

NEWS

Taste of Freedom Excites 8th Graders

By: Torry Gonzalez

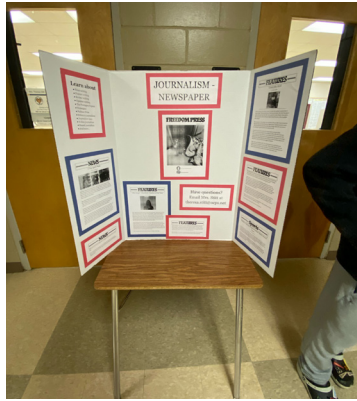


Photo by: Fernando Molina

“Taste of Freedom” is an event Freedom High School held on January 17th, 2024 for eighth-grade students to come and take a look at all the electives and clubs they might want to join next year.

The “Taste of Freedom” event started at 5:30 pm and ended at 7:00 pm. There were at least 20 different clubs and electives showcasing what they have to offer. Some of the electives were yearbook, journalism, culinary, band, chorus, theater, and computer science. Leading to the start of the event, setting up was pretty easy. Once everyone started coming was where the fun began.

The first people to come were friends of one of the student representatives for the Journalism class. They, like most other tables showcasing their classes, explained what they offered. Even if there were language barriers there was one person that could explain the class in the language the people spoke. There were slow times and rush times but overall the event went smoothly.

The performing arts also put on amazing acts and performances around the school. At the end of the night when it was time to go the announcement came on and directed everyone out. “Taste of Freedom” exists to help eighth graders get an idea of what they want their classes to be like in high school.

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World Heart Day at Freedom High School

By: Livia Vitzel Bahis



Photo by: Renato Puopolo

World Heart Day training happened on Thursday, January 18. All 9th and 11th-grade students during their English Class went straight to the gym with their teacher and stayed there doing the training for the whole period. The firefighters and sheriffs were there to assist the students in the training. This training allows students to learn how to do CPR to have a chance to help someone's life that is in danger.

Since 2018, new laws have been increased in many states, and one of those laws was that schools are required to train students in First Aid / CPR before they graduate. In Florida, all 9th-11th graders are required to do this basic training. By having a school full of students trained in CPR it means more lives can be saved.

Students were expected to learn after finishing their training on World Heart Day. English teachers and firefighters taught everyone what to do if they see someone having a cardiac arrest. They told the students that they need to make sure that the area is safe before anyone does anything to save someone's life and also make sure the students know what an AED is and to get it if it is near them. By using an AED, it can increase the chances of helping the person with a cardiac arrest. In most real scenarios, the person will be doing CPR until the paramedics get to the person or until the person starts showing signs of breathing.

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Literacy Week Thrills Students

By: Peter Tran



Photo of: Dheepika Royam and Nitya Anthireddy

Photo by: Allyra Castillo

The week of January 22nd to January 26th was Literacy Week in the State of Florida. The National English Honors Society along with the media center at Freedom High School teamed up to create an exciting week of events to celebrate Literacy Week. Students who love reading came out during lunch to participate in the activities that were happening throughout the week.

Starting on Monday, students were participating in school spirit by wearing pajamas. Students were also submitting original short stories, songs, or poems about a challenging time when they believed in themselves and showed their tenacity. All of the entries will be entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a prize!

Tuesday's theme was "Caught You Reading." There was a trivia game during lunch about literacy. Students also posted a picture of reading one of their favorite books on social media including X, Instagram, or Threads. Tagging @MediaCenter_FHS and including #OCPSreads and #FLCelebratesLiteracy it gave you an entry into the prize drawing. Additionally, you could follow @MediaCenter_FHS to gain another entry.

There was a google form containing blurred images of book covers that you can try to determine the book titles of. On Wednesday, each entry that correctly identified all of the book covers gained an entry to the prize drawing.

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You could also participate in school spirit by dressing up as your favorite book character to gain a free cookie during lunch.

Thursday's activity displayed a variety of digital escape rooms based on different books that students could do. Another activity that took place during lunch was making a bookmark design for a cookie, and gained a lot of student participation.

Lastly, students could post a 30-60 second trailer on Instagram, Threads, or X and tag @MediaCenter_FHS while including #OCPSreads and #FLCelebratesLiteracy in the caption to enter in the random drawing for a prize. Students also participated in the book exchange during A and B lunch which includes tons of donated books for students to pick up for free.

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Cheer Team Wins Nationals!



Faculty Freeze!



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Take Initiative and it Will Come, Our NHS President

By: Gabriela Umanchuk



Photo of: Jesus Caraballo Anaya

Photo By: Michelle Ramirez Villodas

Is intelligence something that we are born with or is it something that we can manage to our benefit? We have always thought that being smart is just something that you have, like a characteristic of your personality. It is true, being smart is something that can describe a person. But the question is, can someone decide whether to be smart or not? For everything that we want to accomplish, we have to fight for it, just as being smart is something that we can manage.

