

МОНАХА ИЗ МОСК



DISTRICT

ISSUE #15/May 2014
Cambridge Experience
Swedish Exchange
The Most Unusual Sports
Talking to a "Steady Friend"
of our Magazine





The early history of the school is closely connected with the name of its two great founders Lazaro-Otetelișanu and it was the first boarding school for young ladies in the Romanian Principalities at that time. It was a flourishing historical period for the Romanian education in the capital of Oltenia after the endorsement of the Organic Regulations. The Foundation of this school for "the best education of the noblemen's daughters" was the initiative of the boyard lordache Otetelișanu, "a great patriot who was very fond of the national culture."

In 1833 he built this school not only with his own funds but also with the financial support of the boyard Constantin Lazaro, who donated the private houses inherited from his wife Zoița Pârscoveanca. The school was called "Lazaro-Otetelișanu" Boarding School for Young Ladies.

It was meant to be a typically Western boarding school for young ladies and the students who passed the school entrance exam were supposed to be able to "read and write" in a foreign language. The first headmistresses of the school were mostly foreigners (French, Italian, German): Wilhemina Dahlen, Groulier Gros, Marieta Mazenta.

Along its history, the school changed its names several times:

- ★ According to the Law of Education issued in 1860, the old boarding school became a secondary school with five grades and it was called The Head School for Young Ladies, the first pedagogical school for young ladies from Oltenia.
- ★ The name of the school was changed again in 1883 when it became The Pedagogical Institute for Young Ladies because it aimed to train students to become school teachers.
- ★ Due to Smaranda Celarianu's contribution and intervention, the school was called "Elena Cuza", in honour of the wife of the first ruler who united the Romanian Principalities. After this transformation the school had all the qualities of a high-school with superior grades.
- ★ In September 1928 the school started to function as "Elena Cuza" High-School for Young Ladies. From 1959 until 1966 the public institute was given the name of Secondary School No. 3 and for the first time it became a mixed type of school for girls and boys. Between 1966-1976 the school was called High School No. 3, and between 1977-1989 it was named The Philology-History High School.
- ★ In 1990, it was called "Elena Cuza" High School and from 1998 "Elena Cuza" National College. During its existence, the school has brought its contribution to the education of a great number of citizens, active participants in the social, cultural and economic life of the country. Our school trains students endowed with a real talent for learning foreign languages and it has become a real partner involved in different national and international projects. Taking into account the history of this school, we, today's people, must continue the struggle for the flourishing of this institution to preserve its fame and tradition.

This issue was co-ordinated by teacher CARMEN MĂLĂEȚ, English teacher at "Elena Cuza" National College, Craiova, Dolj, with the real support of our school management: prof. Mirela Genoiu principle of the school, prof. Liana Corbeanu assistant principle, prof. Liviu Cotfasă assistant principle, prof. Roxana Crișu educational counsellor.



Raluca Says

As you very well know, when a door closes, another one opens to another domain or half-way around the world. It is a generally acknowledged fact that eventually everything reaches an end.



As the life cycle has four stages (birth, childhood, maturity and death), the same happens with the warrant of the editor-in-chief of Disteenct. Again, a comparison can be made with the highschool years(which I consider more appropriate). Each grade is reflected by a certain issue of the magazine.

This magazine is important to me not only because I am responsible for the way it is realized, but also because of what it has to offer. "Disteenct" has always represented a source of inspiration, confidence, optimism and diversity for its readership. I am pleased to mention that we won 1st prize at a National Magazine Contest. In order to brag about it a little, we put the scan of the prize at the end of the magazine, next to our amazing staff.

My journey through Disteenct has been not only inspiring but also very useful. Working in a team, meeting a deadline, managing our time, creating respectful and trustful relationships and many other things, have been the lessons we had to learn in order to become mature and responsible. Working with pleasure and especially doing what you love is the most important thing.

I am sad to say it but this is my last year as editor-in-chief. I am proud that I have contributed to this magazine and that I have gathered a lot of good memories in my time as editor. I hope that the new editor-in-chief will feel the same. I am sure that Disteenct will continue its existence after my graduation and even after my university graduation and so on and so forth, but it will always have a special place in my heart. Unfortunately, I have to call this the final frontier of my warrant and pass on this wonderful magazine.

And remember "I am not ordinary because I have the right to be extraordinary! I am DISTEENCT"

Raluca Butescu
Editor-in-Chief



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*The fingerprint is what makes you a **DISTEENCT** person. We've learned that we have to leave our mark on every **DISTEENCT** page of the magazine and to be proud of this. During high school we grow up, we experience **DISTEENCT** situations which teach us how to become well-rounded adults. **DISTEENCT** is one of these situations. You need **Dedication, Innovation, Sensitivity, Thoroughness, Enthusiasm, Endurance, Nurture, Creativity and Trust**. Though we are **DISTEENCT** persons, all these qualities unite us in a single magazine.*

Andreea Avramescu &
Adrian Goga
Deputy Editors





Opinions

TALKING WITH A CHAMP

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 15

Rep: Hello Ionut. Thank you for accepting the invitation for this interview and congratulations on your performance. How long have you been practising fencing?

Ionut Trandafirescu : I started fencing 9 years ago.

Rep: Why fencing?

Ionut Trandafirescu: First of all I chose fencing because I have liked it since I was very young, it was different. On the other hand, in time I have learned it is a sport that perfects you as a person. Fencing is a sport with discipline and skilfulness.

Rep: Did you play any other sports before?

Ionut Trandafirescu: No, but in my spare time I used to play football or basketball.

Rep: Do you remember your first competition?

Ionut Trandafirescu: Of course, the National Championship for Kids, where I participated when I was 11.

Rep: How many awards did you win?

Ionut Trandafirescu: About 26.

Rep: Besides Romania, in what countries have you competed?

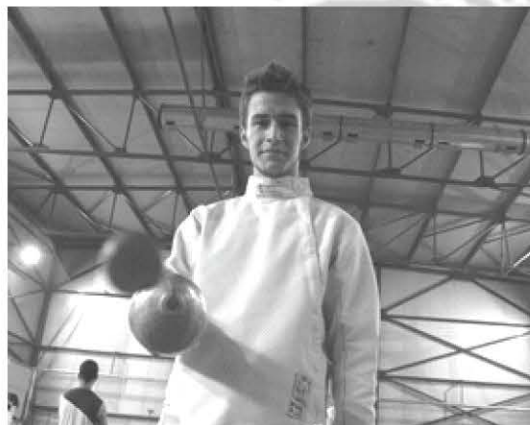
Ionut Trandafirescu :I have been in many countries, in Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Russia, Italy, Finland and I hope I won't stop here.

Rep: What does being a champion mean to you?

Ionut Trandafirescu : I have been many times on the podium, but the fact that I became national champion gave me a motivation, I can carry the fight at another level, European and world level.

Rep: Do you have any advice for the kids who want to practise fencing?

Ionut Trandafirescu: Be very ambitious, never give up because fencing is a beautiful sport, and most of all, make everything with pleasure.



Motroc Bianca-Aurelia
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



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ALUMNUS COLUMN

Dear reader,



When I was first asked to write this testimonial for the magazine I thought it was an easy job, but it became harder and harder when I started to put my words on a paper. Many memories came back, all the good highschool times, the great moments spent with friends and colleagues and the unforgettable experiences with our dearest teachers, whom I miss very much.

Yes, it's been a long time since I graduated and the first thought that pops up in my mind is: "I wish I had your age and the mindset and values I have now." So, I began to write a short **survival guide through high school** and I want to give you some pieces of advice so you can make the best of the years that you get to spend in college.

1. Try everything and explore all the opportunities

It's too soon for you to know what you want to do for the rest of your life, so the best option you have is to try everything, to discover yourself, to challenge your limits and to find the things that bring sparkle into your eyes. Volunteer, party, sing, dance, travel, write, read, get involved in all the extra activities and learn from every experience you encounter. Trust me, it will develop your inner self and you will discover many things that make you happy.

2. High school is a happy period of your life

Some of you may feel that high school sucks. Don't worry, you will grow out of it. There will come a time, on your 20s, when you feel grateful for all the theories you learned, all the novels you read, all the exercises you solved. You will meet again with the English or Romanian essays, with History or Geography, and then you will be grateful that you have paid attention to the classes. Take what you need, do not learn by heart, learn so you can be a smarter person. Moreover, remember one important thing: you never stop learning.

3. Fears and obstacles are there to be overcome

I truly believe that the obstacles you face in life are given to you because you can overcome them. The limits and barriers that we put on ourselves are there to be pushed and broken so that we can develop and grow. Life will test you in so many different ways. It will give you hardships, it will give you obstacles, it will make you doubt yourself in everything that you do and all that you are. But don't. You need to find the strength to believe in yourself, because if you don't, then who will?

4. Follow your dreams, no matter what

You are never too old to dream and it's never too late to pursue happiness. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams and don't get influenced by others' opinions. Put in the effort and live the life you've imagined. Believe. Envision. Create. The only thing that can truly stop you, is you.

5. You can change the world

Mahatma Ghandi once said that "you should be the change that you want to see in the world" and I stand by that. Everybody seems to want the world to change in some way or another, but no one is willing to change. So instead of always complaining about all the bad things going on, why don't you start changing yourself and your perspective? The ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do.

In conclusion, no matter how hard life gets, don't give up. This is one of the most important lessons I have learned in 25 years. I grew so much just by facing whatever it was that I was scared of and by sticking it out to the end. You shouldn't quit either. The minute you think about giving up, start thinking of all the reasons that made you hang on for so long. And remember: **the best is yet to come.**

With love,

Andreea Petrica, former student at "Elena Cuza" National College and former editor-in-chief of Disteent Magazine
Coordinating teacher : Carmen Malaet





Friendships

Friends are very important in our lives. Friendships are easily formed when we are young and do not demand too much out of it. According to studies and research, humans tend to form the highest number of friendships at kindergarten and primary level. However, one tends to have fewer friends as one grows older and wiser. This is because we realize there are good friends and bad ones.

The saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed is very apt in this scenario because good friends are those who are reliable and trustworthy. At a younger age, our demands are not too high regarding friendships as we rely mostly on our parents, siblings and relatives for important things. The friends we formed at this age are merely considered playmates, thus our expectations of them are not high.

More serious friendships are formed when one enters puberty and achieves certain level of maturity. The latter allows one to forge fellowship with those who share the same interests, passion as well as similar moral and religious values. Thus, it is not surprising to observe that in some Asian countries, mature students at the upper secondary level have friends of the same ethnic and religious backgrounds. At the university level, it is even more apparent. Even the Ministry of Education has voiced concern over this phenomenon where polarization is prominent. The Indians, Chinese and Malays hardly mix with each other and are seen usually in the company of their own kind.

