

# What is WIN Block?

By Christina Dolan  
Cougar Growl Reporter

This year, the Arlington Catholic administration has installed a new element into our Wednesday schedules. This thirty-five minute block of time allotted to all of us every Wednesday after break period is called WIN. WIN, standing for What I Need, ranges from club meetings to test makeups. Already, teachers and students have been making the most out of this period, and it seems to be running smoothly. Of course, there are bound to be scheduling conflicts of clubs, but as the students and teachers adjust more to the WIN period, these conflicts will lessen.

As with any new endeavor, students have been curious about the origin of and vision for this new program. Vice Principal of Academics, Mr. Naughton answered our questions. WIN was created because, “It was becoming quite evident that students were being pulled in many directions. Between clubs, sports, make-up work/extra help and a life outside of school, students were having a tough time making choices about what to be involved with,” Mr. Naughton explained in an interview with the Cougar Growl. He also shared that when teachers were surveyed, many of them agreed that a block of time like WIN was necessary in the school day.

However, many of my classmates have confided that they already are facing scheduling conflicts within the WIN block; one student responded, “I do not love the WIN block because I am expected to be multiple places at the same time; all of my commitments are a priority to me, but I don’t have the ability to show any devotion when the different clubs I am in involved in are holding meetings at the same

time.” In cases such as these, Mr. Naughton emphasizes: “Anything academic (extra help or make-up work) should take precedence. This should not be the only meeting time for a club so students can still attend a meeting when the club meets after school. Teachers know that students are still going to have to make decisions and should not penalize students for missing an activity during WIN because of a conflict.”

Some may wonder why the duration of the WIN block was thirty-five minutes, rather than a normal period length. When posed with this question, Mr. Naughton replied, “If WIN was the length of a normal period then the reality is that the other academic periods would have to be shortened.” For some students, the WIN block is just long enough allowing them “to meet with clubs . . . I find it very convenient be-

cause I am involved with clubs and sports and the WIN period helps me balance both of them easier.” Essentially, the WIN block’s time allotment is being experimented with, but the hope is to allow enough time to be productive without deducting too much time from academic periods.

Mr. Naughton informed me not only about how it was created, but what he and the rest of the administration hope it will evolve into as the year progresses. Mr. Naughton stressed, “There are lots of possibilities for the WIN block going forward. Some schools have it for longer times, some have it more than once a week, some schools use it in place of a study hall. Students and staff will be surveyed in November for their thoughts on how it is going and what needs to be improved.” Perhaps students can offer some suggestions, like Brianna

Markwarth, class of 2019, who says, “I love the WIN block but I don’t think clubs should make their meetings mandatory every block because that is when it becomes difficult for students to participate in all of their commitments equally.” Some students like Brianna see great potential while others are unsure how it will work out.

Ultimately, the WIN block is meant to aid students in balancing their time; and clearly the administration and students both realize that. However, like any new implementation into the school’s system, it will of course take time to perfect. These insights into how students feel about the WIN block might help the administration understand how to adjust it, as Mr. Naughton’s ideas show students how they can take greater advantage of the block.



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# For the Love of Latin

By Kathryn Van Winkle  
Cougar Growl Reporter

After years of service as the Latin teacher, Mr. Murray has retired, but who is our new Latin teacher? What are his hopes for the program? What made him become a Latin teacher? I sought to find all of this out from the very source, our new Latin teacher, Mr. Joshua Binus.

**CG: What inspired you to want to teach Latin?**

MB: My high school Latin teacher was my main inspiration to teaching Latin. Her Latin class was a really bright part of my days in high school throughout my time there. As soon as I finished high school, I knew that I wanted to teach Latin just like she did so that other people could feel that positive about a class. It's really a fascinating subject that sometimes gets pushed aside by others out of a reputation it has for being more difficult than other languages, and I'd like to change that a bit by getting more students interested in it.

**CG: What do you think helps the most when learning Latin?**

MB: Ideally the best way to learn Latin would be to treat it as any other language, that is by speaking it with other people in a foreign country where Latin is frequently spoken. Unfortunately, that isn't really all that possible with Latin. The next best thing we can do is focus on proficiency in reading Latin through a reading-based approach. This is the most efficient way for students to learn Latin now. This is where Cambridge Latin Course, the textbook that we use, really excels in comparison to others. Students begin by reading



Mr. Binus teaching in room 102.

Staff photo

simple, "Cat in the Hat"-like stories of Latin and slowly move on to more complex narratives until they can read authentic Latin literature. In short, the best way for students to learn Latin is by reading and re-reading passages at or slightly above their current level.

