

The East Rock Record

133 NASH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511 FEBRUARY 2024 VOL. 12, NO. 1

THE LIBRARY IS BACK!

After Being Covid-Era Storage and In-School Suspension Site, Books Once Again Rule the Space



For the first time since Covid shut down schools, Teachers and students at East Rock School finally returned to using the library as a library last month.

BY ELIAS PLASCENCIA
AND SAHIL LEMAR
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY NORAH LAUGHTER

After well over a year as a cluttered space used for storage and in-school discipline, the East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School library is now—a library again.

Charlie Pellegrino, a sixth grader who recently helped organize boxes of teaching materials, likes what is happening. “It makes our school look more professional,” he said. “It makes our school look more like a school—instead of a Covid school.”

Garrett Griffin Jr., a 6th grade teacher at East Rock School,

recently took his class to the library to do something they haven’t done for months: Take out books. After the new librarian, Anneliese Juergensen, sent out an interest form, he signed right up.

“It’s exciting for the students to come in and interact with space, especially since it’s been out of use for so long,” he said. “For months it was that same disheveled mess. You would step into the library and find piles of books in no particular order and boxes on top of bookshelves and sitting on the floor.”

Even though they only have a small amount of time—about 15

minutes of their afternoon class—Mr. Griffin said it is a nice change or students. “I do think it is worth it for students to get a book they actually enjoy,” he said.

Ms. Juergensen said that when she sent out the interest form that “all of the K-6 classes signed up for a time to visit the library.” She said depending on the grade, visiting classes have a read-aloud or a short lesson on library skills and research, followed by the opportunity to check out books. In addition, she said, students now have the opportunity to borrow books from the library first thing in the morning on Wednesdays and Fridays.

SEE PAGE 4

A BREAK FOR THE BIG KIDS

Students lobby for (and get) recess extended to those in grades 6, 7, 8

BY LEIA VAZQUEZ, AUTUMN DIXON, JAELEE BERROA,
JASIEL MUNOZ, TUSKER PICKETT
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY MOLLY REINMANN

Last year, students in grades six, seven and eight could hear the fun squeal of younger children playing outside and enjoying recess — while they were stuck indoors at their desks.

This school year, that has changed. Now, students in those upper grades at East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School have recess, too! But not every day.

Still, now you can hear the East Rock Cheer Team saying, “Smile on Lips, Hands on Hips!” You can see made-up tag games like Battleship Tag and Zombie Tag — and even football — happening on the field next to the school. It’s also a time that people can lay on the grass and chill or lean against the fence.

Thanks to a campaign led by Tusker Pickett, Haven Pickett, Charlotte Martinez, Charlie Pellegrino, Sam Pellegrino, Christina Aviles and Kevelyn Tong, older students finally get recess. Many said it makes a big difference to have this time built into their daily schedule.

“Before we had recess, our days were boring,” said Elias Plascencia, in 8th grade. “We had too much energy and no



SEE PAGE 6

Lunch at 10:40 a.m.?

Spacing of meals leaves some hungry in class

BY ALIYAH NUÑEZ, DIMA ALI, RAFI CONROE
AND RYANN PHELPS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY CHLOE NGUYEN

Are you actually hungry for a burrito at 10:40 am?

If the answer is “No!” then you have a lot in common with many students at the East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School.

Lunch times at East Rock School vary from grade to grade. But many students say that the spacing of meals—the school serves breakfast, lunch, and supper—leaves many with grumbling stomachs or faced with a full tray of food when they have recently eaten breakfast.

As a result, according to the East Rock

Record Fall/Winter 2024 Survey, 78 percent of students say they are “often hungry during the school day.” Only about half of those who responded to the survey agreed that lunch comes at a good time.

“If I’m really, really hungry then it can be very distracting,” said Autumn Dixon, a sixth grader at East Rock School.

This year, second, third, and fifth graders eat lunch at 10:40 am, kindergarteners, first, fourth, and sixth graders eat at 11:15 am. Students in grades seven and eight have lunch at 11:50 am.

The school also now serves supper, but the

SEE PAGE 5

Phones in class: Tool, Reward or Distraction?

BY ELISEO PLASENCIA, AARAV LEMAR, HAVEN PICKETT,
OUJI DUBE, CADY ALI AND SUMMER PHELPS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY JACK HE

“NO PHONES. NO DRINKS. NO FOOD.”

Clay Selmont, a music teacher at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, makes it very clear that phones aren’t welcome in his classroom. A sign even says phones are not allowed and, if seen, will be taken away.

But other teachers, like Laura Lake, who teaches 7th and 8th grade social studies, allows phones during free time and field trips.

This can make things confusing for students at East Rock School — and even lead to students getting phones taken away because they get teacher rules mixed up.

Phones are controversial, especially in school. Some say they can be distracting when students are trying to learn. At East Rock School, tons of students also lose their phones. Sometimes they don’t end up finding the phone at all. That could lead some to have

SEE PAGE 3



INSIDE
THE NEWS

HURRICANES AND
STORMS:
ARE YOU READY?
SEE PAGE 7

MAKING UTILITY
BOXES BEAUTIFUL.
ARTIST INTERVIEW
SEE PAGE 13



ABRAM
KATZ GUEST
SCIENCE
JOURNALIST
SEE PAGE 8

Inspired Dining

for Every Taste



Pacifico



B Natural Kitchen

The Shops at Yale



@TheShopsatYale

Anchor • Arethusa Farm Dairy • Ashley's Ice Cream • Atticus Bookstore Cafe

Ay Arepa • B Natural Kitchen • Book Trader Cafe • Choupette Crêperie

Claire's Corner Copia • Common Grounds • Good Nature Market

Harvest Wine Bar & Restaurant • Heirloom at The Study • J&B Deli

Katalina's Bakery • Loose Leaf Boba Company • Maison B Cafe

Midpoint Istanbul • Old Heidelberg • Pacifico • Pedals Smoothie & Juice Bar

Philly's A Taste of Philadelphia • Pokémoto Hawaiian Poké • Shake Shack

Sherkaan Indian Street Food • South Bay • Sushi on Chapel • The Juice Box

Tomatillo Taco Joint • Tropical Smoothie Cafe • Union League Café • Villa Lulu

Willoughby's Coffee & Tea • Yamasaki Teriyaki • Yorkside Pizza • ZINC

A unique collection of more than 65 local boutiques, national brands, cafes, restaurants & attractions with convenient parking in historic downtown New Haven. Plan your visit at [TheShopsatYale.com](https://www.TheShopsatYale.com)

SCHOOL NEWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SCHOOL NEWS	
SCHOOL LIBRARY BACK + SHARING BOOKS!	1,4
PHONES IN SCHOOL? MAYBE NOT!	1,3
RECESS FOR ALL (EVEN IN GRADES 6-8)	1,6
MEALTIMES LEAVE MANY HUNGRY IN CLASS	1,5
COMMUNITY NEWS	
HURRICANS + STORMS: IS NEW HAVEN READY?	7
INTERVIEW WITH A STORM CHASER	7,9
SCIENCE + DISCOVERY	
ABRAM KATZ SCIENCE JOURNALIST PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MAX GRAHAM	8,9
MUSIC & SPORTS	11
ART + CREATIVITY	
PRINCIPAL BRELAND, THE ROAD (AND LESSONS) FROM BASKETBALL STANDOUT TO PRINCIPAL	13
OPINION	14,15
MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND	14
THANK YOU	14

Do you need a phone? Maybe not.

PHONES FROM PAGE 1

to pay over \$900 for a replacement. Also, phones can impact your mental health.

At the same time, there are pros to having a phone, especially in case of emergencies. Phones can also be a good way to communicate with friends while working on a project. Phones can also be a useful tool. If there are not enough calculators in math class, you could just pull out your phone and use that! Our phones have built-in calculators! Also, if you go on field trips with a lot of things to see, you can take pictures with your phone. You can create memories and now you can remember the things you learn and experienced.

So, are phones a problem?

Linda Charmaraman, a senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women and the founder and director of the Youth, Media & Wellbeing Research lab, told East Rock Record reporters that, “they are not necessarily good or bad. It depends on how you use them.”

According to Dr. Charmaraman, some students use their phones to do schoolwork because they don’t have access to a laptop or desktop computer. At the same time, said Dr. Charmaraman, it can be distracting if students are gaming while trying to do homework.

Students at East Rock School have different feelings about phones in school.

According to the East Rock Record Fall/Winter 2024 Survey, 75 percent of students who responded said they had a phone. About 70 percent said that having a phone does not hurt learning in school, but only one-third thought they should be allowed to use them in class.

When asked about whether teachers should allow phones in class, sixth grader Marlin Rodriguez said that it “depends on how the students use it.”

Teachers at school take different approaches to student phone use. Kindergarten teacher Jaleesa Wilson said she would take a phone away in her class and return it at the end of the day. However, phone use in kindergarten classrooms is generally rare.

In Angela Maiocco’s fourth grade class, there are consequences for having a phone out: After three warnings it is



taken away. Ms. Maiocco also highly dislikes social media. She said that it “is the root of all evil.”

Ms. Lake said that she allows students to use their phone during a field trip or during free time. However, if a student uses their phone during class, she gives them a warning. The next time, it will be taken away.

Ms. Lake said social media does have

75 percent of students said they have a phone; only one-third said they should be able to use them in class

Source: East Rock Record Survey

some benefits, but for some younger students, it can become a problem. According to Dr. Charmaraman, a student’s age does matter when it comes to phones and rules. “In middle school there is probably going to be more need for boundaries,” she said.

While a phone is a tools for communication, connection and organizing information, she said it can also be distracting, distressing and can make people feel like they can’t live without it.

In addition, she said, “there is a lot of social pressure in middle school” around having a phone or not having one. But Nayala Conroe, in grade six, answered “not really” when asked if she feels social pressure from not owning a phone.

“I can’t call people, but I have an iPad I can text on,” she said. Ms. Conroe manages to avoid both the issue of improper phone use in class and possible exclusion from the chance to talk with friends digitally.

Yet almost all students eventually have

phones. Therefore, comes the question: What age should students be allowed to have a phone?

“That is a question that gets asked a lot,” Dr. Charmaraman said.” It is not the same for every family.” Still, she suggested that while 10 years old is now the average age that students get phones, she advises waiting until middle school to have phones with internet access. “I have a sixth grader,” she said, adding that “she does not have a phone.”

