

There's No "Me" in "We"

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

"The world doesn't revolve around you."

That quote is thrown around very easily but it really is true. But then while growing up, we're constantly told to express our individuality.

We're told that it's okay to be different and that it's okay to like different things in comparison to others. Yet, once we start to express those interests, we are automatically judged and told why we're wrong. I believe that some of the judging can be traced back to people being selfish. And while that's a far fetch, in some minds, I see it quite clearly.

When someone is constantly built up with compliments and told how they're "Number one!" people can let that go to their head, and begin to believe that they are above everyone else.

They see their opinion as fact, and

think that anyone that goes against

what they say, to be wrong. I see that as selfish because they disregard other people's feelings in order to get what they want: everyone to validate their opinion and have the same one.

They live with the idea that what they think or want is top priority and that nothing can stand in the way of that.

To me, selfishness can be as simple as two people talking with each other; well, more like one person talking and not letting the other person get in more than two words at a time.

Sometimes people can't help talking a lot; it's just in their nature to be that way, but other times it's because they are trying to prove a point. And really, they just don't care about what you have to say. If people want to show that they are right, despite the possibility that they are wrong, they will drill those ideas into your head so hard that you sometimes begin to

doubt your own beliefs.

Or you can lose respect for them because they obviously have no respect for you.

Another way people can be selfish is if they forget to do things they said they will do. It shows that that person doesn't actually see any importance in you. They don't care about your feelings, and only want to do what they want to do. Then it taints your idea of you: You become full of self-doubt and worry that you've said or done the wrong thing. And although they are, you don't see that they're unreliable and rude.

A selfish person often makes excuses for their actions. They use lines like, "Oh, I forgot," or, "I just didn't think about it." At first you accept those reasons because of course they're being honest. But after hearing the same excuse over and over, you open your eyes and see that those excuses only work for so long. Eventually you be-

come fed up, and decide that you won't accept those excuses and you stop trying to talk to the selfish ones. But it's hard to see the difference

sometimes. If you really care about this person, you can be really blind to what they're doing, which in turn makes you selfish; selfish against what's good for you.

I think that people need to open their eyes to their behavior. They can blame it on it being "their personality," but a lot of the time it ends up being the fact that they just don't think.

If people spent more time thinking about others, and trying to help them, it would be better for the next two reasons: they'll feel validated and heard, and you'll feel better because you didn't hurt someone, whether it was intentional or not.

boys are off the hook. Sagging pants has always been an issue. FYI girls don't find it attractive if that's what the guys are thinking.

Also, boys, wearing swim trunks to school is NOT. Not ACCEPTABLE. Unless you just got back from taking a morning swim with Ryan Lochte, don't wear swim attire to school. *

There's this thing called class. I know it's unheard of 'round these here parts, but look it up. If everyone was informed of this fancy word then I wouldn't have to write this article.

*Actually, unless you are Ryan Lochte, it's not acceptable. P.S., if you are Ryan Lochte, my locker is #81. Meet you there.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Ladies. Lay your skirts down on the bed in the morning. If the width is greater than the length, it is no longer a skirt. It is now a soft cloth to wash your car with.

Senior Excitement

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

Look around and think of the people you've known for almost all your life at school.

Now imagine they are all gone. College is right there and many of the seniors will be like their freshmen counterparts by next school year.

It is exciting and nervous all at the same time.

Throughout the year, the senioritis kicks in, summer vacation sticks in our mind and our impatience for the school year to end grows.

Juniors can taste the final year of high school, sophomores become upperclassmen, and freshmen finally crawl out from the bottom of the totem pole. But, seniors have the greatest feeling of all when the school year comes to a close.

High school is over for them.

All of this is what we seniors look forward to. It is a new beginning for many of them, a new world for them to explore and experience. What could be more exciting for a graduating senior?

The feeling seniors get walking across the stage as they are handed their diploma is extraordinary. It is a sense of accomplishment for much of the class, a stepping stone for their future.

