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DISTINCT

ISSUE #22/May 2024

Rasky Team
Wang Yifan greets Romania- Chinese
teacher interview

Artificial Intelligence
The Mathematics mysteries: Fibonacci's
sequence and the Golden Section





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 MALAET, English teacher at "Elena Cuza" National College, Craiova, Dolj, with the real support of our school management: Liviu Cotfasa - school principal, Adina Ursu - assistant principal, Bertoni-Silviu Dragomir - assistant principal, Monica Mitrut - educational counsellor.



Teo Says



Hello, readers! It's me again, Teo, presenting the new issue of our English magazine DISTEENCT.

I want to begin by thanking you all for taking a little of your time to join our creative story either by sending us an article or buying this publication. It has been an absolute pleasure to be back at editing and I've had the time of my life rediscovering what it means to be truly Disteentc. Moreover, my learning journey has continued in Disteentc and by far the most important lesson I have learned, since this new issue allowed us to look back in time and figure out how each editor-in-chief has left their own stamp on this project, is that all of us have our own distinctive mark that is influencing everything around.

Blooming, much like growing, cannot be rushed. Therefore, do not let others' successes and failures influence the perception you have of yourself and your abilities. Trust yourself to be able to get the job done. Be DISTEENCT!

Catalina-Teodora Tecu
Editor-in-Chief



Disteentc has turned out to be one of the greatest opportunities for me to develop my skills and test my ambition. It has taught me that beyond any great project, there is always a fantastic, hard-working team. I hope you'll find yourself while reading this magazine or, at least, you'll come across something valuable, something DISTEENCT.

Cristiana Baragan
Deputy Editor



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Opinions

HIGHSCHOOL LIFE. CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 22



High school. When I was just a child entering my primary school years, all I could think about had always been the years of college and in the same measure what I would look like and behave as soon as I turned 16. Everytime I thought about the future the word High school jumped on my mind from nowhere and made me daydream about the immense halls, the tingling ringbell and the laughter that came from any group of friends who were ready to begin their happy journey under the old walls full of memories the school has been holding for decades.

My dreams came true and here I am now, 16, studying in my dream institution, knowing the fact that my 8 years old me would've been so proud of what I achieved. I used to say "Oh it can't be real that one day my life will basically change from dreaming and hoping, into actually living the dream and restrospecting every fact younger me believed was going to be amazing about teenage years! "

As I dive deeper into this period which is called "the best years in everyone's life", I become more and more concerned about the fact that there are many ups and downs, but nothing a hangout with your best friends can mediate. That was the exact moment when thoughts flushed into my brain and resulted in "I want friends, friends who help me get through the roughest times of my existence."



Even though people are of the opinion that friends are not real and you shouldn't trust them that much, I'd like to say that my motto is "Make fewer but true friends rather than one hundred and fake companions." People come and go, obviously, but what remains are always the memories and that's why I think that having friends in your teenage outcome helps you develop your true self, beliefs and makes you understand your values and rights.

One of the most beautiful aspects of friendship is its ability to flourish in the most unexpected places. From chance encounters in the classroom to shared passions in the music field, friendships blossom effortlessly. It is this inherent spontaneity that infuses our school with a vibrant energy, where every interaction becomes an opportunity to lasting connections.

In essence, friendship is the glue that binds us together, the light that guides us through the ups and downs of adolescence, and the foundation upon which we build memories that will last a lifetime. So, let us cherish the relationships we've formed, nurture them with care, and celebrate the invaluable role they play in shaping our school experience.

As we bid farewell to another chapter in our academic journey, let us carry the lessons learned, the memories shared, and the friendships built. In the tapestry of life, these are the bonds that truly make it worth living!

Irina Mihaela Preda
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet IX C

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Barakah Bukkie greets Romania



Hey, there! Have you ever wondered what is like to study in Canada? Well, here is an interview with a student, Barakah, who is currently studying Biomedical Engineering there.



Q1. What do you think about the education system in Canada?

Answer 1: I believe the education system in Canada allows for one to expand their interests into a working field. For example, if one would like to be working in an Information Technology (IT) field, you can just have a diploma from a local college. Another benefit is that the elementary 'till high school education for children is free, allowing everyone a right to their education and allowing them to gain the necessary requirements to move either onto university or to begin working in the country.

Q2. What made you choose your degree? Did you feel inclined towards it since you were younger?

Answer 2: During grade 4, I would read books on prosthetics and was interested in how they were made and how they would help disabled people around the world. However, in grade 8, my homeroom teacher introduced me to Biomedical Engineering Technology for a Career Ed project. This is where this program started to sound quite interesting to me. So, I began researching for my Career Ed project and found the job and field to be very interesting. From there, I presented my gathered research in a presentation format in front of the whole class. That presentation I still used to refer to at times in high school to understand the steps I must take to enter the field of Biomedical Engineering. So, in high school, I catered my courses to increase my chances to enter into the degree right after high school. I had taken International Baccalaureate (IB) courses to ensure I would be prepared for my university courses for Biomedical Engineering. The IB program taught me how to handle rigorous study and allowed me to understand the complexities of higher-level education. So in general, my grade 8 teacher and my love for prosthetics were the reasons for me to choose my degree.



Q3. Is your university campus a place where you can make happy memories?

Answer 3: Yes, since my university campus is quite fun, where the social community is quite robust according to my fellow peers. There are quite a lot of events year-round that cater to everyone's interests. For example, there are conferences that happen yearly that bring the engineering student body together to work on implementing solutions to existing problems, or even enhancing older products to create better products for the future. There are also more generalized events, such as bracelet-making, for a nice mental health break from studies. All in all, my campus is very welcoming and allows each individual to experience university life to the fullest.



An interview taken by Adina Gabriela Mihai
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Ai Artificial Intelligence

For the longest time we've been dreaming about the variety of ways technology could improve the industry, our daily lives, and society. Nowadays we tend to forget that the internet, something we use every single day and are dependent on, is a very recent invention. We rarely take the time to think about how fast it has evolved. In around thirty years, it went from a simple search bar to a whole virtual world, something no one could have predicted back then. Ever since then, we have replaced physical books, maps, and photo albums, with digital copies of all of those things, which has definitely been convenient, but has also cost us our attention spans and critical thinking skills. We got used to receiving whatever information we wanted without ever looking for it ourselves. We thought the internet would work in our favor and, for the most part, we were mistaken.

Recently artificial intelligence (AI in short) has been all the rage. Much like the internet, it has quickly developed: a few years ago, this kind of technology could only generate short and simple sentences, which usually lacked sense or a grammatical structure, unlike now when it can seamlessly copy human faces, mirror the way we talk and create a "natural" conversation, generate intricate pieces of artwork and much more.

And what is so wrong with that, you might wonder? Students have started to run all of their assignments through AI, just copying the answers. Fake images of celebrities have been posted all over the internet in an attempt to ruin their careers. AI-generated "art" has been taking actual artists from the spotlight, stealing their visibility from the public. Is this really what we call progress? A world where everything we consume is a counterfeit made by a robot. Do we want to live in a society that doesn't reward and value effort and emotion? What will we do when we lose our ability to think for ourselves entirely? Or when someone with a fake video shows up in a courtroom to put an innocent person behind bars? Or when a screenwriter and an actor will not find a job because AI is already doing their work for them?

Whatever future awaits us, we must learn our priorities and hold onto our integrity. Under no circumstance should we let go of our most precious traits like diligence, creativity, and passion. These qualities should define us, for without them we lose our value as intelligent beings. Therefore, we should take action before it is too late, go back to a more authentic version of our world, and use technology that would not affect us in such harsh ways. Otherwise, we might even risk losing our humanity.

Alexandra Danciu
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

IX A

A colourful world

We live in a world that tends to be as close to perfection as possible. We want to be special and unique, but at the same time we want to look like everyone else. We want to grow up and when we are adults and have many worries, we want to become children again.

The world is full of contradictions. However, we must not obey the rules established by society and which can break wings. Each person has their own hobbies and preferences.

If you are a dreamy and sensitive person, people will say that you are not down on earth. If you think about how to earn a lot of money, people will tell you that you are materialistic and selfish. The society will always have something to comment on, so be yourself.

As for me, I am a person with a child's soul, but with a mature way of thinking. I usually wear clothes in light colors, especially pink, because I try to see the world in pink. I consider myself an optimistic person because I don't see any advantage to be otherwise. I think that all the problems that come our way are meant to show us how strong we are and how important it is to believe in ourselves.

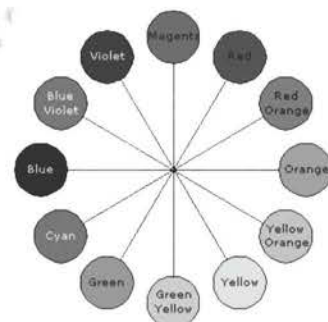
When we have only good intentions, only good things will happen to us, even if later. When this happens, the world will seem really colorful.

If you have a goal to achieve but you are not sure that you will succeed, don't forget: **the sky is not the limit, the mind is!**

Crina Elena Manafu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

IX C





WANG YIFAN GREETSS ROMANIA

Q1:What do you think about Romania and what is your favourite Romanian dish?

A1:I think that Romanian people are really friendly. For example, yesterday night, I saw some teenagers staring at me. I said "Hello!" and they were really happy! As for my favourite dish, I like Sarmale the most and the Romanian style meat barbeque.

Q2:How do you find our city and what is your opinion about the students of our college?

A2:I like the weather in Craiova, it's very good. During daytime, I sometimes walk out when it's warm and take a stroll around Craiova, but I know there are still many places I haven't been to . About the students...it's a problem. Some students are excellent, but some are really difficult to manage. It's a big difference between Romanian and Chinese students, so, I also do my best to get used to my students. It's a challenge for me.

Q3: When did you know you wanted to be a teacher and in what other countries did you teach?

A3: I think I knew that I wanted to be a teacher in highschool. I did great in my Chinese class, so, I remember that one time my Chinese teacher wanted me to share my learning experience of Chinese to other students. My Chinese teacher gave me a great expression to my performance, so, I think it was then that I decided to become a teacher, but I didn't imagine I would become an international Chinese teacher. Before Romania, I taught in the UK for 2 years and, before the UK, I taught English in China.

Q4:How do you approach teaching Chinese character to beginners?

A4:For the children in primary school, I teach them a song with a dance. That dance wants to teach my pupils that each body part has a character that resembles it. It helps them memorise them better and keep their interest in the language.

Q5:What do you miss the most except your family?

A5:Of course, I miss the food from back home and my friends. We have a good relationship(with the friends) and we get in contact by video calls or by messages. I like my job and profession, I like " Elena Cuza", so, whenever I show my friends pictures from here, they are amazed and think that the difference between Chinese schools and Romanian schools is interesting. I think that this summer I will fly back to China to meet with my friends and taste the food again.



Q6:What's your favourite thing to do on a day off?

A6:I like going shopping in Promenada, my favourite shop is Zara . I go to Promenada or to Electroputere mall every weekend. I always go to the gym situated in the Mercur shopping center. I also try to taste new food, both Romania's and other country's dishes.

An interview taken by Elena Teodora Nicolae,
and Andrei Cristian Ciortan
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





BTS CONCERT REVIEW

In June of 2019, I went to a BTS concert in Paris. BTS is a record-breaking South Korean boygroup known for their electrifying performances and choreographies, and their ability to transmit their message despite the language and culture barriers. They are the first Korean act with 5 Grammy nominations, and they have 23 Guinness World Records, accumulating a fanbase of millions all over the world.

The crowd was impressive before the 7 boys even came out on stage. We were all chanting their songs and names, creating an atmosphere that was taking over the whole city of Paris. The band's skill of connecting people could also be seen in the crowd. From teenagers to older adults, everyone was there to enjoy their music, forgetting any difference of age gender, or nationality. As soon as BTS made their appearance, the 81.000 people present went absolutely crazy. They played some of their greatest hits like "DNA" or "Boy With Luv", and also older songs that only the biggest fans know, like "I Need U" and "Butterfly". It was surreal to see such a huge group of people sing the same songs in a language that most of them didn't know, even making some of the members get emotional on stage.