One of the main reasons for polarization among university students is that as they reach a certain level of maturity, common binding factors such as religion, customs and traditions play an important role in selection of friends or mates. In addition, since the majority of these students come from rural backgrounds where there is not much cultural interchange, they feel rather awkward to forge friendships with students of other races. However, this does not mean the students are racist or suffer from a superiority complex. Thus, the university should introduce more programs that allow cultural and religious mixing and understanding of the others.

Nevertheless, in the working world, a different scenario prevails. One finds Indians, Chinese and other races forging stable and long lasting friendships. This is most probably due to the fact that to be productive in one's work, one has to believe in team work. The latter actually enhances the bond between the workers and eventually long lasting friendships are formed. In fact, this situation has even led to many interracial marriages between the three major races. The products of the intermarriages are unique as they have friends and relatives from both ethnic backgrounds.



Anidora Scutasu

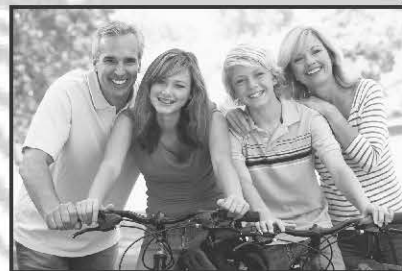
Coordinating teacher : Carmen Malaet





BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

Adolescence is a time for developing independence. Typically, adolescents exercise their independence by questioning their parents' rules, which at times leads to rule breaking. It is common for once loyal children to begin to grumble when asked to carry out some chores at home and to respond in harsh words when been rebuked by their parents. This is often a challenging time for most parents. Some parents and their adolescents clash over almost everything. In these situations, the core issue is really control—adolescents want to feel in control of their lives and parents want adolescents to know they still make the rules.



Children occasionally engage in physical confrontation. However, during adolescence, the frequency and severity of violent interactions increase. Although episodes of violence at school are highly publicized, adolescents are much more likely to be involved with violence (or more often the threat of violence) at home and outside of school. Many factors, including developmental issues, gang membership, access to weapons, substance use, and poverty, contribute to an increased risk of violence for adolescents. Of particular concern are adolescents who, in an altercation, cause serious injury or use a weapon.

Because adolescents are much more independent and mobile than they were as children, they are often out of the direct physical control of adults. In these circumstances, adolescents' behavior is determined by their own moral and behavioral code. The parents guide rather than directly control the adolescents' actions. Adolescents who feel warmth and support from their parents are less likely to engage in risky behaviors. Also, parents who convey clear expectations regarding their adolescents' behavior and who demonstrate consistent limit setting and monitoring are less likely to have adolescents who engage in risky behaviors. Authoritative parenting, as opposed to harsh or permissive parenting, is most likely to promote mature behaviors.

Substance abuse is a common trigger of behavioral problems and often requires specific therapy. Behavioral problems may be the first sign of depression or other mental health disorders. Such disorders typically require treatment with drugs as well as counseling. In extreme cases, some adolescents may also need legal intervention in the form of probation which is not so common in Nigeria.

Roberta Andreea Enache

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Talking to a "Steady Friend" of Our Magazine: Mr. Laviniu Badulescu – a Special Teacher

1: How would you briefly describe Disteenct magazine?

R: It is a magazine which comes to prominence through diversity. It also makes us read and write in Shakespeare's language.

2: How would you describe yourself?

R: A stranger... Traveller, my only enemy.

3: How did you become a lecturer at "Elena Cuza" National College?

R: By undertaking a train of events which included a series of trials.

4: Did you change your views on teachers after becoming one?

R: I firmly believe that a teacher is an ideal to which I try to relate. The only change that I can think of is that I have realized how vast the distance between me and this ideal is.

5: Is the mutual respect between student and teacher an essential element?

R: It is the most important element for a polite dialogue. When you don't respect someone it means that you don't respect yourself.

6: How would you describe the ideal student and teacher?

R: There is no difference between a student and a teacher. The gradebook and other formalities are an accident. The behaviour of both student and teacher are essential in reaching an ideal stage. We do not usually do what we like, we do what we have to do. In time, we discover that we will not like to do what we do not have to do. In translation, we will feel awful knowing that randomly we do not fulfil our duties.

7: If you were given the chance, would you prefer to be a teacher in a foreign country? If yes, which country would you prefer?

R: Quoting a famous Greek author I would say: "Thank God that I have been born Christian." If I were forced to leave the country, I would choose to live in another orthodox country such as Greece or Russia.

8: Could you describe one positive and one difficult experience from your career?

R: The true positive experiences are the difficult ones: when you are facing yourself. It's difficult to let yourself educated, but if you have the passion it becomes much simpler. This dialogue can be taken as an example of a positive experience.

9: What do you miss the most from your highschool years?

R: Discipline and dress code.

10: Which personalities have inspired you the most?

R: Jesus Christ and all the other holy representatives of the Church. Besides those: Socrates, Pascal, Lao Ti and Shakespeare.

11: Could you tell us the name of your favourite book? Also, what is the name of the author?

R: The Bible. It has many authors, it is a fundamental book which has to be read daily and many times during our lifetime. Another book without an author is "Pelerinul Rus" which could be translated as "The Russian Pilgrim". "I am not the man of a single book", I love Shakespeare, Pascal, Lao Ti and others.



Andreea Avramescu & Adrian Goga

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





LET'S BRING CHRISTMAS TO THEIR "HOME"

Do you remember the white beard from your childhood? That old man who came all the way from Lapland to leave presents under your Christmas tree? Could we imagine what it would have been like if he had never visited you?

For many children, Santa Claus is just a mythical character. All they know is that he cannot reach their place because he never came before and he does not know where they live.

This year, the students of "Elena Cuza" National College, from grades 11th E and 12th E have been his elves. They have answered over 47 letters, which were directed to the North Pole by the children under the supervision of Vasiliada and Best Life centers. After the event the children had planned in order to welcome Santa, we could only hear words such as: Presents! Carols! Santa Claus! Elves and happiness!

The event started with the children singing and reciting many carols and poems. The high peak of the event was the arrival of the old man. With each step that he took towards the room both us and the children grew more and more impatient. When Santa arrived and greeted the children, all emotions were converted into cheerfulness and ovations. Each one of the children was waiting for his/her name to be called out in order to meet Santa and receive his first present from the North Pole. Our assumption was that the kids were very surprised and pleased about the presents. In the following paragraphs we can read their words for Santa:

"The celebration event was wonderful! My friends and I enjoyed welcoming Santa with carols. Everyone was excited about the gifts, pure happiness. It felt like we were in a story. Thank you for the letter that I found in my present! It was great advice for how to react in sad moments! All the best, Lourdes."

"The festivity was great because I was next to the teachers and the other children. Our emotions while we were singing went away when everyone received their presents. I was never upset that we had not come before, I know that it is really hard to reach all the children. I am questioning the speed that we have to travel at in order to do that in only one night. Thank you a lot Santa Claus! Antonio."

The spirit of this special holiday has also reached the members of the staff.

"Imagine a magical chamber, a special place where all the gifts are made. One of the rooms in our center has turned into that place for one day. Everyone's heart skipped a beat every time a child was opening his/her present. It was magical seeing the desire in their innocent eyes. The room filled with joy in seconds. To make Christmas happen for these children feels like going back in time when we were only six or seven years old. For a few seconds we truly believed in Santa again!"

- Adelina Diana [Psychologist]

The emotion and happiness could be read on the children's smiles. The feelings that we lived ourselves will always be found somewhere deep, carved in our souls - forever. We understood how Santa felt on that one special day of the year - the Christmas day.



Andreea Avramescu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Romanian highschool educational system is a selection of many subjects put together to help the students approach a larger variety of possible careers. Unfortunately, the greatness of this educational system stops after the 12th grade

when those who finish high school should choose to go to an university which does not seem to offer as many opportunities to build up a great future career as the ones abroad. To me this reason was good enough to take into consideration the possibility of studying abroad, and so I began searching for a way to get more information about the skills that a foreign university requires. While I was looking up for a summer course I found a perfect one in Cambridge which offered not only details about what life in an elite university campus is like, but also gave the opportunity to talk to the teachers of the university and participate in several lectures as the course was to take place at the same time with the Cambridge University open days . And so my trip began .

At first, when I arrived there I was shocked to hear native speakers talk in a posh English and I was a bit discouraged. At the airport I met some of the students who were to become my classmates during the course and I quickly made friends with them . On the campus we were introduced to the supervisors, teachers and to the other students.

The second day, of course, began with the traditional English breakfast. Then we attended some classes and we were given pieces of information about the entrance requirements of an English university. The classes i attended were „arts” and „science for medicine”.The third and the fourth day were spent in the same way, in classes.

On the fifth day we went to London where we visited some places like LSE, Imperial College of London and Tate Museum. We also went to see a play at the Globe theatre:” Henry V” by Shakespeare. It was an interesting experience not only because we could be in the same place where the great Shakespeare had his plays performed centuries ago, but also because we could actually watch one . The weekend was a relaxing one .On Saturday we went to visit Oxford and we spent some time at Trinity College, the famous college Prince Charles graduated from.

Next week was mainly classes and activities with other students and of course the famous Cambridge University open days. I chose to participate in the Psychology and Behaviour studies lecture which was given by the principal teacher of that department. The lecture was really interesting as it was a combination between Psychology, experimental Psychology and Biology. The lecturer also suggested we read some books about Psychology before applying for the college so that we could get to better understand what this course demanded.

All in all, the campus and the course have been a fruitful experience for me because it has helped me decide on what I want to study after I graduate and has given me a better idea about the English universities, how the course will take place and how to apply for it . I recommend to all of you who want to study abroad to go to the university open day, if possible, and get more information about it. You won't regret it!

Oana Petcu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





TEENAGE PROBLEMS

Despite what older people say, life as a teenager is undoubtedly difficult. Adults who claim that teenagers lead easy, worry-free, happy lives have obviously forgotten what it feels like to be at that age.

In reality, teenagers go through a lot of things. First of all, they are growing up and, because of this, they may not be the same people they used to be when they were little children. While growing up, they are trying to discover themselves, to find out who they really are. As a result, they might feel the need to rebel against their parents. They might want to reject everything they had been taught when they were younger, change their image dramatically and become a completely different person. Even though it is considered a normal thing, this might cause the relationship that they have with their parents to become strained.



Then, we have the opposite side. Some teenagers might not go through extreme changes like the others and they might want to keep doing the same things that they have always done. For them, the problem is not represented by their parents. Instead, it is highly likely for them to be rejected by peers and deemed as "outcasts". This is also a problem as it might cause them to develop a hatred for people in their age group and society in general.

Another problem that is typical for teenagers is represented by peer pressure. In high school, there are often "cliques" and "cool kids" and, because of this, teenagers are led to believe that, in order to be accepted by society, they have to act and look in a particular manner. Even though they would most likely deny it, teenagers have

a desire to "fit in" and some of them would do anything just to be accepted and liked by the popular crowd.