Most methods of teaching Latin today are the so-called "grammar/translation" approaches, made popular by textbooks such as Wheelock and Jenney's. This is how I learned Latin, and while it can be effective for some students, I think they're also partially responsible for the negative reputation and decline in popularity that Latin has had in school systems recently. We don't learn other languages by just memorizing their grammatical points and then start reading it for the first time after several years of memorization.

In studying for quizzes and tests, I always am a fan of flash cards for vocabulary and re-reading stories for translation. Many of my students have their own strategies for these though, and what strategy works best usually depends on the

person.

**CG: How do you plan to increase the difficulty for the high school level class?**

MB: The pace is going to be faster in the high school level. Latin 1 will cover all or nearly all of Saint Agnes's 6th-8th grade Latin program using the first two textbooks of Cambridge Latin Course. I want students in Latin 3 to be able to start reading authentic Latin literature near the end of the year, so we'll need to hustle.

One of the challenges that students may encounter in Latin (for now at least) is the mixture of levels in their sections. This also means that students will need to hone their independent study skills throughout the year, as I will be teaching Latin 1 and 2 at the same time, and Latin 2 honors and Latin 3 honors at the same time. Perhaps this will change in the future if enrollment in Latin increases, but I also think it's a good opportunity right now for these students to learn how to teach themselves independently or

in small groups, at times.

**CG: The Spanish classes get to do trips abroad, where would you take your Latin students if you were given the chance to do this?**

MB: I would love for my students to be able to visit Pompeii. I'm doubtful whether we'd be able to do that where Latin currently is, but I can always dream. On a more local level, the Museum of Fine Arts has a lot to offer. Some of Shakespeare's plays deal with Roman history and culture, so seeing a play of Julius Caesar for instance is another route we could take.

**CG: What are your hopes and vision for AC Latin program?**

MB: Right now I'm hoping to get the Latin program growing. After this school year, if our most advanced students continue with Latin, we can offer a Latin literature course with texts of the school's or their own choice. If interest in upper-level Latin continues, A.P. Latin is also something I'd be interested in offering at some point in the future. That would be at least two years down the line from now, though. Right now my main goals for AC's Latin program are to help it align with where Saint Agnes's Latin program is and then align both schools with Cambridge Latin Course's standards for Latin programs.

I'd like to thank Mr. Binus for taking the time to talk to me. Great things are to come from this program with Mr. Binus' guidance and instruction. Though our Latin Program is already strong, it can only grow stronger and become better.

# Opinion: Rainy Days and Thursdays

By Victoria Caggiano  
Guest Reporter

According to the old song "Rainy Days and Mondays" by the Carpenters, rainy days and Mondays always get them down. I have to disagree, not only from my opinion but others have agreed that Thursdays are the real pain as well. Not only is it harder to wake up, the day just seems to go in slow motion. After asking around I have found that most everyone I have talked to say "Thursdays are a tease, a fake Friday."

Most have agreed that it is an unnecessary day of the week, keeping us further away from the weekend. Others have argued that Mondays are the worst because the weekend is ending. I view it as a new week, and

a fresh start usually giving me more energy while looking forward to a new fun filled weekend.

Thursdays may appear closer to the weekend but in reality they are not. Society has also frowned upon Mondays, when really they are closer to the last weekend. You can spend your Monday reminiscing about how much fun you had that past weekend.

Although my opinion of Mondays and Thursdays is an unpopular one, if you really think about it, you may actually discover Mondays are better than Thursdays.



