



Voltage

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Science Park High School

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SPOTLIGHT

The Living Room on the 3rd Floor: The Gardening Club

By Naomi Jeffries & Jayla Sinclair

Gardening has always been a therapeutic activity that many enjoy. Additionally, greenery is beneficial for our school and overall health. Thanks to the Gardening Club at SPHS, our students are able to enjoy nature in a safe way, and participate in such a calming activity. *The Voltage* newspaper was allowed an inside look at what the club has been working on. They've planted all sorts of things such as vegetables, flowers, and even succulents.

Take a look for yourself! Welcome to Gardening!

The students here are truly dedicated. If you're not in this awesome club, you are truly missing out on this cool experience!

Gardening allows you to become a better person each and every day.

As you can see, the Gardening Club continues to grow. This contributes to the school in many ways but you might not know! Let's dig deep to see what this club really holds.

The club is run by Ms. Gruetter, and they were able to plant what's above in just months. They've even



started to have plant sales down in the atrium where you can buy a plant that catches your eye. The members themselves had a lot of great things to say about the Gardening Club, and how beneficial it is for them and our environment. "It's a nice experience, you can learn how to plant and you can gain

information about the environment. If you like gardening or if you want tips on how to start your own garden, or if you even enjoy agriculture for your college major---gardening may help." - Cierra, 11th Grade.

The Gardening Club continually looks for

ways to enlighten others and spread the news, like how they were able to help for Valentine's Day, and even decorate pumpkins for the skit on Halloween!

This club's aesthetics indeed

give more benefits than you know. Here are a few interesting facts you might not know about the greenhouse:

Jeylianys S. and Ayeleen R., 7th Grade, mention planting a tray full of mostly half veggies, and half flowers. This way, they are able to help out as best as they can and hopefully grow more food and possibly share with the entire school! We are surely all looking forward to that!

Maureen N., 10th Grade, experiences a sad, but ironic and funny planting situation. "I keep trying to plant basil but they always come out as tomatoes!" **Will this tomato frenzy ever end?** "If tomatoes grow, we are living in a simulation." Also, somehow green peppers ended up somewhere in this frenzy?

Speaking of frenzies, did you hear about the cucumber invasion?

Unexpected cucumbers sprouted, from being originally planted on February 24, 2022 and now on April 6, 2022 we now notice there are beautiful new growing cucumbers on this newly matured plant! Curious how this cucumber "mistake" only took 1 month and 2 weeks to start producing cucumbers when it took the other cucumbers about 4 months, since the middle of December. Isn't it cool how the club gives you the advantage and opportunity to plant summer plants such as cucumbers and tomatoes and see them grow even in WINTER!

The cucumbers, named "The Rosemary's" by student Jayla Sinclair - (8th Grade) died on this day: March 28th.

But as one dies, another plant gets started again. Life never dries out in this Living Room on the 3rd Floor. As we gave you a little peek into those things, not only does this club grow veggies, but now let's focus on the flowers.

Morning Glory has heart shaped leaves *some say this is the DEFINITION of aesthetic* WAIT - Is that a cucumber? This **really** is a cucumber invasion! What happened to the Morning Glories?

Anyways, others mention Marigolds are beautiful with an "enticing aura" and other flowers are like this as well.

If you want to experience starting new beginnings of your own, here are 3 simple explained tips that Maureen N. (10th Grade) says she does each and every club meeting.

-1st - Water every Monday and Thursday;

-2nd - Pour water in the tray;

-3rd - Make sure they have just enough sun to grow (of course plants can always bounce back like "Tom the Tomato")... And DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR SEEDS THAT YOU SOW!

Of course you need to know how to be able to properly take care of your plants. She has been here since the beginning, and that's some dedication!

The greenhouse is a magical environment which provides team building opportunities, but not only do I think so, let's hear from the ultimate plant master behind it all again, of course Ms. Gruetter! If you don't already know, not only does she teach Honors Biology, and AP Environmental Science, but she

leads our club into what it is.

"Gardening Club provides a calm and relaxing environment space for our students to come together as people who favor plants to meet and start new beginnings." - Ms. G.