The hype is all around, too, a disease that spreads like a wildfire. More

and more seniors get caught up in it the closer the year comes to a close.

But its importance is something more than realizing their high school years are over.

It is a time of transition.

This is a time for us to look at how our lives have changed as we have grown. Who have we become because of the people we befriended and learned from? What would we be like if we never met these people?

For us, we may never know. But the way I look at it, it will not matter.

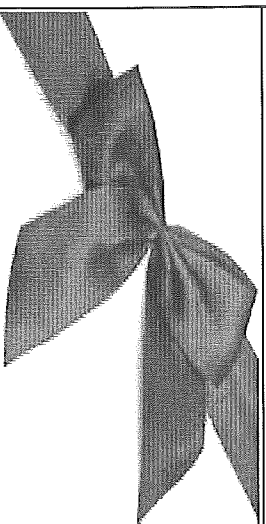
We are the way we are because of our decisions.

Some of us will go on to be doctors, accountants, technicians, bioengineers and so on. Others go on to become athletes in college or master a trade.

High school is only the first part of our young lives. What you make of the rest of it is really how excited you are to draw your own future.

We cannot hold in our feelings about what the future after high school may hold. It is a mystery that we cannot help but be curious and eager to learn about.

This is senior excitement.



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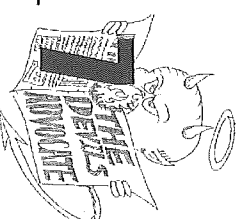
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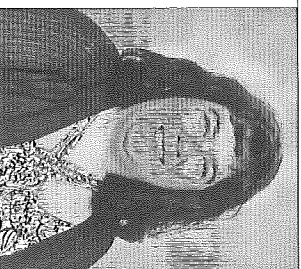


Question of the Week

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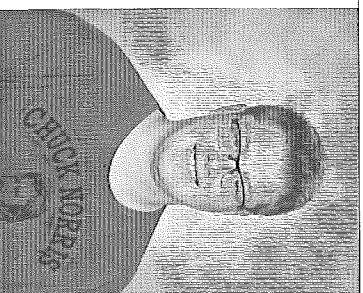
If you had the opportunity to travel anywhere, where would you go, and why?

Staff



Mrs. Underwood would go to Rome/Italy because she has heard amazing things.

Senior



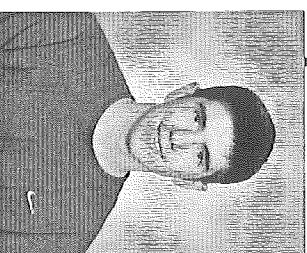
Spencer Majchrzak would travel to Jamaica, mon!

Junior



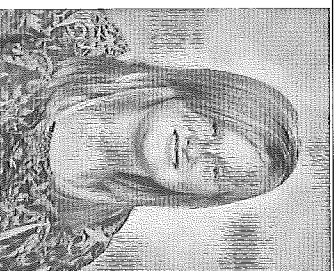
Colleen Gaffney wants to see Europe to buy clothes and experience life outside the US.

Sophomore



Michael Petrella is headed for Alaska—snowmobiling all year round!

Freshman



Tiffani Clapper said Florida, for the warm and sunny beaches.

Staff Editorial: How Excited Are You?

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

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This is senior excitement.

Procrastination

Logan Iskra
Opinion Editor

This article is going to be my last.

This is my "Senior article." I'm supposed to share some of the wisdom that four years of high school has bestowed upon me.

You would probably think that I would spend as much time as possible on this article in an attempt to make it my best work yet, right?

That's what I thought too. I was wrong. In fact, as I am writing this, it is 12:30am.

This article needs to be 90% done TODAY, and I didn't even know what I was going to write about until five minutes ago.

I realize that when my teacher reads this, he will be completely horrified and disappointed, but probably not surprised.