A student from Freedom High School, Jesus Caraballo Anaya, is a good example of this statement. He was born in Valencia, Venezuela, and moved to the United States just like a lot of other students from the same school, when he was just nine years old. In his country, he experienced lots of good and bad things that inspired him to become a better person and to overcome himself. When he moved to the United States, he had to learn another language, and it was one of the hardest things that he had ever accomplished and the one that he was proud of. He discovered a passion for Math and Science. It was not just because he liked to learn about these things of interest. But mostly what he is passionate about is using these skills to help others but in a way that he feels joy while helping.

To accomplish his goal of helping others, he dedicated himself to school and got all this leadership experience, academically advanced classes in any

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subject, joining clubs, doing activities, and multiple other things to accomplish his dream. He is a high school senior, enrolled in 7 AP Classes and 4 dual enrollment classes at The University of Florida. He is also the President of the National Honor Society and the Vice-President of the Spanish Honor Society. His efforts to accomplish all these things are the reason why he succeeded in his goals, by trying and by fighting, but most importantly by being passionate. He fought for what he wanted. It was not easy, but it was worth it if the recompense was reached.

He got into his dream school, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is moving there next year to continue his dreams. The only advice he could give to anyone is to not just talk about the things that you want to accomplish but take initiative, follow your ideas, and be yourself. Dreams are not just dreams if you do something for them. This does not mean that you have to leave behind having fun, going out, or anything like that. Manage your time, but always give importance to the pathways that will lead you to your better self, surrounded by happiness. Motivation and effort are what make someone what they call smart.

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Freedom High School Works on In-Class Musical, Little Shop of Horrors

By: Elizabeth Robbins

This year, Freedom High School chose Little Shop of Horrors for the in-class musical. Little Shop of Horrors is a musical about a floral assistant, Seymour Krelborn, and his discovery of a new type of plant. This plant, that he names Audrey II, promises to bring him fame and fortune as long as he feeds it blood. Throughout the show, Seymour discovers that Audrey II is not from this world and has had a secret plan of world domination the whole time.

This is an in-class musical, which means it was rehearsed and prepared in both the advanced musical theater and advanced technical theater classes. In the advanced musical theater class, each student was asked to prepare a song and a monologue for their audition. They performed it in class to the director, Mr. Nash-Brown, and the musical director, Mr. Desmond. Most of the work done for the show happened in class, with only a few after school rehearsals. The advanced technical theater class has worked on the technical aspects, including lighting, sound, props, costumes, and painting and building set pieces. An additional component of this play was puppets. The students had to learn how to maneuver each of the puppets. One of the puppets requires four puppeteers to maneuver it.

The students have more responsibilities in this show than in other shows. They step up and take on leadership roles more than they would get to for a normal show. In this show the students play a large part in choreographing it. There is even a student choreographer, Isabella Hutchinson. This is just one of the many components the students worked on. With the help of the teachers, the show was brought to life right here at Freedom High School.

SPORTS

Lacrosse Season Is Just Around The Corner

By: Rodrigo Suarez



Photo by: Julian Girona

With the tryouts being held two weeks ago, a new lacrosse season will give room to a lot of excitement and commitment from the couple of players that have been chosen in the last few days. The season is set to start on the road, where the Patriots will square off against Edgewater High School, or as they are also known as the “Eagles”; the match is expected to start at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 13th.

This season is expected to be a transitional one. The departure of several seniors and juniors last year makes this season a challenge for this young team. After having culminated last season with a negative record of 3-11, and a total of 190 goals against, this team is working on some serious changes to be able to achieve better results this spring.

This team will show what they're made of. Do not doubt for a second this team will give everything to be able to achieve a great campaign. It should be said this season there will be a total of 13 games, not including the playoffs, if qualified.

REVIEWS

Raising Cane's Restaurant Review

By: Benjamin Cardenas



Photo By: Alexander Camacho

Raising Cane's is a fast-food restaurant known for their fried chicken and in my opinion, it's a solid 6 out of 10. Let me break it down for you.

First of all the chicken tenders were good however it could have been better. The outside was crispy and the inside was juicy. Though I've had better home-made chicken than that. The chicken had little to no seasoning. Most of the seasoning was in the sauce which doesn't make sense since all they serve is chicken.

Their menu is not too complicated, to be honest with you it's quite small. They serve chicken tenders, fries, coleslaw, toast, and a chicken sandwich. For just 4 chicken tenders, some fries and a piece of toast, the total came out to \$12.13 which isn't horrible though not all that great either.