Others agree! Here is a quote along with another snippet to learn about how gardening affects other students:

"Very therapeutic, calming, relieves stress. Members are very friendly and open to newcomers. If you want a calming experience, join."
Jonathan, 11th grade

And this grace even spreads to the home. Gardening club spreads goodness all around! For example, Gardening Club spreads to cafe. You can notice some compost bins in the cafeteria! This club's positives just never end do they? Unlike the end of this article about them.



En Route to Nationals

By Victoria D Rengel

Although the Debate Team here at Science Park High School has gone through many changes, one thing that has always remained is its excellence.

This year the debate team has continued on its legacy by being the District Champions and qualifying for Nationals in Policy Debate. Victoria D. Rengel and Alanna Soares had the highest-winning record at the District Tournament.



This year's districts took place at the Delbarton School on March 25th and 26th. The second-place spot went to Newark Tech.

Both teams will later be competing at Nationals in June, which will take place in Kentucky. An exciting factor regarding this year's Nationals is that it will be a fully in-person one-week tournament following years of online debating.

This year the team has worked on rebuilding after being online for nearly two years. As soon as covid hit, many upperclassmen decided to quit the team as the activity had fully moved online.

This greatly decreased the size of the team, however, the debaters were still able to pull through. The team also qualified for Nationals last year. Many students are skeptical of joining, considering demanding hours and workloads. However, if anyone is interested the team meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2-4 in the Debate Hall.



Mr. Alston, the *Debate Coach*, says:

“I’m very proud of the hard work and dedication this debate team has. It’s an honor to work with them.”

Alanna Soares
*National Qualifier &
Policy Captain* says:
“I cannot wait until
nationals. Seeing
other debaters and
having these
interactions is such a
crucial part of the
so-called debate
experience. While
online we were lucky
if our opponents
turned their cameras
on, so in person there
will be a difference.”

Time to Enroll **By Victoria D Rengel**

As the end of the year
approaches, it is time
for the rising juniors
to begin picking
classes for next year!
Junior year carries
heavy weight as it is
the year colleges tend
to look at the most.
Science Park has four
main academic
routes.

First, there are
Honors Classes,
which have an
additional GPA
value of 0.5 points.

Secondly, students
can choose to
pursue the IB
Diploma, however
applications for
this have closed.



Then there are the
Advanced
Placement Courses,
which are of
college rigor. In
terms of GPA
weighting, IB and
AP classes are
weighted more.



Fourthly, students
can choose to do
dual enrollment
programs, where
students take

classes taught by a
university professor.

For both AP classes
and dual-enrollment,
students can gain
college credit.
Students may also
receive credits for the
IB program but it is
mostly dependent on
the school.

In terms of difficulty,
the most difficult
would be the IB
program, followed by
AP, followed by
Honors. Dual
enrollment difficulty
depends heavily on
the class itself, but the
program is very
respected.

Dual-Enrollment Course Offerings:

- Calculus at
NJIT
- Essex County
College
- Montclair State
 - *Two-Year
Program*
- Rutgers

Advanced - Placement

Course Offerings:

- AP English Composition 11
- AP English Literature 12
- French
- Spanish Language
- US History
- Government & Politics
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Computer Science
- Computer Science Principles
- Environmental Science
- Physics C
- Chemistry
- Statistics

Honors Course Offerings:

- Math
- English
- Science
- History
- Foreign Languages (French, Spanish, & Portuguese)

Remember, the time to schedule is now! Contact your guidance counselor as soon as possible! If your last name is from A-K, you have Ms. Orrei, and for L-M, you are with Mr. Mercado.

Teacher Spotlight

By Andre Esteves

In this edition of *The Voltage*, the staff is taking a trip to Room 223, to highlight Mr. Amazzalorso!

Mr. A started as the department chair for Social Studies and World Languages and has also taken on the role of IB Coordinator this school year. Along with all of this, Mr. A has taken a position in the classroom teaching two periods of Honors US History due to vacancies.

In his time here at Science Park, Mr. A has become one of everyone's favorite staff members of the building, whether it be because of his corny jokes, his knowledge on History, or the way he sits in the cafeteria during period 7 lunch. Mr. A recently completed the process of accepting applicants for the IB Program next year, and after Spring Break, Mr. A will be taking over the IB Exams, so make sure to wish him and all of the IB Students good luck!