Sorry, Mr. Murphy. I'd blame senioritis, but that wouldn't explain the other three years of high school.

I was sitting at my computer, staring dumbly at the screen hoping to find some inspiration. The only thoughts passing through my tired mind were, "What is wrong with me? Why didn't I do this earlier? Will Mr. Murphy make an example of me or will

Procrastination is not your friend.

If you are anything like me, when your teacher gives you an assignment on Monday and says it's due Friday, you automatically think, "Awesome. No homework."

"Your stress levels are peaked and you most likely won't be sleeping tonight. Was it worth it?"

Thursday night finally arrives, you have just started your project, your stress levels are peaked and you most likely won't be sleeping tonight.

Was it worth it? Just in case you were struggling with that question, the answer is no.

Most often, you receive a lower grade because you decided that the fate of Skyrim was more important than the fate of your GPA.

You can reload a video game, but in the real world you have to get it right the first time.

Now that this is nearly finished, I have other work that needs to get done before I go to school today.

When you finally get this article about a week from now, you may recall seeing me passed out on a desk, completely unresponsive.

Well, now you know why. Learn from my mistakes: Don't wait until the last minute to do your homework. If you do, you'll regret it.

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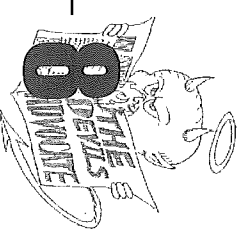
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Mission Statement
Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devils Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community.

Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

Letters

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.nj.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.



Advice Our Grandmothers Would Give Us

By: **Cartlee Hawley**

Opinion Editor

From the moment you walk in the front doors of RHS, there are people who will throw advice at you left and right. It seems, in fact, that every step down these familiar H-shaped halls is wrought with the influence of others.

“Take AP classes!”

“Be an athlete!”

“Make friends with the popular kids!”

And sure, that advice could work for some people. I would even allow that it is useful and positive information, but the problem here is that being a star soccer player or graduating with a 4.5 really does not work for everyone. In order to make the best decisions for you as an individual, you have to start with one-size-fits-all advice.

And who better to give it than Grandma?

Eat Your Vegetables

Lima beans notwithstanding, we all have to do things we don't want to do. Adding 100 extra words to that English paper, going to a practice you could easily skip, or being on time for a morning class – we've all been there. The thing that we need to beat into ourselves here is the idea of delayed gratification. Put your needs before your wants and it will benefit you in the long term.

Respect Your Elders

Your teachers are here to help you.

Your teachers are here to help you.

Your teachers. Are here. To help you.

Every teacher you have here at RHS wants you to succeed, and they will literally jump through hoops to make it happen – as long as you do the same. If they don't, you're probably a brat. Stop it.

Be nice to strangers

One of the first things I heard at Freshman orientation is that your friends in 9th grade will not be your friends at graduation – and it's true for most people. We grow and change and move on, and while we're making that transition we have the chance to interact with so many new people. So reach out!

Smile. Compliment a shirt or a pair of shoes. Ask someone a question about Hamlet, even if you don't really need to. High school is an amazing place to push your comfort levels and make new connections.

Early to bed, early to rise

Coffee (2 cups) plus sleep (three hours) minus homework (16 pages) divided by the variable V (video games) = A crazy, cranky, sleep deprived student.

As teenagers, we hear a lot about getting our 8 hours. But how many of us actually get a full night's sleep? Few, if any. Between keeping up with school, catching this night's reality TV, and spending X amount of time trying to get the phone number from that guy who works at Starbucks, it seems like we don't have enough time in the day. Try prioritizing and taking a break from all of the “extras,” even if it's only for a week. You'll be able to shake that sleepy brain fog and get a lot more done.

Smile

Relax. I mean it. Take a breath and forget about who-said-what-about-her-shoes and oh-my-God-I'll-never-finish-this-project and RELAX. Take a

walk and leave your phone at home. Don't even take an iPod. Find a quiet space you like and sit there with your own thoughts.