On the downside, the process of getting in and out of the stadium was insanely chaotic. Imagine how 81.000 people need to get to the same place at the same time, and out of there as well. We tried to book a hotel as close to the stadium as we could, but still, it took us 3 hours to get to the stadium. Even in the stadium, the people were pushing you and trying to get to their seats as fast as they could, making the whole process a very agitating and stressful experience.

All in all, the concert is unforgettable. Even though it was my second time seeing my favorite band, I was still just as impressed by their hard work, live vocals, and choreography as I was after the first concert. Everybody there had an awesome time, and I will never forget the feeling of hearing my favorite songs live. And as a mega fan of BTS, I can tell you that they are one of, if not the best performers of our generation, bringing the whole package on stage. If you get the chance to see them as soon as they're back on tour, don't miss the impressive artistry of BTS.



Flavia Wiesler
Co-ordinating teacher: **Carmen Malaet**

SUPERNATURAL Review

Supernatural

In a world where the darkness and the light are fighting for the spot and unknown forces are shaped into our reality, the question remains the same: "If you know evil's out there, how can you not believe good is out there too?" This idiom basically embodies the essence of the "Supernatural" TV series.

The storyline

"Supernatural" is a captivating show which blends elements of horror and paranormal. The story follows two brothers who are trying to figure out what creature killed their mother and how to protect individuals from demonic possessions. The two siblings, Sam and Dean, find themselves in a world controled by demons, one in which they can only count on each other.

How enjoyable it is going to be

I can confidently say that every person will find this show intriguing too, especially because of the storyline which is regarded as a highly captivating one. Not to mention the special effects, the colouring, the funny lines and the soundtrack which has been carefully chosen in order to fit each scene. The series also keeps viewers on the edge of their seats with its tense atmosphere, chilling visuals and unexpected plot twists.

Aspects that make the show special

What sets the TV series "Supernatural" apart from the other popular science fiction shows is represented by the research done behind the cameras. Each story and each creature can be found in urban legends from different cultures. Moreover, the series emphasizes the psychological depth too, in order to offer an even more profound insight into the story. Overall, "Supernatural" is an amazing show and is sure to leave a lasting impression on its viewers.

G.W. D.W.

Coordinating teacher : **Georgiana Corina Tranca**

Alexia Marinica





"The Sun is Also a Star" book review



"The Sun is Also a Star" is a thought-provoking romance novel, written and published by Nicola Yoon, which has won the National Book Award for young people's literature in 2016. It is a well-written novel that explores

themes of love, destiny and identity. Set in New York City, the story follows Natasha, a pragmatic Jamaican-American girl, and Daniel, a romantic Korean-American boy, whose paths cross on a faithful day.

The story begins with Natasha Kingsley, the protagonist, receiving the devastating news that her family is being deported back to Jamaica. Natasha desperately seeks a way to prevent their deportation, which ultimately leads her to cross paths with Daniel Bae, another key character to the novel.

The plot is fascinating and well-written, showing different points of view from each character. Yoon's writing is both poignant and intriguing, delving into the nuances of cultural identity and the power of human connection. Despite the captivating plot, the beginning of the book can be quite fast-moving, sometimes lacking suspense.

All in all, with its compelling characters and beautifully narrative, "The Sun is Also a Star" is a must-read for anyone seeking a heartfelt and immersive story and I highly recommend it.



Patricia Prodan

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

IX C

INTENCITY FESTIVAL REVIEW

For the past 2 years Intencity festival has been an oasis of excellent music and youthful exuberance in our town, Craiova. Catering to music lovers of all ages, but with a special focus on the young ones, this annual event has become an emblem of our beloved city.

One of the festival's most remarkable features is its diverse lineup, a blend of local and international artists: from emerging singers igniting the stage with raw energy to seasoned performances captivating the audience with their virtuosity. One of the most famous artists who stepped on the stage last year, in 2023, was Enrique Iglesias.

Beyond the musical universe, the magic event offers a plethora of activities. From the variety of workshops destined for teens to a huge line of food trucks, there is something to captivate every sense and spark every interest.

Moreover, the organization and the volunteers make sure the festival's commitment to sustainability sets a shining example for others to follow. With initiatives like waste reduction, and recycling programs, Intencity not only entertains but also educates and inspires attendees to take care of the environment.

Besides its charming air, Intencity also has some unpleasant parts. To exemplify, last year the event took place at Ion Oblemenco stadium but also at the Polivalent Sportshall. Even though it sounds like a huge space, the sports hall was a bit too small to welcome such an immense amount of people at just one show.

Overall, Intencity festival has become a footprint for Craiova. It solidifies its place as a cherished tradition in our town's cultural landscapes.



Issabela Marina Nicola and Daria Mihaela Guta
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

IX C



ETERNAL SUNSHINE of the SPOTLESS MIND

"Blessed" are the forgetful



If you had the possibility to erase somebody from your mind, would you? The film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (Michel Gondry, 2004) is a story about a group of people who have access to a peculiar and powerful technology that offers you that chance. Thanks to the work of Dr. Mierzwiak (Tom Wilkinson) and his company Lacuna, Inc., several characters are

able to undergo a procedure from which they have the memories of other people erased from their minds in order to lessen the suffering they bear because of them. This story is remarkably nuanced and complex, thus it does not suggest obvious answers to these various questions that it makes us dwell upon. It undoubtedly invokes a perennial problem within the philosophy of medicine; the dilemma of where society should restrict the pursuit of biological modifications that have no essential therapeutic purpose.

Penning by Charlie Kaufman and directed by Michel Gondry, this visually captivating movie proves itself to be a grief-stricken introspection about the profound cycle of identity, love, vulnerability, regret, acceptance, and the moral implications of tampering with the web of human emotions.

Released in 2004, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* stars Jim Carrey as Joel Barish and Kate Winslet as Clementine Kruczynski, two individuals entangled in a passionate yet tumultuous romance. The young man grows heartbroken as he finds out his ex-girlfriend has undergone the medical procedure to erase all recollections of him from her mind. For the sake of revenge, but with confusion as the origin, he decides to do the same, but it eventually leads them back to each other. Through the lens of memory manipulation and as Joel's memories of Clementine begin to fade during the process, he finds himself clinging to the rapidly disappearing remnants of their shared past. It seems the pain of loss is only amplified by complete erasure, the man's reminiscences becoming augmented as they disappear and as he is trying to run away from them, to hide Clem from them. Their dearth of character and the voids in their memories connect the narrative about the importance of experiencing loss in life with the art of remembrance and its role in the great intricacy of relationships.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind awakens something more profound within the viewer. It demands a reaction from the soul. It compels the mind to call upon the thoughts it has put aside, that gained a faithful place in the background, and subdued. It asks us to contemplate upon our own muted requiems for the past, positive or negative, and retrieve the role those events had in sculpting who we are right now.

Last but not foremost, I want to mention that the piece that both unfolds and concludes this work of art is the very title. It is derived from Alexander Pope's poem "Eloisa to Abelard" which summarizes the idea of a mind in an apparent state of blissfulness - free from sorrow and remorse. The film argues that such a state is not only unachievable but also unappealing, as our suffering and contempt are directly interlinked with our capacity for joy and love. I believe the ultimate verdict of this story is that you cannot become spotless.

Ultimately, because it is when we forget that we are the most lost, this movie proves beyond doubt that Mary, the girlfriend of one of the employees from Lacuna, is terribly wrong when she quotes:

"Blessed are the forgetful, for they get the better even of their blunders." (Beyond Good and Evil, Friedrich Nietzsche)

PSYCHOLOGY VERSUS PSYCHIATRY

Have you ever thought about the differences between jobs? for example, psychology and psychiatry, but the most important question is: Do you know the difference between psychiatry and psychology?

Many people confuse these 2 branches of medicine, having the impression that both mean the same thing or maybe just said differently or that they deal with the same things, the same patients. But it's not like that, psychology and psychiatry are similar from the point of view of the fact that both involve human interactions, but otherwise they are enormously different.

Psychologists study cognitive, emotional, and social processes and behavior by observing, interpreting, and recording how people relate to one another and to their environments. They use their findings to help improve processes and behavior.



A psychiatrist has trained as a medical doctor and can prescribe medication. A psychologist is not a medical doctor and can't prescribe medication.

Psychiatrists are trained physicians who specialize in mental health. They evaluate, diagnose, and treat psychiatric disorders according to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The treatments they offer include medication, therapy, and behavioral interventions.



Anastasia Moraru

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





The most important of all human qualities is a sense of humor



Pandemics, wars, conflicts, protests and so on. We have all become well acquainted with such saddening and worrisome occurrences over the course of the last few years that have completely shaken our belief to the ground. However, as frightening and saddening our circumstances can get, we must never lose sight of the joys of living.

Even if we have been endowed with reason, wisdom, kindness, love and many other admirable qualities, the one that we call upon the most throughout our day-to-day actions is our ability to comfort those around us, by combining all of our other senses. And, as Mark Twain said "The human race has one really effective weapon and that is laughter.", the easiest way to overcome our struggles is through laughter. For instance, I can recall one time in primary school when I was very sick and that made me sad because we couldn't go outside and play. Seeing my mood, my then desk mate, Adriana, did all sort of jokes and pranks just to make me laugh, which she eventually succeeded in. It is true that I was still annoyed because of not being allowed outside, but I wasn't feeling as frustrated that before. This goes to show that when life hits you with a rock, you should hit it with a joke.

Charlie Chaplin, a famous comedian, also once said that "A day without laughter is a day wasted.". Therefore, in the face of hardships, we should call onto our humorous side and try to see the good in every situation. Sarcasm and irony are our first defense against difficult situations as puns bring us together. After a stressful day at work, there's nothing more uplifting than sharing a good laugh with your friends- whether that's watching a comedy movie or attending a stand-up show, cracking jokes is always helping you strike a balance between the hustle and bustle of life and the need for relaxation.

Overall, whereas it's crucial to be serious in certain moments of your journey on this Earth, taking life too seriously will only harm you in the long way. Sometimes, the only thing we need in the face of trials and tribulations, the best thing we can do is grab a pint of beer, call some friends and share our situation in a funny manner. Life's so short to spend it all stressed out, you should always have at least a little bit of fun.



Catalina-Teodora Tecu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



Be
Happy

What does happiness mean to you?

If you were to ask me about happiness, a complex and subjective emotion, I could only say that it holds a unique meaning for each individual. For me, happiness, that ephemeral whisper of joy that seems to flutter just beyond our grasp, is often portrayed as the ultimate goal, the very purpose of life. But what is this coveted treasure we call happiness?

To start with, genuine happiness, to me, is intertwined with the quality of relationships. The warmth of shared laughter, the comfort of understanding glances, and the support during challenging times contribute significantly to my sense of well-being. These connections provide a sense of belonging and create a tapestry of shared experiences that enrich the fabric of life. In my case, a day spent with my friends and family is like an oasis of peace.

Furthermore, happiness is as much a journey as it is a destination, isn't it? It's not merely found in the grandiose or the extraordinary but blooms in the mundane, everyday existence. It's the sweet melody that plays in the heart when life's simple pleasures are fully embraced. A good book, a hearty meal, a casual stroll- could these not be the simple keys to unlocking the chambers of delight within us?

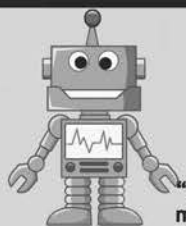
Another point to consider is that happiness is not a constant state, is it? It ebbs and flows like the tide, a rhythm as natural as the beating of our hearts. In the acceptance of life's ups and downs, we find a resilient sort of joy, one that endures through storms and sunshine alike. This acceptance, this resilience- could they be the anchors that keep our ship of happiness steady in the turbulent sea of life?

To put it in a nutshell, I would say that happiness, for me, is a dynamic interplay of meaningful connections, personal passions, and the appreciation of life's simple joys. It is a journey marked by growth, self-discovery, and resilience, where the pursuit of contentment meets the pursuit of personal excellence.



Alexandra Maria Marinica and Bianca Gabriela Starasnita
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Rasky



"Drivers, pick up your controllers! 3, 2, 1 go!" Hold on, we're no longer in the midst of matches. Despite our 2024 season wrapping up weeks ago, our competitive spirit remains alive. This marked our inaugural year as rookies since our experienced members left school to go on their own paths. Now, we are doing it all independently, applying the knowledge passed down to us and striving to craft the finest robot possible.