Not all students feel they need a phone. Haven Pickett, who is in fifth grade, does not have a phone. Instead of playing or watching videos on a phone, he likes to “read books and go to the corner store near his house with his brother.”

While some kids might find phones useful, he thinks they are an unnecessary distraction and a big responsibility. Mr. Pickett said he doesn’t need nor expect a phone until high school.

Phones “are not necessarily good or bad. It depends on how you use them.”

— Dr. Linda Charmaraman, Director of the Youth, Media & Wellbeing Research Lab at Wellesley Centers for Women





SCHOOL NEWS

EAST ROCK LIBRARY ONCE AGAIN FOR READING, BOOKS

LIBRARY FROM PAGE 1

Excitement has been building following months in which the airy space was virtually unusable. Just several weeks ago, Matteo Mercado, who is in 8th grade, complained that, “The library looks messy. It’s disorganized.”

As a result, students did not use it during class, And far from being a place of reading and discovery, it was where students who misbehaved were sent to serve in-school suspensions.

Students like Mr. Mercado said the library was not welcoming. Such a mess, he said, “discourages young readers. It doesn’t like a good environment to go in and relax and get focused on a book.”

So, how and why did this happen? And what are the new plans?

Like some school issues, it started with Covid. When school was held remotely, students were at home on the computer. With no students in the library, it became a place to store things. But even when students returned to school, the library was not used.

The reason? Safety protocols, said Sabrina Breland, principal of East Rock School.

“During COVID–19, we were given the directive that any area with carpeting could not be used to instruct students,” said Principal Breland. Rules did not let large groups gather in areas with carpeting because of concerns that the materials could harbor and spread the virus.

“Since the entire library is carpeted, we started moving things out of the classrooms,” Ms. Breland said. “And since East Rock has limited storage rooms, we started using the library as storage.”

Because of rules requiring students to remain six feet apart in school, furniture and other items had to be moved out of classrooms to create more space. They ended up in the library.

As a result, Covid restrictions had a huge impact on the library. It continued for a while even after the pandemic ended. The problem was not just at East Rock.

Jenny Lussier, the President of the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, said libraries across the state struggled after the initial pandemic restric-

tions. Like at East Rock School, she said concerns about Covid transmission led to library restrictions in many districts.

“Even when we came back to school, some places wouldn’t allow libraries to operate because they were afraid [Covid] could be transmitted by touching books,” she said. In many districts, libraries soon re-opened, she said. “Most schools have gone back to what we consider a regular library,” she said.

At East Rock School, the library has been slow to return to use. After so long of not being used as a library, it has been hard to re-open the space. “When the restrictions were taken away, our library was in shambles,” said Ms. Breland.

This has bothered students. According to the East



Rock Record Fall/Winter 2024 Survey, 84 percent of those who responded said they wanted the library “to be more organized.”

Now that this is finally happening, Ms. Juergensen, the East Rock School librarian, has big plans for the future. Several months ago, she started removing old books.

“The library is a bit of a mess because I am cleaning it out,” she told East Rock Reporters in the fall. She held a “shelfie” contest earlier in the year that had students take pictures of their home bookshelves (a shelf-selfie!) and submit them for a gift card prize. She also has left books outside of the library that students are allowed to take home and keep.

“I am taking out all the older books that are too old to enjoy and removing stuff that was just thrown into



the library during the pandemic and replacing them with newer books,” Ms. Juergensen explained.

In addition, she aims to make the library more flexible. Instead of just being a space to check out a book and ready quietly, she wants the library to be used for a variety of activities.

“I want to make sure there are spaces for teachers, therapists, tutors, and kids to work and enjoy and try things and read things,” she said. To achieve this vision, she is getting new furniture to revamp the space and create areas for collaboration.

One challenge is that Ms. Juergensen is the librarian for more than one school, East Rock School and FAME (Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration).

“I have been working in one building for a number of years and this year I have to go to another school once a week, that makes my job a lot harder,” she said.

Still, she is eager to see the library be used again, and not as a storage space or for discipline. Ms. Breland, too, is excited about the change.

“We have a lot of ideas for how to make that space better for everyone, not just for students but for teachers as well,” she said.

During Covid the library was used for storage.

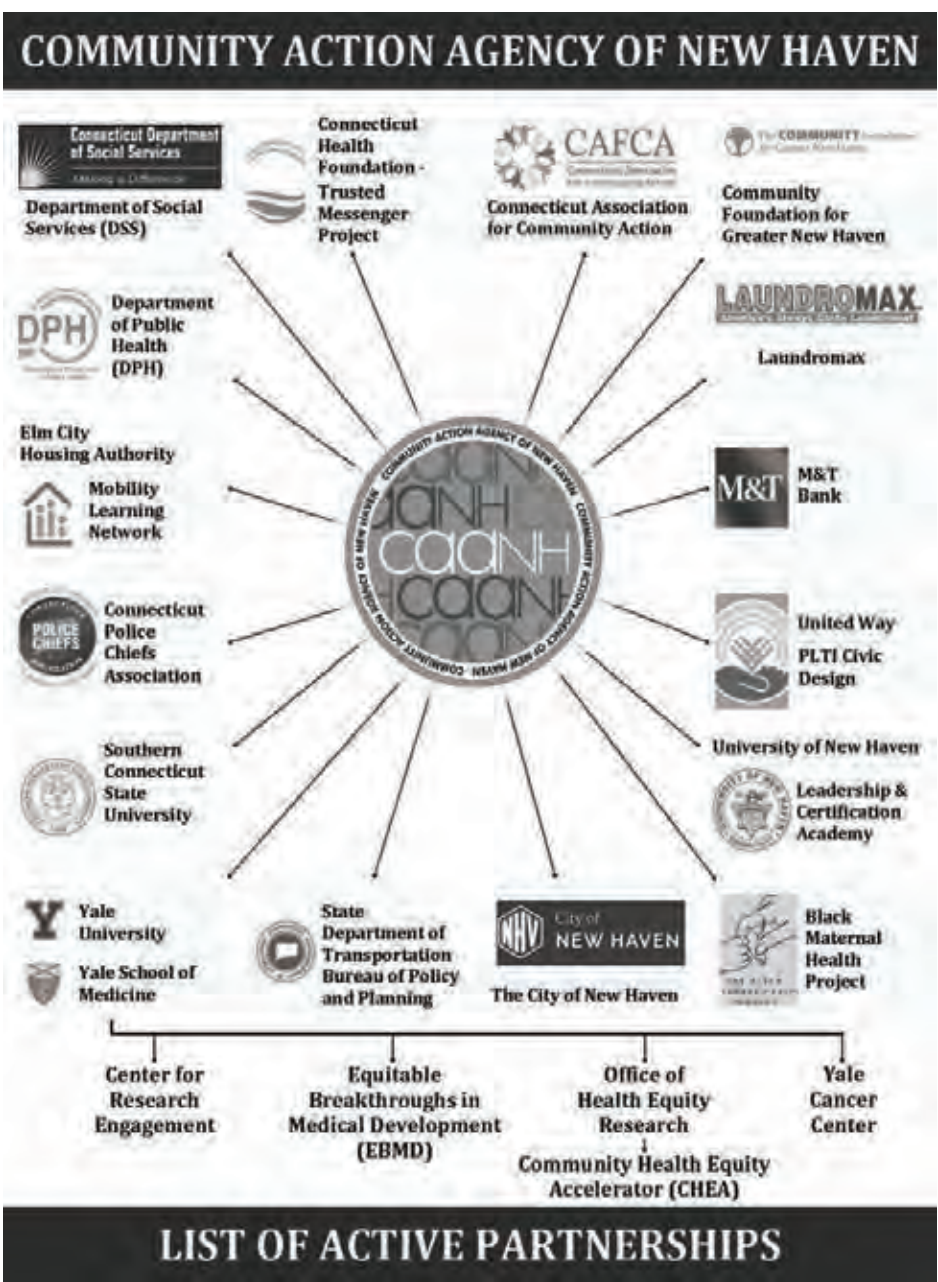


There are two ways to connect with New Haven Reads

- New Haven Reads offers in-person and online literacy tutoring sessions
- Our Community Book Bank located at 45 Bristol Street is open Monday-Saturday

New Haven Reads provides individually - tailored one-on-one after-school tutoring at four New Haven locations at no cost to participants.

Find out more at newhavenreads.org



SCHOOL NEWS

What to do with grumbling tummies in class: Should snacks be allowed? Offered?

MEALTIMES FROM PAGE 1

timing recently moved from 2:30 to 4 pm, which means some students go many hours without food. Still, the East Rock Record Survey found that almost 42 per-cent of students like being able to have supper at school.

When students get hungry during class, Julie Villanueva, a special education teacher, allows her students to have a snack. “We get hungry throughout the day,” she said.

Some other teachers also allow students to eat at non-mealtimes. But according to the East Rock Record Survey, only about one-quarter of students said their teachers allowed them to eat in class. Ms. Villanueva believes students could benefit from more food options in the cafeteria. She also suggested that the school offer juice in addition to milk.

Part of the problem may also be that students may not like the school lunch offerings. Ms. Dixon, who often brings food from home, said her classmates get hungry throughout the day and ask her what she has brought. “At lunch people will go up to me and ask for my food, and it can get really annoying,” she said. Ms. Dixon recognized that some students must rely only on what the school cafeteria offers, which is a challenge when students do not like the options.

But students are also discouraged from sharing their food, one among school rules regarding food.

Sabrina Breland, principal of East Rock School, said there are not many school-wide rules for eating in the classroom, but she does not like students eating in classrooms because she does not want to attract rodents.

The no-sharing rule is also for safety reasons, she said. “No sharing food. There are germs and allergies. Some students can’t have everything.”

Students do complain about the food offerings at mealtimes. Haven Pickett, a fifth grader at East Rock School, said there is room for improvement in the menu. The food, he said, is often “either too wet or too dry,” and he would prefer more appealing options. Many students we spoke with also complained about the quality of the food, which can keep some of them from finishing—or even starting their meals. Angela Maiocco, who teaches fourth grade, said the food options do not always appeal to students.

During the morning announcement that shares that day’s cafeteria menu, she usually hears “more boos than clapping.” Ms. Maiocco also has noticed that students get hungry during the day. While Ms. Maiocco would typically limit snacking to students who feel sick or nauseous, she has been more lenient with eating in the class to ensure all her students can feel their best.