Unplug.

Decompress.

Smile.

Richmond High School Bucket List

By: **Kathryn Radzwion**

Creating a bucket list is getting more and more popular. These lists help ensure that we accomplish everything that we have always wanted to do before our life ends.

I admit I have a bucket list myself. Just to list a few things on my list:

1. Go to Ireland
2. Meet Adam Levine

Some things on your list can be something realistic and achievable like going to Ireland, or it can be as impractical as meeting Adam Levine, but hey, I can dream right?

Anyway, as graduation is getting closer every day, I have been starting to ask myself, “Have I done everything that I have always wanted to do in my high school career?”

Looking back, I realize that I could have and should have done a lot more.

So for all of the underclassmen, I suggest writing a high school bucket list so that your senior year, you can look back and appreciate everything you have done and be satisfied with your career.

Below is an example bucket list of things I have done and things I wish I would have done.

High school bucket list

1. DO NOT, and I repeat, DO NOT slack off your freshman year.

Why? Because the rest of high school will be so much more difficult than it needs to be.

Retaking classes online until senior year isn't really the highlight of high school.

2. Participate in school events and have school spirit!

Paint your face blue and go to a football game every once in a while. There are so many new people to meet at events and opportunities to support your school with friends. So many of my great high school memories have been made at sporting events like the Homecoming games.

3. Don't be afraid to talk to people you don't know. This includes teachers, students, etc. If you sit next to someone in math class that you've never seen before, talk to them. That's how I met one of my best friends that I have had since freshman year and chances are, you won't regret talking to that person either.

4. Strive to improve each year.

Now if you're the person who has beenacing school since 5th grade, then keep doing what you're doing, but if you can improve, try to. If you have a B- in English, try making it a B+. There is always room for improvement and bringing your grades up can never be a bad thing.

5. Respect teachers AND substitute teachers

We have a lot of cool teachers in this school and it's worth it to get to know them. I've come to find out that if I know the teacher I tend to do better in the class. I have also talked to my friends and they say it helped them too. If you respect all teachers, they will respect you too.

Even though these are just a few examples,

I urge underclassmen to come up with some of their own. If I didn't follow this check list, I wouldn't have half as many friends as I do now and I probably wouldn't be graduating if I had failed my freshman year. I am proud of how far I've come and how much I have matured these last four years. Good luck to all underclassmen!

Only You Can Judge You

By: **Shelby Stewart**

News Editor

People in high school seem to think highly of other people's opinions of them. Teenagers think that how they appear to the world is more important than being who they really are.

But will your locker neighbor's opinion matter tomorrow?

In the real world, image can be important. In a career you should look nice and act nice. But people do things because other people say to. If someone says that the shirt you hate looks amazing on you, some people would wear it because others think it looks good.

But why should it matter what other people say?

The most important thing about YOUR life is to be YOU.

If you don't like a shirt, don't wear it. If you don't want to do something, then don't.

As underclassmen, it is important to realize that you don't have to do things that peers tell you to do. If it doesn't feel right, don't do it.

And if you don't do something that others want you to, and they say that you're 'lame' or 'a loser', who cares?

Do you think you're lame? You shouldn't. It is important to know that you are only as cool as you think you are.

If you think you're absolutely amazing, then you are.

If you think you're a loser, which you shouldn't, then that's going to be what others view you as.

If you are a nice, confident person, then people will like you regardless of how you look or act. However, if you are a person who sits around and sulks and complains, then people won't like you as much because it seems like you don't like you as much.

Do what you please as long as it's not harming other people. Dance in the rain, sing at the top of your lungs, do cartwheels in the hallways, do whatever makes you happy.

If you're happy with your life, that's all that matters.

You are beautiful, intelligent, confident, and amazing.

But don't take my word for it. Tell it to yourself.