In fact, peer pressure is one of the most common causes for teenage drinking and smoking. They see others doing it and they think that, in order to be seen as normal and "cool", they have to do the same. What is frightening is the fact that this kind of behavior is seen as normal. While very common, drinking, smoking and other similar things are very dangerous because they lead to addiction more often than not. This is, sadly, another problem that teenagers actually go through.

Then, there are many teenagers who have self-esteem issues. It is truly shocking to see how many teenagers have developed a self-hatred and even wish death on themselves. Some of them even act on these feelings and resort to self-harm. In fact, many teenagers have committed suicide because they felt that they weren't good enough and that they could not deal with the pressure of life anymore.

While teenagers have so many problems to deal with, all of them can be prevented in some way. First of all, parents need to talk to their children more about their lives. When they notice something off about them, they shouldn't just assume that it can't be something serious and ignore it. Parents should try to connect with their children and get them to understand that they can trust them. In any kind of relationship, nothing is more important than trust. Teenagers should know that, even though they are not little kids anymore, they can still tell their parents anything and ask them for help in certain situations.

Teenagers who are depressed and have a very low self-esteem or a self-hatred should definitely contact a psychologist. If they do not get help, their issues will only become worse. They need to know that it is completely normal to ask for help, because they are simply unable to get better on their own. Teenagers who have these types of problems should tell a person that they trust how they feel. Confiding in one person could be the first step to recovery. If they talk about their problems to a person who understands them, they might become more comfortable with the idea of receiving the professional help that they need.

Another thing that teenagers need to know is that they are strong enough to get through any of these problems. They should never let other people tell them that they are not good enough or that they should change. We are all unique and we cannot be defined, so we should never let other people tell us who we are or who we should be, because there is no such thing as normal.

If you are a teenager and you have gone or are going through any of the problems mentioned above, here is what you need to know: be your own person and do what you think is right for you. Despite any attempts, you cannot be anyone but you. You have to learn to accept and love yourself just the way you are. Never think that you are less than perfect. We all have quirks and issues, but we are all perfect in our own way.

Cristiana Catalina Botu

Co-ordinating teacher: Georgiana Tranca

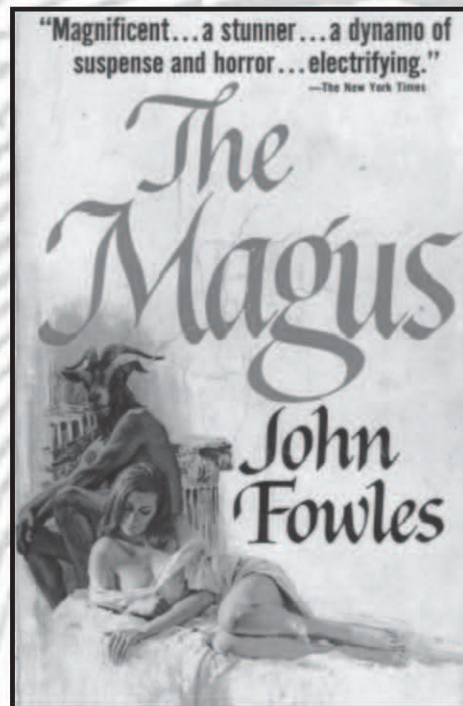




"THE MAGUS", JOHN FOWLES

After a first-novel success of the kind ("The Collector"), critics tended to lie in ambush for John Fowles's second effort on the assumption that he will attempt to repeat a now shop-worn formula. Occasionally a second-model author confounds his critics and junks the formula. This is what the English writer has done-triumphantly- in "The Magus".

The book tells the youngish, charming, graduate "handsomely meets Alison at a of his insecure love, Nicholas's obvious leaves Alison to instructor on a Greek immeasurably revelation that he is contemplates suicide solitary walks. On one the magus Conchis, an island estate. It is ushered into the conspirator in his own rebirth, as he has a



story of Nicholas Urfe, a intelligent Oxford equipped to fail". He party in London. In spite which is more than cynicism can stand, he accept a job as an English island. Bored, depressed by the self-not a talented poet, he and then takes to long of these walks he meets who is remotely living on here that Nicolas is mysteries- he becomes a destruction or psychic brief repeat with Alison.

"The Magus" is magnificent in ambition and supple in execution, in order that it may provide the reader a wild, hilarious charade. Needless to say, it is richly inventive and impossibly theatrical. "The Magus" grewed my perception of what is real and what is not, allowing my sensitivity to be more rational.

For fear that the reader will get a better insight into the allegorical romance and moral consciousness, the writer made the book a bit frustrating. The plot can never be foreseen and understood at first lecture.

All in all, "The Magus" cannot be considered an unpretending book. It is contemporary, evocative and intelligent, but it is no self-indulgence. Read it in one sitting- but I strongly recommend you read it. It is one of a kind that does not come around very often.

Bianca Cremene

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





the Vampire Diaries

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES SERIES IS ADAPTING THE SERIES ON NOVELS WRITTEN BY L.J. SMITH. IT IS A REAL SUCCESS. IT TEACHES THE VIEWER ABOUT LOVE, HATE, COURAGE, SECRETS AND PAIN. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING TV SERIES WHICH COMBINES ROMANCE WITH HORROR ELEMENTS IN A REMARKABLE WAY.

AT 4 MONTHS AFTER THE TRAGIC CAR ACCIDENT THAT KILLED THEIR PARENTS, ELENA GILBERT (NINA DOBREV) AND HER BROTHER JEREMY (STEVEN R. MCQUEEN) TRY TO ADJUST TO THEIR NEW LIVES IN THE CARE OF THEIR AUNT, JENNA, ALONG WITH LIVING IN THE TOWN OF MYSTIC FALLS. ELENA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MODEL STUDENT, BEAUTIFUL, POPULAR AND INVOLVED IN MANY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, BUT NOW SHE STRUGGLES TO HIDE HER GRIEF FROM THE WORLD. ELENA MANAGES TO FEEL CALMER WITH HER FRIENDS BONNIE (KATHERINE GRAHAM), CAROLINE (CANDICE ACCOLA) AND FORMER BOYFRIEND MATT (ZACH ROERING), BUT JEREMY IS ON A MORE DANGEROUS PATH, SPENDING TIME WITH DRUG ADDICTS AND HIDING HIS PAIN.



AS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR COMES IN MYSTIC FALLS, ELENA AND HER FRIENDS BECOME FASCINATED BY A HANDSOME AND MYSTERIOUS NEW STUDENT, STEFAN SALVATORE (PAUL WESLEY). FROM THE FIRST MOMENT HE AND ELENA MET THEY FELT ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER, BUT STEFAN WAS HIDING A BIG SECRET: HE HAS BEEN A VAMPIRE FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS. DESPITE THE SUPERNATURAL NATURE AND LUST FOR BLOOD, STEFAN TRIES TO HIDE HIS VIOLENT INSTINCTS AND FEED ONLY ON THE BLOOD OF ANIMALS. HE HAS A BROTHER, DAMON (IAN SOMERHALDER), COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND MORE VIOLENT THAN HIM. DAMON RIDICULES STEFAN FOR REJECTING THEIR NATURE, BUT I UNDERSTAND THE OBSESSION WITH ELENA, SINCE SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE WOMAN STEFAN LOVED A CENTURY AGO, A WOMAN THAT DAMON TRIED TO TURN TO CONQUER. NOW THESE TWO VAMPIRES -ONE GOOD AND ONE BAD- FIGHT FOR THE SOUL OF ELENA AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF MYSTIC FALLS.

IN ADDITION TO THE BRILLIANT ACTING, THE SET IS ASTONISHINGLY EVOCATIVE OF THE GLOOMY MOOD OF THE SERIAL. WHAT IS MORE, THE MUSIC PERFECTLY MATCHES THE DRAMATIC TOUCH OF THE STORY WHICH IS, IN FACT, A JOURNEY INTO A NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR PERSONAL IDENTITY.

SO, IF YOU WANT TO WATCH SOMETHING WHICH KEEPS YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT, THEN THE VAMPIRE DIARIES IS A MUST CHOICE.

Andreea Vladut

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





SWEDISH EXCHANGE

Every teenager goes through a phase in his/her life when he/she thinks his/her daily routine is dull. Wake up, go to school, do homework and restart. We sometimes need some excitement to make us curious again so what better way than travelling abroad, and even better,, in an exchange programme! So we decided to take the opportunity offered by our school and set off on a plane to Sweden, a beautiful country full of exciting new experiences... and bicycles! (Seriously, they are everywhere)

As soon as we set foot in the Malmo airport, we were greeted by a warm crowd of smiling faces – our adoptive families for the week. The different backgrounds and nationalities of our hosts ensured we had a truly multicultural experience. They all made sure we felt as welcomed as possible in their lovely homes.

Their school, although 1000 years old and looking just as imposing as it sounds, had a very modern touch to it, as it was equipped with the latest technology. Long relaxing breaks, tasty lunches, interactive classes and friendly, open-minded teachers formed an educational environment which turned learning into pleasure. What seemed surprising to us was the relationship the students had with their teachers who were more of a friend than a distant tutor. The relaxed atmosphere could also be sensed on the hallways, given the lack of a specific dress code. The students could fully translate their personality and personal styles in their outfits.

What is more, the school also provided a locker room – where they could leave their heavy books –, an open library with special areas allocated to group projects, and a cafeteria, serving free lunch every day.

But school was not the only thing we fell in love with there. By travelling to picturesque places such as the city of Malmo, the beach of Lomma and the Stenshoved National Park, we discovered the richness of history, culture and natural beauty this country has to offer. Another welcoming city was Copenhagen, situated a short 20 minute train ride away from our “home town” of Lund. The Danish capital was everything we expected and more: energetic, exciting, sprinkled with monuments and fragments of history among the sea of modern architecture. We couldn't wait to see Anderson's Little Mermaid, expecting to see a grand statue towering the bay. “But it's so small!” seemed to be the phrase on everybody's lips as we closed in on it.



Malina Cojocaru
Rebeca Ghilus
Alexandra Lupu
Ana Teutan



Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



Teenkeen on Ink

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 15

A light in the darkness

I'm awake in the infinite night,
When I lift my head and see
The dark blue meadow above me
Covered with sparkles...
But suddenly they all disappear
And all I can see is here,
In front of my lonely window,
A shimmering little dot of silver.
So now I know that she's always there,
Not only in my dreams,
Ready to wipe away my tears...
And she's singing to me her song...
The song of the stars...
Today with a magical infinite note,
My only hope...
My only star...
My only mom...

Sara Balan

Co-ordinating teacher:
Georgiana Tranca



My inner voice

*The sky is bursting out in flames
My earth cracked-open shouting
names.
I didn't think this'd happen again
Suddenly it started to rain.*

*Struck down in this awful pain
Tugging and struggling but in vain
Thought you can run, think twice
Whatever you do you can't
suffice.*

*A distant and forgotten cry
I hear sometimes across the sky
Cause with the sheer victory sound
I will rise myself up from the
ground.*

Adriana Iovan

Co-ordinating teacher: Georgiana Tranca

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Gallifrey Falls No More

Ever since the Dawn of Time, we, the inhabitants of Gallifrey, had been watching the evolution of the Universe, we had sworn never to intervene or to mix with the existing inferior life forms. They were too unimportant, too weak for us to even bother. They were the ants, we were the boot. We could crush them if we wanted. But a boot has no quarrel with an ant as long as the latter does not interfere in its affairs. We were the Time Lords and our ignorance, our hubris would have been the end of us.