However, not all students can bring snacks if they want to. Ms. Maiocco said she did request the cafeteria to supply midday snacks for her students, but the ask was denied. “It’s really not fair to ask the kids to bring snacks because not everyone can bring them. It’s also not fair to ask nine and 10-year-olds to wait that long for lunch,” she said.

Principal Breland said one possible reason that cafeteria options don’t always appeal to students, is that those in charge of creatin the menus are “trying to get stuff that is reportedly healthier than what a normal K-8th grader would choose.”

She may be right. Baron Young, who in summer 2023 became Director of Food Service for the New Haven Public Schools, said school meals must follow nutri-tion guidelines required by law.

“We receive funds from the government, so we have to follow the government’s rules. All meals need a grain, a vegetable, a fruit, a milk, and a meat or meat alter-native,” he said. So, things like chips, soda, and candy, he said, “We are not offering those things.”

Mr. Young wishes schools could offer chocolate milk – but they are not allowed to. “We can only offer unflavored milk,” he said. Mr. Young also said school food service administrators must serve allergy-friendly foods to keep all students safe.

Still, Mr. Young said he is trying to make menus more appealing to students. He is concerned not only with students not eating their meals and going hungry but also with the issue of waste caused by uneaten meals.

“Changes are coming,” he said adding, that he is thinking of a chili option “full of flavor, full of color” and pasta dishes like chicken alfredo. Still, Mr. Young said that “change cannot come overnight.” He must plan and work with vendors to get ingredients. To pick new foods that students like, Mr. Young has done taste test-ing at different schools to find recipes that “are healthy and appealing to the stu-dents.” Two taste test items: Squash and a Kale Caesar Salad.

Even though Mr. Young is working to make meals that students will enjoy, actual timing of meals is decided at each school. Every day, he said, the New Haven Pub-lic Schools serve 14,000 to 15,000 meals.

If students are hungry between official mealtimes, Mr. Young suggested having “share tables” with snacks like fruit and milk. This way, he said, students could help themselves to a pick-me-up that still meets nutrition regulations.



TOP RIGHT: Baron Young, New Haven Public Schools’ new director of Food Service, speaks with ERR reporters via Zoom. ABOVE and RIGHT: East Rock School students at lunch.






IRIS empowers refugees & immigrants to thrive in their new home.



Donate to welcome newcomers.
www.irisct.org

NEW HAVEN’S BEST LAUNDROMAT FOR 35+ YEARS!



165 Willow St, New Haven. Tel 203-498-8537

Hours Attended: Mon-Fri 7am - 9pm; Sat-Sun 7am - 8pm

Self service: Mon-Sat 6am - 10pm

- Fully attended services include: self-serve coin op, wash-dry-fold and dry cleaning.
- Equipment includes giant washers and dryers for comforters and other items that are too big for home machines.
- We are just around the corner from East Rock School – Leave your laundry with us when you drop off your child at school and pick up cleaned, folded laundry later the same day.

SCHOOL NEWS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR RECESS WINS BIG AT EAST ROCK

RECESS FROM PAGE 1

way to get it out on days when we didn’t have gym.” The eight students who campaigned for recess called themselves the Middle School Organization for Recess. According to Haven Pickett, the group was “super amped up” that sixth grade students did not have recess, so they wanted to make a change.

Shortly after getting the idea to campaign for recess, the number of interested students grew, Mr. Pickett said. Some group members then created a slideshow about the physical and mental health benefits of recess. For example, one slide in the students’ presentation argued that, “Recess boosts cognitive function and physical endurance.”

The student group presented their campaign to their sixth grade peers and staff. Principal Sabrina Breland, a former college basketball player and coach, liked the idea and approved the plan to add recess for students in grades 6–8.

“As I thought over it, I realized that recess would be a good opportunity for students to settle and relax,” Ms. Breland said.

At first, some teachers were nervous about the idea. Even Principal Breland was concerned, but decided that it would be a good opportunity for students to “settle and relax.”

Garrett Griffin, who teaches sixth grade, told East Rock Record reporters that the students campaigning for recess “came on strong.”

There are a range of behaviors in the older grades, Mr. Griffin explained, which made him worry that some students might get too rambunctious during recess time. “I was horrified when I first found out that the students would have recess,” Mr. Griffin said. “It was an unstructured time. I’m always very nervous about unstructured time at school, because a lot of things can go wrong.”

Now, however, Mr. Griffin has warmed up to the idea of recess for older grades. He told East Rock Record reporters that recess is a good opportunity for students to release their energy and have a technology break.

“Having recess motivates the students,” Mr. Griffin said. “After recess, students are less antsy, because they release their pent up energy while playing outside.”

For John Kennedy, who has taught for 17 years at East Rock School, seventh and eighth graders have never had recess. While he was initially “skeptical about how useful it would be,” he now realizes that it is a good chance for students to have a break in the middle of their school day.

“Recess benefits both me and the students, because it gives us an opportunity to kind of get to know each other in a different way,” Mr. Kennedy told East Rock Record reporters. “One of the most important things about my job is not the math that I teach, but it’s the relationships that I form and the bonds I have with the kids that I teach. And this time helps with that.”

Students were excited by the introduction of recess. “I had a good reaction to us having recess, and I think the whole class did, too,” Sahil Lemar, an eighth grade student, told East Rock Record reporters. In the end, both students and teachers seem to agree that recess for upper grades is a good idea. Among these benefits, both point out that recess lets students spend more time outside during the school day.

Mr. Griffin said he is happy that students have been able to get out more and get more fresh air. He said it provided a chance for inter-grade bonding. “One of the things I love about recess is when the older students support the younger students. Sometimes the sixth graders will work with the first graders. They’re collaborating, they’re playing together. When I see them working in harmony, it makes



me feel good,” Mr. Griffin said.

“It’s a very good experience because it’s right in the middle of the day, and I like being able to go outside,” said Mr. Lemar. “We used to have to stay in the building all day.” Laura Lake, who teaches social studies to students in seventh and eighth grades, said that time outside is specifically useful in getting older students away from screens. And, she said, it also allows students a useful pause. “I do think it’s slightly calmer in the afternoon, because they are able to have that outlet,” she said. “It’s a nice little break in the middle of the day for them.”

Recess also gives teachers a break, said Mr. Kennedy. He likes being able to walk around and get fresh air during recess time. Mr. Kennedy also said that recess is a good time for him to talk and bond with students in a more casual setting.

“It gives me an opportunity to kind of get to know the kids in a different way,” he said. “One of the most important things about my job is not the math that I teach, but it’s the relationships that I form and the bonds I have with the kids that I teach. And this time helps with that.” London Ingram, a sixth grader, told East Rock Record reporters that she uses recess to socialize. She said it is the only period during the school day where she has time to see her friends and develop deeper relationships and build her social skills.

East Rock Record reporters investigated how some other sixth, seventh and eighth grade students spend their recess time.

When she has recess duty, Ms. Lake sees students use the free time in different ways. She has noticed that girls often walk around the field and talk. Some practice cheerleading. Ms. Lake said boys organize football and basketball games.

Mr. Griffin said recess impacts students in a positive way by motivating them and helping them release their energy so they can then better focus in class.

A 2018 Voice of Play survey about recess by a trade group, the International Play Equipment Manufacturer’s Association, found that 95 percent of teachers said students’ social interactions improved when they played together outside at recess.

According to the East Rock Record Fall/Winter 2024 Survey, 75 percent of students who responded agreed that recess was “important.”

Almost 62 percent said that it was “easier to focus” on school after recess and nearly 58 percent said recess helped them do better in school.

“It’s definitely easier to focus after recess,” said London Ingram, in sixth grade. “It’s like a good brain break.” Mr. Lemar agreed: “I think it does help me focus in the classroom.” Recess gives students important, unstructured time to run around or throw a ball, said Mr. Kennedy. “Middle school is a difficult time for adolescents,” he said. “They may not know how to deal with a lot of things that are going on.” Recess, he said, lets them release energy and take a break.

</

COMMUNITY NEWS

HURRICANES AND STORMS! HOW READY IS NEW HAVEN?

BY NAYALA CONROE, INGA BOASSON,
DIVERA SIMON AND ALYA MIKKELSON
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY HAN PIMENTEL-HAYES

Knock-knock. Who’s there? A hurricane! At your front door! In New Haven! Hurricanes can be dangerous, and climate change means that they’re increasing in strength and frequency in New Haven. Experts say it’s important to get information — and be prepared.

“I think we can all agree that we have seen an increase — not only an increase in hurricanes, but they are also much more destructive,” Rick Fontana, director of Emergency Operations for the City of New Haven, told East Rock Record reporters.

“We have seen global warming and sea levels rise and that has certainly been an impact and a challenge for us as well,” he said, adding that, “We are seeing water in places we have not seen before.” According to Mr. Fontana, the city’s “slosh maps” show storm surge in New Haven is entering further into inland waterways.

A hurricane is made up of three things: 1. Hot air 2. Water 3. Spinning wind. Jeff Masters, a meteorologist with Yale Climate Connections, co-founder of the Weather Underground, and a former storm chaser, said in an interview with East Rock Record reporters that in top form hurricanes need water with a temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit or more.

Masters pointed out that waters in New England are warming at rates double that in the Gulf of Mexico. This means that hurricanes are more likely to form. Another thing a hurricane needs is a lot of moisture; climate change increases evaporation which puts more moisture in the air.

And because warm air holds more water vapor, Mr. Masters said, “you will see a lot more heavy rainfall, and when hurricanes do hit they will drive their storm surge further inland.”

In addition to these worries, the sea level is rising by about one half-inch each year, which increases chances of flooding — even without a hurricane. The good news is that even though there are many storms, there is only about one hurricane per year in New Haven.

Only three major hurricanes have ever hit New England directly, Mr. Masters said. The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 was very destructive with high tides. In 1985, New Haven was flooded by Hurricane Gloria. And in 1991, Hurricane Bob caused a ten-foot storm surge that flooded New Haven.

Students and teachers at East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School have their own views and concerns about hurricanes. Many teachers said they had experienced a hurricane in their lifetime, but according to the East Rock Record Fall/Winter 2023-2024 Survey, only 30 percent of students have. The survey found that almost 60 percent of students are concerned about a serious storm, but only 56 percent said their family knows what to do in a big storm.

Two-thirds of students said they were concerned about the impact of climate change on their life.



Reporters interview Rick Fontana, director of Emergency Operations for New Haven.