INTRODUCING THE SPMS LIGHTNING

By Andre Esteves

For the first time in many years, Science Park will have a team competing at the Newark Public Schools Middle School Soccer Tournament. *The Lightning*, led by SPHS Soccer Head Coach Mr. Rodrigues, will be aiming to give middle school students at Science Park an alternative sport to play. This team, composed of

middle school boys and girls, will serve as a pathway for student-athletes to learn what it's like to be a high school athlete, while still balancing their personal and educational lives.



We had the opportunity to talk to Coach Rodrigues about

what this program meant to him and the program he is building, and this is what he had to say: Coach Rodrigues - "This was one of my initial goals when I started coaching Science Park High School Futebol, so to see it come to fruition is a goal and a dream that I always had for this program. I think youth development is crucial to the success of our program, and using the middle school, which is a great asset to our school, gives us an



advantage over other high schools in the city. The only option is to use these advantages the best way possible."

We also asked what the objectives for the Middle School Lightning Program were, and Coach Rodrigues responded:

“My objective for the Middle school program is to not only allow these athletes to gain exposure to soccer, so that they can be better acclimated for HS Soccer, but to use the program as a vehicle to groom and prepare the next generation of coaches for Science Park High School Soccer [like Andre and Maruf].”

The Middle School Lightning will play at the Soccer for Success Jamboree, which will feature our Lightning versus other middle schools throughout the district!

POLITICS

KBJ Confirmed to the Supreme Court

Victoria D Rengel

Having representation is an unmatched feeling, whether that be in shows, commercials, etc. But rarely do women of color get represented in politics. As of 2021, America has had a Black Women Vice President, and now as of April 7th, has an African-American Supreme Court Justice.



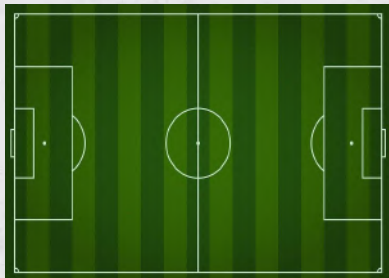
Ketanji Brown Jackson was nominated to the Supreme Court on February 25 by President Joe Biden.

Her congressional confirmation hearings received national coverage. Those on the right, questioned Jackson on issues regarding Critical Race Theory, and Sexuality. Sen. Ted Cruz (R) from Texas, made a scene when he asked the nominee if babies can be racists (referencing a children’s book).



On the left, Senator Cory Booker (D) from New Jersey, expressed excitement to see “someone” like Jackson on the Court.

Jackson was confirmed with a 53 to 47 vote. Out of the 50 republicans, only 3 voted in favor of Jackson.



These senators were Mitt Romney, Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski. This did not come as a surprise.

When it was announced Jackson had been confirmed, Democrats proceeded to give her a standing ovation. On the other hand, Republicans either stayed seated or simply left the room, except for Mitt Romney. The political tribalism in the room undoubtedly shows how mainstream and polarizing the culture war has become.



Many argued that Jackson is one of the most qualified judges America has seen. Jackson was born in DC, and grew up in Miami. She was extremely studious, having attended Harvard University for both Law School and for her Bachelors of Arts Degree.

After graduating Law School, Jackson worked as a legal clerk for a while. Afterwards, she was the Vice Chair of the US Sentencing Commission. She was also a Judge for both the Court of Appeals and the DC Circuit Court.

Jackson's confirmation serves as a huge landmark for America! She is the first black woman to serve on the court, and 1 of only 5 women to serve.



Russia and Ukraine
Victoria D Rengel
3/13/22

On February 24, Russia began to invade Ukraine. This opened up global conversations of how to handle Russian aggression, how to fight propaganda & censorship, and if Ukraine is a double standard.



Firstly, the death count has risen tremendously. It is estimated that anywhere from 4,000 to 15,000 Russian soldiers have died. An estimated 14,000 Ukrainian soldiers have died. As of now, there have been 4,500 deaths in the country, this number accounting for civilians and those who were directly killed.



