SPARK Fair
By Tessa Boehler

Once again, we have our SPARK Project Fair Coming Up! The seventh and eighth graders might be more familiar with the name Genius Hour than SPARK, but they are essentially the same thing. If you had no idea, SPARK projects are a project you get to do during advisory. You can do any project you want, as long as you can follow a very flexible guideline. A lot of people came up with some really awesome project ideas. Some projects you will see at the fair are as follows:

- Hacking
- A pen pal in Poland
- Creating a recording studio
- Being a library volunteer
- Researching extinct animals
- Upcycling
- A presentation on kindness
- Learning to sew
- 3D printing
- Beach sweeps
- Songwriting, (Cont. p2)

MCVSD
By: Kristen Gallagher

High school is right around the corner for our eighth graders, and this means new opportunities. Monmouth County Vocational Schools are a great option for students looking to challenge themselves. There are five Monmouth County Vocational Schools: High Technology (in Lincroft), Biotechnology (Freehold), Academy of Allied Health and Science (Neptune), Communications (Wall), and Marine Academy of Science & Technology, more commonly known as MAST (Sandy Hook).

These schools are very difficult to get into. After all, each only accepts 75-80 students in total from all private and public schools across Monmouth County.

Each school hosts multiple open houses, and you must attend at least one to be eligible to try out. Then, in January, you take a test (math and language arts) for the school of your choice, and the students with the highest point score from each district will be accepted. Your point score is determined by your middle school grades in your core classes and your score on the test. The remaining spots in each

Supplies for Soldiers
1st Lt Zilinski II Memorial Foundation

- 1st Lt Zilinski II Memorial Foundation
and so much more! Thorne’s SPARK fair will take place on June 3, and the district’s Innovation Fair will take place on June 10. All of the SPARK students have worked very hard this year, so let’s cheer them on at our SPARK fair!

Staff vs. Students
Basketball Game
March 15, 2019

I interviewed Ryder Davis about his acceptance. His responses are as follows:

Why did you try out for MAST?
I tried out for MAST because I love all forms of marine sciences, and I know a lot of people who were very happy with their time there.

How did you first learn about the vocational schools?
I first learned about MAST when I went to summer camp there. The program was held on their campus.

What are you looking forward to the most at MAST?
I’m looking forward to the research trips most. They take you out a few times a month on a boat to collect data on different topics.

How did you react when you found out you were accepted?
When I found out I was accepted, I was ecstatic. It’s really hard to put to words how happy I was.

Did you take a training course to prepare before taking the test?
I didn’t take a training course to prepare for the test. (Cont p3)

The following students from Thorne were accepted into one of these Vocational schools:

➔ Luke Chrzan: Communications
➔ Sam Cusson: Communications
➔ Ryder Davis: MAST
➔ Kristen Gallagher: Communications
➔ John Halsall: MAST
➔ Jiachen Pan: Communications
➔ Liam Perez: Communications

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Flying Fish
By Kara Gallagher

A Flying Fish is a type of fish that lives in warm waters and that leaps out of the water and uses its winglike pectoral fins to glide over the surface of the water. The scientific name of a Flying Fish is an Exocoetidae. It is an omnivore and grows to be about 18 inches. Flying fish can be seen jumping out of warm ocean waters worldwide. They prefer tropical and subtropical water of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. They are especially abundant in the Caribbean Sea. Barbados is known as “The Land of the Flying Fish.” Their streamlined torpedo shape helps them gather enough underwater speed to break the surface, and their large, wing-like pectoral fins get them airborne. Flying fish are thought to have evolved this remarkable gliding ability to escape predators, of which they have many. Their pursuers include mackerel, tuna, swordfish, marlin, and other (Cont p3)
Why Should We Save The Giant Panda?
By Ethan Kinch

Giant pandas are truly amazing animals. They make us laugh, do cute things and they are important to life. Without these animals, a lot of other animals might be extinct.

First, giant pandas are not an unsuccessful species. A lot of people say that they are good for nothing, lazy, stupid. That is proved wrong by experts. They are ancient, important to their habitat, and they are classified as a living fossil. This means that pandas have been so well adapted to their environment that they have survived mass extinctions long enough to be genetically different from surviving species.