First, we would like to introduce ourselves to the people who haven't got to meet us yet, even though many individuals could recognize us thanks to the posters and activities we organized all throughout the school. Some people call us "Team RaSky", others know us as "the kids who build robots", but we like to think of ourselves as young people who attend "Elena Cuza" National College from Craiova, with big dreams and hopes, who, without thinking, signed themselves up in a project, that, they hoped, would make a difference in this world. This year was a continuous challenge. Our lives, team dynamics, and the competition itself underwent transformations. We started slowly, revamping our team and introducing young students to the realm of STEM. Amidst numerous highs and lows, moments of self-doubt, and the feeling of being overwhelmed, we collectively overcame obstacles, securing a spot in our Arad Regional championship.

This year we succeeded in sharing the FTC qualities to a whole new generation of members, strengthening our friendships and making memories that we will remember forever. The long hours we spent in our laboratory, the attempts, all the failures and victories culminated in the creation of a robot that authentically reflects our dedication. All these things merged, and shone through during our Championship in Arad. Following three days of intense emotions and unique experiences, our hard work yielded success as we won the Connect 1st Place Award, securing an automatic qualification for the National Championship.

Stefan Alexandru Gresita

Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet

Basketball in people's lives



Basketball is a team sport that many people start enjoying at a young age. Most kids get introduced to this sport by their family and, while some of them don't really like it, a lot of them start loving it and during their lives they will either become professional players, or become big fans of a certain club.

During the teenage years of the basketball lovers, almost everybody is playing on a team and trying to improve to eventually play for big clubs. At age 17 most players realize that they don't have a future in the sport and stop playing it seriously. After that they mostly play just for fun with friends and might start watching basketball games even more than before.

For the people that stopped playing competitively they become die-hard fans of a specific club, most times it is their home town club, and watch every game and stay connected with all the news in the basketball world. With the sport being so popular you always have someone to talk with about your opinions and argue over some things that you don't agree with. A good example is the rivalry of the biggest clubs in Serbia, Partizan Belgrade and KK Crvena Zvezda Belgrade. The players always try harder during those games between the two and the fans are absolutely loving these matches. Even the fans hate each other and at every game they create the best atmospheres in the whole world. They support their team in every argument and are the most passionate fans on the globe.

For the players that go pro, they end up making a good amount of money in every country that they play in. The best players in the world go to the United States of America to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA) or to different parts of Europe to play in the Euroleague. In Europe they could earn up to \$5 million a year and in America the salaries are between \$633,891 (Ishmail Wainright.) and \$69.1 million (Jaylen Brown) a year. For example, in my home country, Romania, there are some great players such as Dennis Seeley (U-BT Cluj-Napoca), Kris Richard (CSM-CSU-Oradea), and even Romanian players are dominant, one of them being Marius Ciotlăuș (CSM Galați) and Emanuel Cățe (U-BT Cluj-Napoca). The average salary in the LNBM (The Romanian basketball league) is around \$4000-5000 per month, but the best players are making up to \$10.000 per month.

Yet there is another side to the picture. Playing basketball is very fun and relaxing sometimes but the worst thing that can happen to anyone playing it is getting injured. It can happen anytime and you can't do anything about it. The worst types of injuries are the ankle and knee injuries that can happen very easily. If you just fall awkwardly or make a small misstep you can get either a simple sprain or if you are very unlucky you might tear your ACL or your Achilles tendon, which needs surgery and takes more than 1 year to fully recover. For this reason, everybody is very careful with every single move they do to not risk their body for 1 game.

In conclusion, basketball has many advantages, some disadvantages but it is still a great sport to watch, as well as to play at a high level or just casual.



Alexandru-Mihai Ciuca

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



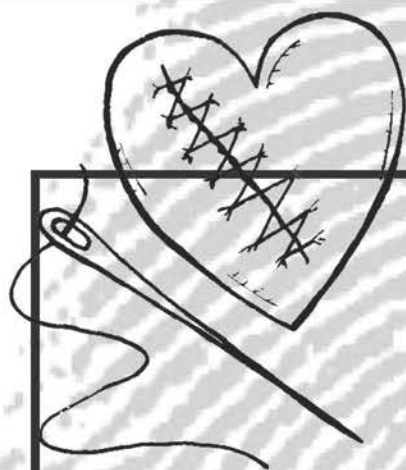


Teenkeen on Ink

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 22

UNREQUITED LOVE



In the quiet corners of the heart, there exists a touching tale of unrequited love, a story written in the ink of loneliness and marked by the bittersweet cadence of a solitary heart.

She gazes from the shadows, an unseen admirer, her heart dancing to the silent rhythm of affection. In the poetry of stolen glances and unspoken words, her emotions paint a complicated mural of desires that remain linked to the forbidden realm of the unattainable.

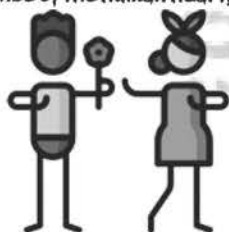
Every stolen moment becomes a treasure, engraved into the canvas of her memories. Her love, like a delicate flower, blooms in the solitude of her heart, its petals unfolding with a beauty known only to her. Yet, it is a beauty veiled in the melancholy of a love unrequited...

In the carousel of their interactions, she becomes a spectator, watching the story of his life unfold while yearning for a role beyond the margins. Her love, an invisible force, casts a gentle shadow on their interactions, creating a web of emotions where shades of hope and resignation coexist.

Through the phases of her unrequited affection, she becomes a silent poet, crafting lyrics in the solitude of her thoughts. Each word a confession, each line a testament to the depths of a love that finds comfort in its own existence, despite the absence of mutuality...

The ache of unrequited love is a silent companion, a whispered secret shared only with the moon and the stars. Yet, in the corridors of her heart, she carries the weight of unspoken emotions, a weight lightened only by the delicate hope that one day, love's pendulum may swing in her favor.

Unrequited love is a paradox—a journey of self-discovery powered by the ache of unfulfilled desires. And as she navigates the labyrinth of emotions, her unrequited love becomes a chapter, an unbelievable story woven into the fabric of her existence—a testament to the resilience of the human heart, even in the face of a love that remains forever unclaimed.



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Denisa Stoenica
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



Orphic Charm

Lured in Faerie will
you be, Dressed
with acorn in your
hair,
Dance at revels 'till
you bleed,
Cursed to never find
a pair.

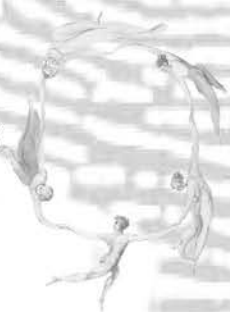
And of dreams should you
beware,
Of the Prince with charcoal eyes
Hide your features and your
fears,
Bow to rules of imps and spies.

Jewelled dresses, cups of wine,
Glamoured fruits, they're for your
eyes.
With a sword tied to your
thigh, Step by step shall you arise.

Mortal kin in fairytale,
Trained to take eye for an eye,
Now you finally take in arms
The sweet smell of paradise.



Ioana Drighiciu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Roxana Udrescu



TRUE LOVE

*When the leaves fall
And the stars start to shine
That's when you, my love,
Shall come by.*

*You'll be my sunrise
From then 'till I die
When I meet my demise
You'll be the one to cry.*

*No minute shall pass
When you're not in my arms
If I ever see you in pain
I will no longer be sane*

*Your heart and mind
Will forever be mine
Only you can make me kind
So our stars are meant to align.*



ACCEPTANCE

*Thank you for the memories
For helping me experience this
As if it weren't for you,
I'd regret what I was about to do*

*The time we spent together
Made my worst thoughts surrender
You made the nights less dull
And for that I am thankful*

*You were there for me
When no-one else could be
And though the decision you made
Got my heart to ache,
To those moments I'll reminisce
From this moment 'till I perish*

*I will wait for endless days
For our restless nights' fake plays
Even if it's a guiltened choice,
It will make my heart rejoice.*



Elena Balan
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





PROMENADA MALL



Promenada
for beautiful minds

My first visit to Mall Promenada was a sensory journey like no other. As I stepped through the grand entrance, I was immediately captivated by the dazzling array of sights, sounds, and scents that filled the air, offering a tantalizing preview of

the adventures that lay ahead.

The grand entrance was a spectacle, bathed in the soft morning light that filtered through the glass ceiling. The architectural design, with its polished marble floors and sleek, modern decor, exuded an air of sophistication and elegance. Shoppers bustled about, their footsteps creating a symphony of sounds that echoed throughout space. The soft murmur of conversations, laughter, and the rustling of shopping bags contributed to the lively and dynamic atmosphere.

My senses were further heightened as I strolled down the bustling main corridor, where a multitude of boutiques beckoned with their meticulously designed displays. The fashion-forward mannequins wore the latest trends, and the scent of new leather and fabric permeated the air, evoking the promise of style and luxury. Each boutique had its unique ambiance, from the upscale designer brands with their sleek, minimalist aesthetics to the cozy, family-owned shops that exuded warmth and charm.

My olfactory journey continued as I made my way to the mall's vibrant food court. The diverse range of cuisine options, from sizzling Chinese woks to aromatic Indian curries, promised a gastronomic adventure. The tantalizing aroma of sizzling meats, fragrant spices, and freshly baked breads merged into an irresistible symphony. The sizzle of stir-fry pans and the savory scent of barbecued meats added to the sensory tapestry, drawing shoppers to the various food stalls.

Amidst the gastronomic offerings, fast-food chains like McDonald's, with its iconic golden arches, and KFC, known for its finger-licking fried chicken, created their own sensory allure. The unmistakable scent of burgers grilling on hot griddles and the crackling of fried chicken were irresistible.

As I delved further into Mall Promenada, I encountered a well-appointed bookstore. The scent of freshly printed pages and the sight of rows upon rows of books invited bookworms and casual readers alike. The aroma of freshly brewed coffee from the adjacent café was a comforting companion as I perused the titles, adding a literary dimension to the sensory experience.

The journey of sensory delights extended to the shoe emporium, where the rich scent of supple leather and the promise of new shoes enticed shoppers. The pristine white cardboard shoeboxes and tissue paper exuded an air of anticipation, and the prices were surprisingly reasonable, making it a destination for shoe enthusiasts.

Leaving Mall Promenada at the end of the day, I carried with me not only my shopping finds but also the rich sensory memories of my first visit. The grandeur of the architecture, the bustling boutiques, the diverse culinary delights, and the inviting bookshop all contributed to an unforgettable sensory experience. Mall Promenada had not only lived up to my expectations but exceeded them, making it a favorite shopping destination where every visit promised new sensory adventures to savor and enjoy.



Stefan Iacob-Spataru
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

Embracing Challenges with Resilience and Humility



Life is like a journey through a spider's web filled with all kinds of sticky situations that we have to make our way through one way or another. Along this whole adventure, we end up discovering our inner selves, our morals and the values that we stand for through trials and tribulations that test our dedication to what's waiting for us at the end of the tunnel.

First and foremost, it's essential to acknowledge that the key to this constant state of happiness we all yearn for is consistency and resilience. Our day-to-day habits are like the rudder of the ship during the storm; when everything goes wrong, they provide us with comfort and stability. Therefore, at times of leisure, we should strive to cultivate a productive habit, such as reading or working out. Thus, when we find ourselves in a pickle, constrained by our circumstances, this will be the thing to keep us motivated to carry on. I have learned the importance of maintaining a routine through one of my dearest friends. She shared with me that during a very difficult period in her life, what compelled her to get out of bed each morning was the commitment to her practice of hitting the gym. Hence, even a seemingly small or insignificant activity can offer us the strength needed to navigate the tumultuous waves of life.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that in order to be able to improve, we must allow ourselves to make mistakes and learn from the hardships we face. When confronted with difficult situations, it's important to remain graceful and hopeful for the future. For instance, I can tell from my personal experience how discouraging it feels when you are required to act against your desires by your parents, teachers or even friends. However, instead of wasting time complaining about your position, you should accept the turn of events and give your upmost effort. Do not dwell on things beyond your control as every day offers us opportunities to grow, to stumble, to rise, and to persevere until we ultimately succeed.