In the case of a big storm, Mr. Fontana, said the City of New Haven has shelters available to anybody in New Haven. He said there are three main shelters that can hold 6,000 people in total.

The locations of these shelters are broadcast through local media, but Mr. Fontana said residents can also visit the emergency preparedness section of www.newhavenct.gov for tips on storm preparedness and evacuation information.

All types of people are welcome in the storm shelters. Even pets are allowed, but no horses! Only one percent of the New Haven population is expected to be looking for shelter during a hurricane, he said.

Most people go to the house of a relative or a hotel because people usually have four to five days’ notice before the storm hits. Mr. Fontana said that people who are poor, old, or very young, may have a harder time evacuating their homes and getting to a safe place.

Masters mentioned that in Hurricane Katrina many low-income people suffered more than people with more money. There were 120,000 people who couldn’t evacuate because they didn’t have cars and the state did not provide any transportation. More than 1,000 people died.

The City of New Haven has an Emergency Operations Center at 200 Orange Street that is underground. “It is really a place where all the city officials would come and develop a strategy” for managing a storm, said Mr. Fontana. He said the center was activated four times in 2023.

Even though there was not a hurricane, Mr. Fontana said city responders use it to plan in cases of expected heavy rains and other bad weather.

Almost every student and teacher we interviewed at the East Rock School agreed that it is easier for some people to evacuate than others. Most people we interviewed said that they think it is harder for some people to evacuate because of their age, if they are poor, or disabled.

As hurricanes develop more rapidly to dangerous levels, Mr. Masters said there is less time to warn people and help them prepare. This means that New Haven residents should be increasingly careful and aware of forecasted hurricanes. If a hurricane does happen, residents should be prepared to stay with a loved one or evacuate to their local shelter.

INSIDE THE EYE WALL: INTERVIEW WITH A STORM CHASER

BY JOSHWINI PARTHIBAN, JULISSA DURAN,
SERELLE BARSALOU AND JASHWINI PARTHIBAN
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY HOLLIS LONG

Imagine fying a plane. Then imagine flying it straight into a hurricane. On purpose!?! If this seems incredibly scary and dangerous—it is. But it is what Jeff Masters, a meteorologist for Yale Climate Connections, the co-founder of Weather Underground — and a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Hurricane Hunters team—did for a job.

Mr. Masters, who was part of the storm chasing team from 1986 to 1990, told East Rock Record reporters about his perilous flights and fantastic stories. He said that hurricane hunters fly into storms to take measurements to share with forecasters. “The reason we fly into hurricanes is to get a better information about the intensity” of the storm, he said, adding that “satellites can’t see through a cloud.” That information helps people on the ground better forecast and prepare. During his career, Mr. Masters flew into two Category 5 storms with wind speeds of 157 miles per hour or higher. (Category 1 storms are the mildest and Category 5 are the most intense.)



Reporters interview Jeff Masters, a former storm chaser, via Zoom.

SCIENCE + DISCOVERY

Max Graham Reporting on the Environment From Alaska!

The Abram Katz Visiting Science Journalist Press Conference

East Rock Record reporters recently held a press conference with Max Muscatine Graham, a former East Rock Record mentor. Mr. Graham’s visit was courtesy of the first annual Abram Katz Visiting Science Journalist Press Conference. The program honors the late Mr. Katz, a long-time Science Editor at the New Haven Register. His Sunday column was called Gray Matters and was the favorite of many readers. He interviewed well-known scholars, doctors, and scientists regarding advancements in science and technology. He held a special ability to explain the complex inner workings of our world to the ordinary person. Mr. Graham is an environmental journalist based in the small fishing town of Homer, Alaska. He writes about food and agriculture for Grist, an online climate magazine. Here are student reflections on the meeting:

Max’s presentation was interesting because he told us about marine heat waves, the Yukon River salmon shortage and moose. Marine heat waves are when a body of water has abnormally high temperatures. The Yukon River salmon shortage is happening because of a marine heat wave caused by climate change. Max told us how many moose roam around Alaska, and how once he saw a moose come up to a bookstore window and look at the display. That is what Max Graham, former ERR mentor, taught me.

— By Haven Pickett

I am Alya Mikkelson, and I work for the East Rock Record. We got to interview Max Graham, a journalist in Alaska who studies salmon. I loved the ways that Alaska is different from New Haven, and I loved the way that he answered our questions. He also said so many facts that I never thought would be true. Like that moose kill more people than bears! He also said that he was in the East Rock Record four years ago. I want to be like him when I grow up. Other facts are like how in the winter, it can get dark at 3:00 PM! Alaska, according to Max is a very fun place to be. According to what he said, I kinda want to live Alaska as well! Just listening to the answers to my (and other people’s) questions, and how a lot of my anticipated answers were wrong was actually fun! For example, when I asked how many salmon types lived in Alaska, I thought the answer was more than 10. Boy, was I wrong! There were 5! It was so amazing to see myself be wrong! I learned more than just that. I could have sat there all day asking questions. We (the East Rock Record) got the chance to interview him. The sad things he told us, were things like how salmon shortages are happening because of greenhouse gasses warming the Earth, and because the oceans take in 90 percent of our heat, the oceans are suffering from climate change as well. I think that the interview was a huge info-giver in my life. (So far, at least!)

— By Alya Mikkelson

Max Graham is a very outgoing individual which is needed in a journalist. And I also look up to him because he spent five days on a fishing boat with someone who was fishing and I think that is also super cool. I would also love to go to another state/country. His experience in Alaska was very interesting. The fact that he learned so much in three years is a very hard feat. — By Elias Plascencia



When I heard that moose just roam around in Alaska my mind was blown. I didn’t know that until Max Graham told me, wow. There are salmon shortages in Alaska. People in Alaska basically survive on salmon, so this is big!!! This is all due to global warming because it is warming up the lakes, rivers, oceans and more. — By Rafi Conroe

DID YOU KNOW that Alaska has over three million lakes and there are five types of salmon?! Now-a-days the oceans are warming up and the main source of food which is the salmon are losing their lives. Many people in Alaska are impacted by this. They don’t have as much food to eat now because the salmon population is decreasing. Also, DID YOU KNOW that Alaska has the world’s largest moose population and moose eat more food than black bears?! These moose in Alaska are the most fun and craziest animals because they look up in the windows of bookstores of even cars. Moose are not normally aggressive, however, they can become aggressive when they are harassed by people, dogs and traffic and when they are hungry and tired. Also, DID YOU KNOW that Alaska is home to 17 of North America’s tallest mountains and it has more than 100 volcanoes?! Alaska is a very beautiful and lovely place. But the only thing is that in the winter the sun rises at 10:00 am and sets around 3:30 pm, which according to me is horrible. Now, we know the beautiful place Alaska and the dangers occurring there. Hope this is informational!

— By Jashwini Parthiban

Max Graham is a former East Rock Record mentor. Max now lives in Alaska where he works as a science reporter. He travels all over Alaska and other parts of the world to report on his stories. Sometimes there are no roads to get where he is going so he flies in. One of the things he writes about is salmon. Salmon is a major food source in Alaska, but because of climate change the cold seas that they normally live in are getting warmer. Whether for his work or just for fun he spends a lot of time hiking through the mountains or kayaking the river. I have always dreamed of living in Alaska so to me his life seems pretty awesome. — By Tusker Pickett

My name is Julissa Daran. I like to hear the people say what they need to say. So my question was, Is the warm water bad for the people? Max, an old teacher at East Rock Record who now lives in Alaska, said that he thinks it is bad for people and even more for fishermen because it kills the fish, and the menu in Alaska is the fish! I asked that question because Max said the water is warming. — By Julissa Daran

Max Graham is an environmental journalist who works in Alaska. My team and I were able to get a chance to interview Max. He described his obstacles throughout his journey of his job, explained why he enjoys his job and the differences from being a mentor here at East Rock Record to his new job. I learned a lot from Max. We all asked questions, like “Do they use bikes?” and other things, sometimes just asking what came off the top of our head. He also said that the salmon at Yukon River are dying because of climate change. I thought that this was a very good piece of information because my group in ERR is working on climate change and this can be used to show a reason why sea animals are dying, at least the salmon. I also used a sort of point system. Max gave a good description +10 points. Max also gave a presentation to give a better understanding +5. That means Max has a total of 15 points. Overall, I think Max was a very good person to interview gave a lot of information that was useful to my team. Lastly, Max Graham, if you are reading this I would like to say thank you for allowing my team and I to have some of your time and interview you. — By London Ingram



Salmon is a major food source and product in Alaska

During the interview with Max, who was a former East Rock Record Yale mentor, he stated that the ocean temperatures were getting higher due to the increased number of heat waves. Later into the interview, he mentioned that some of his writing has gotten criticism and he has been writing for six years and writing professionally for three years. He also mentioned that when the water gets gradually warmer that it is bad for the people, just as it is bad for animals. Something we can do to help the environment is to stop using greenhouse gasses. He also mentioned that there are five different kinds of salmon, three of which people can eat. — By Cady Ali

I learned that there are moose in Alaska. I learned that Alaska is running out of salmon because the water is getting too warm. People in Alaska survive off of salmon. I learned that there are five kinds of salmon. — By Ryann Phelps

bears. He told us that in Alaska during the winter the sun rises at around 10 am and sets at around 3-4 pm. — By Nayala Conroe and Inga Boasson

Max Graham, a journalist in Alaska, said that on Yukon Island due to climate change the salmon have come up short. The problem with this is that a lot of people on Yukon Island eat salmon. This is also affecting people in other parts of Alaska because they eat salmon, too. — By Autumn Dixon

It was cool. Deer are in forests. Bikes are cool. Water is good. — By Ouiji Dubee

SCIENCE + DISCOVERY

Graham Tells of Salmon, Moose and Climate Effects

The Yukon River is 3,190 kilometers long. As we were talking about it, I wanted to search for some facts. Since we’re talking about how long the river is, we might as well say the length in miles. It is 1,982 miles. The Yukon River has a salmon problem that is harming a lot of local economies, food security and culture in the western region. Girl, this is all? — By Jaelee Berroa

Scientists are trying to figure out why the water is getting hot. Alaska is trying to reduce pollution so they can eat salmon and be mindful of the resources in the water where the salmon are. The water is getting hot in Alaska for animals that swim in it. Alaska’s daylight time in the winter is from 10:00 a.m. to about 3:30 p.m. There are a lot of bikes that help prevent more pollution in the air. There are also a lot of storms in Alaska including snowstorms and very bad rainfall, but which is depends on where you are. — By Jasiel Munoz