Our planet, Gallifrey, was located in the Kasterborous Galaxy and it was, probably, the most beautiful planet that had ever existed. Its skies burnt giving off a wonderful bright orange colour; a citadel was enclosed in a mighty glass dome, shining under the twin suns. Beyond that, the mountains went on forever, with slopes of deep red grass, capped with snow. Trees with silver leaves reflected the light and it looked like the forests were on fire. We had anything you, mortals, could have asked for. We had that special technology, beauty and power. Yet, we lost them all.

We witnessed the way the earthlings, the stupid apes, slowly started to use the gifts they were blessed with. First, a spark taught them how to use fire, then, there came the wheel. From their need for survival they learnt how to hunt, to fight for their lives. They evolved, yet they remained almost as stupid as they had been before. They fought against one another, spilt the blood of their own brothers and sisters. How did they plan to make a name for themselves in this huge infinity that is the Universe if they did not stick together? Maybe, they dared to think that they were the only ones! That they owned everything! Maybe, they thought they did not need unity because there was no real threat. As I have said, stupid apes!

But maybe we, Time Lords, do not have the right to say that, since we made the same mistake. And that would cost us our most beloved gift, the eternity. We were so busy laughing at the earthlings, believing that we were intangible, supreme, that we failed to notice the fact that there existed other threats. Other mighty races had risen, and out of them all, the Daleks.

The Daleks were some sort of mutation, of abomination. They had been created to only feel hate. Afterwards, they quickly gained power and soon the Last Great Time War began. There were no winners. Everybody lost. We had not been prepared for a war. Our planets were lost. There were no survivors. For us, it was the end; for other planets, just the beginning.

The stupid apes on the Earth remained oblivious to what had happened. And I couldn't help but sympathize with them. They were the race that was most similar to us. And I was afraid of the fact that they would make the same mistake as we had done. In my exile, with them, I felt closer to home.

I am the last Time Lord, doomed to probably the worst fate which could ever exist - my punishment for having killed my own family and their worst enemies. I have to be lonely forever. When I get attached to a human being, I cannot help but think of how they would wither, get old and die and leave me alone once again, with my eternal doom.

The only proof that Gallifrey has ever existed is an old painting which illustrates the disaster on Gallifrey. It is called "No More" or "Gallifrey Falls". But maybe, there is one more chance. Maybe, I have been looking at everything the wrong way. Could it actually be "Gallifrey falls no more"? Is there, actually, a way of reversing all the harm and pain that I caused? Of bringing back to life all the kids from Gallifrey that I killed because of my hatred?

If there is one way, I swear on my two hearts that I will find it and restore everything, even if that costs my life.



Alexandra Maria Gheorghe
Co-ordinating teacher: Doina Gifu





On The



Wings

Of An Angel

Cold. Snow. Grey sky. Winter. It's the last memory, the last normal one with him. Jason and I were running in the park, fighting with snow, laughing.

"Come on, Alice! You coward! Come out from your hideout!", Jason said with a chuckle.

I came out charging at him with my hands full of glimmering snow, but he didn't run from me. Instead, he threw me on a pile of cold soft snow.

"Ah, I give up! I surrender!", I yelled with a giggle.

"Hehe, you always surrender!"

"That's because you make me melt every time you look at me, my beautiful angel!"

"Um... yeah.", Jason said a bit distant getting up from the snow.

"What's the matter? You always make that face when I call you like that. I have a feeling you're hiding something from me. You can tell me, it's O.K."

Instead of giving me an answer, he grabbed my hand and led me on a high building. My head was throbbing with both curiosity and panic. "What was he up to?" echoed constantly in my head.

"Are you ready?", he asked me, a wide smile imprinted on his face. But I didn't even get to answer him as a pair of white gorgeous wings showed up, attached to his back. I couldn't believe my eyes.

"You can actually fly with those?", I exclaimed amazed, my heart beating faster and faster.

"Of course, I'm something you, humans, call 'angel'. Do you want to try?"

I jumped excitedly on his back and held on tight to his body as we took off. The cold evening wind caressed my rose cheeks making me feel free. No worry on Earth could shatter this moment. We were together, Jason and I. But everything was too happy, too perfect and I'm afraid that perfection never lasts. It's a lesson I learnt the tough way.

The next day when I woke up I saw a letter with a white rose on it. It was Jason, of course. I opened it up nervously and as I read it, big salty tears crawled out of my eyes and rolled on my cheeks. He was apologising because he had left. He had to, because his family forbade him to be with me: a human and an angel, it was against the laws of nature. "P.S.: I love you and I'll never forget you." his last words were.

Many years have passed since then. Now I work as a photographer, so I get to see a lot of places. But, the real advantage is that I can seek for him while I do my job.

My goal is to find Jason and convince him to stay with me. And I'm not going to abandon this goal. Never.



Daria Gîrju

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





LIVE YOUR LIFE HAPPILY!

Have you ever thought that living in a boring world stands for waste of time? Should people act and keep their hope alive in order to solve that problem? Hope means our last hope...it sounds a little bit weird, doesn't it?

But it is fairly right because, if one does not hope that his or her dreams will come true one day, this is not likely to happen. Do not regret anything the moment it has already been done; in such a case, nothing can be changed.

Now let me share my own thoughts with you. I have a big dream, a secret one, which is very difficult to come true. Anyway, I am not going to give up. Even if it is a bit *high*, I can *climb* it faithfully; even if my road is blocked, I can walk around; even if people try to hurt me, I will continue walking on my own path. I will never stop at a single place. Moreover, the saying that guides me is "Live the moment!" Maybe this is wrong, I am conscious of the fact that there are persons who do not live in accordance to it, but as long as I am free, I will dream and think about everything I want, without forgetting about being responsible, too. However, living freely means obeying rational behaviour to a certain extent.

What makes me happy, at present, is the fact that I am me, myself dreaming about my future. I may do whatever I really like, within the limits, so as to be happy. If people enjoy doing some special things, just let them try those things and there will be no regret. Now life may seem quite hard; nevertheless, time passes over and teenagers will remember this period of time as being one of the most wonderful in their lifetime, because the time you are spending during your high school period is the best one. But do not always act at random, anyway, try and be a little bit organized, taking into account some pieces of advice:

Embrace yourself as you are. Accept yourself just as you are because you are already amazing! You can, of course, change as a person but you should never feel like there is something wrong with you just as you are now. Stop demanding perfection!

Increase your confidence. You will be better able to pursue the things you want if you have the confidence it takes to go and take those things for yourself. Improve your confidence so that you feel better and take life by the horns!

Give yourself what you need. Do things to make yourself happy. Let yourself have something special every now and again. Focus on your physical, spiritual and emotional sides. Do not get so focused on one that you ignore another. Try to get in touch with the things that make you happy and then do those things!

Communicate. Communication is the key to social happiness. When someone hurts you or lets you down, it is usually because of some miscommunication. When you feel ignored or your friendship suffers, it is because there is not enough communication going on. Make a point of talking to people more and encouraging more open, honest dialogue!

Find out how to succeed. Find out what you need to do in order to get the career you want and then work to do that. Look for advertisements for your ideal job and look at the requirements they want. Do not feel restricted by what you see: there are ways to go back to school, even if money is a problem.

Take risks. If you keep your life safe, you will never get anything really wonderful or new. You cannot wait for amazing things to fall into your lap because they most likely never will. Getting real rewards means taking risks in life. Just make sure that you weight the risk versus the reward.

Keep moving forward. Keep going, keep working your way up and never, ever give up. Keep giving yourself new goals. The moment you stop working to be better is the moment you feel unfulfilled and bored.

SO, DO NOT EVER GIVE UP! BE FAITHFUL, DETERMINED, ACT HOPEFULLY AND LIVE YOUR LIFE HAPPILY!

Valentina Larisa Cîmpeanu

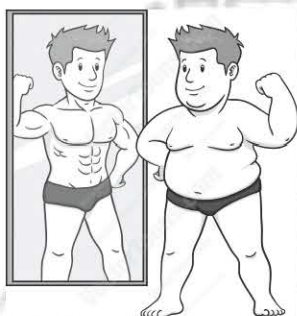
Co-ordinating teacher: Doina Gîfu





ON SELF

NEVER FORGET TO BE YOURSELF!



If you were to describe yourself in three words, which would those ones be? Perhaps "young, wild and free", but do they stand for your real self? Or is that just a mask that you would wear to hide from people round you? You do not have to hide, you should be yourself without any masks, because by doing this, you could get where you want. You should not be afraid of what the others would say about you if it were not the best mask that you could wear. Just being yourself can make your dreams come true.

Now it is time that some changes occurred within your mindset after realizing how your mates have got to perceive you. Lots of feelings have been torn in your heart, a great many thoughts, inside your brains. Thus, you have reached a point at which they prevent you from knowing who you really are. Nevertheless, you are determined enough to struggle and show your real self to others. On the other hand, you have to focus on all sorts of school activities and try not to appear much different from your mates.

Furthermore, I know that doing all this is not an easy task at all, because suddenly you feel that you must be yourself. Wearing a certain mask has become something usual and now it is hard to wear another one, actually, no one. It is quite difficult because everybody has come to know your usual mask, but it depends on you whether being yourself will surprise them pleasantly or unpleasantly. However, this is not a fairly simple process to be involved in; you can become who you are by taking off the mask piece by piece or all of a sudden. When the mask does not cover you any more, no one will notice that you will have stopped wearing it, no one will know exactly which the difference is; they will just feel a little bit confused.

To end with, the self could be compared to a natural rose: at the beginning, a small and fragile bulb and then, an amazing flower which flusters with its fragrance, without mentioning the third period...we are only teenagers, aren't we?

And now... if you were to describe your real self in three words, which would those words be?



Andra Daiana Păuna

Co-ordinating teacher: Doina Gîfu





Although I knew how important it was to be thankful, I learned only a few years ago the significance of it. The older I get, the more I realize the importance of the little things that are right in front of me to appreciate all year long.

Feelings of Gratitude

First and foremost, I am thankful to God, who gives me what the Bible calls "a peace that passes all understanding." In fact, a lack of gratitude towards God is the first step downhill in a life of rebellion, sin and ruin.

Morover, I want to mention my parents, who create the warmth of a wonderful home filled with pure love. No matter what happened, I have never doubted how important I am to them. My mother has always been ready to spend a moment with me if I needed it, and my father has always been there when I had a question or concern. My parents have never given me a reason to doubt their love for me and for that I am thankful.