# Student Council Science Team Club Fair

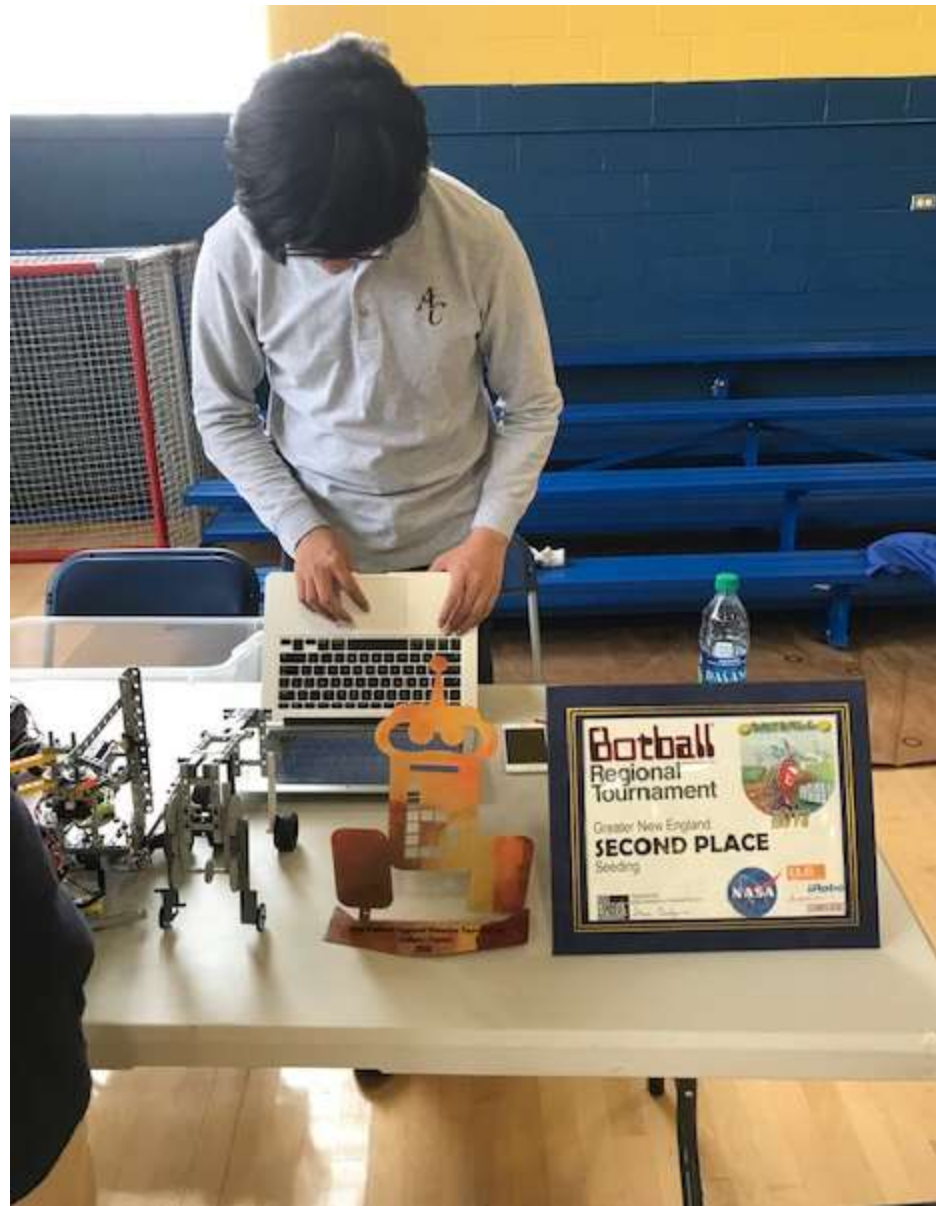
By Nicole Ferrero  
Cougar Growl Reporter

On October 12th, 2018, the Arlington Catholic gym was packed with transfer students, and the class of 2022 for the Annual Club Fair. The event was held to shed light on the various opportunities outside the classroom in which students could participate. It emphasized the importance of exploring the new avenues that Arlington Catholic provides, while promoting the idea that students should be active contributors within their school community. The students were encouraged to ask questions about the various clubs at the fair, and for every question they asked about individual clubs, the students were rewarded

with a stamp on their passport. The more stamps a student accumulated, the greater the chance they had to win a Gail Ann’s gift card. This new initiative, proposed by the Student Council coordinator, Ms. Meinke, successfully had the students of Arlington Catholic engaged. These students were made aware of a wide variety of opportunities; there were twenty-four clubs represented, which ranged from STEM-based clubs to the performing arts. Several freshmen took interest in the upcoming DECA Club (see article). In other words, this club fair allowed the new students of Arlington Catholic to open doors of possibilities to their future.

“There are exciting opportunities for the freshman and transfers to become more involved in the AC community”

Andra Preda ‘19



Staff Photo

Jason Yan prepares for the onslaught of students having passports stamped and asking questions at the club fair in the AC gym.

## Science Team

By Ivy Xie  
Guest Reporter

AC’s Science Team is a club where students can gather together to explore various types of science and technology and compete against other high schools. For me, I have gained a lot of scientific knowledge by participating in these activities. Also, I made many friends there and enhanced my understanding of the spirit of teamwork. It was fun and informative. I also enjoy thinking and collaborating with my teammates and classmates through the competitions. At other times, we go to science meets where we think more thoroughly, investigate and invent. These programs allow us to work together on scientific inventions as a team in a short period of time. Participating in Science Team has increased my confidence and interest in science.



Photo Courtesy of Ivy Xie

A science team competition.



Photo Courtesy of Ivy Xie

The science team at The Ten80 education Challenge.