Max Graham is an awesome outgoing journalist who does what it takes to get the best out of a story. Max spent five days on a boating trip with a person he was interviewing which shows commitment especially in the extreme cold of Alaska. He seems very determined to write the truth and find good, compelling stories. There are not many people who would show as much commitment and dedication. — By Sahil Lemar

I am Serelle Barsalou of the East Rock Record and I interviewed a journalist named Max Graham. He is from Alaska and said, that climate change is affecting the salmon. — By Serelle Barsalou

There is a shortage of salmon in the Yukon River. You can only get to the place by boat or by plane. There are only dirt roads to get kids to school by walking and biking. A fun fact it that it is not as cold in Alaska as you may think. There are also not as many storms in Alaska as you may think but it does snow a lot and snow storms do happen — By Summer Phelps

It was cool. Deer are in forests. Bikes are cool. Water is good. — By Ouiji Dubee

I met Max Graham, the climate journalist. He was from Alaska. We all asked him a lot of questions. He told many things about Alaska. Alaska was so cool!!! I heard a lot of facts about Alaska. He has been a professional journalist for three years. Before that, he was a student journalist. He told us many facts about salmon. It was so cool, too!!!! He said that he studied at Yale. He told that when he is doing his job that he checks news websites and scientific websites. — By Joshwini Parthiban



Moose walking on a city street in Alaska

It was very interesting to listen to Max. I learned about the Yukon River. I also learned about the salmon shortage in the Yukon River. Also, it was fun learning what Max was doing in Alaska. It was cool talking to a reporter about Alaska. Another thing that was cool was asking Max questions because then we learned even more about Alaska. — By Eliseo Plascencia

Max Graham holds a press conference with East Rock Record Reporters via Zoom.



A hurricane eye “is gorgeous. It is like you are in a stadium” surrounded by clouds.

STORMCHASER FROM PAGE 7

In the middle of the eye of a hurricane, he said, “it is gorgeous. It is like you are in stadium, surrounded on all sides with white clouds with the sun shining through or, at night, the moon.”

Mr. Masters described how hurricanes form. He said there were three necessary things to kickstart an intense storm: (1) warm ocean water, (2) some pressure to get it spinning, and (3) plenty of moisture in the atmosphere. He noted the pressure typically comes from cold fronts on the East Coast of the United States.

Mr. Masters said that from the perspective of a hurricane hunter, storms have different parts. The eye of the hurricane sits at its center. It’s also the calmest weather area in the hurricane. Masters said that it is usually beautiful and quiet in the eye. “Sometimes, you see lightning. If you look below, you can see the ocean. Sometimes it’s calm. Sometimes there are 40-foot walls.”

The eyewall of the hurricane, he said, is the most dangerous area. Flying through it, he said, requires traveling into “a circular ring of intense thunderstorms where the worst turbulence, heaviest rains, and strong winds from ground to atmosphere occur.”

Even though the flights sound terrifying, Mr. Masters said that “only one out of five hurricane flights was a white-knuckler.” During an interview, Mr. Masters said that his most memorable flight was into Hurricane Hugo on September 15, 1989. It was a Category 5 hurricane. But, he said, his team had mistakenly thought that the hurricane was a Category 3 level before they flew into it. He said their plane shot up and down as the draft carried them all over in a terrifying loss of

control. The engine even caught on fire! The pilot lost control, and they dove toward the ocean until they gained control 900 feet from the water!

After such an intense experience, reporters wanted to know: Why would Mr. Masters choose such a dangerous career? He said that growing up in the Midwest, he always found weather interesting, but wanted to study the most exciting weather, which led him to hurricanes. Mr. Masters said a hurricane hunter’s main job is “to get a picture of the intensity of a hurricane.”

On the ground, people may need to evacuate areas that can be hardest hit by the storm. Mr. Masters said many people do not know where evacuation routes are located. “If you’re familiar with hurricanes, then yes,” he said. “But if you are not used to the storms, no.”

But people may want to pay more attention. Mr. Masters said that global warming may pose dangers for people in New England as air and water temperatures rise.

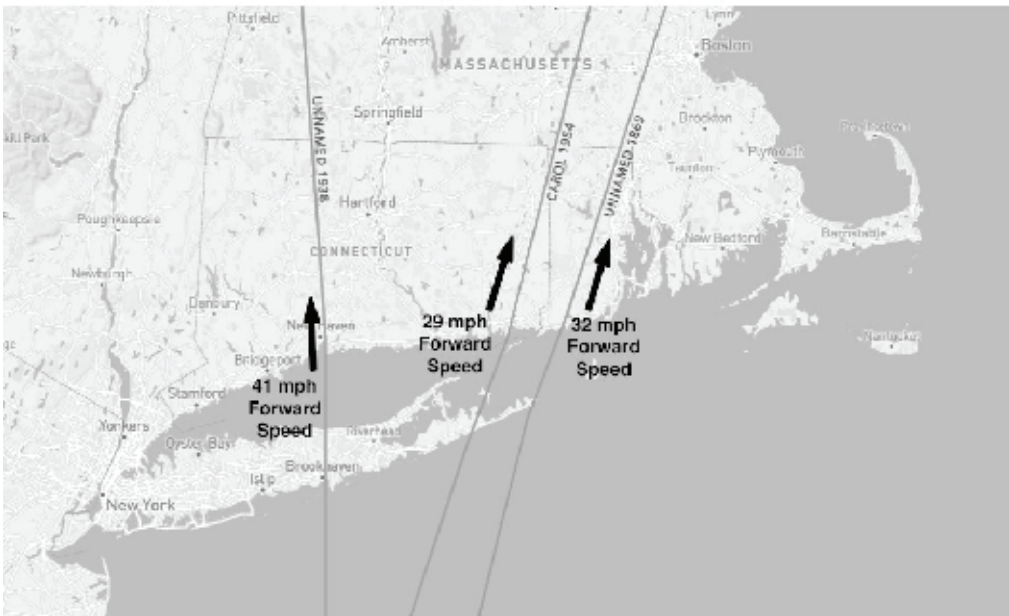
“It’s likely Connecticut will see more storms,” he said, adding that in addition, “any storm is going to get more rain because a warmer atmosphere holds more rainfall. Storm surges will also go further inland with rising sea levels.”

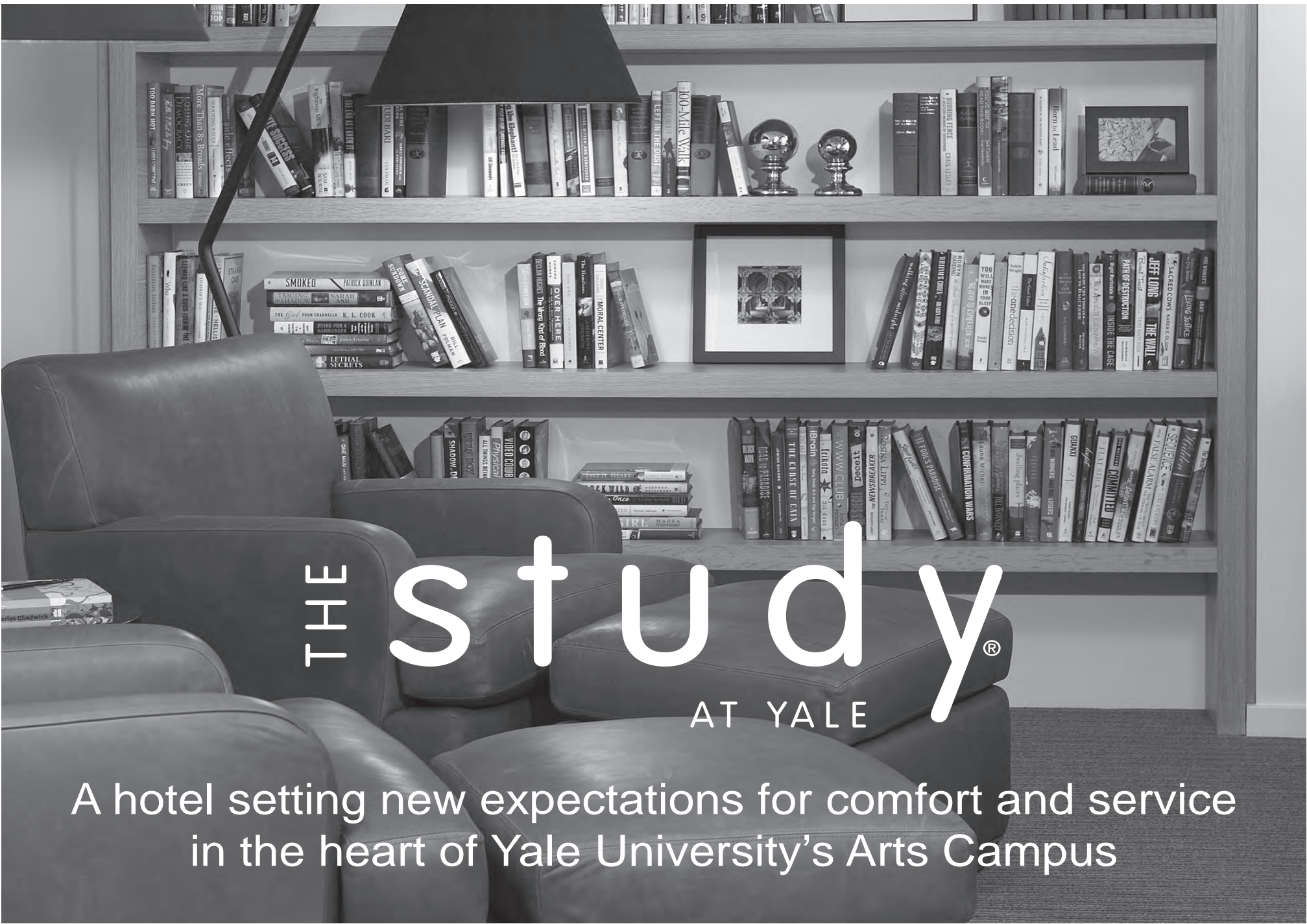
More hurricanes can equal more damage with people affected differently. During Hurricane Katrina, he said, “people with cars evacuated before others.”

Hurricanes also do a lot of damage to property. In 2021, Hurricane Henri caused \$700 million damage, and three more hurricanes occurred that year: Hurricane Elsa in July, Hurricane Fred in August, and Hurricane Mindy in September.