To bring matters to a close, we must always bear in mind not to lose our temper and not to rush when confronted with demanding events. We must follow this life-lasting cruise guided by humility and patience which help us achieve greater peace and fulfillment in our journey.

X C

Catalina-Teodora Tecu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





The essence of true friendship



Friendship plays an invaluable role in our lives, providing companionship, support, and a sense of belonging. A good friend is someone who embodies qualities such as trust, loyalty, kindness, and being a supportive listener. These qualities are the base of true friendship and are essential in having a lasting and meaningful bond. True friendship is a crucial aspect of life as it improves our experiences, brings joy in times of happiness, and offers consolation during sad times. The essence of true friendship lies in the commitment to these virtues, which are the base of long lasting and happy relationships.

Trust, loyalty, kindness, and the ability to be a supportive and attentive listener are qualities of a good friend. Trust is the solid foundation of any friendship, building through honesty. Loyalty is revealed through determined support. Kindness forms the basis of sincere actions, and being supportive while providing a listening ear makes the bond of friendship stronger. These essential qualities collectively form a strong and lasting friendship, shaping the experiences and memories between friends.

Trust is the essential part of every meaningful friendship. It is built through honesty, where both friends are transparent and authentic with each other. When trust exists, it strengthens the bond between friends, creating a safe and secure space for the relationship to exist. Trust forms the foundation of a strong bond, allowing friends to rely on each other without hesitation, share their deepest thoughts, and confide in one another during both joyous and challenging times. In essence, trust is the base on which the magnificent structure of true friendship stands.

The role of kindness and support is crucial in every friendship. True friends stand by each other during difficult times, offering a shoulder to lean on without hesitation. They have a remarkable ability to show empathy and compassion, understanding the deep emotions and providing unwavering support. These acts of kindness and support fortify the bond of friendship, creating a safe space where individuals feel understood, accepted, and genuinely cared for. It is in these moments of vulnerability that the true essence of friendship shines, and the impact of kind and supportive friends becomes immeasurable.

In conclusion, the qualities of a good friend, such as trust, loyalty, kindness, and support, form the foundation of a strong and enduring companionship. True friendship is a rare and precious bond that holds immense significance in everyone's life. Good friends provide a sense of security, happiness, and support that make our experiences better. Their influence impacts our mental and emotional well-being, contributing to our growth and overall quality of life. Ultimately, the impact of good friends extends beyond measure, shaping and defining who we are and how we navigate the world.



Oana Bianca Negrila

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

Winter to Spring

*As you said, the winter is here
The coldness between us
Will never disappear
So many words were unsaid
And so little were clear*

*Now I can say nothing,
And this nothing is painful
The story was stunning
But the message is baneful*

*Diamonds I saw in your eyes
When I looked into them sometimes
They were clear like the summer skies
But I didn't know they hid lies*

*Right when we fell harder
The love could take us farther
But the winter cold has early taken you
The coldness that will never bring you back
The one that stung like a tattoo
And right there I felt a crack*

*Even though the crack was small
It all started shattering after
When the crack became a hole
But this was a only small chapter...*

*In the meantime, the spring has come
With its beauty that awakens nature
I hope that we could reborn what we had
But my soul turned into one colder than a glacier,
In something that was hurt and never healed
I was left with nothing, everything you took
For you I was only a chapter,
But for me, you were the whole book.*

Elena-Carina Mare
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet

IX F



The unexpected

He took a deep breath and knocked on the door. He waited for a few moments but no one answered. He looked back at his friends who had dared him to knock on the door of this abandoned house with a terrified expression on his face. Nevertheless, he opened the door and entered.



The house was dead quiet, the only sound being the creaking of floorboards and the occasional gust of wind blowing through the shattered windows. The boy, James, advanced slowly, peering around every corner, expecting something to jump out at him at any moment.

Suddenly, he heard a rattling coming from the room on the right. He slowly pushed the door open and saw that the only object in the room was an abnormally large dresser. The dresser rattled again and the boy froze in fear. His heart was racing but he managed to make his way to the other side of the room where the dresser was standing menacingly.



PRANK

His mind raced through the possibilities of what could be inside. At first he thought a stray animal could have made its way there looking for food and warmth or maybe a thief who had hidden after hearing James come inside the house.

Another rattle coming from the dresser startled the boy out of his thoughts and he decided to pluck up the courage and open it.

Instead of a wild animal or a thief, two boys jumped from the inside of the dresser and caught James by his collar. He was terrified at first, letting out a loud scream, but then he realised that the two boys were actually his friends who had planned the whole joke and daring him to knock on the door was part of the plan all along!

IX G

Mara Lungu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TEENAGER NOWADAYS

Being a teenager in the contemporary world is a multifaceted experience, shaped by a myriad of factors, ranging from technological advancements to evolving social norms. Today's teenagers grapple with a unique set of challenges and opportunities that define their journey to adulthood.



One prominent aspect of modern teenage life is the pervasive influence of technology. Smartphones, social media platforms and the internet have revolutionized communication, entertainment and information access. While these tools offer unprecedented connectivity and convenience, they also bring about concerns regarding privacy, online harassment and addiction. Teenagers must navigate the digital realm responsibly while learning to balance virtual interactions with real-world experiences.



Academic pressure remains a significant aspect of teenage life, with students facing rigorous academic standards and fierce competition. The pursuit of academic excellence often entails juggling demanding coursework, extracurricular activities and standardized tests. The pressure to excel academically can lead to stress, anxiety and burnout, highlighting the importance of mental health awareness and support systems for teenagers.

Identity exploration is another defining feature of adolescence, as teenagers grapple with questions of self-discovery and belonging. Cultural diversity, gender identity and sexual orientation are increasingly recognized and celebrated, empowering teenagers to embrace their unique identities. However, societal expectations and stereotypes can pose challenges to authentic self-expression, prompting adolescents to navigate complex issues of identity and acceptance.

Relationships play a central role in teenage life, as adolescents seek connections with peers, family members and romantic partners. Friendships provide support, companionship and shared experiences, while familial relationships shape values, beliefs and interpersonal dynamics. Romantic relationships offer opportunities for intimacy and personal growth, but also present challenges such as heartbreak, jealousy and communication barriers.

Furthermore, today's teenagers are confronted with pressing societal and environmental issues that demand their attention and activism. Climate change, social injustice and political polarization are among the issues that inspire youth movements and advocacy efforts worldwide. Teenagers are increasingly mobilizing to effect positive change, leveraging their voices and platforms to address global challenges and advocate for a more equitable and sustainable future.

In conclusion, being a teenager in the modern era entails navigating a complex landscape of technology, academics, identity, relationships and societal issues. While today's teenagers face unprecedented challenges and pressures, they also possess resilience, creativity and a passion for change. By fostering supportive communities, promoting mental health awareness and empowering youth to lead, society can help teenagers thrive in an ever-evolving world.



Maria Alexandra Popescu
Co-ordinating teacher: Cornelia Palastea





The Enduring Power of Sports: Uniting Communities, Inspiring Dreams

Sports have long had a special place in human culture that goes beyond geographical and cultural barriers. Sports unify people in ways that few other activity do, whether it be the noise of the crowd in a packed stadium, the intense competition on the field, or the shared delight of winning.

At its core, sports embody the fundamental human desire for physical expression, competition, and achievement. From ancient civilizations to modern societies, sports have played a pivotal role in shaping cultural identities, fostering camaraderie, and instilling valuable virtues such as discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

Sports have a direct connection to societies' cultural fabric. From traditional games passed down through generations to current, globally recognized events, sports reflect a community's attitudes, identity, and history. Major sporting events, such as the Olympics and the World Cup, not only demonstrate athletic capability but also serve as spaces for cultural exchange, developing understanding and appreciation among varied cultures.



Participating in sports is connected with keeping a healthier lifestyle. Regular physical activity has been shown to lower the risk of chronic illness, improve your heart function, and boost general well-being. Aside from the physical benefits, sports improve mental health by lowering stress, anxiety, and sadness. Endorphins released during physical activity work as natural mood boosters, encouraging a good attitude.

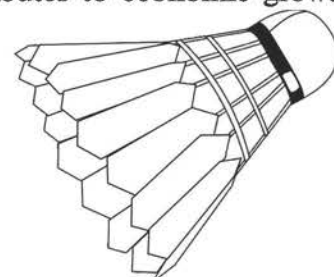
Sports, aside from their cultural and social aspects, have a major economic impact on the world. The sports industry is split into various groups, including broadcasting, sponsorship, merchandise, and tourism. Major sporting events bring millions of spectators and produce enormous income, making sports a key part in the global economy.

As we look to the future, the world of sports continues to evolve, embracing new technologies, formats, and ideas. From virtual reality training simulations to esports competitions watched by millions online, the boundaries of what constitutes a sport are constantly expanding. Yet, amidst all the changes, one thing remains constant: the power of sports to inspire, unite, and uplift humanity. Sports provide a special power to unite people in a world where politics, religion, and ideologies frequently create divisions.

In essence, sports are far more than just a game. They are a powerful force that influences physical and mental health, promotes the growth of communities, defines values, and even contributes to economic growth worldwide.



Maia Maria Alimanescu
Co-ordinating teacher: Ana-Maria Stefanescu



FLAWELESS

"Create your own universe in this world so you can survive!"; that's what my mother used to say when my friends let me down.

Winter came, the cold was more and more unbearable and the snow hadn't appeared yet, although there was no longer any color in nature. I had to go to my friend's house, because we were going to have a small party, just me and her. I left the apartment and I closed the door lightly and put my headphones on so I wouldn't hear the sounds of the city.

Even if the music makes me feel like I'm in another universe, it seemed that this time it really teleported me to another planet. At the first traffic light, the van was ready to smash me if a stranger hadn't grabbed my hand. I looked scared at the driver who was yelling at me, then I heard a soft voice telling me to pay attention to what was happening around me. I turned my head and saw a tall man with soft eyes and black clothes. My heart was beating fast, but somehow that voice calmed me down.

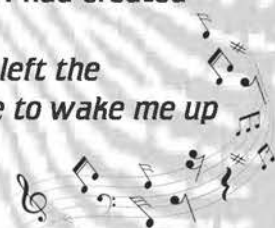
The eyes of that stranger took all the agitation from my soul and all the negative thoughts that were kept in my mind disappeared. He put his hand on my shoulder and told me to follow him. I felt like I was in a trance, nothing seemed real anymore.

After I followed his steps and listened to his words, we arrived at a tree full of flowers, a strange thing if you ask me because it was in the middle of winter. My brain told me that something was weird about this stranger, but my heart looked into the soul of that man and saw no mistake. So I continued to listen to his voice and looked into his eyes.

How did that man appear next to me exactly when I needed it? How could my world be rosy next to a stranger? How did he manage to look into my soul without me saying anything?

There was only one answer. That person was not real. Everything I had wanted to find in a man was created by my mind. My feelings had been understood by someone because I had created that unknown.

You may be wondering what happened to the van incident; well, I hadn't even left the apartment. I realized that everything was only in my head when my friend came to wake me up from my universe, where I was loved and understood for the first time.



Andreea-Maria Tudor

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Learn more about...

DISTEENCT

ISSUE # 22



GABRIELLE ((COCO)) CHANEL

GABRIELLE CHANEL

I think everyone has heard of Chanel, it's a quite popular brand, but its founder, the iconic Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel has not always been successful.

Gabrielle Chanel was a woman with unique intelligence and imagination. This attributes allowed her to survive a childhood marked by neglect and to reinvent herself, becoming one of the most influential women of her century.

Leaving behind the youth spent in religious institutions, she became a saleswoman in a city full of wealthy young soldiers. She gave up any possibility of being respected when she became the lover of one of them. Her love story with one of Europe's most desirable men, the enigmatic playboy Arthur Capel, allowed her to prosper but ended in tragedy.

Apart from her dark beauty, Coco was described as "ingenious, strange and fascinating". She became the collaborator, muse or mistress of some remarkable men, including some of the most famous artist of modern times. Among them are Picasso, Dali and Diaghilev.



At the time when fashion was dominated by male designers, she rejected the version of femininity promoted by society, in favor of her own legendary style based on modern and functional aesthetics.