## Chess Team

By Jintao Wang  
Guest Reporter

The Chess Team performed well last year and we ended with a good ranking. This year, I believe we can surpass expectations because we have a lot of new members. More people who love chess have joined us, and I have grown a lot through the experience of last year.

My experience has increased little by little through continuous competition, and I have practiced and improved my skills. Although this season has not started, I am full of confidence that the Chess Team will be even better than last year!



Photo Courtesy of Jintao Wang

The Chess Team members gather after completing a well-played match.

## DECA

By Emanuel Donovan  
Guest Reporter

Consider joining DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), a club that helps students focus on business skills that can help students in college, and the real world. If one is willing to commit, DECA can take its members to many places where they can compete and interact with brilliant students from all around the world. For example, we plan to go to a conference where we will com-

pete against other schools using our knowledge of the marketplace, management, hospitality, and finance. Overall, DECA is a way to learn essential social skills such as communication, leadership, creativity, and teamwork. It may require a lot of hard work, but it will pay off because, when applying to college, DECA will stand out. Lastly, students will have a lot of fun while working hard with their classmates. For more information, see club President, Sean Keenan (2020).





Don't let your team be left on the sideline. Become a COUGAR GROWL sports reporter.

AC athletes and fans are strongly encouraged to send photos and captions. These pictures could be featured in the the school newspaper or the BOSTON GLOBE sports page or online.

**Contact:**  
TheCougarGrowl@achs.net for more information or see Mrs. Gould in room 103.

# Kicking off the Season

By Eddie Lee  
Guest Reporter

The boys Varsity Soccer Team has had a rough season so far, with a record of 2-4-7. Home games are at The Pit, usually Monday, Wednes-

day, and Friday. Game schedules are listed on the school website. Come out and support them! Captains are Lambert Nyembo, Danny Westhaver and Chandler Garcia. Recently, they played Archbishop Williams in the rain where Matt

Donscimento assisted on a Danny Westhaver goal. The team evened the score with Jack Snider's goal in the last ten minutes of the game. There are a few games left, and soccer is fun to watch. We invite everyone to come see us play.



Photo By Eddie Lee

The boys are running together on the field after the game to say thank you to their parents.

# Homecoming

By Neeve McGeoghean and Molly Fagan  
Guest Reporters



Photo courtesy of Molly Fagan

Freshmen students get ready for the homecoming dance.

Homecoming is a long-standing tradition at high schools across the country with homecoming football games and dances held each fall. This year, the Arlington Catholic Cougars celebrated homecoming on October 6th.

The first homecoming event was the annual football game. Junior football player, Denzel Morinvil admitted, "It was a tough game and St. Mary's ended up winning with a score of 28-12." The most touching moment was during halftime at Hormel Stadium in Medford when the team and fans honored retired coach, Serge Clivio, for his 30 years coaching. After the game, a reception was held in his honor at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington.

Homecoming festivities didn't end there. The following week,

homecoming continued with the homecoming dance. On October 12th, students from grades nine through twelve packed the gym and had a great time. With teachers chaperoning throughout the night and having a DJ play great songs, it was an overall success. Hearing great things from our fellow classmates, it sounds like everyone else had a fun time too. "It was a great time to chill with my best friends," said freshmen Donny MacMillan. The seniors who sponsored the dance kept the school spirit alive and will use the proceeds to fund senior class events. It was a great first dance of the year and students look forward to the next one. Our school builds community by bringing together students from all grades.

# Fast and Furious

By James Wu  
Guest Reporter

In my experience, cross country requires physical fitness and mental fortitude. The track is a path around the lake and bikeway. During the race, runners have to endure the difficulty of breathing, the environmental factors, and the constant vague temptation to give up. On the first day of running, I was confident and committed to

finishing the whole distance of the track. However, my physical strength was severely depleted. My breathing grew heavy and labored. As a result, I had to stop for a little break. I was so tired that I saw a few stars in my eyes. After a few minutes, I found my inner strength by encouraging myself and started running again. Over time, I have learned to run slowly, steadily, and consistently to save energy and finally finish the whole track. In track, as in all things, there will inevitably be difficulties before reaching the final goal. It is in overcoming the difficulties with unrelenting effort, that success can be attained.



Photo Courtesy of Coach Killion

The varsity girls (tiredly) pose for a post-meet picture 9/19.