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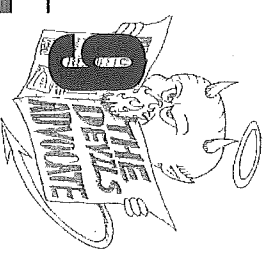
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Editorials

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Would you rather?

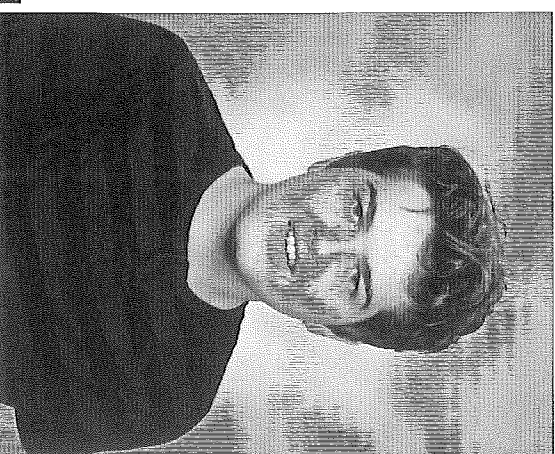
Would you rather be super strong or super fast?
Freshman, Emma Perry would rather be super fast.

Would you rather be a cat named fluffy or a dog named killer?
Freshman, Lindsey Schweiger would rather be a cat named fluffy.

Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
Freshman, Ally Swantek would rather be able to become invisible.