Although she considered precious stones a form of extravagance, she wore genuine jewelry generously given by her wealthy lovers. One of them, the Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich, fled the Russian Revolution with a string of Romanov pearls that he gave to Coco. She then copied it for her clients thus laying the foundations of the fashion of fake pearls.

After her death, the Chanel company continued to be more and more successful constantly reinventing the foundations of Gabrielle.

Maria-Cristina Rosu

Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet



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First World War



The Allies—"Onward to Victory!"

The Great War, the War of the Nations, was a military conflict of worldwide proportions. Chronologically, the events unfolded as follows: on June 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian Empire attacked Serbia (on July 23, 1914, Austria-Hungary gave an ultimatum, considered unacceptable for a sovereign state, to Serbia - considered responsible for the Sarajevo attack, from June 28, 1914).

On July 30, 1914, Russia, supporting Serbia, decreed general mobilization. In response, Germany, Austria-Hungary's ally, declares war on Russia on August 1, 1914, and then, a day later, on August 3, 1914, on France. On August 4, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium, and England and its dominions declared war to Germany (August 5, 1914). The European conflict became worldwide.

On August 16, 1916, Romania entered the war alongside the Triple Entente (Entente), and on March 6, 1917, the United States of America entered the war against the Central Powers. On November 11, 1918, at 5:00 a.m., the armistice was signed, and thus, at 11:00 a.m., the war ended. No previous conflict had involved such a large number of soldiers and so many sides on the battlefield. In the end, this war became the second conflict on the list of the bloodiest conflicts recorded in history. Twenty years later, however, World War II would claim even more casualties.

My personal opinion about this war is that it could have been avoided. From some books written during the war by the generals of the armies of some countries with influence in Europe at that time. It appears that the reason for the outbreak of this harsh and bloody war is a well-placed one to the point: the great powers of the world at that time wanted a sudden decrease in the population of our planet, triggering a war in which they all fought each other.

Petru Dovan

Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet

IX A

The story behind the art

Starry night – Vincent Van Gogh

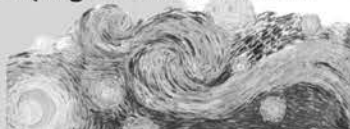
The painting entitled - *The Starry Night* - was created by the Dutchman Vincent Van Gogh in 1889. He was born on March 30, 1853 and died on July 29, 1890. His works had a profound influence on the art of the 19th century, through intense, vivid colors and emotional impact. This painting was made in 1889, when Van Gogh was a patient of the hospital for nervous diseases in Saint-Rémy. Van Gogh's imagination made many scholars try to find the meaning of the painting.

Looking at the landscape from the window of his room, Van Gogh felt a strong connection with the night sky and the shining stars. Despite the darkness and gloom, he saw the light and beauty in that starry night.

The stars seem to rise and dance in the vibrating light of the artist. The city below, with its dark houses and massive church, seems to be overwhelmed by the magnificent celestial universe above it. Vivid colors suggest emotion rather than realism. Although it has been argued that Van Gogh may have suffered from poisoning at the end of his life, causing him to choose darker colors in his pieces, it seems that he represents the night sky in a way that was special to him.

For Van Gogh it was not just a simple presentation of a night landscape, but an expression of his inner state. He transposed his inner struggle in colors and form, but also his ability to find beauty and hope even in the darkest moments.

One of the meanings of the *Starry Night* is that it was a message of hope - although things may seem dark, there will always be something to light up the darkness. It has also been said that *Starry Night* could be a symbol of Van Gogh coming to terms with the idea of death and accepting ascension into heaven.



Izabel Emanuela Bulai and Giulia Gabriela Bulai
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet

IX A



TV GIRL

TV Girl is a dynamic indie pop band that brings a refreshing blend of retro vibes and modern sensibilities to the music scene. With their laid-back beats and dreamy melodies, they have a way of transporting listeners to a nostalgic realm filled with lo-fi goodness. Their album "French Exit" dropped in 2014 and instantly caught the attention of music lovers everywhere. Tracks like "Lovers Rock" and "Birds Don't Sing" became instant favorites, showcasing their knack for

crafting catchy tunes with clever lyrics. In 2018, they followed up with "Death of a Party Girl". This album dug deeper into themes of love, loss, and the complexities of modern relationships, all while maintaining their signature retro sound. What sets TV Girl apart is their ability to combine catchy melodies with storytelling that feels both relatable and nostalgic. Whether they're reminiscing about past loves or pondering the absurdities of life, their music strikes a chord with listeners on a deeply personal level. With their chill vibes, catchy hooks, and undeniable talent, TV Girl is a band that's here to stay.



TV GIRL

Alisia-Mihaela Iorga
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



THE WORLD OF CULTURE AND TRADITION

Culture includes a number of components of social life. It consists of values, beliefs, communications and practices that people have in common. Culture is one of the most important concepts in sociology because it plays a crucial role in our social life. It is important for determining how we understand the world and our place in it and shaping our everyday actions and experiences in society.



Mexico

Mexican culture, a mosaic of traditions, represents a variety of influences, including Spanish, pre-Columbian, but also social, economic and historical. Mexico is known for its diverse art, architecture and music, which enrich each other. At the same time, traditions are an important part of culture.

The Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is one of the most important holidays in Mexico, being celebrated on November 2. As the name suggests, it is a celebration of life, honoring those who have left us, through joy and partying without sadness. Families gather around graves and shrines built to pray and leave offerings for the deceased. According to tradition, on this day the dead return to the living and say "welcome among us."



México

Thailand

Thailand is a country with a fascinating and rich culture and traditions that has always attracted tourists from all over the world. From ancient art and architecture, to its delicious cuisine and traditional rituals, Thai culture is truly amazing.

Thais are known for their traditional rituals and a culture full of symbolism. Thai New Year (Songkran) is the important festival that takes place in April. During this period, people wash each other with water, symbolizing spiritual renewal and purification.

Loi Krathong, in November, is a Thai tradition in which small lotus floats are thrown into the water, noting the removal of evil.



Denis Robert Tone
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





The Mathematics mysteries: Fibonacci's sequence and the Golden Section

Although mathematics seems boring, it is the answer to many questions related to everything surrounding us. Beginning with the smallest things in nature to the most famous pieces of art, all of these are due to some phenomena from the fascinating world of Mathematics. One of them is the Fibonacci sequence and its connections with the golden section.



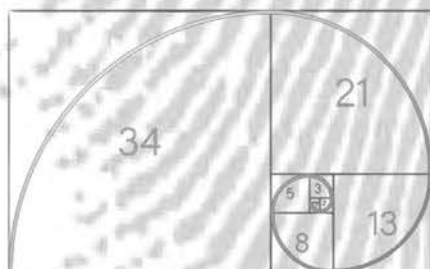
I hope I didn't take you too fast, let me explain what the Fibonacci sequence is and how the golden section appears. The Fibonacci sequence of numbers wherein every single term is the sum of the previous two. It starts with 0 and 1, and the following numbers are obtained by adding the previous two. So, the string starts like this: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 and continues ad infinitum, which is represented as a spiral. As you advance in the Fibonacci sequence, that is, after the fourteenth term, the section between a term and the previous one tends to approach a constant value, known as the golden section.



The most interesting part is that the golden section occurs frequently in nature and art. For example, the spiral shape of snail shells or rose petals follow the golden section, and also hurricanes or sea waves take the shape of this spiral, spiral galaxies defy the principles of Newtonian physics, but strictly respect the Fibonacci model.



A good example from art is Leonardo da Vinci who was fascinated by the golden section, illustrating its



unimaginable perfection in works such as the Mona Lisa or the Vitruvian Man. The proportions of Mona Lisa's face and body are said to closely follow the golden section. This contributes to the balanced and harmonious appearance of the painting.



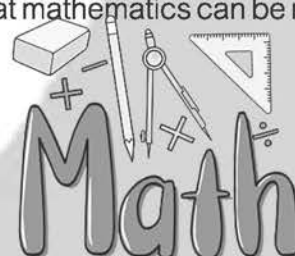
Nowadays, the golden section is used in cosmetic surgeries to achieve results that are considered harmonious and aesthetically pleasant. Especially in facial plastic surgery and other appearance enhancing procedures, surgeons may use the golden section to determine the ideal sizes and proportions of different parts of the face or body. It is used in various fields, from graphic and web design to architecture. In design, the golden section is often used to create balanced and eye pleasing compositions.



The Fibonacci sequence and the golden section are two fascinating mathematical concepts which teach us that beauty and harmony can be found in the most unexpected places. From nature to art to the modern world, these concepts continue to inspire and fascinate us, proving us that mathematics can be much more than simple numbers – it can also be a poetry of symmetry and proportion.



Eliana Daniela Tonea
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





Abel Tesfaye

(The Weeknd)

THE WEEKND'S MUSIC OFTEN EXPLORES THEMES OF LOVE, DESIRE, DISAPPOINTMENT, AND FUN. HE MANAGES TO CONVEY DEEP EMOTIONS THROUGH HIS LYRICS AND EXPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. HIS CATCHY ABEL TESFAYE, KNOWN AS THE WEEKND IS A VERY TALENTED CANADIAN SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND MUSIC PRODUCER. ABEL WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 16, 1990, IN TORONTO, CANADA. HIS PARENTS ARE ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANTS, AND THIS CULTURAL HERITAGE HAS HAD A STRONG IMPACT ON HIS MUSIC.

THE WEEKND GAINED POPULARITY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY THROUGH YOUTUBE, WHERE HE STARTED UPLOADING SONGS IN 2010. HIS MUSIC, MADE HIM STAND OUT. HIS POWERFUL AND EXPRESSIVE VOICE PERFECTLY

ONE OF THE WEEKND'S BIGGEST SUCCESSES IS THE SONG "BLINDING LIGHTS," WHICH CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES WITH ITS RETRO SOUND AND LYRICS ABOUT THE DESIRE TO LIVE IN THE SPOTLIGHT AND LOST LOVE.

THE WEEKND HAS COLLABORATED WITH MANY TOP ARTISTS SUCH AS DAFT PUNK, ARIANA GRANDE, AND KENDRICK LAMAR. THESE COLLABORATIONS HAVE BROUGHT A VARIETY OF STYLES AND SOUNDS TO HIS MUSIC, SHOWCASING HIS VERSATILITY AS AN ARTIST. HE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR HIS TALENT WITH NUMEROUS AWARDS, INCLUDING THREE GRAMMY AWARDS AND MULTIPLE BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS.

MELODIES AND RHYTHMS MAKE HIS SONGS INCREDIBLY POPULAR AND ENJOYABLE TO LISTEN TO.

Angelina Jolie



Amalia Virban
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



Angelina Jolie stands as one of Hollywood's most iconic figures, not only for her mesmerizing performances on screen but also for her humanitarian efforts off-screen. Born on June 4, 1975, in Los Angeles, California, she grew up in a family with a history in acting. Her father, Jon Voight, is a respected actor, and her mother, Marcheline Bertrand, was also involved in show business. Despite her familial connections, Jolie carved out her own path in the industry through her talent and dedication.

One interesting thing about Jolie is her diverse background. She has acted in action films, dramas, and even animated movies. But one of the most important roles of her career was in the movie "Maleficent." Released in 2014, this film gave a new twist to the classic story of "Sleeping Beauty." She played the main character, Maleficent, the misunderstood villain. The movie was a big hit, making over \$750 million worldwide.

"Maleficent" was important for Angelina's career in many ways. It showed her ability to play complex characters and brought her even more fame. People praised her performance, saying she added depth to the character.

Apart from her acting career, she is also known for her charity work. She has been a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency since 2001, helping refugees and displaced people worldwide.

In conclusion, Angelina Jolie is much more than just a Hollywood star. She is a multifaceted individual with a deep commitment to making the world a better place. Through her talent, beauty, and philanthropy, she continues to inspire people around the globe.

Cristiana Gabriela Mirea
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





The Enigmatic Journey of Ozzy Osbourne

Ozzy Osbourne, a name that echoes through the corridors of rock and roll history, embodies the enigmatic journey of a musician who transcended the boundaries of music, culture, and controversy. From his humble beginnings in Birmingham, England, to his meteoric rise as the frontman of Black Sabbath and later as a solo artist, Osbourne's life is a testament to the power of resilience, creativity, and sheer determination in the face of adversity.