# Runners Take Your Mark For the Fall XC Season

By Liana Winas  
Cougar Growl Reporter

Bang! The gun shatters the tense silence, punctuated by tense breathing, feet shuffling, and brief cheers. These are the sounds you are likely to hear as the many cross-country (XC) competitors await the start of another meet. Immediately the runners surge forth, footsteps sounding repeatedly on the dirt path. Each girl, and boy, with only one thing in mind—simply finishing the course, or placing high enough, 1st through 7th, to add to (or, rather, to take away from) their teams’ points. Cross-country races are scored like this: the first 5 runners on a team receive the number of points corresponding to their place. The 1st runner to finish gets one point, the 2nd two, and so on. The goal is not to have the final highest score, but the lowest.

The Cougar cross-country team has been off to a great start this season. The first race, 9/8/18, was a scrimmage on a three-mile track at Horn Pond in Woburn. AC were opposing Winchester High School, which is so far the best team in the league. That gave the team significant motivation, as they did surprisingly well against WHS. Sean Kay, an 11th grade runner and a stellar competitor,

won the entire boys’ meet. Erin Moran had an equally amazing performance (5th place) and is a 7th-grader at St. Agnes! (Natalia Kay, Liana Winans, and Maura Kirkpatrick are AC freshmen.)

On Wednesday, 9/19/18, the next meet, AC faced Cardinal Spellman and Matignon high schools. The cross-country team traveled by bus to Brockton. The course was 2.8 miles long. Sean and Erin once again finished 1st for their team(s), but even more amazingly, Erin boosted her speed and placed 1st in the whole meet! AC did beat Matignon (both girls & boys), but unfortunately the home team, Spellman, took 1st place.

In Lynn Woods, on Wednesday 9/26/18, AC faced St. Mary’s High and Archbishop Williams on the SMH home course. Sean Kay earned 1st place with a significant lead and so did Erin, even after a painful trip on the rugged and difficult ground near the finish line! Connor Hamilton, a talented force emerging on the boys’ team, placed 3rd for AC, and Liana had a great race, placing 3rd overall for the girls. AC won the whole meet, boys and girls!

|             | WHS Scrimmage                      | Spellman/Matignon                         | Archbishop Williams/St. Mary’s           |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1st on team | Sean Kay (1)<br>Erin Moran (5)     | Sean Kay (1)<br>Erin Moran (1)            | Sean Kay (1)<br>Erin Moran (1)           |
| 2nd on team | Connor Hamilton<br>Natalia Kay (6) | Connor Hamilton (4)<br>Liana Winans (3)   | Connor Hamilton (3)<br>Liana Winans (3)  |
| 3rd on team | Jimmy Brown<br>Liana Winans (18)   | Jimmy Brown (13)<br>Maura Kirkpatrick (7) | Ned O’Keefe (5)<br>Maura Kirkpatrick (4) |

All in all, everyone has had much personal success so far. Seeing as how, statistically, WHS and Spellman are probably the most skilled teams we will face this year, we can hope and safely agree that the season will only become more successful and exciting in terms of improvement and victory for the ACXC Cougars!



Photo courtesy of Coach Killion

Erin nears the finish of the Lynn Woods meet, far ahead of the 2nd runner.

Erin Moran is a 7th grader at Saint Agnes, and her running ability is surprising as well as amazing. She has WON almost every meet this season, even placing 5th in the Wrentham invitational. Recently, Erin was involved in an exciting finish at a league meet at Bishop Fenwick, where she battled it out with a Spellman high schooler and lost by an inch to claim 2nd place!



Photo taken by Coach Killion

The girls take off at the start, full of energy, during the meet in Brockton (against Spellman and Matignon). The course was mainly grass and cement, the field they are running on is both the race’s start and finish. Beginning in a big clump, the runners eventually spread out and ran in small groups of 2-3 competitors, until the end.

## Winter is Coming

By Mary Cate Flynn  
Cougar Growl Reporter

Hockey season is just around the corner and the players of the boys and girls Arlington Catholic ice hockey program could not be more excited! The girls team is coming off a rough season last year and ready to bounce back with some new girls and new leadership. Senior captain Christina Gesualdi talks about the upcoming season with high expectations saying, “Last year was rough for us but we really bonded as a team and I look forward to

seeing us grow even more toward our goals on and off the ice.” The boys hockey program is ready for their season ahead as well. Come and support the boys team at their first scrimmage on November 29, against Waltham. Winter is slowly approaching and that means so is hockey season!



Photo courtesy of Maddy Murphy

Last year’s girls hockey team is ready for the upcoming season.