With these scary statistics wondered what the future holds for hurricane hunters. Mr. Masters said that he “used to tell people that the most dangerous part of my day was driving to work” — that is, until he flew into Hurricane Hugo. “That was by far the most intense experience of my career.”

Major Hurricanes to Hit New England, 1851 - 2023





1157 Chapel Street | New Haven, CT 06511 | 203.503.3900

MUSIC & SPORTS

TAY-TAY NOT TOPS: BIEBER IS BEST

BY RAFI CONROE
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Is Justin Bieber the best popstar ever? Yes, he is. My favorite songs by Bieber are Anyone, Unstable, Yummy, and one of his greatest hits, Baby. He has received many awards. Bieber has attained eight number-one hits on the US Billboard Hot 100 and eight number-one albums on the US Billboard 200 charts. Bieber's net worth in 2024 is estimated \$300 million. His songs are amazingly good and unsurprisingly that is because he just puts in so much passion and work into producing his songs. His songs just make me feel loved and happy. This is why I think Justin Bieber is the best popstar ever! I think he is better than Taylor Swift because he just puts in more effort and Swift uses more autotune. I like Justin Bieber so much that I had him as my phone background for eight months. Bieber is the best.

MY DAD TAUGHT ME TO SNOWBOARD AND NOW I LOVE IT

BY RYANN PHELPS
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

Snowboarding is one of my favorite sports. I like it because I can go down the slope really fast. I also like the chair lift because I go up really high and I like the view, too. There's a big slope, a little slope, and a medium slope, which is another reason why I like snowboarding. It's very special to me because my dad taught me how to do it. I learned how to snowboard in December 2023. I thought it would be hard to put

on the snowboard but then my dad showed me and it was very easy. I was scared at first but then I just did it and it was actually really fun. I really hope I get to go snowboarding again. I feel like the more I snowboard, the better I will get at it.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD

BY SAHIL LEMAR
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

When it comes to soccer, "the best player in the world," has always been a debate – and always will be a debate. Many say Messi or Ronaldo. Others say Pele or Maradona. But in my opinion, the best to ever play soccer you can still watch in their prime right now. Although he is only 24 years old and has never won a UCL or a World Cup. He is still the best in the world. He has won many awards including being the top goal scorer and player of the year in Portugal. He is a two-time Uruguayan champion and has won an English Super Cup with Liverpool.

Darwin Núñez was born and raised in Artigas, Uruguay. He later joined club Benfica in Portugal and was very successful, winning top goal score of the 21/22 season and being the top player. In the summer of 2022 Liverpool signed Núñez for 85 million pounds. On August 27, 2023 Núñez showed just how good he is by making a huge comeback against a very strong Newcastle side scoring two late goals to secure three points for his team. He is a very big part of Liverpool's success this season.

On November 1, against Bournemouth in the round of 16 in the EFL cup Núñez scored a Puskas (award)-

worthy goal to seal the win for Liverpool. On January 21, 2024 in another game vs Bournemouth he scored two more goals. The thing about Núñez that I admire a lot is the fact that he refuses to score tap-ins. Instead, whenever he has an open goal and a free shot he shoots a missile into the stands. Núñez only scores "bangers" which are really good goals. This just goes to show that he is just so much better than any other soccer player in the history of the world because everyone else farmed tap-ins and penalties.

So, while most people say Messi, or Ronaldo, or Pele or Maradona are the best of all time, do not listen to them because they are misinformed. The best of all time is my glorious GOAT (greatest of all time) is Núñez.

Liverpool Rules Premier League

BY ELIAS PLASCENTIA
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

This year Liverpool is in first place in the Premier League and has kept that for four weeks and never dropped below fourth place. (And when they were in fourth place it was only for a little bit.) Liverpool's team is made of absolute monsters like Mohamed Salah, Darwin Núñez, Alisson Becker, and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Liverpool also has more UEFA Champions Leagues(UCL's) then Manchester City, Tottenham, Chelsea, and Manchester United combined!

These are also known as the "big six" (including Liverpool). So, people comparing these clubs to Liverpool is just a mockery of Liverpool.

Millions of diapers.
Thousands of families.
Your chance to make a difference.
Donate today.

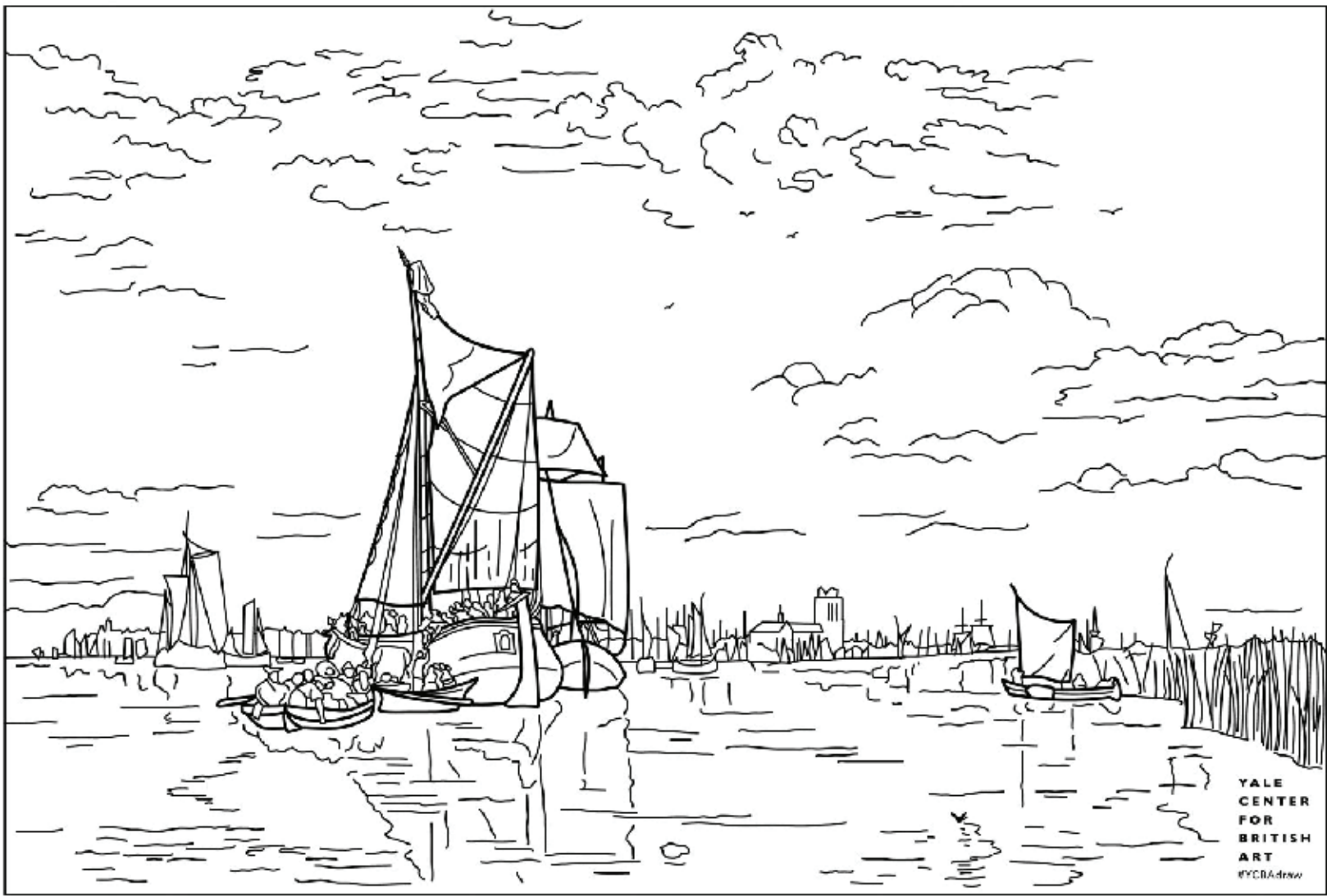
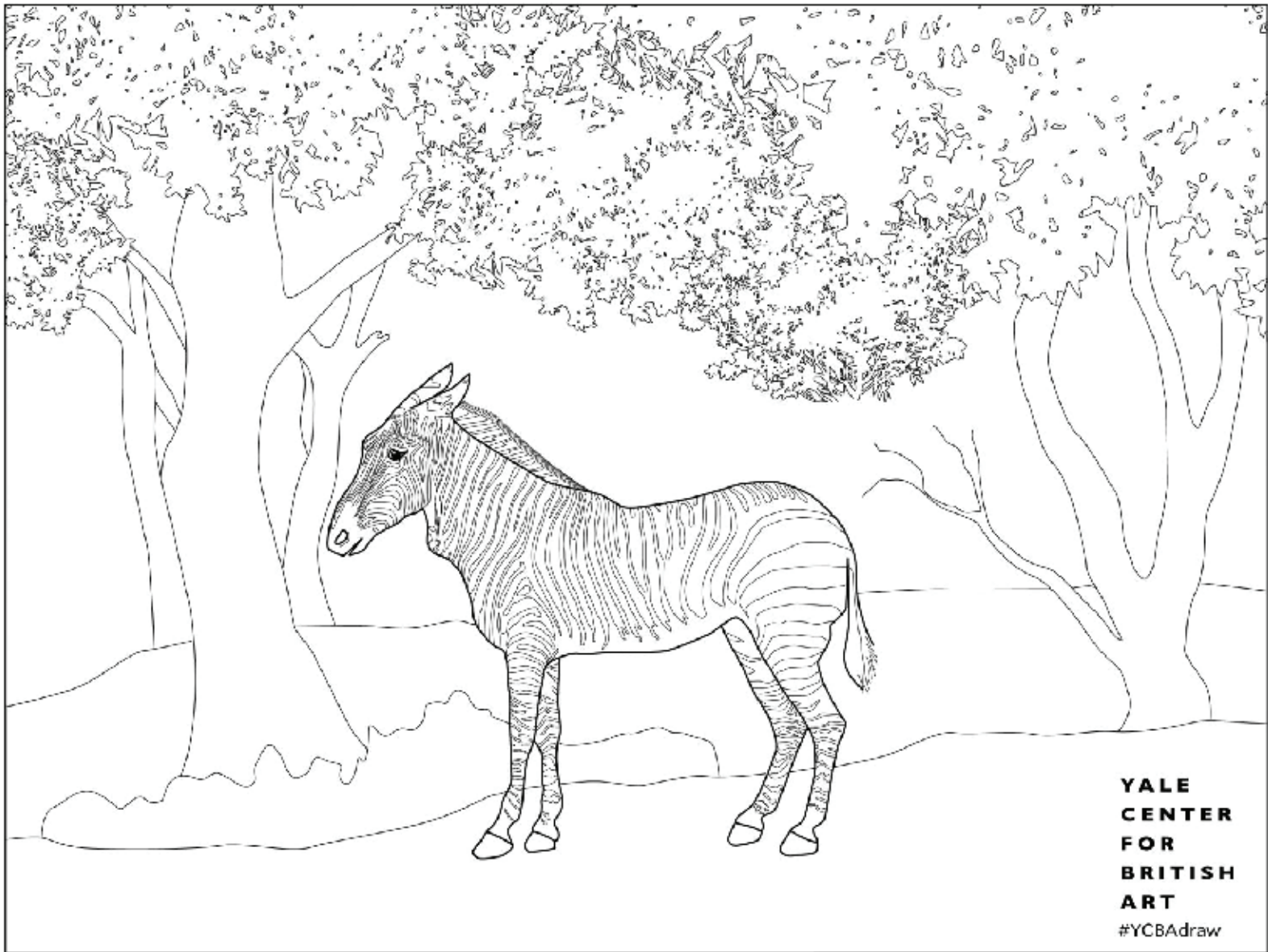