It’s also wrong to say that pandas are unwilling to breed. This is true in captivity, but they compete to breed in the wild. They have a low birth rate which is 48 hours once a year; however, this is an effect of having no predators. When humans began interacting with them, poaching introduced a predator and caused them their current problems. Their being on the edge of extinction is human-caused. That said, there is an extremely important reason to save giant pandas. Another thing is; pandas also play a crucial role in China’s bamboo forests by spreading seeds and helping the vegetation to grow. The panda’s habitat is also important for the livelihoods of local communities, who use it for food, income, fuel for cooking and heating, and medicine. Also, they are embraced and perky. In simple terms, they’re cute and cuddly. This itself is not a reason to save them, but people love them for a lot reasons, and this gives them the potential to be powerful symbols for conservation. If we tell people that pandas are in danger, it makes them more sensitive to the need to protect the pandas. (ant p4)

In addition, these animals are not stupid.

Do you have any advice for others who want to try out?
I would recommend that people don’t take a test preparation course. I feel that if you were to cram in a truck load of studying for one test if you don’t normally do that, it wouldn’t actually show your abilities. I also recommend going to all of the open houses offered at all vocational schools when you’re in 6th and 7th grade to make sure you know where you want to go.

I chose Communications because it offers the ability to acquire skills that can be used in many careers and in life! I also did not take a test preparation course. I know some people that were very successful at Communications, so I am very excited to attend this school. Congratulations to all who were accepted, and good luck!

Self Esteem
By Athena Tobia

I know how insecure and unmotivated this generation is. Trust me, I know. But this low self-esteem can be unhealthy physically and mentally. Here are some ways to tell if you have low self-esteem and how to turn things around before this low self-esteem can turn into something much worse. A common thing that people with low self-esteem have is self-hate. Self-hate is characterized by feelings of anger and frustration about who you are and an inability to forgive yourself for even the smallest of mistakes. Self-hate is pretty much a negative critic in your head, so you should try to override those negative thoughts with more positive ones. Why be your own larger fish. For their sustenance, flying fish feed on a variety of foods, including plankton. There are at least 40 known species of flying fish, according to National Geographic. Beyond their useful pectoral fins, all have unevenly forked tails, with the lower lobe longer than the upper lobe. Many species have enlarged pelvic fins as well and are known as four-winged flying fish. The process of taking flight, or gliding, begins by gaining great velocity underwater, about 38 miles per hour. Angling upward, the four-winged flying fish breaks the surface and begins to glide by rapidly beating its tail while it is still beneath the surface. It then takes to the air, sometimes reaching heights over 4 feet and gliding long distances, up to 655 feet. Once it nears the surface again, it can flap its tail and taxi without fully returning to the water. Capable of continuing its flight in such a manner, flying fish have been recorded stretching out their flights with consecutive glides spanning distances up to 1,312 feet, according to National Geographic. The Flying Fish is a very fascinating animal, and I hope you enjoyed learning about it!

By Athena Tobia
According to http://www.mightyheaton.com Andrew Heaton states "Pandas are too stupid to eat meat." "Pandas are designed to be carnivores, they have bear teeth, and when they run out of bamboo will resort to eating meat, fish, and eggs. Yet they eat bamboo anyway." But that is not true, these are animals that have been successfully living off of bamboo once the earliest days of social mammals of this planet. There are very, very few mammals that have proven as hearty and extinction-proof as the panda in the last tens of millions of years. Now they've run difficulty of humans, their numbers have declined amazingly. Well, they've bounced back from much more sudden events than humans many times. Also, as http://phys.org... points out, humans have had their population bottleneck into the time thousands more than once, and we are now the most powerful predators on the planet. There is no reason pandas are doomed. Every major social movement uses powerful images and emotional appeals to attract support.