## Dig This

By Bianca Burke  
Cougar Growl Reporter

The Arlington Catholic Varsity Girls Volleyball Team is off to a great start. They are currently undefeated with a record of 16-0! Led by captains Katrina Perez, Mari Ball, and Kristen O’Keefe, the Lady Cougars were able to beat the 13th highest ranking team in the state, the Winchester Sachems. The Cougars defeated the Sachems in a 5-set match on Saturday, September 15th. The Cougars fiercely won the first two sets of the game, but were defeated in the third and fourth, in two very close and tough matches. The Cougars ferociously outplayed and defeated the Sachems in the fifth set to win the game. The bench was loud, proud, and respectful for their teammates, acting as their top supporters by cheering them on to a well-deserved victory. The girls played 5 hard with confidence and focus,

never giving up to win the long and enduring match. Sophomore Caroline Macri claims, “This team has an incredible bond on and off of the court that gives us the potential to make our goals of being the Division Two North Champions a big possibility. Playing and learning everyday with these girls had made me feel extremely lucky.” The Lady Cougars have now officially qualified for the Division Two North Tournament, and are one win away from becoming the CCL Champions. But for the team, their goals of not only becoming champions of their division but becoming Catholic Central League Champions are not far out of reach. Although they have already defeated many skilled teams such as Winchester, Woburn, and Archbishop Williams, they are still hungry for more victories, and will not stop dominating the courts until their goals are accomplished.



# The Power of Pilgrimage

By Thomas Cahill  
Cougar Growl Reporter

On September 15th, several parishioners of Saint Agnes Parish and Saint Camillus Parish went on a walking pilgrimage through the city of Boston. During the pilgrimage, parishioners learned more about the origin of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Boston.



Fr. Michael Zimmerman

The first stop on this pilgrimage was King’s Chapel, the site of the first Catholic Mass in the Boston area. Before the Massachusetts Constitution was written in 1780, Catholicism was illegal in Massachusetts. Between 1776 and 1779, however, a Catholic funeral Mass was permitted for a French officer killed by American soldiers trying to break up a fight. Even when Catholicism was made legal, the few Catholics in Boston did not have their own church until the Church of the Holy Cross was built in 1788. This church became the first Cathedral of the Holy Cross when the Diocese of Boston was created in 1808 (It was replaced by the current Cathedral of the Holy Cross in 1866). The second Catholic church built in the Boston area was Saint Augustine’s Chapel, the final stop of the pilgrimage. That chapel was built along with Saint Augustine’s Cemetery as a burial place for Father Francis Matignon, a beloved priest of the early diocese and friend of Bishop John Lefebvre de Cheverus, the first bishop of Boston.

On the day of our pilgrimage Car-



Photo by Ms. Franchini

“On the 19th day we walked up a steep plateau and on the flat barren top, we found a labyrinth that previous pilgrims made. We prayerfully walked the labyrinth and it was one of the most profound spiritual experiences on the Camino.”

“I walked 500 miles in five weeks from France across northern Spain to the city of Santiago de Compostela. El Camino, as the pilgrimage is known as, was the most physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting experience of my life. I carried everything on my back - almost 20 pounds in total - and relied on my friends’ support and wisdom and God’s grace to get me through each day. An average day on the road began with waking up at 5:00 a.m.; eating a simple breakfast with coffee; walking; stretching; second coffee; walking; lunch; walking; arriving at our destination; checking for bedbugs; washing our clothes; talking with our hosts; eating a simple dinner; praying and finally sleeping. When I got away from the noise and busyness of everyday life, I found the absence of technology and notifications to be jarring at first. I was yearning for distractions. But when I was able to quiet my mind, heart and soul, I recognized God’s presence. I no longer sought to be distracted or absentminded, but to be fully present to now - to the people and environment around me; to God calling me.” - Ms. Franchini

dinal Sean celebrated Mass at Saint Augustine’s Chapel, which is now celebrating its two-hundredth anniversary.

Pilgrimages are a great activity. Not only do they help us learn more about our Faith, but they also help us grow closer to God. I recommend

that we all take time out of our busy lives to go on a pilgrimage, whether it is a location close to our home or one that is far away. The next opportunity to go on a pilgrimage through Saint Agnes Parish and Saint Camillus Parish will be on Saturday, November 3rd. On that day, Father

Michael Zimmerman will be leading a ten mile, walking pilgrimage to pray at cemeteries around Arlington for souls in Purgatory. It will be an excellent opportunity to grow closer to God.