As the lead vocalist of Black Sabbath, Osbourne became the epitome of rock and roll excess, embodying the rebellious spirit of a generation disillusioned by societal norms. Their self-titled debut album, released in 1970, unleashed a sonic revolution, laying the groundwork for future generations of heavy metal artists. Hits like "Paranoid" and "Iron Man" cemented Black Sabbath's status as pioneers of the genre, propelling them to international fame and fortune.



However, Osbourne's tenure with Black Sabbath was not without its trials and tribulations. His battles with addiction, internal band conflicts, and brushes with the law threatened to derail his career at every turn. Yet, through it all, Osbourne persevered, harnessing his innate talent and unwavering passion for music to overcome the darkest periods of his life.



In 1979, Osbourne parted ways with Black Sabbath to pursue a solo career, a move that would further solidify his status as a musical icon. His debut solo album, "Blizzard of Ozz," released in 1980, introduced audiences to a new dimension of Osbourne's artistry, blending elements of heavy metal with a distinct melodic sensibility. Tracks like "Crazy Train" and "Mr. Crowley" showcased Osbourne's prowess as a songwriter and performer, earning him critical acclaim and commercial success.

In conclusion, the legacy of Ozzy Osbourne transcends mere musical accolades, encompassing a lifetime of triumphs, tribulations, and triumphs. His indelible imprint on the fabric of rock and roll history serves as a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit to overcome adversity and leave an indelible mark on the world. As the curtain falls on his illustrious career, one thing remains certain: the legend of Ozzy Osbourne will continue to inspire generations of musicians and fans for years to come.



I'M JUST A
DREAMER



Radu Nicola

Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



Lovers of Cleopatra VII

Cleopatra VII Philopator was the last ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, queen and pharaoh. As a member of the Ptolemaic dynasty, she was a descendant of the founder Ptolemy I Soter, a Greek Macedonian general and companion of Alexander the Great.



The love between Cleopatra and Caesar

The killing of the Roman general Pompey at Pelusium and the arrival of Julius Caesar temporarily brought peace. That was the moment when Cleopatra understood that she needed the support of the Romans, specifically of Caesar, if she wanted to regain her throne. But Julius Caesar also needed money to pay the debts that Cleopatra's father had pushed him into, while he was fighting to keep his throne. Allied in interest, Caesar and Cleopatra quickly became lovers and spent the winter besieged in Alexandria. Cleopatra, now married to her brother Ptolemy XIV, took the throne again. She was, next, the mistress of Julius Caesar. In June 47 BC gave birth to Ptolemy Caesar (known as Cezarion). She herself claimed that her son was the son of Julius Caesar, after whom she had chosen his name.

However, Cleopatra made at least one official visit to Rome, accompanied by her husband-brother and her son, where she lived with Caesarion in Julius Caesar's personal villa.

The love between Cleopatra and Marcus Antonius

LOVERS

After Caesar died Cleopatra fled to Egypt with her son. Marcus Antonius, Caesar's friend and acolyte, supported his son's cause before the Senate. But the senators refused to recognize him as one of Caesar's heirs.

Marcus Antonius needed the resources of Egypt to finance a military campaign, and for this he invited Cleopatra to negotiate in a city in present-day Turkey. But the queen of Egypt knew how to make an impression and came in a ship with a golden prow and silver-clad oars.

She herself was dressed in fabrics with gold thread, like Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty. Marcus Antonius fell in love on the spot and accompanied her to Egypt, where he stayed for several months. They were inseparable and spent their time playing dice, drinking wine or hunting.

Love →

Those were troubled times and Marcus Antonius had to divide himself between Rome and Egypt, so he didn't get to see his children grow up much. During the civil war, Mark Antonius was defeated by Octavian Augustus. Rather than be taken prisoner, he preferred to kill himself with his own sword.

Love

Upon hearing the news, Cleopatra put on her most expensive clothes and jewelry and asked for a cobra to be brought to her in a reed basket. She allowed herself to be bitten on purpose, and since cobras were the symbol of royalty in Ancient Egypt, Cleopatra hoped to gain immortality. Somehow, that's how it happened, since we're still talking about her and her love story with Mar



Matei Laurentiu Florea
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





AGATHA CHRISTIE & HER EMBLEMATIC CHARACTERS

Born in Torquay in 1890, Agatha Christie became, and remains, the best-selling novelist of all time. She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest-running play – *The Mousetrap*. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and a billion in translation. Spending most of her time with imaginary friends, Agatha Clarissa Miller's unconventional childhood fostered an extraordinary imagination. Against her mother's wishes, she taught herself to read and had little or no formal education until the age of fifteen or sixteen when she was sent to a finishing school in Paris.

Agatha Christie wrote about the world she knew and saw, drawing on the military gentlemen, lords and ladies, spinsters, widows and doctors of her family's circle of friends and acquaintances. She was a natural observer and her descriptions of village politics, local rivalries and family jealousies are often painfully accurate. Mathew Prichard describes her as a "person who listened more than she talked, who saw more than she was seen."

"Plots come to me at such odd moments, when I am walking along the street, or examining a hat shop...suddenly a splendid idea comes into my head."

Agatha Christie, *An Autobiography*

Agatha Christie

Hercule Poirot - The world-renowned Belgian private detective, unsurpassed in his intelligence and understanding of the criminal mind, respected and admired by police forces and heads of state across the globe. Famous as much for his magnificent moustaches as his little grey cells.

Miss Marple - Miss Jane Marple doesn't look like your average detective. Quite frankly, she doesn't look like a detective at all. But looks can be deceiving... For a woman who has spent her life in the small village of St Mary Mead, Miss Marple is surprisingly wordly. But as she often points out she has had every opportunity to observe human nature.

While Agatha Christie acknowledged that her grandmother had been a huge influence on the character, she writes that Miss Marple was "far more fussy and spinsterish than my grandmother ever was. But one thing she did have in common with her - though a cheerful person, she always expected the worst of everyone and everything, and was, with almost frightening accuracy, usually proved right." Mellowing with appearances (if not with age) Miss Marple graced twelve novels and twenty short stories during her career as an amateur detective, never paid and not always thanked.



Anamaria Iancu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





Journey through sounds and cultures



Music is one of the oldest forms of human expression and has evolved over millennium into a variety of genres and styles. From the earliest sounds of prehistory to the complexity of modern compositions, the history of music is a fascinating tale of human creativity and cultural influences.

While precise details about the earliest forms of music are lost to the mists of time, it is clear that music has been an integral part of human, since ancient times. In ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece, music was associated with religious rituals, entertainment and artistic expression.

Instruments such as the flute, harp and lyre were used to create melodious flute and captivating rhythms.

In the Middle Ages, music became an important form of artistic expression within the Christian Church, with the emergence of forms such as ballads and madrigals, which reflected themes of love, nature and daily life.

The Baroque period was characterized by a wealth of artistic expression and a flourishing of instrumental and vocal music. Composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel and Antonio Vivaldi produced iconic works that defined this era, with formats such as concertos, oratorios and suites.

In the 18th century, classical music reached new heights of perfection and refinement. Composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Joseph Haydn transformed existing musical genres and created remarkable works that continue to inspire and impress to this day.

In the 19th century, Romantic music emphasized emotional expression and profound themes. Composers such as Frédéric Chopin and Johannes Brahms created imposing works that have remained in the hearts and minds of listeners throughout time.

In the 20th and early 21st centuries, music became more diverse and electric than ever before. From jazz and blues to rock and hip-hop to electronic and experimental music, this period has been characterized by an explosion of new genres and styles, reflecting the social and technology changes of the era.

The history of music is a fascinating journey through time and culture, offering us insight into the evolution and diversity of humanity. From the earliest sounds of prehistory to the modern rhythms of the 21st century, music continues to be a powerful force that unites and delights us every day.



Dragos Gabriel Dorobantu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet

The History of Tattoos

Tattoos are very popular nowadays, they can be found in a variety of colours and artstyles, but have you ever wondered how they did emerge?

Tattoos are actually older than you might think, they are believed to have appeared around 3370 BC, and before any fancy technology was used to create machines carefully designed for this job, they were done by using a needle and thread and sewing the tattoo into the skin by dipping the thread in soot or seal oil, or through skin poking using a sharp needle point and dipping it into soot or seal oil. But there are even crazier methods people have used for tattooing. Ancient cultures used tools like rose thorns, sharks' teeth, and pelican bones to push pigments into the skin.

Natural pigments like red ochre and soot were used to provide the color.

Even ancient Egyptians had tattoos. They were used for medical or aesthetic purposes, and were only done by women on other women. Each one of these groups had their own reasons to tattoo themselves and gave different meanings to them, to some they were a symbol of status and for others they resembled an important achievement someone had done. Tattoos were symbols of tribal identity and kinship, as well as bravery, beauty, and social or wealth status.

The First Tattoo Artist

Martin Hildebrandt set up a permanent tattoo shop in New York City in 1846 and began a tradition by tattooing sailors and military servicemen from both sides of the Civil War. In England, youthful King Edward VII started a tattoo fad among the aristocracy when he was tattooed before ascending to the throne. It was an expensive and painful process so it became a symbol of wealth.

The First Electric Tattoo Machine

Back in the 1891, Samuel O'Reilly created the first electric tattoo machine. That's when tattoos have begun to increase in popularity, as the process was now easier and less painful.



Bianca-Andreea Maracineanu
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet





- Queen Elisabeth I -



One of England's most-famous monarchs, Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) rebuilt England's standing in the world. She was the last monarch of the Tudor dynasty, which ruled England between 1485 and 1603. The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I came to the throne on the death of her half-sister, Mary I, on 17 November 1558.

Elizabeth reigned for 44 years, navigating her way through the murky waters of a nation divided by religious strife, surviving numerous threats to her power from within and to the nation's independence from without. She did not just survive but thrived and, in a man's world, became one of the most-celebrated and respected female rulers of all time.

Many people in the 16th century believed that a woman wasn't fit to rule, but Elizabeth was quick to prove them wrong! She could be as cunning and ruthless a leader as any king who came before her, and she was a strong, formidable leader.

Her refusal to marry led to her being remembered as the 'Virgin Queen.' There were rumours of Elizabeth having relationships with men at court, but none were ever proven true – making her even more of a mystery!



Lastly, she is arguably the most famous child of Henry VIII. Desperate for a male heir, Henry disowned Elizabeth as a child and beheaded her mother – and in the process, hugely underestimated his daughter's potential to become one of the most influential queens in British history.

Marin Luther King, Jr. the winner
of the Nobel Prize of Peace

I have a Dream

M.C.K.

At some point in our lives, we probably asked ourselves how the four seasons of each year came about. There is, no doubt, the scientific explanation, but what about the fun story? The story we would tell kids?

I, of course did my research and found out about the ancient Greek mythology myth which captivated my attention. 'The kidnapping of Persephone', for those who don't know, Persephone was the Goddess of Spring and the queen of the Underworld. She was the daughter of Zeus, God of the Sky and king of Olympus and Demeter, Goddess of Fertility and Harvest. Persephone, also known as Kore which means 'maiden', lived a very sheltered life with her mother in the mortal realm.

Hades was the God of the Dead and Earthly Wealth and king of the Underworld. He was the oldest son of Kronos and Rhea and brother to Persephone's parents. As he watched her in field one day, fell for her on sight so he asked Zeus' permission to wed her and this is how the kidnapping took place. Hades cracked the earth below the daughter of Summer and took her into the Underworld in his chariot.

People paint Hades as the villain in the story, but I personally believe it is both Hades (to some extent) and Demeter for not giving her a chance at freedom and a normal life amongst the other Gods. Demeter's motherly love was stifling and suffocating and so, the Goddess of Spring was naïve and lacked life experience. Hades sought to change that by giving her a chance to make her own decisions and a kingdom to rule beside him.

Her absence made Demeter raise havoc in the mortal world by destroying their crops and leaving them to starve to death. She wouldn't be swayed until her beloved Kore was returned to her. Not even Zeus could stop her. Now there are multiple sides to the story of Persephone's time with Hades, some say she was mistreated even as queen and forced to eat the fruit of the Underworld, the pomegranate making her remain in the Underworld for six months of each year, months in which nothing could grow on earth because of Demeter's grief, due to have eaten six pomegranate seeds. I prefer the story where Persephone falls in love with her husband and discovers the true extent of her powers. And so, the seasons appeared depending on Demeter's mood.