I don't have a large number of close friends, but I do know there are a lot of good people, near and far, who I can count on, who care about me, and who want only the best for me. I truly value my friends and will never have "enough" or too many. I am thankful to my friends because they support me non-judgmentally and with their best interests at heart. They are the „shoulders" for me to lean on. I am thankful for the people in my life who know me well and still love me.

Anda Ionescu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





A DIFFICULT AGE TO OVERCOME?



Teenage is a fundamental stage in life that each human being passes through. Some people face this period of their life strongly and positively, while others may face problems and difficulties. This depends on the environment young adults live in, their parents, friends and most important, education.

To begin with, the most common problem teenagers face is peer pressure. Peers can positively influence each other, but most of the time they influence one another in negative ways. For example, a classmate might try to get you to cut class with them, or be mean to another student simply because they do not like him/her. In worse cases they can influence you to smoke, shoplift or drink. Kids give in to peer pressure because they want to be liked, to fit in, or because they worry that other kids might make fun of them if they refuse. Whether it is drugs, crime, alcohol or smoking, many young people just seem to go along with the crowd.

Moreover, teenagers always seem to be so self conscious, don't they? They try to appear older and always be fashionable while completely hiding their true selves behind a mask. They fear being judged or laughed at and because of that they forget how important it is to be yourself. Their constant need of approval might even start a fight with their parents, whom at this age they perceive as enemies, even though all they want is for their child to be safe. Some teenagers associate with street bands and become rude and cruel, all because of peer pressure.

What is more, teenagers become bored so fast, and this is a trait I share with them. Few things can keep our interest for longer than a few hours. We are always in a hurry, trying to occupy our time and we sometimes even find ourselves doing four things at a time. Doing our math homework while listening to music, talking on the phone with our moms while video chatting with our friends at the same time may seem chaotic to an adult but not to us.

On the other hand, our rooms always seem to be such a mess, yet for us everything is in perfect order. I can hear my mom telling me to clean my room, but what does she know, right? We know exactly where everything is and it would be a nightmare trying to find something in a tidy room. I guess the mess in our rooms perfectly reflects us in our daily lives: unorganized, always in a hurry, but in the end able to find our way.

In a nutshell, teenage is great, even though at times it doesn't seem so. All we have to do is be careful with whom we associate because that determines the adults we will become. It is an age of no worries and we should enjoy it as much as we can for the big bad world awaits for us to pay bills and who knows how taxes work?

Ana Maria Amzoiu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Learn more about...

DISTEENCT
DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 15

How long do dreams last?

Some dreams can feel like they lasted for a long period of time. This is because the element of time is among the most distorted elements during the dreaming state. An entire dream that covers several incidents and scenes may not actually last an hour in real time. There has been no categorically declared average time by which a dream may last, but it has more or less been considered to equate directly to the period of time that a Rapid Eye Movement (REM) phase lasts. Based on clinical studies, a single REM phase may last anywhere from 5 to 45 minutes. In the same vein, dreams are also estimated to last anywhere from 5 to 45 minutes.

This time estimate, of course, does not include the total time consumed by progressive dreams or dreams that are continued from one sleep period or one REM phase to the next.



Enache Roberta Andreea

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



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Atlantida - The Lost Continent

I am sure that many of you may have heard about this mystical place called Atlantida. It has been included in two of Plato's dialogues, Timaias and Critias as a myth to highlight his political theories, and later on in movies and science fiction stories. Not to mention that I have personally formed a passion for this place. As a myth, not much has been proved, but it is supposed to be placed in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. James Churchward asserts that a long time ago, there existed a vast continent <twice as Asia's size> which had been swallowed by water.

In Mythology, Atlantida was part of gods' land which was given to Poseidon. Later on, he fell for a goddess and they had 10 children together. The 1st of the 10 children, Atlas, was the one who literally named the land. After gods finished their mission on earth, Atlantida served as home for a fabulous number of 64 million of people.

Coming back to Churchward and his research, he also writes that "Atlantida was a very beautiful tropical region covered by plains. It had fertile valleys and plains and a rich tropical vegetation. As far as the eye can see, Atlantida can be defined as a stretch of emerald." He also describes the civilization that once lived there as very smart people with a well-built social life. Open-minded people; sailors roaming far and wide from an ocean to another. They were also architects who built colossal temples and stone palaces. Likewise, they built giant monoliths carved in shape of monuments.

As the Atlants needed an emperor to rule over the country, they advised and named Ra to be "that one". (You can also find Atlantida under the name of the Ra Mu-The Empire of the Sun.) During Ra's reign, no people felt helpless or hungry, nor was there poverty.

Atlantida had 7 main cities which served as centers for divine worship, science, culture and erudition.

They also had seaports and ships placed at every mouth of rivers. Atlants certainly had a pretty life if they knew how to deal with everything.

Being situated in the middle of the ocean, Atlantida's sudden fadeaway was due to a cataclysm which seemed to have swept every trace of living ahead of it. The world's supposed to be first civilization and thousands years of history were destroyed in seconds. All the wealth and the beautiful constructions were swallowed with the Atlants.



Simona Gheorghita

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



THE BIGGEST DISASTERS IN HISTORY

Yesterday I was listening to loud music when suddenly my mother entered my bedroom. When she saw the mess that was there, she became very wrathful and started to scold me: "Miss Stephanie, you are in trouble. Your room is a huge disaster. I hope you won't dare to ask me for anything until your room is clear again"...Oops! I knew that I had really annoyed her. She had never called me "Miss" before. I was aware that I should have started to clean the room, but instead of this, I made a list with some of the biggest disasters in history in order to make the mess from my room seem insignificant. So, here it is!

The Dinosaur Extinction (over 65 million years ago)

The dinosaurs' disappearance is still a major enigma in earth's history. The problem is that no one knows for sure what happened, but there are a few theories such as:

Asteroid impact: It is said that a 10 km asteroid struck widely the earth on the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, in the Gulf of Mexico, producing a fatal blow. Upon striking, the comet would have sent dust and steam into the atmosphere and caused huge forest fires. It eliminated all the sunlight.

Climate change: Many scientists believe that at the end of the Cretaceous period the temperature dropped. The plants died, so the plant eating dinosaurs and the meat eaters died as well.

Volcanic Eruptions: The dust and the ash made the air almost impossible to breathe. The dinosaurs would never have survived into such a poisoned environment.

The Great Fire of London (1666)

London of 1666 was a city of medieval houses made mostly of oak timber. In the evening of September 1st Tomas Farrinor, the king's baker, failed to properly extinguish his oven. He went to bed and sometime around midnight, sparks ignited the firewood lying beside the oven. Before long, his house and the whole city were in flames. It lasted 4 days. The fire engulfed 13,000 houses and 100,000 people were left homeless. However, nobody died. But the fire turned out to be a blessing. At that period, there was an epidemic of plague. The fire killed off most of the black rats and fleas that carried the plague bacillus, so the disease ceased.

The Nuclear Power Plant Explosion in Chernobyl, Russia (1986)

On April 26th the Chernobyl Plant had a major explosion which spewed radioactive material into the atmosphere. Since the accident, there have been countless children with birth defects and a shocking increase of cancer sufferers. It is estimated that the disaster could result in nearly 100,000 fatal cancers and the area won't be safe for any activity, including farming for up to 200 years.

So, mom, I owe you an apology, but the mess in my room is not a huge disaster, after all.

The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius. 79 AD

On August 24th Mount Vesuvius blew its top, spewing tons of molten ash into the atmosphere. A "firestorm" of poisonous vapors and molten debris engulfed the surrounding area suffocating the inhabitants of Pompeii: more than 3,500 people died. Tons of falling debris filled the streets until nothing remained to be seen of the once thriving communities. The city remained buried for almost 1700 years.

The Black Death (1384)

An epidemic that swept through Europe from 1348 to 1351 killed an estimated 25 to 60% of Europe's population. Some estimates were higher, which would mean somewhere between 75 million to 200 million people. It is also known as "The Great Mortality" or "The Pestilence".

The Sinking of the Titanic (1912)

On April 10th the "Titanic", the largest ship afloat, left England on her maiden voyage to New York. Its passengers were a mixture of the world's wealthiest people and poor immigrants. It was thought to be the safest ship ever built-so safe that it carried only 20 lifeboats. Four days later, the ship struck an iceberg. The fireman compared the sound of the impact to "the tearing of calico, nothing more". However, the collision was fatal and the icy water poured through the ship. Although, each passenger was issued a life jacket, they weren't safe. The great ship slid beneath the waters 2 hours and 40 minutes after the collision. The next morning, 1522 passengers were lost.

Anca Ștefania Nețoiu



Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



Medieval English Queens

Part 1

Empress Matilda

Matilda, also known as Matilda of England or Maude, was born sometime around 1102, to Henry I of England and Matilda of Scotland, during the Norman dynasty. She was the first woman to make a claim to the English crown in her own right.

As a child, she was betrothed to and later married Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor, which earned her the title of Empress. She was crowned on the 25th of July 1110 and married Henry in 1114. Her husband wanted her to learn German so she went to Germany to learn, being taught by an Archbishop, Bruno of Trier.

In 1120, her brother, William, drowned when the White Ship sank. This tragedy happening, Matilda was her father's only living, legitimate heir. But there was a great problem: she was a woman. In 1125, her husband died, leaving Matilda widowed at only 22. After this, her father called for her to Normandy, which displeased Matilda since Germany she now considered to be her home, she knew the language and was highly respected there. Her father, however, made her his heiress and his court swore an oath to her. Matilda's second husband was Geoffrey of Anjou, who, while of considerable wealth and social status, was barely 14 and his future wife was completely outraged, considering him beneath her in social rank.

The years that followed were tumultuous for Matilda. She had two sons, one of them the future Henry II, and nearly died, being critically ill. The arrangements for her funeral had been settled but she made a full recovery. After the death of Henry I, Matilda's cousin, Stephen took over the crown, taking advantage of her illness. They fought a civil war which roughly lasted from 1135 to 1153, a period known as The Anarchy. Matilda was the first ruler of the Kingdom of England between them both, but she only ruled for a short period of time in 1141. She was never crowned in her own right, in spite of being the obvious ruler at the time, which is why she is excluded from the lists of reigning monarchs, while Stephen appears as a king from 1135 to 1154.

After a while, when it became obvious to Empress Matilda that she would never succeed into becoming the reigning monarch of England, she began supporting her son, Henry as the rightful heir to the English throne. Her fiercest supporter was her half-brother, Robert of Gloucester, the only one who never betrayed her, since the other men did not respect the oath they had taken in front of her father, years before. Matilda managed to escape Stephen, who wanted her dead in two ways, first by dressing into white during the depth of winter and by disguising herself as a corpse being carried out for burial. In 1147, when her son, Henry was 14, she went with him on a battle. It wasn't a success, but the boy viewed the land as his mother's right, therefore, his own.

He then became King Henry II in 1154. He always referred to himself as "The son of the Empress". Matilda had always been proud of said title and insisted on people to remember it. She was the most important woman in the kingdom later in her life, maintaining her own court and presided over the government of the duchy while Henry was away. She had given up hope for the crown long ago and she died in 1167, at the age of 65.