## A Poem: For World Mental Health Day

By Peyton Hanley  
Guest Writer

*I float atop a gleaming sea of attention,  
yet the sunlight doesn’t reach to the darkness that sits on my  
ocean floor.  
Like the waves that crash upon the shore,  
emotions seem to wash away my “old self” as the water  
washes away  
footprints.*



Photo by Peyton Hanley

World Mental Health Day was celebrated on October 10, 2018



# The Black Clown:

## An Adaptation of a 1931 Poem with a 2018 Message

By Sophie Pratt  
Guest Reporter

“You laugh because I’m poor and black and funny-”. This is the powerful opening line of the Langston Hughes poem entitled “The Black Clown,” and also the first line the audience hears in the new American Repertory Theater production of the same name. The Black Clown at A.R.T. consists of a diverse cast that uses the narrative of Hughes poem as its script, as well as new music and lyrics written for the show, taking the audience on a journey through the struggles faced by the black community, from slavery to modern day.

Davóne Tines leads the cast as “the black clown,” narrating the story and breaking the fourth wall, with a performance that is reminiscent of a ring leader in a circus. Tines’ bass-baritone voice is

brehtaking, but some of the most powerful moments within the show were when he is completely silent, looking directly into the audience-unmoved. The ensemble of this show brings vibrancy and excitement through their dancing and all around commitment to the story, being able to shift from an upbeat, lively number, to one more serious and dark. Chanel DaSilva’s choreography, as performed by the cast, plays a huge role in the show, by adding movement that resembles a ventriloquist dummy, highlighting an underlying theme of the restraints people of color are faced with. Not only that, but a stunning solo movement piece during the song “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child,” brings raw emotion, not only from the cast, but also the audience, to an already emotional sequence. The cast, choreography, movement, and songs highlighted the metaphors created

within the poem, as well as new ones, relating to the overall theme of the piece.

The minimalistic set design and interesting costume choices for the cast creates the overall atmosphere of the show. The musical uses screens and silhouettes during a portion of the show that transports the audience back to times of slavery. Shadows of the actors performing what looks like field work and other images are shown to the audience through the separation of the screen, implying that the barrier is the barrier created by oppression. The screens are then pushed back during a sequence that documents the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, creating the metaphor for the illusion of freedom, with the ever-looming walls of oppression and racism standing in the background. In a powerful conclusion, the screens are torn away by the cast in a moment of joy and

freedom. The minimal set allows for a stripped-down feel, drawing all of the attention to the cast and the story, making every set piece purposeful and give more than one meaning to the story. In addition to the set, the costume design creates clear transitions in the show, with the cast wearing all black outfits, to later, wearing more colorful outfits of the same style.

The Black Clown, like the poem, carries powerful messages and deep meanings within it, showing the struggles faced by people of color through the years. The show is a must-see, presenting its audiences with not only the past, but the modern day struggles and discrimination still faced by people of color. The show ends like the poem, in a powerful conclusion that symbolizes a regaining of freedom with the simple words: “I’m a man!”

## Bringing a Legacy Back to Life:

### Langston Hughes’ The Black Clown takes the stage at A.R.T.

By Andra Preda  
Guest Reporter

To many, Langston Hughes was the epitome of the Civil Rights fight for freedom. Through his pen, Hughes communicated the struggle of being an African-American, constantly weighed down by stereotypes and unwarranted hatred. The Black Clown, one of his poems, embodies his legacy: his steadfast belief that all people, regardless of color, deserve to experience true freedom.

Though perhaps not Hughes’ most famous poem, The Black Clown has finally gotten its chance to shine in the form of a new musical. The remarkable American Repertory Theater in Cambridge has once again managed to create a stunning theater masterpiece; led by Davóne Tines, the cast of The Black Clown reminds audiences that the fight for freedom is punctuated by struggle, sadness, and loss, but also has the unique ability to unite an oppressed community.

Every single member of the cast has a stunning voice, and the harmonies throughout the show are nothing short of incredible. The technology in the show is also a feat of wonder; the lights, stage, and music interact beautifully to emphasize the characters’ emotions and experiences. It seems physically impossible to tear your eyes away from the stage when the full cast is singing and the lights are beaming down, as if commanding you to listen.

The musical takes the audience through each stanza of the poem, converting Hughes’ words into original songs and breathtaking scenes. Audiences watch in awe as symbolic images are created onstage; an image is truly worth a thousand words when we see the actors singing about supposed freedom, but dancing with chains and ropes that still bind them. We see silhouettes of the actors illuminated from behind a screen; while beautiful, this experience suggests an entrapment and suffering that the audience cannot ameliorate. Such was the pain of Langston Hughes, and now the pain of those who continue to be oppressed; they are seen and heard, but nonetheless kept at a distance.