The Raising Cane sauce most people enjoy but I find it to be okay because it's tangy. I was hoping for something amazing but was disappointed. It's like trying something your mom made and it's not great even though you tell her it's fantastic

One of the best things about Raising Canes was the customer service. After ordering the food it was out in under three minutes and the employees were all very friendly. Also, the restaurant was very clean and a nice, comfy place to hang out and chill with some friends.

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So, in the end, Raising Cane's is a mediocre choice, like buying a used car, you sort of know what you'll get, but it might let you down. It might not be my first pick for an exciting food adventure but when you want literal fast food and some fried chicken it's a safe and good place to go.

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4 Your Eyez Only - An Absolute Marvel in Musical Storytelling

By: Joel Mercado

Jermaine Lamarr Cole, more famously known as J. Cole, dropped his fourth studio album on December 9th, 2016 “4 Your Eyez Only.” With its catchy jazz mixed with hip-hop production, artistic lyrics, and wordplay, this is an album that everybody should listen to at least once.

Following the story of J. Cole’s childhood friend, James McMillan Jr., who passed away at the age of 22 due to gang violence, the album transcends the more common tropes and stereotypes when it comes to rap music, as it discusses heavy topics such as racial discrimination, fatherhood, gang violence, and love. The main concept of the album is that it is for the eyes of James’s daughter so that she can understand her father’s life after his death. J. Cole raps from his perspective and parallels it with the perspective of his late friend, as they both had different upbringings. This album became very popular as it sold 363,000 copies in its first week of being released. 4 Your Eyez Only received nominations for Top Rap Album at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards, and Album of the Year at the 2017 BET Awards; it even debuted at number one on the Billboard 200.

The overall mood of the album has a mixture of many contrasting emotions throughout the 10-song tracklist. Songs like, “Deja Vu” and “Foldin Clothes” deal with falling in love and doing the small things to express that emotion, and songs like, “For Whom The Bell Tolls” and “Change” deal with James’s funeral and changing heavily due to your surroundings. One song that sticks out the most is the outro, which bears the same name as the album title; this song covers the entirety of James’s story from his and J. Cole’s perspective after he gets out of prison up until his death. This emotional outro also talks about how even if James did all these bad things, one thing that remained constant was the love he had for his daughter.



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The main goal of the album was, in J. Cole's words, "to humanize the people that have been villainized in the media."

"4 Your Eyez Only" is a perfect example of how music can be used for storytelling. This is an album that deserves a listen.

Album Rating: 5/5

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Star Wars: A New Hope - The Movie that Revolutionized Film.

By: Hendrix Fernandes

On May 25th, 1977, a movie was released to theaters which would forever revolutionize the filmmaking industry as well as redefine modern day Sci-Fi and American pop-culture. This legendary film created by George Lucas would make the career of one of the most successful filmmakers in Hollywood history, going as far as to break box office records with it bringing in 307.2 million dollars worldwide, taking the spot of highest grossing movie of all time from Steven Spielberg's classic thriller "Jaws," until 1982.

Star Wars: A New Hope, or at the time just called "Star Wars" was a passion project for Lucas. It followed the story of a young orphan boy, Luke Skywalker, living in a desolate desert planet and leading a boring life of farming. By the end of the movie Luke is awarded a medal by the rebellion against the Intergalactic Empire for his role in destroying the largest space-station and planet-killing weapon the galaxy had ever seen. Throughout the movie we're introduced to various characters who play critical roles in Luke's story and his hero's journey. A mentor who passed onto him great wisdom and dies at the end of the end of the movie to push our hero out of his comfort zone, a sly crook who teams up with our hero for his own gain but develops a soft spot for them and sees value in things beyond cash reward, and more.

Aside from a beautiful story perfectly illustrating a hero's journey and the beginning of this film trilogy, Star Wars: A New Hope revolutionized film with its groundbreaking use of practical effects to bring the immersive and strange world of Star Wars to life on the big screen. George Lucas and his effects team put together a lot of elaborate methods of capturing the magic of this far-away galaxy on camera. In a time before CGI and green screens they had to get creative and used giant oil paintings as backgrounds for the setpieces of the film and used stop-motion animation to film the action packed chase scenes through space.

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The various lasers in the movie were created by making beams and rolling them up with reflective light and shining a light onto them to create a glowing effect.

Star Wars: A New Hope is a revolutionary film for many reasons. It's iconic take on the hero's journey story archetype, the revolutionary special effects work, the amazing costume and set design of the world, the charismatic performances by well respected actors like Alec Guinness and Harrison Ford, and an original soundtrack yet to be topped by any film to have come out in the 47 years since its release. There is a good reason the Library of Congress chose this movie to be preserved in the National Film Registry for it being "culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant" to American filmmaking as we know it.