During her lifetime, Matilda was called ill-tempered, disagreeable. Most of this came from the contemporary men who did not understand how she would not care about their advice, how she wouldn't be humble and obedient, how she could be very close in behavior to the kings that ruled during those times.



Anamaria Dumitru

Co-ordinating teacher: Georgiana Tranca





I'm sure that all of you have played, watched or heard about Football, Basketball, Rugby and Volleyball. These are the most popular sports that have the greatest impact on us. A lot of people managed to make performance and to become rich and famous through practising these main sports. But we focused so much on them and we forgot that a sport doesn't have to involve necessarily a ball. There are plenty of rare, unique, unusual or just plain weird sports all around the world, that are waiting shyly to be discovered.

CHESS BOXING is a sport mixing brain and muscles. The winner has to be strong of body and strong of mind, playing a bit of chess between boxing rounds. This is a real challenge!



THE MOST UNUSUAL SPORTS



EXTREME IRONING is a funny sport and a performance art. People who play this unusual sport go to remote locations and iron clothes! They take their ironing board, unplugged iron and some of their wrinkly clothes to some extreme places (at high altitudes, underwater, hanging from cliffs, etc.) and photograph themselves. This is an interesting way of getting the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt!

BED RACING – the competitors form teams of seven and one of them books a comfortable seat on a bed, specially decorated for this event. The bed runs on four wheels and is able to float.



UNDERWATER HOCKEY – this is a sport played on the bottom of a swimming pool and the players have to send the puck into the gate of their opponent. How many of you have played such kind of sports?

Irina Iordache

XI E

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



ROBERT JOHNSON

T A L E N T O R D E V I L W O R K

In many cultures or folklore there is a story of crossroads which tells how people can sell their soul to demons in exchange for what they want from them. They were cursed to live eternal life in Hell.

Robert Jonson's story is very popular in the American folklore. He was born in Mississippi and started playing the guitar in 1920. In 1930 his wife and child died in childbirth. He travelled throughout the deep south, playing wherever the train took him. He was known for his unique chord movements and note progressions. Robert suddenly disappeared from the picture and nobody knew where he had gone to. Six months later he returned and many people acknowledged him as the king of the blues.

The legend says that during that period Jonson took his guitar, went to a crossroads near Rosedale at midnight and when he arrived he saw the dark shadow of a man waiting for him. It is said that he played some songs to the shadow and in exchange for his talent he sold his soul.

In 1936 and 1937 he went to Texas and recorded at least 29 songs, becoming a legend. Then, he returned to Mississippi to sing in bars and at parties. People were shocked at how much his skills improved, but he became suspicious thinking he was hiding something, because during his performance he always looked at the back of the audience.

His mentor and friend, Son House declared that his magic talent came from a higher force. "He sold his soul to play like this", said Son House.

One year later, Robert died mysteriously after playing at a party. It is said that the three songs "Hellhound on my tail", "Crossroads" and "Me and the Devil" are references to the pact he made with the devil himself. The legend of this pact has its roots in the African-American and European folklore.

When they found Robert dead in a lake of blood in his house, the authorities believed that he had been poisoned by a jealous husband who thought that Robert and his wife were having an affair. But rumours say that it was the devil who came to eventually collect his prize.

To cut a long story short, the curse of one of his songs, "Crossroads", was continued by three other singers: Eric Clapton, Lynryd and The Alm Brothers Band and this fact brought them only suffering and the loss of the loved ones. After all, you can choose what you want to believe.

Celestin Cigenas

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Famous for his character "The Tramp," the sweet little man with a bowler hat, mustache and cane, Charlie Chaplin was an iconic figure of the silent-film era and one of film's first superstars, elevating the industry in a way few could have ever imagined.

Born Charles Spencer Chaplin in London, England, on April 16, 1889, Charlie Chaplin was a British comic actor, filmmaker, and composer who rose to fame in the silent era. Raised in London, Chaplin's childhood was defined by poverty and hardship. He was sent to a workhouse twice before the age of nine. His mother, Hannah Hill Chaplin, a talented singer, actress, and piano player, spent most of her life in and out of mental hospitals and his father, Charles Spencer Chaplin Sr. was a fairly successful singer until he began drinking.

Barely able to read and write, Chaplin left school to tour with a group of comic entertainers and by the age of nineteen, he had become one of the most popular music-hall performers in England.

"I (was) news vendor, printer, toymaker, doctor's boy, etc., but during these occupational digressions, I never lost sight of my ultimate aim to become an actor," Chaplin later recounted. "So, between jobs I would polish my shoes, brush my clothes, put on a clean collar and make periodic calls at a theatrical agency."

But in 1910 Chaplin went to the United States to tour in "A Night in an English Music Hall", chosed by filmmaker Mack Sennett (1884–1960) to appear in the silent Keystone comedy series. In these early movies (Making a Living, Tillie's Punctured Romance), Chaplin changed his style, becoming more delicate and precise in his movements.

Chaplin wrote, directed, produced, edited, wrote the music, and starred in most of his films. He was a perfectionist, and his financial independence enabled him to spend years on the development and production of a picture. That is why, his films are characterised by slapstick combined with pathos.

On the ather hand, in his private life , in 1918 he quickly married 16-year-old Mildred Harris. Unfotunately , the marriage lasted two years, and in 1924 he wed again, to another 16-year-old, actress Lita Grey.

But in 1943, Chaplin married 18-year-old Oona O'Neil, the daughter of playwright, Eugene O'Neil. Unexpectedly, the two would go on to have a happy marriage, one that would result in eight children for the couple.

By the 1970s times had changed, and Chaplin was again recognized for his rich contribution to film. He returned to the United States in 1972, where he was honored by major tributes in New York City and Hollywood, California, including receiving a special Academy Award, in 1975 becoming Sir Charles Chaplin, after Queen Elizabeth II (1926–) of England knighted him.

In the early morning hours of December 25, 1977, Charlie Chaplin died at his home in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Vaud, Switzerland. His wife Oona and seven of his children were at his bedside at the time of his passing. In a twist that might very well have come out of one of his films, Chaplin's body was stolen not long after he was buried from his grave near Lake Geneva in Switzerland by two men who demanded \$400,000 for its return. The men were arrested and Chaplin's body was recovered 11 weeks later.





YIN AND YANG

In Chinese philosophy, the concept of yin-yang, which is often called "yin and yang", is used to describe how seemingly opposite or contrary forces are interconnected and interdependent in the natural world; and, how they give rise to each other as they interrelate to one another. Many natural dualities (such as light and dark, high and low, hot and cold, fire and water, life and death, and so on) are thought of as physical manifestations of the yin-yang concept. The concept lies at the origins of many branches of classical Chinese science and philosophy, as well as being a primary guideline of traditional Chinese medicine, and a central principle of different forms of Chinese martial arts and exercise.

Symbolism and importance

Yang is the white side with the black dot on it, and yin is the black side with the white dot on it. The relationship between yin and yang is often described in terms of sunlight playing over a mountain and a valley. Yin (literally the 'shady place' or 'north slope') is the dark area occluded by the mountain's bulk, while yang (literally the 'sunny place' or 'south slope') is the brightly lit portion. As the sun moves across the sky, yin and yang gradually trade places with each other, revealing what was obscured and obscuring what was revealed.



Yin is characterized as slow, soft, yielding, diffuse, cold, wet, and passive; and is associated with water, earth, the moon, femininity and nighttime.

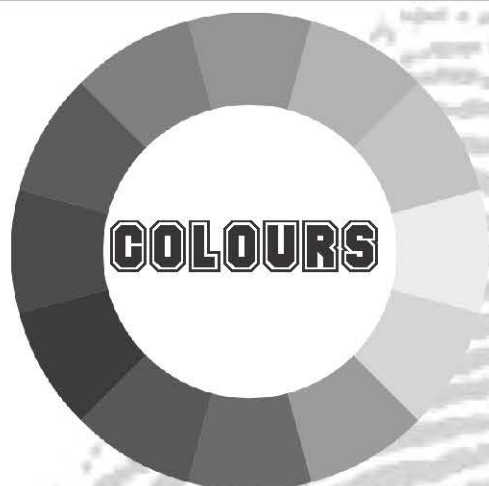
Yang, by contrast, is fast, hard, solid, focused, hot, dry, and aggressive; and is associated with fire, sky, the sun, masculinity and daytime.

Yin and yang applies to the human body. In traditional Chinese medicine good health is directly related to the balance between yin and yang qualities within oneself. If yin and yang become unbalanced, one of the qualities is considered deficient or has vacuity.

Andreea Adelina Milotin

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





It you think of the way we describe certain emotions (seeing red, feeling blue, green with envy) there's no denying that colour and mood are inextricably linked. As colours can dramatically affect feelings and emotions, they are a powerful communication tool and can be used to signal action and cause physiological reactions. So have you ever questioned the strong impact they have on our lives?

While perceptions of colour are somewhat subjective, there are some colour effects that have universal meaning. Colours in the red area of the colour spectrum are known as warm colours and include red, orange and yellow. These warm colours evoke emotions ranging from feelings of warmth and comfort to feelings of anger and hostility. Colours on the blue side of the spectrum are known as cool colours and include blue, purple and green. These colours are often described as calm, but can also call to mind feelings of sadness or indifference.

We also have an innate reaction to colours. For example, when you look at red, it does increase your heart rate, being a stimulating colour. However, our feelings about colours are often deeply personal and rooted in our own experience or culture. For example, while white is used in many Western countries to represent purity and innocence, it is seen as a symbol of mourning in many Eastern countries.

There are also some interesting facts about colours. Several ancient cultures, including the Egyptians and Chinese used colours to heal and this therapy is still used today as alternative treatment. Research has demonstrated in many cases that the mood-altering effects of colour may only be temporary. A blue room may initially cause feelings of calm, but the effect disappears after a short period of time. Plus, room colours can influence our moods and our thoughts. The colour of the clothes we wear are also a reflection of our feelings.

In addition to that, colours can influence people in a variety of surprising ways. Anecdotal evidence has suggested that installing blue-colored streetlights can lead to a reduction of crime in those areas. People who are warm tend to list cool colours as their favorites, while people who are cold prefer warmer ones. Exposing students to red prior to an exam has been shown to have a negative impact on test performance. One study found that warm-colored placebo pills were reported as more effective than cool-colored placebo pills.

Concluding, colours play an essential role in our lives although we often tend to overlook their significance. Having an undeniable influence on our behaviour, they can display both positive and negative feelings and have the ability to enhance people's moods as well as their lives.



Maria Neicu

Co-ordinating teacher: Delia Cristea





LEAGUE of LEGENDS

League of Legends (LoL) is a multiplayer online battle arena video game developed and published by Riot Games. According Forbes article, League of Legends was the most played PC game in North America and Europe in terms of the number of hours played.