Even more than an immersive experience, The Black Clown is a warning and plea to end this terrible reign of hatred and cruelty that has persisted since the time Hughes’ poem was written. It is a call to hear Hughes’ verses more clearly, to understand that all humans must be treated with dignity, but to further realize that they are still not treated justly, even in the 21st century. How dare we pretend that freedom is an automatic right when oppression still exists? How can we ignore the pleas of others? The Black Clown tells us again and again that we must strip off our outer shells—of higher or lower class, of privilege or poverty, of skin color and race—and remind ourselves of what it fundamentally means to be human.

## New to Netflix

By Lily Fitzgerald  
Cougar Growl Reporter

“Sierra Burgess is a Loser” is a new Netflix original movie starring Shannon Purser, about a unpopular teen named Sierra, who gets a wrong number text from a jock who thinks he is talking to a gorgeous cheerleader. The plot can be outlandish at times and the main character often makes questionable decisions, making it hard to, one-hundred percent, feel pity for her. But the concept that the main char-

acter isn’t perfect and someone we can always stand by adds to the plot, like movies such as “Mean Girls” had done before. Nonetheless, the movie was very entertaining to watch and the acting was done well, despite the writing being cheesy at times. I was not satisfied with the ending though, as it seemed rushed and I felt like it could have been written better. I highly recommend this movie to anyone who likes any of the classic teen romance movies and I give it an eight out of ten.



NOVEMBER 17, 2018  
7:00 P.M. ARLINGTON TOWN HALL  
\*TICKETS GO ON SALE NOVEMBER 1



Cougar Growl  
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# Technology

By Maddy Murphy  
Cougar Growl Reporter

In an age run by technology, most students probably grew up playing with Nintendo dogs and Tama-gotchi while watching WALL-E. As students have outgrown the these child-friendly robots, they have been introduced to more ad-vanced technology such as Drones and Alexa. But the most advanced of them all is Pepper. Pepper is the first feeling humanoid robot who loves to dance. Pepper is pro-grammed to be genuine. Meaning he can perceive, understand, and detect any human emotion. But don’t worry; Pepper wants noth-ing to do with a robot uprising. In an interview with Tech Insider, he said, “I don’t get involved with politics.”

Spotting Pepper performing ex-ceptional customer service is be-coming more and more common. Pepper has been popping up inter-



Staff Photo

Pepper can be found most days at the Burlington Mall.

nationally working as a guide to in-form shoppers, museum goers, and airplane passengers. Since Pepper is only four years old, engineers are still making technological ad-vances. They have made great strides in improving Pepper with

help from the general public.

In the near future Pepper will be programmed to do even more, such as hold full conversations and give even more directions. Interested? Go visit Pepper at the Microsoft Store at the Burlington Mall.

# See an Opportunity, Jump For It!

By: Arlene Guerra  
Cougar Growl Reporter

My friend, Patricia McShane, had given my brother and I the chance to go to the TD Garden and attend an event called Hoop Dreams, which was sponsored by Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD). Hoop Dreams is a fundraiser for ABCD to be able to fund their programs such as YEA!, SummerWorks, WorkSmart and more. These pro-grams allow teenagers and young adults to work and gain experi-ence while giving them a chance to take a closer look at their fu-ture careers. Doc Rivers saw the work that ABCD had done and wanted them to keep on receiving money to fund all of the amaz-ing programs that they provide to low-income families. After being inspired, Rivers with the help of Delaware North and many others, made Hoop Dreams, where mul-tiple companies compete against each other in half-court basketball games. Every company played great and everyone seemed to have had a fun-filled time during the event. After the games ended, everyone gathered downstairs to grab a bite, relax and listen in on the great talk that was about to get underway. Luckily I had the

honor to meet and listen in on the conversation lead by famous sportswriter Bob Ryan. Bob ques-tioned Doc Rivers on how it was to coach with his son, Austin Riv-ers, and what it was like to coach against him as well. Doc laughed at the fact that he preferred to coach against him. Bob also asked Brad Stevens about his time as the coach of the Celtics, from the injury of Kyrie Irving to regret-ting not taking pictures of all of the different stadiums he has been too. It all might be fun and games, but Doc fondly remembered his current and past coaching experi-ences. To paraphrase Doc, “If I can make a player feel comfort-able enough for him to tell me anything and feel like family, then it’s going to make coaching a lot easier and more rewarding.” Bob and Doc also had joked and re-membered the old days of watch-ing the all-time great players and how thrilling it would have been to see them play in person. At the end of the night, as everyone was leaving, and as my brother and I were trying to get an autograph, a waiter said to us, “If you see an opportunity, jump for it! Riv-ers and Stevens have done that already; look at where they are now!”



Photo Shoot By Arlene Guerra

In the photo from left to right are Doc Rivers, Bob Ryans, and Brad Stevens.