Russian Aggression

The international community has come together in economically bashing the country.

However, these sanctions are mainly affecting the lower income sector of the population. Many countries have seized Oligarchs assets in hopes of

stopping the crisis, however Putin has not flinched.

Counter protests in Russia have occurred, but anyone who has tried protesting has been arrested.



Domestically, politicians have been arguing whether this conflict is our burden. Many argue that the economic effects and risk of war are too great, therefore we should not interfere.

Censorship & Propaganda

Many have argued the only way to stop Putin without military action is to get the Russian people to help.

The international community will try to get Russians to start to question their government at larger levels.

The most direct way of doing this would be by showing Russians what is going on in Ukraine. Due to the mass amounts of censorship, many Russians are not aware of the magnitude the conflict holds, so this has proven difficult.

Double Standard

On the academic level, some questioned why awareness was being spread so rapidly on Ukraine. Many have argued the only reason being that those affected in the crisis are white. Parallels to invasions in the middle east have been made, along with a comparison of how nations have handled refugees.

GSA's Talent Show

Kelis Vargas

Science Park's very own GSA (Genders and Sexuality Alliance) has hosted its 2022 Talent Show. With over 200 ticket sales, this is one of the biggest events in Science Park history. There was a multitude of talents and all performances were phenomenal. Students, teachers, and staff came out to show their support.

In three weeks, members of the GSA, along with Ms. Bell, Ms. Gruetter, and Mr. Washington, were able to create something monumental. With a unique range of talents, including original music, beatboxing, African dance, and a pop culture moment reenacted.

The act that stole our hearts was one particular group. Group members Muqtadira Alli, Adeola Falajiki, Ahmyah Williams, and Sanaa Jennings (bright orange hair) danced to an original choreography to Tyler, the Creator's "See You Again", a rapper who won Best Rap Album at the 2022 Grammys. The group created props and wore costumes fit for the occasion. After throwing away a prop into the crowd before sailing away in the "SS Sea You Again" boat, it's easy to understand why the group won first place.

Another act worth mentioning was Robert Lopez. Donned in an all-black, leather ensemble while lip-synching to "She's So Gone" from the fan-favorite movie, Lemonade Mouth, Lopez entertained the crowd. A performance including death drops, splits, and ceiling kicks, was definitely worthy of second place. During his auditions, we already knew he'd be a show stopper. He demanded everyone's attention as soon as the heels hit the stage and everyone's eyes were open.

In a not-so-surprising tie, we had perhaps the most anticipated act: the Euphoria reenactment. Season 2 of the show took the entire world by storm with one scene in particular. The famous scene from the Season finale involves characters Cassie and Maddy getting into an argument on stage during Cassie's sister Lexi's play. With crowd participation involved, students in the auditorium were able to feel they were in the show themselves. With a dramatic chase around the auditorium, there were gasps here and there. Members included Belinda Richardson, Doris Swaray, Maryanne Okafor, Luisa Franco, Adeola Falajiki, Daileny Torres, Alix Keke, and Naomi Jeffries. Standout Maryanne Okafor also placed 3rd herself with a solo performance to "Balaya" by A-Star. Okafor performed a fabulous choreography to showcase how stunning African dance truly is.

Of course, there were multiple people who helped create the amazing show who didn't perform. Shanya Heath was able to keep the crowd hyped the entire show. Always prepared with jokes and other anecdotes, Heath infected everyone with her contagious positive energy. Our concession stand helpers, ticket collectors, and decorators Ian Vagueiro, Khalil Stallings, Dillow Ribero, Gabriel Quinde-Paez (beatboxer), Kevin Welcome, Mara Coelho, Mia de Almeida, Bianca Nobre, and Jahir Wheeler (who also rapped in our show) were able to hold down the crowd before the show. The stagehands also did what they had to do. They included Daniela Rosillo, Joel Toppins, and Oluwatimilehin Adefioye and the show wouldn't have been able to go smoothly without them. And of course, we have to thank Ian Vagueiro and Kelis Vargas for making up the idea in the first place (Yes, that's me).

Charlie the Charger wants you to write for the school newspaper *The Voltage*.



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