We should do everything we can to save the giant panda because we are the ones that have driven it to the edge of extinction. And because we can. But Giant pandas also play a crucial role in China's bamboo forests by spreading seeds and helping the vegetation to grow. So by saving pandas, we will also be saving so much more. We will be helping to protect not only these unique forests but also the wealth of species that live in them, such as dwarf blue sheep and beautiful multi-colored pheasants. And we will be providing a lifeline for a host of other endangered animals, including the golden snub-nosed monkey, takin and crested ibis that share these magnificent forests with the giant panda. The panda's habitat is also important for the livelihoods of local communities, who use it for food, income, fuel for cooking and heating, and medicine. And for people across the country. The panda's mountains form the watersheds for both the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, which are the economic heart of China - home to hundreds of millions of people. Economic benefits derived from these critical basins include tourism, subsistence fisheries, and agriculture, transport, hydroelectric power and water resources. So by protecting pandas, we're helping to safeguard the broader environment, which so many people and worst critic? You should also forgive yourself for any mistakes you make. Nobody's perfect, including you! If every porkchop were perfect we wouldn't have hotdogs.

Another common trait people with low self-esteem have is the need to perfect, or in other words, a perfectionist. A perfectionist is someone who lives with a constant sense of failure because their achievements don't really ever feel good enough. If you're a perfectionist actually think how reasonable your goals are before striving for them. Again, nobody's perfect. Remember that there is a big difference between failing at something that you did and being a failure as a person.

Negative body image is also often linked to low self-esteem. This can prevent you from looking after your health, behave in relationships, and even how you act at school. You just look in the mirror and feel unworthy. People like this often compare themselves to others and this is something you should stop because it leads to insecurity. Everyone is different and have different strengths and weaknesses. You should also believe you are not as valuable as others is another thing leading

Evolution Tournament Causes 2 Controversies at Once
By Liam Perez
The Evolution Championship Series, often referred to as EVO, has been the focus of two recent controversies on Twitter. For the uninitiated, EVO is among the largest video game tournaments in the world, hosting 9 different fighting games on the main stage, with several additional side events. One of these main stage events, the debut of Street Fighter V at the 2016 EVO, premiered on ESPN in addition to popular streaming websites Twitch and YouTube. However, over the past month, two controversies centering around the tournament have surfaced.

The first of these controversies refers to the lineup of games that will be featured on the main stage. Super Smash Bros. Melee, which has remained on the main stage since EVO 2012, was officially revealed to have been removed from the main lineup this February via Twitter. The accompanying Twitter posts featured a highlight reel comprised of clips, both of gameplay and of the crowd itself, over the course of the 7 years, ending with the message “Thank you Melee, for these moments and many more.” As to be expected, the decision to remove Melee from the roster, likely to make room for Super Smash Bros Ultimate, a newly-released game of the same series, immediately led to vitriolic comments, as well as equal amounts of celebration that “Melee is dead.” (cont p5)
animals depend on. Pandas themselves are also economically and culturally valuable. They are the national symbol of China and generate significant economic benefits for local communities through ecotourism and other activities. While the panda’s future remains precarious, its numbers are slowly increasing in the wild.

To sum it all up, giant pandas should be saved. People love them, care for them, and see how much it matters and how amazing and funny these creatures really are. I really hope this will make a difference.

Stereotypes

Shae LeTual

There are many stereotypes. The common ones include that boys like blue, and girls like pink. Others may include that girls play with Barbies and boys with action figures. Well, I would just like to address that some people don’t follow by these. I, myself, actually like blue. And I am not saying others cannot. My personal opinion on stereotypes is that I kinda find them insulting. I am not highly offended by them but I can find ways to be offended.

I think that everyone can be who they want to be in any way. Boys can like pink. Girls can like blue. We are allowed to make our own choices!

The second of these controversies is notable for resulting in the oft-repeated “core values” quote that you may have heard on sites such as Twitter or Reddit. It originated from a live stream announcing details about EVO 2019, where two female hosts began randomly dancing in a provocative fashion after an advertisement. This obviously spawned controversy, to which the tournament officials responded that the act “does not reflect the core values of EVO.” The laughable attempt at damage control, as well as the fact that it took longer than anticipated to respond, resulted in even more controversy surrounding the tournament. It is unknown how EVO’s viewership and sponsorships will be affected, but they will likely take a substantial hit.
**Thorne Middle School, From A New Perspective**  
**By: Gianna Del Verde**

Most of you either attend or educate at Thorne Middle School, but do you know it’s past? Today, I’m going to share the history and the future of Thorne Middle School, with the help of some of my elders. While doing my research on Thorne’s past, I decided to interview a past student, who has chosen to remain anonymous. She graduated from Thorne in 1988, 31 years ago. When asked about the environment of the school, this was her reply, “Sure, the school was safe and all, but there were constantly kids getting into after-school fights. The teachers were more brutal and for lack of better words, more physical. Despite this, there seemed to be a lot of hate and prejudice against kids of any other color than white, kids of LGBT or whatever you kids call it, and trans kids. You’re all very fortunate for the generation you were born into.” She then goes on to explain the sheer homophobia and transphobia that she witnessed. “I had a friend, Paul, who was gay. When some of the more upper-class kids found out, he was beaten up in public, and the teachers did nothing to stop them. Thank god for those god-like teachers who accepted people like him.”