Gameplay

League of Legends is a multiplayer online battle arena where players take control of a character called a champion, and are matched with and against other players in teams. As of December 13, 2013, there are 117 different Champions from which to choose from. Players meet up usually in "lanes", and gain levels from killing the opposing team's Champions controlled by players and Minions that regularly spawn and attack the other team. The player earns a small amount of gold passively, but gets more by killing minions, towers that guard the lanes, and neutral monsters. With this gold, they can buy items to strengthen their champion for the duration of the game. On the classic Summoners Rift map, the game is ended by destroying the last structure on the map, the enemies' "Nexus".

The player is personified as a "Summoner" and acts as the persistent element in the game, to be used to track statistics and scores for each player. Summoners gain experience points and "Influence Points" (in-game currency) for each battle they participate in. Experience points lead to persistent level gains for the Summoner, up to a maximum level of 30. The benefit of gaining levels is unlocking Mastery Points and Rune Page slots which improve the overall strength of the Summoner's chosen champion in-game. The League of Legends Store allows Summoners to purchase additional options through Riot Points (RP) and Influence Points (IP). Riot Points must be bought using real money, while Influence Points are earned by playing the game.

Tournaments

Commencing the 15th of September, the 14 teams played in Los Angeles for the playoffs. The tournament consisted of a group stage and two single-elimination rounds which were held in a Los Angeles Studio with live audience. The semi-finals were held at the Galen Center, with the Finals being held at the Staples Center. Sk Telecom was the team which won the championship and the prize of \$1.000.000 .

When it comes to actually playing the game, something that's obviously very important, LoL provides an addictive experience that should feel reminiscent of any other game in the genre.



Adrian-Nicolae Cuțitoiu

Co-ordinating teacher: Laviniu Bădulescu





THE HOLOCAUST

A main Nazi concept was the notion of racial hygiene. On 15 September 1935, Hitler presented two laws—known as the Nuremberg Laws—to the Reichstag. The laws banned marriage between non-Jewish and Jewish Germans, and forbade the employment of non-Jewish women under the age of 45 in Jewish households. The laws deprived so-called "non-Aryans" of the benefits of German citizenship. Hitler's early eugenic policies targeted children with physical and developmental disabilities in a programme dubbed Action T4.

Hitler's idea of Lebensraum, espoused briefly in *Mein Kampf*, focused on acquiring new territory for German settlement in Eastern Europe.¹ The Generalplan Ost ("General Plan for the East") called for the population of occupied Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to be deported to West Siberia, used as slave labour, or murdered; the conquered territories were to be colonised by German or "Germanised" settlers. The original plan called for this process to begin after the conquest of the Soviet Union, but when that failed to happen, Hitler moved the plans forward. By January 1942 the decision had been taken to kill the Jews and other deportees considered undesirable



The Holocaust (the "Endlösung der jüdischen Frage" or "Final Solution of the Jewish Question") was organised and executed by Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich. The records of the Wannsee Conference—held on 20 January 1942 and led by Heydrich, with fifteen senior Nazi officials participating—provide the clearest evidence of systematic planning for the Holocaust. On 22 February Hitler was recorded saying to his associates, "we shall regain our health only by eliminating the Jews".¹ Approximately thirty Nazi concentration camps and extermination camps were used for this purpose. By summer 1942 Auschwitz concentration camp was rapidly expanded to accept large numbers of deportees for killing or enslavement.

Although no specific order from Hitler authorising the mass killings has surfaced, he approved the Einsatzgruppen—killing squads that followed the German army through Poland, the Baltic, and the Soviet Union—and he was well informed about their activities. During interrogations by Soviet intelligence officers, the records of which were declassified over fifty years later, Hitler's valet, Heinz Linge, and his adjutant, Otto Günsche, stated that Hitler had a direct interest in the development of gas chambers.

Between 1939 and 1945, the SS, assisted by collaborationist governments and recruits from occupied countries, were responsible for the deaths of eleven to fourteen million people, including about six million Jews, representing two-thirds of the Jewish population in Europe, and between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Roma. Deaths took place in concentration and extermination camps, ghettos, and through mass executions. Many victims of the Holocaust were gassed to death, whereas others died of starvation or disease while working as slave labourers.¹

Hitler's policies also resulted in the killings of Poles and Soviet prisoners of war, communists and other political opponents, homosexuals, the physically and mentally disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, Adventists, and trade unionists. Hitler never appeared to have visited the concentration camps and did not speak publicly about the killings

Bianca Vasile

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



BE HAPPY !!



Miscellaneous

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 15



McDonald's restaurants are found in 119 countries and territories around the world and serve nearly 47 million customers each day. McDonald's operates over 31.000 restaurants worldwide, employing more than 1.5 million people. The company also operates other restaurant brands such as Piles Café and has a minority stake in Pret a Manger. The company owned a majority stake in Chiptole Mexican Grill until completing its divestment in October 2006. Until December 2003, it also owned Donatos Pizza. On August 27, 2007, McDonald's sold Boston Market to Sun Capital Partners.

RONALD MC DONALD I'M LOVIN' IT
Ronald McDonald is a fictional clown who is the primary mascot of the McDonald's fast-food restaurant chain. Ronald McDonald is the second most recognized figure in the world after Santa Claus. In television commercials the clown inhabits a fantasy world called McDonaldland and has the adventures with his friends Mayor Cheese, the Hamburglar, Grimace, Birdie the Early Bird and The Fry Kids.



Moleanu Lavinia

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

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FIVE MOST POPULAR VIDEO GAMES

“The obvious objective of video games is to entertain people by surprising them with new experiences.”
Shigeru Miyamoto

1. Pac-Man

This classic game needs no introduction as it is still popular today and the name itself is nearly synonymous with video games. Developed in 1980, it became a symbol of pop culture in that period and led to sales of countless merchandise, an animated TV series, and a top-ten hit single. Pac-Man is considered a landmark in video game history, the most famous arcade game of all time, and the highest-grossing video game ever with a generated income of \$2.5 billion all before 1990.

2. Super Mario

Super Mario is a Nintendo Entertainment System video game released in 1985 by Nintendo. The game, designed by Shigeru Miyamoto and Takashi Tezuka, has become one of the most important and successful video games of all time. It features an enthralling combination of rock-solid gameplay, ingeniously designed levels, vibrant, colorful graphics and well-written music. The sense of excitement, wonder and most of all, enjoyment, felt upon first playing this masterpiece of videogame can barely be put into words. And while its sequels have far surpassed it in terms of length, graphics, sound and other aspects, Super Mario, like any classic, has withstood the test of time, continuing to be fun and playable.

3. The Sims

Often considered the most successful video game series of all time, The Sims has sold more than 300 million copies worldwide. Maxis' game is about creating, managing and controlling the lives of tiny computerized people who dwell in miniature homes. The game's excellent music and sound effect, as well as detailed scenery, cleverly animated characters, go a long way fulfilling this intriguing premise. It could be said that The Sims, rewards you in the same way that doing housework does. Add to your list of chores making friends, landing and keeping a job, buying things for your house, and falling in love, and you'll get how that sense of achievement can quickly become addictive.

4. FIFA

The series of “FIFA” is produced by EA Games and it is probably the most widely played soccer simulation game in the world. The game is popular for its excellent graphics and life-like depictions of real players. Furthermore, EA Games often secures exclusive rights to club and country logos, apparel brands, and even commentators' voices, which makes the game so believable that it can sometimes be difficult to differentiate a game of “FIFA” from an actual soccer match.

5. Grand Theft Auto

Grand Theft Auto is a series of games that incorporates driving and action gameplay styles in a vast, predominantly urban “sandbox” environment. Gameplay focuses on an open world where the player can choose missions to progress an overall story, as well as engaging in side activities, all consisting of action-adventure, driving, third-person shooting, occasional role-playing, stealth, and racing elements. Ever since 2001, not only has the GTA series been a major success, both critically and financially, but has also broken several records, resulting in Guinness World Records awards.

Teodora Ionescu

Coordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





A little boy, at a wedding looks at his mom and says, "Mommy, why does the girl wear white?" His mom replies, "The bride is in white because she's happy and this is the happiest day of her life." The boy thinks about this, and then says, "Well then, why is the boy wearing black?"

Kate Hudson along with two other blonde friends were taking a walk in the country when they came upon a line of tracks. The first blonde said, "Those must be deer tracks!" The second blonde said, "No, stupid, anyone can tell those are rabbit tracks!" Kate said, "No, you idiots, those are horse tracks!" They were still arguing ten minutes later when a train hit them.

Teacher: You aren't paying attention to me. Are you having trouble hearing?
Pupil: No, teacher I'm having trouble listening!



A professor was giving a big test one day to his students. He handed out all of the tests and went back to his desk to wait. Once the test was over, the students all handed the tests back in. The professor noticed that one of the students had attached a \$100 bill to his test with a note saying "A dollar per point." The next class the professor handed the tests back out. This student got back his test and \$56 change.

A man comes home from a night of drinking. As he stumbles through the front door, his wife snaps at him, "What's the big idea coming home half drunk?" The man replies, "I'm sorry honey. I ran out of money."



Perfumes

Roberta Andreea Enache

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



Perfumes have been known to exist in some of the earliest human civilizations, either through ancient texts or from archaeological digs. Modern perfumery began in the late 19th century with the commercial synthesis of aroma compounds such as vanillin or coumarin, which allowed for the composition of perfumes with smells previously unattainable solely from natural aromatics alone.

The world's first recorded chemist is considered to be a woman named Tapputi, a perfume maker who was mentioned in a cuneiform tablet from the 2nd millennium BC in Mesopotamia. She distilled flowers, oil, and calamus with other aromatics then filtered and put them back in the still several times.

In 2005, archaeologists uncovered what are believed to be the world's oldest perfumes in Pyrgos, Cyprus. The perfumes date back more than 4,000 years. The perfumes were discovered in an ancient perfumery. At least 60 stills, mixing bowls, funnels and perfume bottles were found in the 43,000-square-foot (4,000 m²) factory. In ancient times people used herbs and spices, like almond, coriander, myrtle, conifer resin, bergamot as well as flowers.

The precise formulae of commercial perfumes are kept secret. Even if they were widely published, they would be dominated by such complex ingredients and odorants that they would be of little use in providing a guide to the general consumer in description of the experience of a scent. Nonetheless, connoisseurs of perfume can become extremely skillful at identifying components and origins of scents in the same manner as wine experts.

Plants have long been used in perfumery as a source of essential oils and aroma compounds. These aromatics are usually secondary metabolites produced by plants as protection against herbivores, infections, as well as to attract pollinators. Plants are by far the largest source of fragrant compounds used in perfumery. The sources of these compounds may be derived from various parts of a plant. A plant can offer more than one source of aromatics, for instance the aerial portions and seeds of coriander have remarkably different odors from each other. Orange leaves, blossoms, and fruit zest are the respective sources of petitgrain, neroli, and orange oils.