Eva-Maria Danciulescu
Co-ordinating teacher: IX C
Carmen Malaet



Martin Luther King Jr.



Alexia Holdis
Co-ordinating teacher:
Izabela Daniela Vintila



British Redcoats

Initially, redcoats were not a distinct uniform but rather a practical solution to distinguish soldiers on the battlefield. In the 17th century, European warfare primarily involved close combat, and soldiers wore clothing of various colours depending on their region or unit. However, during the English Civil War (1642–1651), soldiers, led by Oliver Cromwell, began to wear red coats as a means of uniformity and visibility on the battlefield.

The adoption of the red coat uniform by British soldiers continued during the reign of King Charles II in the late 17th century. Red dye was relatively inexpensive and readily available, making it a practical choice for mass-producing uniforms. Over time, the redcoat uniform became a symbol of British military might and tradition.

The distinctive red uniform persisted through various conflicts, including the American Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic Wars. During the early modern period, when firearms were still relatively inaccurate and slow to reload, battlefield visibility was crucial for maintaining command control. The bright red colour of the uniforms made it easier for officers to identify their troops amidst the chaos of battle, especially when smoke from black powder obscured visibility, while the redcoats' uniforms were visually striking, they also made them easy targets for enemy marksmen, particularly during the American Revolutionary War and other conflicts where guerrilla tactics were employed. This led to the British Army gradually adopting more practical and less conspicuous uniforms over time.

However, by the mid-19th century, advancements in warfare and changes in military tactics led to the gradual phasing out of the redcoat uniform in favour of more practical green uniform.

Despite its eventual retirement from active service, the redcoat uniform remains an enduring symbol of British military history and tradition, capturing the imagination of historians, reenactors, and enthusiasts worldwide.



Luca Mihai Popa
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



A Short History of British Fashion

"To be irreplaceable you have to be different!" - Coco Chanel

Style, above all, means individuality and courage, and London fashion proves this. Whether you adapt a classic, elegant style or a more daring one, fashion in England invites you to forget strictures and relevant trends. Plaid clothes, trench coats or rubber boots are just some of the favorite items of clothing of the British.

British fashion of the 60s - the first mini skirt and Twiggy



When the music of the Beatles was ringing in British ears, young women no longer wanted to dress like their mothers. Designer Mary Quant was the designer who designed the first mini skirt. The British needed someone to show them how to wear this item of clothing. Twiggy played an important role in the development of this trend. The English model was the personification of the then canon of beauty and proudly presented revolutionary skirts as well as "A-line" coats and dresses, which she paired with flat shoes.

Victoria Beckham is another British star who inspires women around the world. Fashion became such an important part of her life that she decided to become a fashion designer.

You already know from the styles of which British celebrities you deserve to be inspired to compose modern autumn and winter outfits. Now we will tell you what elements will help you in creating such stylizations. First, the rubber boots. Due to the weather conditions on the Isles, the British love this footwear. Thanks to the Kate Moss model, the ideal shoes for casual styles have arrived.

When Thomas Burberry created the first overcoat for the British Army, he certainly didn't expect it to become such a timeless piece of clothing. Coat with buckles, drawstring, pockets and two rows of buttons. What do they wear? With a pair of classic black heels or their autumn / winter version in the form of high-heeled boots.

As you can see, the British style is not complicated at all. A pair of rubber boots, a trench coat and a checkered scarf are enough to look stylish even when it's raining.



Daniela Diaconu

Co-ordinating teacher: **Carmen Malaet**





QUASARS

The universe looks like a vast empty ocean sprinkled with rare islands of galaxies- but this is an illusion! Just a small fraction of all atoms are found in galaxies, while the rest is thought to be drifting in between, in the intergalactic medium. Here are the raw materials of creation, hydrogen and helium, woven into sheets and filaments that flow into galaxies where they eventually create stars. But if we look closely, we see who is actually in charge: quasars, the single most powerful objects in existence.



Space stuff is awesome: Take pulsars, city-sized atoms that beam death rays through the galaxy; giant molecular clouds- beautiful and tranquil, but also screaming vortices spitting stars into the cosmos; Of course, everyone knows that quasars are the most awesome of all. They have everything. You can call them the super-powered, filled with an unimaginable amount of light, fire-spitting beasts of astrophysical phenomena.

They don't just have a black hole. They have a supermassive black hole, millions to billions the mass of the sun. They are surrounded by a solar system-sized whirlpool of superheated plasma that shines brighter than an entire galaxy. Quasars are clearly the most metal of all the space things. But it is not just that they are cool- quasars helped shape our universe. In fact, without these most violent of all phenomena, we might not be here to think about them.

Generally, their position in the sky matched with very faint objects, like very distant stars: that is why they were called quasars, a contraction of „quasi- stellar” (star-like) and „radio source”. However, the chemical composition of these objects observed by looking at their spectral lines was very different from any known star. Also, the amount of radiation emitted by them was too large in order to be normal stars. Scientists discovered that these objects were moving very fast and away from the earth, and also found out that the quasars they were observing must have been extremely distant from us, some of them 10-20 billion light-years away!

This supermassive black hole surrounded by large quantities of matter in rapid rotation generates all the insane amounts of light and energy outside of the black hole. As a comparison, a quasar can emit an amount of energy equal to thousand times the amount of energy emitted by the whole Milky Way, our galaxy. It is interesting to note that despite their extreme brightness, the size of a typical quasar is relatively small, just a few light-years of diameter.

It is believed that quasars were more common in the early universe. The reason is that quasars are extremely active objects, so they need a lot of material to form. For example, quasars can form as a result of the collision between two galaxies, the black holes at their centre fusing, creating supermassive black holes that can originate a quasar. The early universe was much smaller in size and denser than now, therefore, extreme events such as the collision between two galaxies were much more likely to happen. Given their nature, quasars „burn” a lot of energy very quickly, as matter keeps falling into the black hole.

So, ultimately, this is the fate of our home! Fascinating, isn't it? Somehow, we can say that quasars represent our past, but also our future.



Daria-Andreea Trifu

Co-ordinating teacher: Ana-Maria Stefanescu



BE HAPPY !!



Miscellaneous

DISTEENCT

ISSUE #22

7 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AZTECS

The Aztecs, a Mesoamerican civilization that flourished from the 14th to the 16th centuries, left a profound mark on history with their fascinating culture, advanced society, and intricate belief systems. Some of the most intriguing aspects of Aztec civilization are as follows:



1. Tenochtitlan: The Magnificent Capital: At the heart of the Aztec Empire lay Tenochtitlan, a grand city built on an island in Lake Texcoco. With its intricate network of canals, bustling markets, and awe-inspiring pyramids, Tenochtitlan was one of the largest and most impressive cities in the world at the time.

2. Complex Social Structure: Aztec society was highly stratified, with a rigid social hierarchy that determined one's status and role within the community. At the top were rulers, priests, and nobles, followed by warriors, merchants, artisans, and farmers. Slavery was also prevalent, often as a result of debts or prisoners of war.

3. Advanced Agriculture: Despite living in a region with challenging environmental conditions, the Aztecs developed sophisticated agricultural techniques. They constructed chinampas or floating gardens, which allowed them to cultivate crops, such as maize, beans, and squash, in the shallow waters of Lake Texcoco. This innovative method of farming was vital to sustaining their large population.

4. Religious Beliefs and Rituals: Religion played a central role in Aztec life, influencing everything from politics to daily activities. The Aztecs worshipped a pantheon of gods and goddesses, with each deity representing different aspects of nature, warfare, and fertility. Human sacrifice was a crucial element of Aztec religious ceremonies, believed to appease the gods and ensure the continuation of the world.

5. Art and Architecture: The Aztecs were skilled artisans and architects who produced intricate works of art and impressive monumental structures. Their artistry can be seen in elaborately carved stone sculptures, colorful murals, and finely crafted pottery. Temples and pyramids adorned with elaborate carvings and religious iconography dominated the landscape of their cities.

6. Education and Writing System: The Aztecs had a complex writing system known as hieroglyphics, which they used to record important events, genealogies, and religious rituals. While many of their written records were lost during the Spanish conquest, the Aztecs also had an extensive oral tradition, with knowledge passed down through storytelling, poetry, and songs.

7. Encounters with the Spanish: The arrival of Spanish conquistadors led by Hernán Cortés marked the downfall of the Aztec Empire. Despite initially welcoming the Spanish as gods, the Aztecs soon realized their true intentions and fiercely fought to defend their homeland. However, superior weaponry, foreign diseases, and alliances with rival indigenous groups ultimately led to the defeat of the Aztec Empire in 1521.



Eduard-Eugen Enache
Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet



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ANGEL NUMBERS

Have you ever noticed repetitive number patterns appearing in your life over and over again? Maybe it's seeing 111 or 444 on license plates, clocks, or even your phone battery percentage. These recurring numbers are often referred to as "angel numbers," and they are believed to be messages sent to us by our guardian angels or the spiritual realm.

Angel numbers are sequences of numbers that hold unique vibrations and meanings. They serve as a way for our spiritual guides to communicate with us and provide guidance, support, and encouragement during different stages of our lives. Each angel number has a specific message and symbolism associated with it, and deciphering their meanings can offer valuable insights into our own spiritual journey.

Deciphering and interpreting these mysterious numbers requires an understanding of numerology and the mystical significance of numbers. Each angel number is believed to carry its own vibration and symbolism.

Here are some examples of angel numbers and their meaning:



- o **111:** It is often associated with new beginnings and manifestations. It is a reminder to stay positive and focus on your thoughts and intentions.
- o **222:** Represents balance, harmony and relationships. It encourages you to trust the process and have faith that everything will work out.
- o **333:** Symbolizes growth, expansion and spiritual awakening. It is a sign that you are being supported and guided by the universe.
- o **444:** Indicates stability, foundation and support. It is a message that your angels are with you, providing love and encouragement.
- o **555:** Signifies change, transformation and freedom. It encourages you to embrace new opportunities and let go of everything that is holding you back.

- o **666:** Although it is often associated with demonic figures, within angel numbers, 666 has a supportive, compassionate and empathetic nature. It is a gentle reminder to treat yourself with kindness and understanding.
- o **777:** Experiencing this number means that a good fortune (especially money-wise) could be on the way.
- o **888:** One of the most powerful divine numbers. It could reflect a strong connection with the spiritual realm.
- o **999:** It is a sign that a meaningful cycle could come close and you will soon be beginning a new journey.
- o **000:** It is associated with new opportunities, like a fresh start. Don't be afraid to make bold decisions at this point in your life!



Maria Maicanescu

**Co-ordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet**

CURIOSITIES ABOUT LONDON

London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, boasts an extremely rich history and culture. Below you will find some curiosities about London that you probably didn't know.

1. Big Ben isn't actually called Big Ben. Tourists from all over the world come to stand on Westminster Bridge and take a selfie next to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. This world-famous landmark is actually called the Elizabeth Tower. Big Ben is the name of the bell that is inside the tower.
2. London has the smallest statue in the world. This is located on Philpot Lane and look like the statue of two tiny mice eating cheese, dedicated to workers who died during the construction of the Monument after an argument over a missing sandwich. They blamed each other, but it was actually the mice.
3. The London Eye is the highest observation point in the world, and each rotation will last around 30 minutes.
4. Feeding pigeons in Trafalgar Square is strictly prohibited. Trafalgar Square was once famous for housing thousands of pigeons, which tourists fed or photographed. In 2003, the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, banned their feeding and the authorities even used a hawk to keep them at distance, which proved successful.
5. London has had several names in the past: Londinium (during the Roman invasion), Ludenwic (during the Saxon times), Ludenburg (during the reign of Alfred the Great).
6. The most famous city of Great Britain hosts no less than 170 museums that can be visited by residents and tourists, including 11 national museums.
7. London was the capital of 6 countries simultaneously. During the Second World War, London served as the capital of government for other countries that were conquered by Nazi Germany. The leaders of Norway, Poland, Belgium, France and Holland lived in London during 1943-1945, the governments being located there.