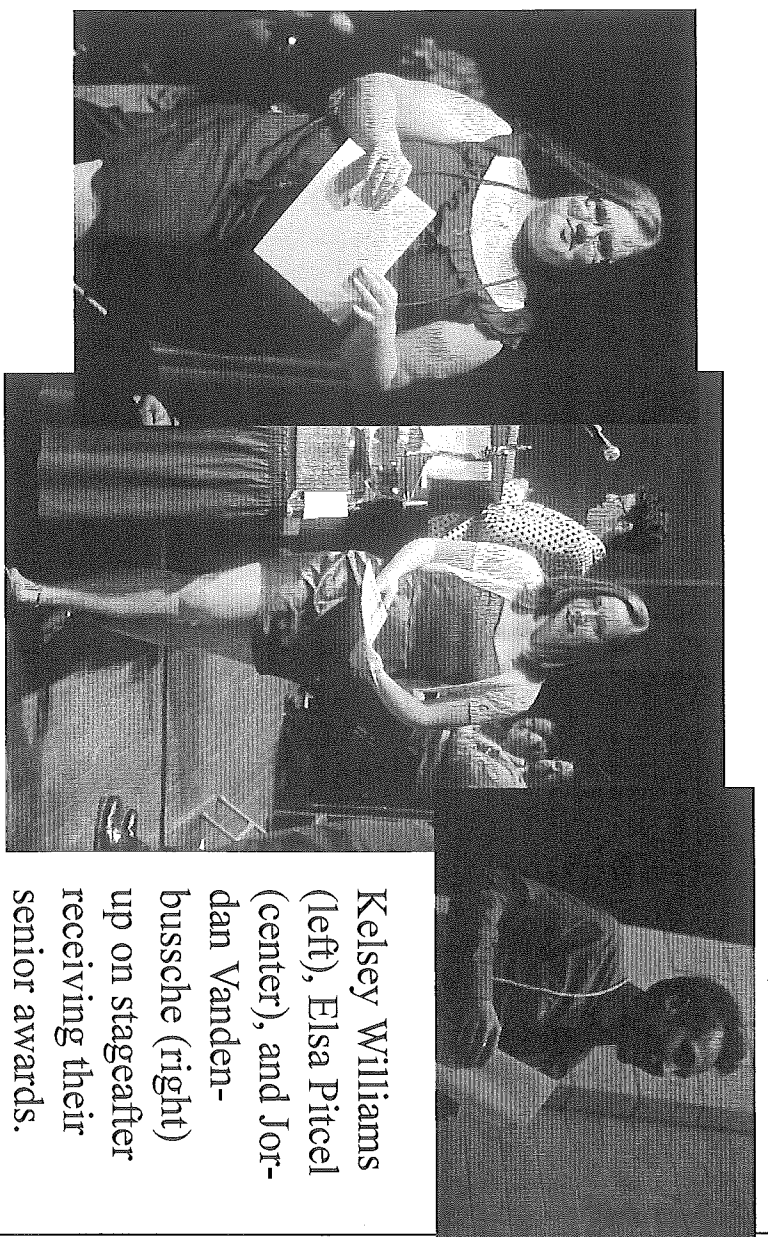
TALENT SPOTLIGHT

Stunt ★
Misteraich



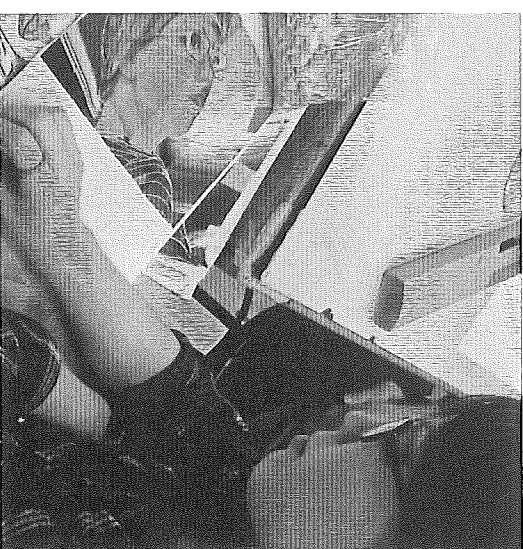
Senior Stunt Misteraich, auditioned for Western Michigan University theatre performance program. Out of 500 people who auditioned, only 20 were accepted. Misteraich was one of the 20 that were accepted.

"I love theatre because it's really fun and you get to be with your friends while doing it. I'm excited to go to Western and be a part of their theatre program," said Misteraich.



Kelsey Williams (left), Elsa Piccel (center), and Jordan Vandenbussche (right) up on stage after receiving their senior awards.

Show us your stuff!



Junior Kaelyn Wilcox examines her colorful self portrait for Drawing 3 and 4.

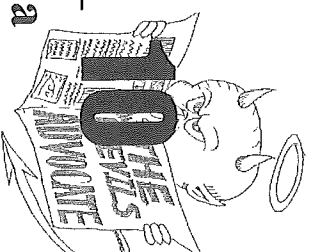


Alex Wofford, senior, thoughtfully studies artwork displayed in the art room.



Senior Cassie Hogg puts the finishing touches on her mask for Basic Design.

Features and News



Dr. Shinska in Uganda

Local dentist travels to Uganda to help needy

By: Jacob Thomas and Hunter Barjaktarovich
Sports Editor and Features Editor

Leaving your old life behind isn't an easy choice for anyone to make.

However, former graduate of Richmond High School, Dr. Ryan Shinska, is planning to move to Uganda indefinitely to help the communities to establish a dental care system.

Dr. Shinska graduated from RHS in 2004, before moving to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. After graduating, Dr. Shinska developed an interest in dentistry.

"To be totally honest, a few of my close friends at Michigan were applying to dental school and it seemed like a cool job. Their family members that were dentists made a lot of money and had a good balance between their family lives and professional lives," said Shinska.

He continued, "Little did I know that 10 years later that I would eventually move to Uganda to basically work for free!"

He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree here and graduated from University of Michigan in 2010. After graduating, Shinska accepted a job as a general dentist in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Shinska plans to move to Uganda in July 2013, where he will help to improve the lives of the Ugandans.