Pollution

Synthetic musks are pleasant in smell and relatively inexpensive, as such they are often employed in large quantities to cover the unpleasant scent of laundry detergents and many personal cleaning products. Due to their large scale use, several types of synthetic musks have been found in human fat and milk, as well as in the sediments and waters of the Great Lakes.

These pollutants may pose additional health and environmental problems when they enter human and animal diets.



Gianina Tolea

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Chinese Zodiac

The Chinese zodiac is a mathematical cycle of **12 animals**. Each animal represents one year. People are associated with the animal for the year that they are born. The 12 animals in order are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. Zodiac animals can also represent personalities, hours of the day and directions. Although it is called the Chinese zodiac, this system is also used in several other countries in Asia such as Korea, Japan, and Vietnam

Personality

Chinese believe that each zodiac animal has a personality, and people born in the same year may have similar personalities.

Rat

years: 1984, 1996, 2008

Honest, freedom, hard working, charming. Can be selfish, ruthless, controlling, scheming.

Ox

years: 1985, 1997, 2009

Smart, calm, patient, inspiring, modest. Can be stubborn, narrow-minded, demanding, rigid.

Tiger

years: 1986, 1998, 2010

Aggressive, rebellious, strong, daring, generous. Can be restless, clumsy, hot-temper, impatient.

Rabbit

years: 1987, 1999, 2011

Kind, sensitive, elegant, artistic, cautious. Can be moody, shy, lazy, opportunistic.

Dragon

years: 1988, 2000, 2012

Strong, proud, direct, eccentric, show off. Can be arrogant, violent, brash, controlling.

Snake

years: 1989, 2001, 2013

Wise, graceful, calm, mystic, shrewd. Can be a loner, bad communicator, possessive, distrustful.

Horse

years: 1990, 2002, 2014

Cheerful, popular, talkative, witty, earthly. Can be fickle, rude, gullible, stubborn.

Goat

years: 1991, 2003, 2015

Righteous, honest, shy, artistic, understanding. Can be moody, a worrier, a complainer, and or too soft.

Monkey

years: 1992, 2004, 2016

Witty, curious, flexible, sociable, smart. Can be vain, clumsy, trickster, snobbish.

Rooster

years: 1993, 2005, 2017

Neat, organized, alert, scientific, responsible. Can be critical, egotistical, rough, opinionated.

Dog

years: 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

Honest, smart, loyal, sense of justice, affectionate. Can be lazy, cold, stubborn, quarrelsome.

Pig

years: 1995, 2007, 2019

Simple, hard working, strong, peace-loving, trusting. Can be naive, gullible, materialistic, clingy.





Horoscope

Aries- This year, aries will have to learn a few lessons, like patience and cooperation. These natives won't be able to affirm themselves individually like always, and the solution is a partnership. Even though they are individualistic people, Aries will be forced to rely on others. Be careful about your resources, your impulsive characteristics will push you to spend a lot of money.

Taurus- Excess in any form should be avoided, especially when it comes to food, because you will face serious problems. Their wish to possess will bring them to the point of losing things or the people they love, so they need to stop being overly attached. An important point is health, the Taurus will face illnesses they thought were healed. These natives will learn to invest in more important things than material possessions.

Gemini- these natives will benefit from material gains thanks to their talents. The intellectual domain is active for Geminis, they will want to know more and they will try to pursue certain courses which are of interest to them. Affectively speaking, they will come face to face with a series of difficult moments which are meant to test your relationships. This year they can experience the best traveling experience of their life, they can go on cruises or simply visit a new country.

Cancer- The representants of this sign will reach the maturity phase and will get the courage to act on their own. Professionally, this year will be full of financial realisation, but family is the domain which will exhaust them. This year, cancers will be able to make major changes in their lives. They have the initiative and working power to act, and thus these natives will reform their dreams.

Leo- 2014 can bring new opportunities for Leos, they will socialise a lot more and they will feel the need to change their roles. It's a great idea. Professionally speaking, there are a lot of favorable changes ahead. Because Jupiter is in your sign, you will pay more attention to yourself. They will travel, and the need to learn about new cultures will make them explore countries they've never even considered before.

Virgo- These natives will grow affectively. Even though they are used to coordinating the relationship, they will have to accept the opinions of their partner. They should be careful when it comes to spending money without a more precise purpose. Virgos should be more careful and pay more attention, because there's a lot of people around them willing to take advantage of their hard work.

Libra- Libras should learn how to control their impulsive tendencies, and it is recommended to never make decisions during those moments. Financially, this isn't exactly a great year and they will have to rely on their family member a lot more. Affectively, these natives will have to give more freedom to their partner. They should hold on to their beliefs and dreams no matter what, because they can be easily influenced.

Scorpio- These natives need to communicate and stop giving their brutal comebacks. It's a year in which they will want to feel approved at work, and thus they will try to accumulate a lot of information. Be careful around the people who want to stop you from achieving your goal. Scorpios will find out who their real friends are when they need a helping hand.

Sagittarius- The way you view your family will suffer major changes. This year is characterized by imprevisibility and you will have to face new and unexpected situations. These natives have the advantage of keeping their calm when it comes to stress and they will try their best to make the best decisions. It's better if they focus on the present rather than the future.

Capricorn- Capricorns will be confronted with certain set-backs from the people around them. Pluto in their sign will force them to be patient and stop before hurting anyone. These natives will make profound changes especially professionally. They might change their jobs or domain of interest. Though these changes, capricorns will bring a lot of attention towards themselves and thus they will be in the spotlight.

Aquarius – they will have to face problems concerning communication. They will be forced to realise the influence they have on other people. A very dynamic year awaits them, with lots of socialising and travel experiences. They will be confronted with emotional problems which can have a profound impact on them, because they will be surprised to find people they love leaving them.

Pisces- pisces will bring back old plans which they didn't want to complete. They will have to face situations which they had thought finished. Financially, they will have a lot of advantages for which they don't need to work. The natives of this sign will think long and hard about their future and will find spiritual guidance.





CONGRATULATIONS!

We mention the following best results at the
County English Olympic Contest:

9th Grade

1. Gheorghe Alexandra Maria-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Gifu Doina
2. Popa Gabriel-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Cristea Delia
3. Safta Anamaria-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Gifu Doina
4. Poenaru Madalina-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Smadu Silvia

10th Grade

1. Dobrica Laura Gabriela-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Cristea Delia
2. Botu Cristiana Catalina-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Tranca Georgiana
3. Popa Anca-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Crisu Roxana
4. Balan Sara Sorina-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Tranca Georgiana

11th Grade

1. Girju Daria-3rd Prize; co-ordinating teacher Malaet Carmen
2. Neicu Andreea Natalia-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Cristea Delia
3. Neicu Maria Cristina-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Cristea Delia
4. Cristea Catalina-Mention; co-ordinating teacher Cristea Delia

12th Grade

1. Cojocaru Malina-2nd Prize; co-ordinating teacher Malaet Carmen

Public Speaking Competition

National Semifinals

Cojocaru Malina Elena; Grade XII E

Honourable Mention

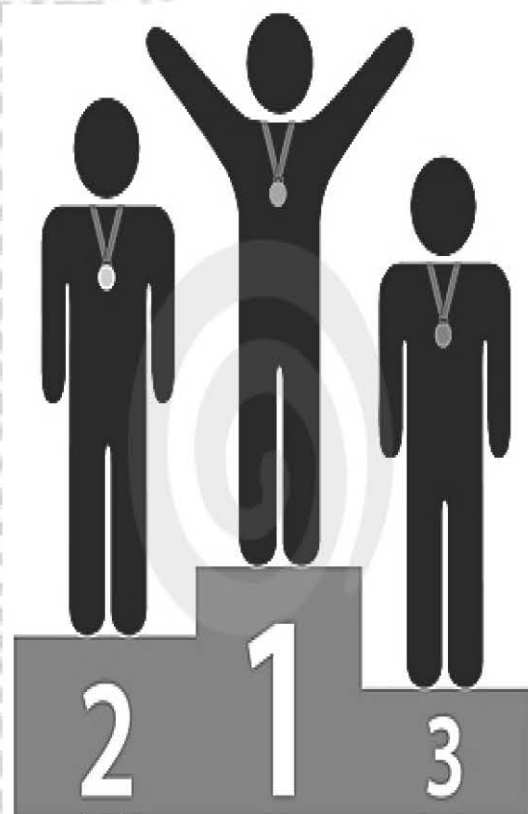
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

Regional Heat

Dumitru Anamaria-Grade X E

3rd Prize

Co-ordinating teacher: Georgiana Tranca



EYP National Selection Session

-Busteni-

Tircomnicu Elena

Ghermec Lorena

Teisanu Thea

Art & Poetry National Heat Contest

1. Girju Daria & Cisma Diana Gabriela - Grade XI E- 1st Prize

2. Amzoiu Ana-Maria & Netoiu Stefania-Grade XI A- 2nd Prize

3. Bildea Alexandra & Pitigoi Diana Maria-Grade XI E- 3rd Prize

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

My Universe County Contest

Safta Anamaria & Pauna Andra Daiana-Grade IX E

1st Prize

Co-ordinating teacher: Gifu

Doina & Andriescu Corina



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Nr. 1120 din 30.03.2011

Către

COLEGIUL NAȚIONAL ELENA CUZA ,CRAIOVA

În atenția D-lui/D-nei Director,

Ca urmare a solicitării dvs. privind obținerea avizului I.Ș.J.Dolj , conform Regulamentului pentru avizarea revistelor școlare din unitățile de învățământ ale județului Dolj, nr.4786 din 18.06.2010, vă comunicăm faptul că, în urma evaluării de către comisia special constituită la nivelul I.Ș.J.Dolj , revista **DISTEENCT** a primit **aviz favorabil**.

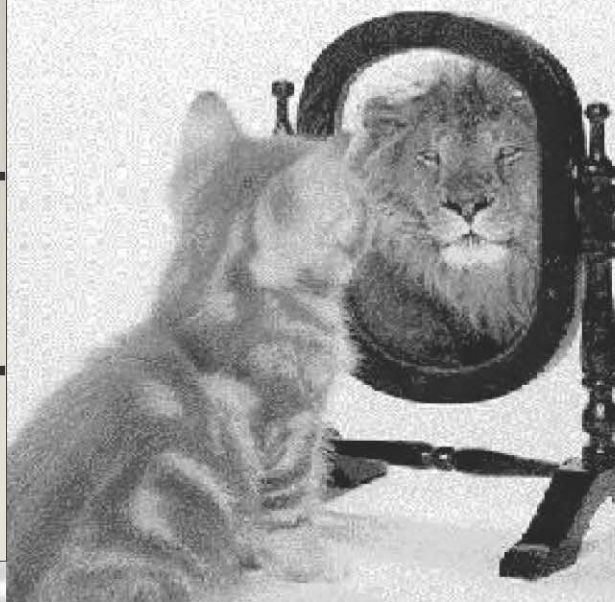
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WHAT MATTERS MOST
IS HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF.





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