorite white top.

She stood up quickly, as hot liquid ran down her shirt, and then hit her head on the low bus ceiling. A few of the kids on the bus snickered to themselves, others right out laughed at her. She glared at them and then sat back down. She had a bad feeling about today.

When the bus stopped at her school, she had already realized two things. One, she had forgotten to feed Opal in the rush. Not that big of a deal since her mother would do it once she woke up. The second was a problem. She had forgotten her flash drive, with both her English paper that she needed to print out and her presentation for World History on the Black Death.

Dread filled her as she got off the bus. So first, she was going to fail her presentation, and then second she was going to fail an English paper. Great, this morning just kept getting better and better.

After stopping at her locker and getting her binders, she went up to homeroom. Sitting in her seat, she let her head drop to the table.

"Haley, what's the matter," a voice said from behind. Haley looked up and saw May, a close friend of hers. She smiled at Haley.

"Please, leave me alone," Haley said to her, her voice sounding venomous. May frowned at this, but could understand.

"Let me guess, rough morning?" Her voice was sickly sweet. Haley rolled her eyes, and looked at her friend again, this time nodding her head. May sat next to her.

"I know exactly how you feel. I have been in the same situation." May then proceeded to tell Haley of such a situation. She went on and on, the story was endless. By the end of it, Haley was close to exploding. This was not her morning. First, her printer breaks when she needs it the most. Then, her cat breaks a vase and she has to clean it up, which in turn almost made her miss the bus. Then, coffee spills on her on the bus, ruining her favorite white top. Then, she forgets the flash drive, which shall result in two major zeros, lowering her grades big time. Just when she thinks that she cannot have a worse morning, May decides to pretty much layout her whole life story, and how it is such a tragedy.

The warning bell rang. "Oh, well, looks like we will have to talk more at lunch. See you later Haley!" May then walked out of homeroom, as she always did.

Sighing and laying her head back on the table, Haley whispered something to herself.

"Monday mornings. I hate Monday mornings."

The End

## Meme of the Quarter

By: Karan (Senior) and Eli (Senior)

The Many Expressions of Micah Dailey



Angry



Sad



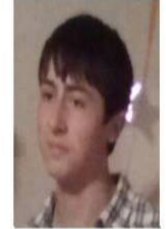
Happy



Amused



Confused



Melancholy



Mischievous



Surprised



Frustrated



Suspicious

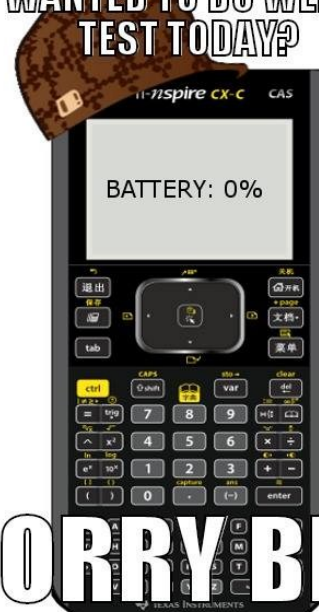


Proud



Confident

OH YOU WANTED TO DO WELL ON YOUR TEST TODAY?



SORRY BRO

## Freshmen Interviews

By: Mitchell (Junior) and Danielle (Junior)

Freshmen Interviewed: Naveena M., George S., Spencer T., and Noah Z.

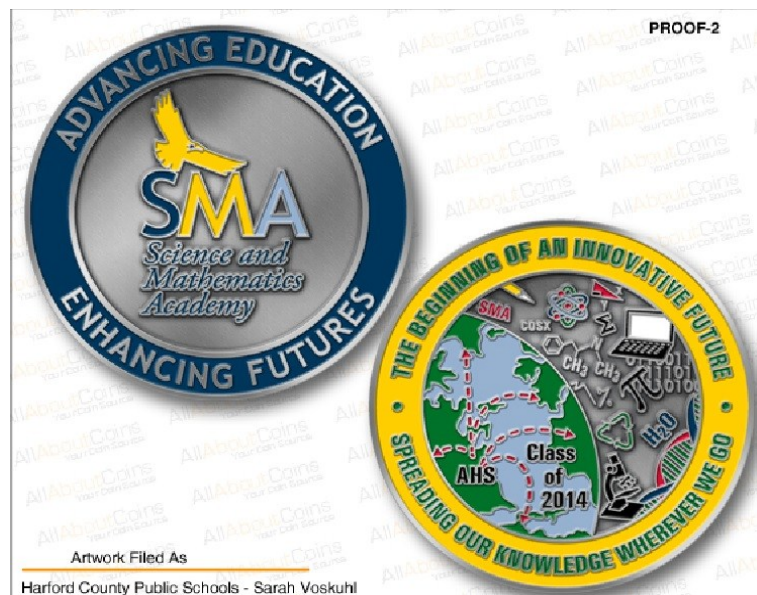
The beginning of freshman year in high school can be a scary adjustment for anyone, especially when it means going to a new school with new people. After a month of this transition, upperclassmen asked a few freshmen about their first experiences in the SMA. The first major change for any SMA freshman is leaving their home school. At first, a major concern was, "missing my old friends," according to Spencer T. Spencer T. and his new classmate George S. both stated, "our favorite thing about the SMA so far is having our own kind of community, and that everyone knows everyone in the SMA." A common motive among the freshman for coming to the SMA was its "focus on math, science, technology, and engineering," topics that they were all interested in (Naveena M.). When surveyed about their favorite class, the freshmen answered with all three SMA core classes, Algebra II, Biology, and AP Environmental Science. Naveena M. attributed this to the teachers, saying "they are all different, but they all really know how to explain and make the students understand the topic they are teaching... they never bore me[,] they are really fun to learn from." Another important tutor for each freshman is their "SMA Big". When asked about his "Big", Noah Z. responded "it is great knowing that I have someone who can help me out when I need it." Despite their initial concern, all the freshman agreed with Noah Z.'s statement that they "have no regrets in leaving [their] old school."

### Editor's Note

By Micah Dailey

I originally wrote something different for this column. I began it with some clichéd quote from a founding father about mankind's lasting legacy and satirized modern culture for its lack of perseverance and deep desire to strive for greatness. I then contrasted this viewpoint with the SMA, where I marvel at the work ethic and

## 2013-2014 SMA Senior Class Challenge Coin Contest Winner by Nicole A.



promise of my peers every day. I threw in a *carpe diem* pun and a Mr. Evans - Boe-Bot joke to lighten the mood, concluding with a sonorous diction-filled sentiment on the faith I have in my peers and their futures. Maybe I try too hard.

I scrapped the article because I believed it was lacking as an accurate reflection of the SMA. Yes, the SMA is composed of students with admirable ambition, but I have come to the conclusion that it is unfair to generalize any semblance of a place as unique as the SMA. As I have been applying to colleges these last few months one of the most difficult topics I have encountered is properly conveying the originality and diversity of the SMA. The school is comprised of Harford County's hardest workers, calmest procrastinators, and nerdiest comedians. We have a myriad of interests which manifest themselves as clubs, sports, group hobbies, and personal passions, forming niches within niches. While we may not always understand one another, and what fuels us, we all endure together. Our shared experiences of hovercraft demolitions, perpetual stairway ascensions, and dubious chemistry songs, amalgamated with the wild mystery of our fates and fortunes, are what I love about this place. My only regret is that I have squandered precious time trying to aptly depict this when I should be out partaking in it before the close of my senior year.