On another note, I also interviewed a student who attended Thorne and graduated in 2018, 9th grader Amber S. In her interview, when asked if she knew any LGBT students, “Yeah, and I think a lot of kids are more open about that kinda thing y’know? Even my best friend, gay. In this century, I think you’re in big trouble if you don’t support LGBT and people of color” is how she responded. However, she also shared this compelling statement, “I think that, back in the day, everyone was pretty cut-throat and were very iffy with sharing their opinions or feelings, but now, in this day and

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**Become a Songwriter**  
**Tessa Boehler**

Music is a wonderful thing. It lets people express themselves, it lets people put their creativity to good use, and it can benefit others by letting them see they’re not alone. I love music- whether that means listening to music or writing music. If you, too, like music, consider writing music. It may seem like an easy task, but it requires a lot of skill and learning. If you want to start writing music, but don’t know where to start, research music theory. There are a ton of websites online that can teach you music theory, and a lot of them are free. All it takes is a simple Google search. And if you don’t know where to start writing music, then do this.

First, get a notebook where you can write lyrics and anything else you’d need to track for your songs. Next, use these three websites to actually write the music in. I highly recommend using Noteflight, Musescore, or Flat. I have used all three of these websites and they all work wonderfully. It may take a little while to get used to the settings for each website. Flat is probably the easiest to understand right

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**Lyrics From My Original Song, This Bad Relationship**  
**Tessa Boehler**

(Intro)  
I keep lying to myself  
Hurting my mental health  
I don’t know how I want you  
In my, my imagination  
I keep fighting, fighting  
This long, long, long battle

(Verse One)  
Keep saying I’m no longer hiding  
In that dark little closet  
But now, I don’t know  
If I was in it to begin with

(Pre Chorus)  
They keep saying  
You will know when  
It’s time  
But when is that?

(Chorus)  
Why am I trying to convince my  
My, myself  
That I’m in love with you  
(love)  
I don’t want any part of this  
This bad relationship

(Verse Two)  
Oh will they, even accept me  
When they know they’re drowning in a sea  
A deep sea full of dark lies  
While my hands are tied

(Pre Chorus)  
They keep saying  
You will know when  
It’s time  
But when is that? (cont p6)
age, we have all of these new programs, like heroes and cool kids, that help kids realize that it’s okay to truly express yourself. Now, the good part ladies and gents. Fast forward 33 years later from said events and we are here. Thorne Middle School has definitely changed for the better and we are all amazed by their accomplishments.

Thorne now is trying to put together it’s very own GSA (Gay-Straight-Alliance). We are all impressed by this huge change of character, and we all owe it to our amazing principal and staff.

The Lion’s Roar: A Thorne Middle School Student Publication
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away, and has some benefits that the others don’t. The only (cont p6) problem is that Noteflight and Flat only let you have a certain amount of pieces before telling you need to upgrade to premium. Musescore, on the other hand, is completely free. Try all three platforms, see which you like the best, and get creative!

Writing music is a difficult task in the beginning, but you eventually get the hang of it and it becomes a fun hobby. Who knows, you may even pursue it as a career! So get out there, and start creating.

(Chorus)
Why am I trying to convince my My, myself
That I’m in love with you
(live)
I don’t want any part of this
This bad relationship

(Bridge)
But what if
I’m wrong
Once again
(Once again)
Sometimes I
Just wanna
Make this all stop

(Chorus)
Why am I trying to convince my My, myself
That I’m in love with you
(live)
I don’t want any part of this
This bad relationship
(Woah)
This, this bad relationship
(Woah)
This, this bad relationship

Check out our latest podcast posted to the Thorne Middle School Classroom!