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Same Old Green Day

By: Samantha Villanueva

Known for their most popular song “American Idiot,” the band Green Day released their fourteenth album, *Saviors* on January 19. Even with the release of a new album, the band remains within its common sound and doesn’t explore outside of the usual concept their previous albums have followed.

The American punk rock band has always been well known by society for their angsty sound and lyrics which appealed to many teens of the 20th and 21st centuries. As stated before, Green Day is most known for their song “American Idiot” which peaked at #1 on the US Alternative Airplay Billboard and UK Rock and Mental OCC Charts.

To promote its release, the band released five singles with “The American Dream is Killing Me” being the most successful out of the five, peaking at #1 in the Canada Rock Billboard and US Rock Airplay Billboard Charts. With this new release, Green Day achieves its fifth achievement of being the UK’s number-one album of the week. As stated before, Green Day is most known for their song “American Idiot” which peaked at #1 on the US Alternative Airplay Billboard Charts.

Consisting of 15 tracks, the punk rock and alternative rock album is nothing unusual from the music that the band typically produces and releases. Staying consistent with the similar sound of their previous albums, Green Day also maintains similar topics written about in the tracks. *Saviors* is focused on topics such as criticism of the government and society in classic Green Day fashion.

Taking into account all of the production, lyricism, and concepts tackled in the album, the songs “One-Eyed Bastard,” “Dilemma,” and “Living in the 20’s” best showcase the talent of the band. With all that being said, *Saviors* by Green Day deserves a 7/10.

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The 100 Movie Review

By: Leonardo Cozzo

The 100 was a Netflix series directed by Jason Rothenberg. This series consists of 8 seasons, with around 15 episodes each. The main characters in the 100 are Eliza Taylor acting as Clarke Griffin, Bob Morley acting as Bellamy Blake, Isaiah Washington acting as Thelonious Jaha, Devon Bostick acting as Jasper Jordan, Ricky Whittle acting as Lincoln, Marie Avgeropoulos acting as Octavia Blake, etc. March 19th, 2014 was the release date of the TV series, and September 30th, 2020 was the release date of the last episodes. This series took place in Vancouver, Canada. They won two awards, “Fan Freakout of the Year” won by Alycia Debnam-Carey and “Best Youth-Oriented Series” won by The 100, and were nominated for 29 other awards.

The 100 is about a society that was able to escape from the high radiation levels on Earth by going into space. Their goal was to spend over 100 years in space before going back to Earth to live a normal life again. Although, around the 95th year mark, oxygen levels in space were decreasing. So they sent 100 of their prisoners to earth to test if it is safe to go back. While on Earth, the prisoners experience many events that occur while they are trying to survive, including finding more human societies. These human societies were not very friendly though. This series shows many different events on the struggles the “sky people” go through while on Earth.

In my opinion, this TV series is one of my favorites because it is full of events and it never stops. The episodes make me want to continue watching even if it is 3am. I recommend this series for people that like action movies but I do not recommend this series for people that do not like scary movies or movies with lots of action. I give this movie a 9 out of 10 because it is really good but I wished they killed less main characters.

REVIEWS

The Irishman Movie Review

By: Luan Santos

The Irishman was released in 2019 and was directed by Martin Scorsese, who also directed the Wolf Of Wall Street and Hugo. The movie offers a complex narrative that involves loyalty and dedication. Scorsese made a long story to give him time to explain each character to the audience. The Irishmen tells us a story about a truck driver Frank Sheeran, played by the legend himself, Robert de Niro, who is a truck driver that got involved with the mafia. The movie shows us the beginning of his involvement in the mafia, the middle, and the end.

Following the movie, he realizes he doesn't want to be a truck driver anymore and that he wants to get more money, so in this desperate situation he got involved with mobster Russell Bufalino (Joe Pesci) and his crime family, before working for one of the top heads of the mafia Jimmy Hoffa (Al Pacino). Knowing a lot of people, Frank got a job as a hitman, meaning that he kills for the mafia. There are some cool action scenes in this movie, but is not the focus of the film to display the action scenes but rather to develop the story of the characters and the mafia. The way that the actors portrayed their characters was extraordinary.

The Irishman shows us the consequences of a life dedicated to crime, also the narration of the movie makes the people watching reflect their own morality and their choices in real life, Yes the movie is that deep. Throughout the movie we can see Frank getting higher and higher in the mafia, putting him in meetings, the mafia gala party, etc. Throughout the 3 hour movie, Scorsese shows us every phase of his time in the mafia, after Frank is well recognized in the mafia the movie starts to age Frank and by the end of movie we can see an elder Frank in a home for old people, and that's how the movie ends. All that he went through, just to end up like everyone else.

This movie is a 10/10, it is the definition of a perfection and certainly deserves a spot as an all-time crime movie.