thediaperbank.org/donate

COLOR OUR COLLECTIONS

Grab your crayons, markers, or paints...
and get creative! Share your work by
tagging @yalebritishart on social media.

More coloring plates
can be downloaded
from our website:



YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

britishart.yale.edu @yalebritishart f @ y X ►

Coloring plates are inspired by works from our collection: George Stubbs, *Zebra*, 1763, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection; and J.M.W. Turner, *Dort or Dordrecht: The Dort Packet-Boat from Rotterdam Becalmed*, 1818, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

ARTS + CULTURE

ELIZABETH TAYLOR: PAINTING IN PUBLIC



East Rock Record Reporters met via Zoom with Elizabeth Taylor, a local artist who works as LaCroix Artistry. She works in many mediums and forms, including creating public art on traffic boxes in New Haven, on glass for local businesses and murals on the sides of buildings. She shared images of her work and spoke with reporters about the experience of making it (including dodging traffic and getting bumped by a city bus!) and how she came to be an artist. Here are their reflections:

LaCroix Artistries aka Elizabeth is a public artist who makes public art. She takes 6-10 hours to make a piece and does it in the public of downtown New Haven. Elizabeth is a very good artist who likes orchids and making art outside of Starbucks and downtown and almost got hit by a bus while doing it. This shows that sometimes art is very dangerous and takes a lot of skill. I think that is admirable and the risk she takes to make art is cool. I learned a lot about her art and how public art works. – Sahil Lemar

LaCroix Artistry (Elizabeth Taylor) has some really cool and nice looking art. There was not one piece I did not like. I liked that it looked kind of cartoony and that it was pretty bright colors like the octopus she made for a coffee shop. I feel like public art is really cool and important because public art can be used in many different ways like advertisements and to stand up for stuff. So, I think that people who make public art are really cool and I wished there were more people like them. – Elias Plascentia

Elizabeth was a South Dakota native. Each of the art works took 6-10 hours to make. She started her business by drawing her house, posting on Facebook and then selling it for money. Now she paints for the city and people's businesses. Her favorite art she made is the orchids in downtown. She paints layers and layers of paint when she puts it on the windows of businesses. She sketches out the art for clients, but likes free play drawing. Elizabeth knows the traffic times so she can paint the orchids. –Jasiel Munoz

Today, we watched a presentation from Elizabeth Taylor. Elizabeth is a South Dakota native, but she was raised in Idaho. She is a public artist, and she told us that each of her paintings takes 6-10 hours to complete. We think that this shows that she takes her art seriously. Also, she started her business by remaking one of her old art pieces five years ago. When she posted the design on Facebook, it opened the door to several opportunities. One of her favorite paintings was an orchid with a black background. She shared one of the art pieces with another artist, they made a nature themed piece to replace a graffiti painted wall. To add more to show that she takes her art seriously she figured out the exact traffic time to paint her orchids. Overall Elizabeth is an amazing artist who I hope goes far in life. – Leia Vázquez

Elizabeth Taylor said that for one of her paintings on a traffic box, she had to weave in between roads because of how busy the street was. She said she likes painting nature because it gives her endless inspiration. She also said she likes art because she has freedom in her schedule. –Rafi Conroe



When Elizabeth Taylor painted this downtown traffic box featuring orchids, she dodged traffic to complete it.

One painting was very scary because it was on a busy street. She said she likes painting nature because there are so many possibilities. She likes to paint in unexpected places. –Dima Ali

Elizabeth is an artist who gets paid to do art in public places. She works in New Haven, CT. I had the opportunity to interview her and view her work. Many of her projects that I saw were on street boxes and were nature designs. I loved how she drew nature, and how she color matched the flower petals and the backgrounds. I love how she was creative with designs and ideas for her art. Some examples of her work included cherry blossoms, maple leaves, white orchids, and more. She also sometimes works on windows, like for a coffee shop, illustrating tentacles grabbing a coffee mug. Her art is inspiring to all the young boys and girls who want to follow in her footsteps. –Alya Mikkelson

Elizabeth is a creator of art in New Haven. She creates murals. Her art is inspiring because it is just so beautiful and colorful that it makes me want to cry. I enjoy her art so much. Everything about her art is very pretty. She paints flowers and leaves of plants. The bright colors she uses are beautiful. I really like Elizabeth's art because she makes New Haven COOL! –Divera Simon

Elizabeth is a public artist, an artist who creates work in public spaces. Her native state is South Dakota, but she was raised in Idaho and she now lives in West Haven. She is now a mom to children. She started painting in high school and everyone offered to buy her work. That's where her career started. Elizabeth loves to paint on traffic boxes and she loves drawing about nature. Some of her paintings include elm leaves, wild flowers, orchids, colorful maple leaves, a large ice-cream sundae and a tentacle with a coffee cup etc. She finds an endless amount of inspiration in nature and loves to see how nature looks from different angles. Elizabeth loves to do freestyle painting and she believes that "Everyone learns from their mistakes!" – Jashwini Parthiban

Elizabeth the artist creates her mural art for about 6-10 hours. Wow! It is so much time because she puts a bunch of effort and creativity into her art. She paints flowers and leaves, but also makes things near cars. The art is pretty. Elizabeth said "my good art days are my best days and my bad art days can be my worst

days." Even this amazing artist has bad art days like everyone else! –Julissa Daran

The East Rock Record had the honor of being able to interview Elizabeth Taylor, a public artist. She paints on traffic boxes, windows, walls and canvases. She enjoys painting nature and gets paid to create public art in New Haven. I think that what I found out about Elizabeth and her art through the interview was very interesting, especially the objects she paints on. She became an artist because she discovered an old, unfinished painting from high school. She decided to finish the painting. Once she was done, she posted a photo on social media. Many people enjoyed her art and someone even wanted to buy it from her. This is how Elizabeth became the inspiring artist that she is today. –Nayala Conroe

Elizabeth is an artist in New Haven who paints traffic boxes in all sorts of ways. She also paints windows. On one window of a coffee shop, she painted an octopus tentacle holding a cup of coffee. Her favorite painting she has done is a black traffic box with dark green grass and white orchids. I loved all of her work because I love nature and tropical plants and that's exactly what she likes to paint. I think it's cool that she paints on traffic boxes and not in an art museum. Cities are usually just concrete buildings but when people paint on buildings it makes the space more vibrant and not just "blah". – Serelle Barsalou



EDITORIAL & OPINION

Letter from Principal Breland



Greetings Readers,

In these challenging times, I wanted to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for the dedicated educators at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School. Our staff are not just educators; they are professionals who bring passion, commitment, and resilience into our building on a daily basis. While balancing their own families and life stressors, they go above and beyond to create positive and enriching learning environments for our students and for that I am extremely grateful.

As we navigate these unprecedented times, let's take a moment to celebrate our staff for their successes, big and small. I encourage each reader who has been positively impacted by a staff member at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School to leave a note of appreciation at <https://honored-schools.org/>. There is also a link on our school's website: <https://eastrockcommunitymagnetschool.weebly.com/>. Please know that a few words can go a long way in brightening their day for the incredible work they do.

Educators make countless decisions during the course of a school day and these choices may not always be spot on, but please know that our hearts are always in the right place. While no one is perfect, our staff consistently demonstrate their unwavering dedication to the well-being and education of our students.

At a time when social media platforms are sharing what is wrong with schools around the country, I would like to join WTNH's News 8 by offering community members the opportunity to share what is RIGHT with schools! There are so many gems in our building and I would like to close by thanking the East Rock staff for their hard work, resilience, and the positive impact that they make in the lives of our students.

In service,
Sabrina Breland, Principal



The East Rock Record

East Rock Community & Cultural Studies
Magnet School
133 Nash Street, New Haven, CT 06511

A DANGER OF TIKTOK ADDICTION? Your attention span.

Today, my friend Jill told me about how she couldn't get off her phone and stayed up all night. The reason why, you ask? She was on TikTok.

If you don't know already, which you should, TikTok is a social media app that is available on all devices. How it operates is very simple. You just scroll through short videos, maybe leave a comment here and there, send a video to a friend, and repeat. At this point, almost everyone in 4th-8th grade in this school has Tiktok. It has even gotten to the point where some schools have exposing pages on TikTok!

But back to Jill's story.

As Jill told me, she couldn't get off of TikTok because each time she scrolled, the TikToks got more and more consuming. This is actually happening to a lot of people, not being able to get off of TikTok because it is so addicting. What I think about this situation (being a little addicted to TikTok myself), is that it's not very healthy to be on TikTok all day, especially if you are in 6th grade or lower. The reason I think this is because when you're on a device all day, it can affect not only your eyesight, but your attention span.

Let me explain. If you haven't noticed, a lot of TV shows are being discontinued and people are canceling their subscriptions to popular streaming sites like Netflix! This is most likely because, since some people are on TikTok 24/7, they can no longer watch long TV shows and movies. Sometimes, movies are shown on Tiktok in several short clips. People's attention spans are getting shorter.