8. London is considered a forest. There are as many trees in London as there are inhabitants in the city. According to a definition released by the United Nations, any land surface that has more than 20% tree density is considered a forest.



Bianca Dinulescu

**Co-ordinating teacher: IX F
Carmen Malaet**





Birth chart

Hey there! Have you ever wondered why people perceive you in a certain way? Well, in the world of astrology, there's something called a rising sign that can help explain it! Your rising sign is like a mask you wear when you meet new people. Figuring it out is like solving a fun puzzle that tells you more about yourself.

What does your rising sign say about you?

•How to calculate your ascendant?

First, you need to know the exact time and place you were born. Then, you can use an online calculator, which is like magic! You just type in your birth info, and it tells you your rising sign right away.

♈ An Aries rising sign suggests that you come across as confident, independent, and energetic. You're someone who takes initiative, isn't afraid to lead, and prefers to carve your own path.

♏ A Pisces rising sign suggests you come across as sensitive, compassionate, and imaginative. You project empathy and creativity, with a gentle and intuitive demeanor.

♊ A Gemini rising sign suggests you come across as sociable, curious, and adaptable. You're known for your lively wit and ability to engage in diverse conversations effortlessly.

♐ A Sagittarius rising sign suggests you come across as adventurous, optimistic, and open-minded. You project enthusiasm and spontaneity, embracing life's adventures with a great sense of humor.

♏ A Scorpio rising sign suggests you come across as intense, mysterious, and magnetic. You have a keen ability to delve into life's hidden aspects and project a strong, commanding presence.



♎ A Libra rising sign suggests you come across as charming, diplomatic, and sociable. You value harmony and balance in your interactions and have a keen eye for aesthetics.

♑ A Capricorn rising sign suggests you come across as disciplined, ambitious, and reliable. You project a serious and professional demeanor, valuing hard work and responsibility.

♒ An Aquarius rising sign suggests you come across as progressive, independent, and open-minded. You project originality and value freedom, embracing new ideas with enthusiasm.

♌ A Leo rising sign suggests you come across as confident, charismatic, and outgoing. You have a natural flair for leadership and draw others to you with your vibrant energy and enthusiasm.

♉ A Taurus rising sign suggests you come across as calm, reliable, and practical. You value stability and comfort, projecting a grounded and patient demeanor.

♍ A Virgo rising sign suggests you come across as practical, detail-oriented, and reliable. You're known for your intelligence and analytical nature, with a strong sense of duty and a desire for improvement.

♋ A Cancer rising sign suggests you come across as nurturing, sensitive, and caring. You're intuitive and deeply attuned to others' emotions, with a strong connection to home and family.



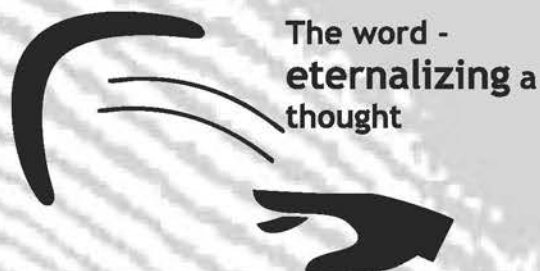
Maia Alexandra Popescu
and Beatrice Constantin

Coordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Power of words and protecting the mind through positive resonance



In the place where we put our attention we create and shape our reality. Our thoughts are the mirror of our perception of ourselves. We have at our disposal some tools, that I call colors, with the help of which life acquires moisture and meaning. If we find ourselves attributing force, unnecessary energy to the respective factor, it ends up falling into our reality.

The thought and the word set in motion the vibrations that propagate in larger and larger circles, until they embrace the entire universe, then they return to us as surely as when we emitted them. The boomerang effect can make you reflect in your deep self and to redirect towards others only good, to return to you tenfold. A warm will attract only prosperity in his life.

The quote "The words are loaded guns, water bags or the icing on the cake" reflected 3 possibilities by which simple words thrown away, which the world is not afraid of, can change circumstances radically. Although it seems harmless, if its use is offered in key situations, words have the gift of poisoning the human soul, of dampening it or to enlighten and cheer him up.

[WORDS HAVE POWER]

On the other hand, when the affirmations are built constructively, your energetic vibration rises and starts to attract goals. They contribute to your next development stage.

Last, but not least, knowing how to handle a conversation in order to obtain a guaranteed benefit is the art of the word. For example, if you want to mitigate a conflict, the path of finding a peaceful presentation of the situation will bring you the desired success.

In conclusion, the word is at the root of all auspicious relationships between people. The words are the only ones that have the ability to shape your destiny in your favour.



Elena Ruxandra Glavan
Co-ordinating teacher: Carmen Malaet





Fashion's Intriguing Secrets Unveiled

Within the seams and stitches of fashion lie captivating tales often overlooked. Here, we uncover some lesser-known details that have left indelible marks on the history of style.

1. The Buttonhole Revolution:

In the 13th century, the introduction of the buttonhole transformed garment closures. Previously, attire relied on loops or laces, but the buttonhole allowed for a more secure and tailored fit, revolutionizing the way clothes were fastened.

2. Pockets: From Privilege to Practicality:

Once a luxury for the wealthy, pockets were integrated into clothing in the late 17th century, democratizing this practical accessory. Prior, people carried belongings in pouches or tied to their belts.

3. Zipper: A Modern Fastening Miracle:

Patented in 1851, zippers were initially used in footwear. However, their popularity in clothing surged in the early 20th century, offering a convenient alternative to traditional closures.

4. Hemlines: Markers of Social Change:

The scandalous rise of shorter hemlines in the 1920s signaled a departure from previous modesty norms. This shift not only reflected changing attitudes towards femininity but also heralded the modernization of women's fashion.

5. The Subtle Language of Seams:

Haute couture reveals the significance of seams. Mismatched seams convey avant-garde creativity, while perfectly aligned ones showcase meticulous craftsmanship. Seam manipulation allows designers to sculpt garments, adding depth to creations.

Fashion's allure lies not only in its grand designs but also in its minute details. From the humble buttonhole to the revolutionary zipper, these hidden gems underscore the ingenuity and artistry shaping fashion's history. Delving into these nuances unveils the intricate craftsmanship and innovation that continue to inspire modern style.



Iulia-Roxana Ștefănescu

Coordinating teacher:
Carmen Malaet

The history of chocolate



Could you imagine life without chocolate? Without the sweet tasty dessert that makes your mouth drool every time you think of it? Well, if you can't, you are lucky you weren't born before the 16th century, because before then chocolate only existed in Mesoamerica.

Historians say that it all started in the 1900 BCE when the Olmecs discovered that you can create a drink from the cocoa beans by grinding and mixing them with cornmeal and chili peppers. They drank this bitter, invigorating concoction during rituals or used it as a medicine. Centuries later, the Mayans praised chocolate as the drink of Gods. They thought it was gifted to humans by a feathered serpent God called Kukulcan. Aztecs drank chocolate at royal feasts and used the cacao beans as currency or as a reward to the soldiers for their success in battles.

It is not known for sure when chocolate was first brought up in Europe, but the legend says that explorer Hernán Cortés brought chocolate to Spain in 1528. It is told that he was searching for gold and riches during an expedition to the Americas, but instead found a cup of cocoa that was given to him by the Aztec emperor. When Cortés returned home, he introduced cocoa seeds to his homeland, Spain. Even though it was still served as a drink, Spanish people were mixing it with sugar and honey to sweeten the bitter taste. And soon, no aristocratic home was left without chocolate wares.

The world of chocolate completely changed in 1828, when the cocoa press machine was invented. This invention would basically separate the cocoa butter from a powder and mixed and recombined again to create the solid chocolate we know today. Not long after, in 1875, Daniel Peter, a Swiss chocolatier added powder milk to the mix creating milk chocolate.

By the beginning of the 20th century chocolate had become a no longer luxurious dessert, but a treat for everyone until these days. So, enjoy this delicious piece of heaven!



Teodora Garaiman
Co-ordinating teacher:
Ana-Maria Stefanescu





STAFF

General Co-ordinator **CARMEN MALAET**

Editor-in-Chief **Tecu Catalina-Teodora**

Deputy Editor **Baragan Cristiana**

Public Relations(PR) **Constantin Beatrice
Guta Daria**

Make-up Editors **Nicola Issabela, Starasnită
Bianca, Popa Bianca,
Maicanescu Maria-Miruna**

Article Responsible **Marinica Maria-Alexandra**

Cashier **Constantin Beatrice**

Contributors

Irina Mihaela Preda, Adina Gabriela Mihai, Alexandra Danciu, Crina Elena Manafu, Elena Teodora Nicolae, Andrei Cristian Ciortan, Flavia Wiesler, Alexia Marinica, Patricia Prodan, Issabela Nicola, Daria Guta, Doroteea Rotaru, Anastasia Moraru, Catalina-Teodora Tecu, Alexandra Maria Marinica, Bianca Gabriela Starasnită, Stefan Alexandru Gresita, Alexandru-Mihai Ciuca, Denisa Stoenica, Ioana Drighiciu, Elena Balan, Stefan Iacob-Spataru, Oana Bianca Negrila, Elena-Carina Mare, Mara Lungu, Maria Alexandra Popescu, Maia Maria Alimanescu, Andreea-Maria Tudor, Maria-Cristina Rosu, Petru Dovan, Izabel Emanuela Bulai, Giulia Gabriela Bulai, Alisia-Mihaela Iorga, Denis Robert Tone, Eliana Daniela Tonea, Amalia Virban, Cristiana Gabriela Mirea, Radu Nicola, Matei Laurentiu Florea, Anamaria Iancu, Dragos Gabriel Dorobantu, Bianca-Andreea Maracineanu, Eva-Maria Danciulescu, Alexia Holdis, Luca Mihai Popa, Daniela Diaconu, Daria-Andreea Trifu, Eduard-Eugen Enache, Maria Maicanescu, Bianca Dinulescu, Maia Alexandra Popescu, Beatrice Constantin, Elena Ruxandra Glavan, Iulia-Roxana Stefanescu, Teodora Garaiman

INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN DOLJ
Str. Ion Măiorescu Nr.6, 200760 Craiova, Telefon 0251/420961;
0351/407395 (407397) Fax: 0251/421824, 0351/407396
E-mail: isjdolj@isj.dj.edu.ro Web: www.isj.dj.edu.ro



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Ca urmare a solicitării dvs. privind obținerea avizului I.S.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.S.J.Dolj, revista **DISTEENCT** a primit **aviz favorabil**.

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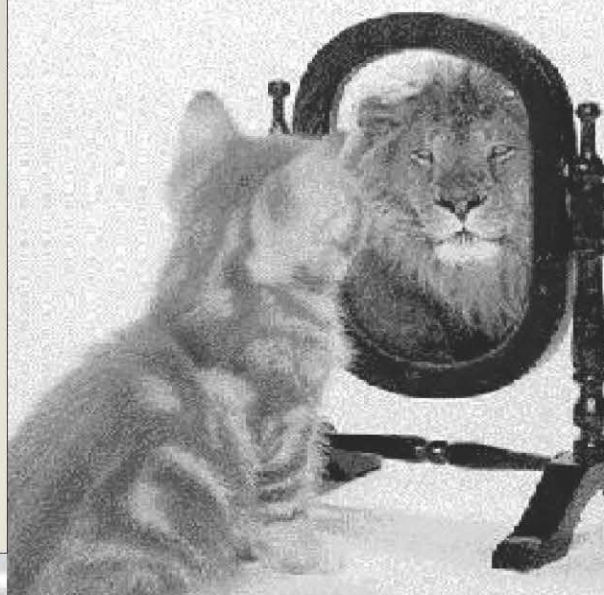


Inspector școlar,
Prof. Diana Giorbagiu-Naon

Str. General Berthelot nr. 28-30, Sector L
010168, București
Tel: +40 (0)21 405 57 06
Fax: +40 (0)21 310 32 05
www.edu.ro



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IS HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF.





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STR. MIHAI VITEAZUL NR. 12, CRAIOVA, JUDETUL DOLJ

TEL./FAX 0251.413.615-0251.416.353

E-MAIL: disteentarticle@yahoo.ro

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