Continued on page 13

Climbing the App Vine

By: Logan Iskra
Opinion Editor

It's the 21st century, technology is everywhere and people cannot seem to get enough of it. Nearly any job you can think of can be carried out by a machine. Things like banking, shopping, and even working can all be done without ever leaving the comfort of your own home.

Even most of our lives occur digitally now. Thanks to social media sites like Twitter and Facebook, we can now share every waking moment of our lives with our closest friends or complete strangers (Who seem like really great people, judging by their profile.) whether they want to hear about it or not! What a relief! Could you imagine how much time it would take to visit four hundred houses to tell them what I had for breakfast?

In a society where there's almost always, "an app for that," it was only a matter of time before somebody created an easier way to share videos on the go.

Any Tweeters out there may find it worth their time to "follow" this discussion, and Facebookers may also "like" what they are about to hear. Twitter has created a new app that will

let you do just that.

About a month ago, Snapchat was the next big thing. Now, however, something new has grown in popularity and is swinging in to steal the show.

This new app is called Vine.

Vine allows people to take videos using the in-app camera and instantly upload them to Facebook or Twitter. This is great for when something amazing happens when you are on the go, or if you get a great idea for a funny video that you feel like everybody should see. If you ARE one of those people who just want to spread the laughter, I hope you can do it in six seconds, because that is all the time you get.

Consider it a challenge to see who can be the most amazing in the least amount of time.

Making videos with Vine can be a fun way to pass the time. However, the best feature of this app is its price. Free.

That's right, anyone with an IOS device (this means iPads and iPads only. For now...) can download and enjoy Vine as long as you are at least seventeen. (or younger, if your parents haven't figured out how to block apps yet.)

So, if you're not busy for the next six seconds, download Vine and get the camera rolling!

Remembering the past

RMS students learn firsthand from a survivor of the Holocaust

By: Shelby Stewart
News Editor

For years, students in the middle school have read books to learn about the Holocaust. Previously middle school students

recall reading The Diary Of Anne Frank and Number The Stars, but this year's class of eighth graders read The Devil's Arithmetic.

This is a story about a young girl, Hannah, who is transported back in time to experience the Holocaust firsthand as a different girl named Chaya, and she

has to experience a concentration camp and all the things that happen there before she can go back to her own time.

Many students felt as though they went back in time after this presentation as well. Sandra Manzo, a former social worker

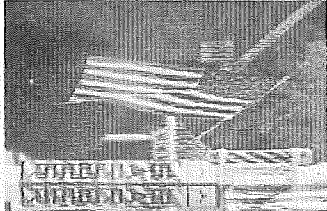
here in Richmond, spoke to the students about her personal attachment with the Holocaust.

All four of Sandra's grandparents were lost to concentration camps, as well as aunts and uncles. Her parents survived because they had moved to Canada before the Hol-

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ocaust began. Her aunt and uncle also survived because they ran away from the concentration camps and hid in the woods for 3 years.

They had to deal with being hunted continuously by dogs and Nazis. Also, at the time, her uncle was only 17, so his job was to sneak into towns at night and steal food for him and his sister. Her aunt is how she knows of this story because her uncle will not speak of it again.

In early May she spoke to the eighth grade English classes. Then, at the end of her speech, students received a card with the identity of a person who went through the Holocaust and they were able to go online and look up their person to find out about their life.

Sandra said that she didn't want people to forget, and she even related it to modern day prejudice, such as people of Muslim religion.

The audience asked a lot of questions and seemed to really enjoy the presentation.

"The students were very intrigued and hung on every word Mrs. Manzo said," said eighth grade English teacher Mrs. Schommer, "The presentation was fantastic. Mrs. Manzo was sincere and a dynamic speaker. She left students with a powerful message of tolerance and respect for all."

Mrs. Schommer said the presentation was very informative and students were very interested in Mrs. Manzo's family and others who lived in the time of the Holocaust.

The presentation was well received by the students and there is no doubt that they will remember it for a very long time.