My personal experience with TikTok isn't really that confusing. I downloaded TikTok on my phone around the time covid started. It was very popular because we were all in quarantine and everyone was bored. As TikTok was in its primal stage, I used to watch a lot of TikTokers who are still well known today, like Charli D'Amelio, Khaby Lame, Roblox Storytime and other things that were popular at the time. I wasn't as addicted to TikTok as many people are now.

Even though TikTok has already done its damage on people, there is a solution to the attention span problem. TikTok has added a screen timer to make sure that their younger audiences won't be on Tiktok for too long! But, it seems like since almost everyone is addicted to Tik Tok. Maybe we all need to go outside and just touch grass. — Autumn Dixon-Shaw

Thank you!

The East Rock Record would like to thank the following for their help and support:

EAST ROCK SCHOOL
Garrett Griffin, Jr.
Sabrina Breland

YALE UNIVERSITY OFFICE
OF NEW HAVEN AFFAIRS
Maria Parente
Claudia Merson

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
Laura Pappano

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE
ABRAM KATZ VISTING SCIENCE
JOURNALIST ENDOWMENT

MORE AT EASTROCKRECORD.ORG

Follow us on Instagram at
[instagram.com/eastrockrecord](https://www.instagram.com/eastrockrecord)

YALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
2023–2024

Beta Lomeda
Norah Laughter
Chloe Nguyen
Jack He
Han Pimental-Hayes
Hollis Long
Molly Reinmann

SPECIAL THANKS
Angie Hurlbut, AHdesign

Thanks to all those who made themselves available for interviews and press conferences. We thank our major funding sponsor, the Yale Office of New Haven Affairs and our partners and supporters including The Yale Center for British Art, Bubble and Squeak, The Shops At Yale, The Study, Yale-New Haven Health, The Diaper Bank. Special thanks to the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Lawrence Tabak and his communications team.

Follow East Rock's PTO:

STAY CONNECTED!

Facebook: [/ERCMSPTO2016](https://www.facebook.com/ERCMSPTO2016)

Instagram: [/eastrockschoolpto](https://www.instagram.com/eastrockschoolpto)

East Rock School website:
[eastrockcommunitymagnetschool.
weebly.com/pto](https://eastrockcommunitymagnetschool.weebly.com/pto)



Sign up to volunteer:
tinyurl.com/ERSspringvol

OPINION

(READ MORE OPINION AT EASTROCKRECORD.ORG)

Believe it: Pinterest Is Better Than TikTok.

Do you wish there was a social media platform that had less hate toward people or yourself? Well Pinterest is the right platform for you. In Pinterest people become an actual community and instead of sending hate to each other, they relate to one another and hear each other out.

Meanwhile, on Tik-Tok the second people post a video there's at least a good amount of hate comments on there. Most people get very upset because of the amount of hate they get. According to a Bloomberg News article from 2023 revealing Tik-Tok to the younger generation has brought a lot of negative effects. This is one of many reasons that Pinterest is better than Tik-Tok.

Another reason that Pinterest is better than Tik-Tok is that on Pinterest you get to choose what you want to watch while Tik-Tok doesn't actually let you choose and instead forces you to watch the same things over and over again.

Pinterest boards are also one of the great things that Pinterest has. I have a board dedicated to my dearest older sister Daiana. On that board I find funny things that look like her such as a rat or weird looking cat. You can do this, too, if you love to troll your friends or family.

My opinion? I think Pinterest is better than Tik-tok as Pinterst is almost the same thing in that you can watch videos and you can still talk with friends. Even though you might find some hate comments on some videos, just remember to never listen to what others say and put yourself first. —Leia Vázquez

WHY IS JUMANJI, A MOVIE THAT CAME OUT IN 2017 SO GREAT? Read on.

Do you like comedy movies? Action? Adventure? Dudes with big muscles? If you said “yes” to any of these questions, then Jumanji is the right movie for you!

In my opinion, Jumanji is the best movie of all time. Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle has both adventure and comedy. Other movies don't often have both genres. It was released in 2017. It has the famous actors, Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, and Jack Black. It has suspenseful moments, funny lines, big boys. What more can you ask for? My favorite part is when Kevin eats the cake, he blows up and falls from the sky. Cake is his weakness, which he forgets! The original Jumanji movie came out in 1995. It's not my favorite movie because it is not that funny, and has bad CGI (computer-generated imagery). Compared to the older version, the CGI in the newer version is much better. It is much funnier, more adventurous, has better backstories and hilarious famous people that I LOVE. —Jasiel Munoz

K-POP DOUBLE STANDARDS MUST STOP!

Double standards between men and women in K-pop are very obvious. For example, when a girl in K-pop eats something with both hands, she is called a “pick me” or an “attention seeker” by the media. But when a boy eats with both hands, the media calls him cute and funny. Another example is the case between Jeongyeon from Twice and Shindong from Super Junior. When Jeongyeon gained weight, she was fat-shamed. Shindong was said to be breaking beauty standards and called handsome when he did the same. When RM from BTS read a feminist book he was praised for being educated on women's rights. But when Irene from red velvet read a feminist book, people destroyed her fan cards and merch basically hating on her for reading a book of her own rights. These double standards need to stop! These double standards are absurd and ridiculous. If a girl gets hate for what she does, so should a boy who does the same. And if a boy gets praised for something and a girl does the same, she should also be praised—not be detested by citizens. So many K-pop idols get hated on in this system of double standards. People forget that K-pop idols are humans just like them.—Leia Vázquez

Don't Dis the Trombone

Trombone is an amazing instrument because it has more bass than others. It can produce lower notes than other instruments, like the trumpet, the piano or even the drums. You can get a whole range of music with the trombone. The trombone is the most underrated instrument, but little do people know that there wouldn't be a low bass in music without the trombone. I personally think that, just because someone else might think trombone is useless doesn't mean it truly is unimportant in other people's lives. For example, Wycliffe Gordon plays the trombone. He is a legendary musician that plays the trombone. Consider the Minnesota Orchestra. The orchestra relies on lots of trombone and is very famous for their work. All instruments are impressive. People should stop underrating some instruments. Just because they might not like the instrument doesn't mean it can't be played well by others. All the instruments are equal and all are amazing. But I really think that most people should try many instruments before saying one isn't the best or amazing. The trombone is as equally as amazing and brilliant as other instruments. —Kazumi Mooring Bissette

Molecular Gastronomy: Future of Cooking

Molecular gastronomy is the future of cooking. It is a stress-busting activity, appetizing, and fun. Molecular gastronomy, or progressive cuisine, is a unique movement that incorporates science and new techniques in the preparation, transformation and artistic presentation of food. It is the study of molecules as they relate to the chemical and physical processes of cooking. It is a branch of food science that approaches the preparation and enjoyment of nutrition from the perspective of a scientist at the scale of atoms, molecules and mixtures. The composition, properties and transformations of an ingredient are addressed and utilized in the preparation and appreciation of the ingested products.

The father of molecular gastronomy is a Hungarian physicist named Nicolas Kurti who worked with Hervé This, a French chemist to develop the world of molecular gastronomy. Unlike traditional food science, molecular gastronomy applies scientific principles to enhance understanding of cooking at a molecular level. This is why it's the future of the cooking industry. It is also a fun and appetizing cooking technique. Like all forms of cooking, it can sometimes be dangerous, too! But it's a good stress-buster because the participant feels free and peaceful. It also increases thinking capability and multitasking abilities! —Jashwini Parthiban

Why You Need One (or Many) Chickens. And Not Pigs.

I've had chickens for six years, so I have advice about chickens and why YOU should get one — or several. One reason is because they are actually very snugly (but don't let them near your face because they have really sharp beaks that can get a grip on your skin). Chickens can also do a lot of cool things like lay eggs, which can save you hundreds of dollars at the supermarket. Also, you might not have to buy food for them because they eat worms, grubs, grass, and beetles. Now I should tell you why chickens are better than pigs.

Pigs only supply food when they die. Chickens supply food their whole lives, except for when they're chicks. Also, I think pigs are a lot more Messi...wait, no, not the soccer player Messi, I mean messy.

Pigs, which are also popular, love to play in the mud and get super dirty. Chickens are cleaner. Now that I've convinced you that chickens are better, I should tell you about how to make a space for your chicken. If you want chicks you need a big space, or a decent sized yard.

If you live in an apartment you might not be able to make a coop. Multiple chickens take up a lot of space to play, eat, lay eggs, and sleep. But if you get just one, you can use a smaller space, like an extra room in your house or a clean basement. Next, you need to put down hay, make a drinking bowl, and buy chicken food from a local farm store. You should make sure that the food is organic. Then, you need to make space for them to sleep, about a 4 foot by 5 foot rectangle with two doors: one in the front and one in the back. You will need a space about 5 feet by 3 feet long for chickens to play — and be sure to add a ledge in the sleeping area so they roost and lay eggs. BE CAREFUL: chicken poop is very messy so a door in the back to clean out their poop. Chickens may be a little messy, but they'll always love you. That's why I think YOU should get a chicken. —Serelle Barsalou

MEET THE BEATLES!! (2024 VERSION)

The Beatles are a band in which only two out of four members are still alive, sadly. Some people love them (like me) and some people hate them (how could they!?). But who is right in this debate? Do people hate the Beatles for no good reason—or were they really just a bad band? In my opinion, the Beatles are the greatest thing that has ever existed in the multiverse, and you can see how hard it is for me to believe that some people would rather cross a tightrope over an active volcano rather than listen to them. (Too specific?)

These are some reasons why people love the Beatles: they were one of the first rock bands to have their own production company, Apple, and to attempt to manage their own career after the death of their manager, Brian Epstein. They also pioneered new recording techniques and ideas, sometimes forgoing live tours to develop more sophisticated studio sound.

The Beatles had a squeaky-clean image compared to other bands in the 1960s, but they were still arrested more than once. (What!?) For the most part, they, like many bands at the time, faced arrest for drug possession. You may be as shocked as I am (I would be immensely surprised if you were not). Some people don't like the Beatles. The Beatles may have had some faults, but their music, anyone has to admit, is pretty great. —Ayla Mickkelson



200+ years of medical innovation go into every procedure we do.

The best available care is closer to home than you might think. Through our affiliation with Yale School of Medicine – which pioneered X-rays, penicillin, and chemotherapy – we’re discovering new ways to improve our patients’ lives every single day.

ynhhs.org

YaleNewHaven**Health**