

A New Age Epidemic

By Hannah Blaskiewicz

Throughout the United States, the fad of vaping has been rapidly gaining popularity amongst Americans. And with tricks, commercials, and features on television shows, vaping has become a worldwide phenomenon.

According to the CDC, the adult usage of cigarettes is at an all time low of 14%, but the opposite can be said of e-cigarettes. In 2017 it was apparent in a survey by the National Youth Tobacco Survey, that 11.7% of High School Students use E-cigaretets. A concerning statistic when one considers that one dosage of e-cigarettes can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.

Despite their advertisement-suggested purpose of replacing cigarettes, e-cigs can be deadly. E-cigarettes are not FDA approved and can easily be laced with other drugs such as fentanyl and marijuana. As of 2019, over 800 people have been hospitalized and, according to CNN, 14 have died from related lung collapse. Vaping illnesses plague hundreds of families and communities across the United States. Newsday reported that only one death has been reported in New York State, as of now.

Those experiencing effects range from 50 year olds who are trying to quit smoking, to 16 year old varsity athletes. After being brought into the spotlight because of these illnesses, new research on e-cigs isn't looking good for kids who have been using e-cigarettes for a prolonged amount of time. However, some people are strong advocates for vaping because when used for its intended purpose, it can help people quit smoking. The Harvard health Publishing journal for Harvard medical school found that although e-cigarettes helped people to quit smoking, 80% of people who started to use e-cigarettes by the end of the study continued to use them. It is the marketing of flavored cartridges and enticing brands on social media and in social status that determines who is attracted to the idea of vaping.

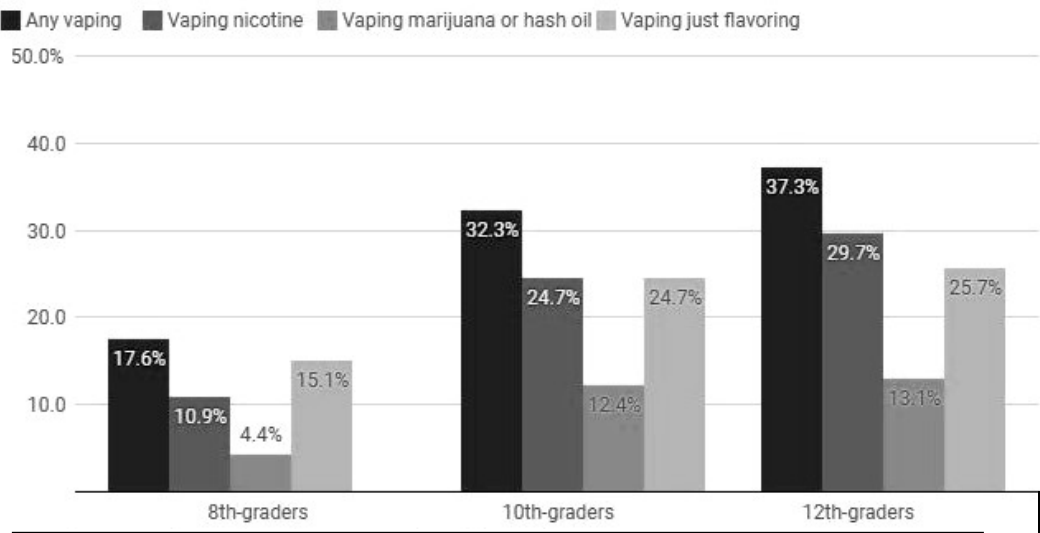
Different states have attempted to ban e-cigarettes. Michigan has attempted to ban flavored e-cigarettes. The Trump Administration has also made claims that they want to ban e cigarettes. However there is going to be a long battle ahead of this is true, because if e-cigarettes are able to be banned,some argue the same can be said for regular cigarettes.

Kids need to understand that vaping is a drug addiction. People that use e-cigarettes have the same symptoms of withdrawal as those that use cigarettes or abuse opioids. Those worried about their addiction should talk to a trusted adult for help. Quitting is possible. Stop before it's too late.

How Many Students Vape?

Percentage of students who reported vaping in the past year.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse



Empty Bowls, a Delicious Success!



Hundreds of handmade bowls, gallons of home-made soup, and eager volunteers all combined on November 1 to generate hundreds of dollars in support for local organizations fighting hunger. Congratulations to the Art Department and students for

Hurricane Dorian

By Brianna Adams

Hurricane Dorian is a hurricane that can never be forgotten. Not only did it take the lives of many, but it broke the hearts of a countless number of people. Dorian became a low-pressure system on August 23rd, then strengthened to a tropical storm on August 25th, and ultimately became a hurricane on August 28th. By Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, Dorian had entered the eastern Caribbean Sea. Storm warnings were triggered for Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. By August 28th, the storm had viciously reached the U.S and the British Virgin Islands. Luckily Puerto Rico didn't receive too much damage. The extent of the disturbance was heavy rain and flooding.

On Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day weekend, here on Long Island, we were enjoying our last few days of summer, meanwhile, Dorian was acting as a category 5 storm in the Bahamas. This lasted for approximately 48 hours. In just the small yet large window of those two days, Dorian managed to kill more than 40 people, not counting the people it nearly killed.

By September 5th, Dorian had moved again. After being badly affected by 2018's Hurricane Florence, South Carolina and North Carolina had to prepare for another battle with another vicious hurricane. Once Dorian had traveled the east coast and arrived in the Carolinas, it spawned more than a dozen tornadoes in North Carolina. After causing such havoc down the east coast, Dorian traveled not much farther. By the next day the storm had slowly made its way to Carolina's Cape Hatteras, and with it brought high winds and heavy rain.

By September 8th, the long disaster of Dorian came to an end. Dorian made its way to its last destination in Nova Scotia, Canada. But unfortunately Dorian didn't go quietly. Before dissipating offshore, Dorian blew the power out to hundreds and thousands of people.

Dorian was one of the worst storms we've seen in a while. It caused damage everywhere it went-and it went very far- and it'll take a very long time for the places it affected to recover and heal from the damage it caused. Places affected by Dorian are still trying to heal and they can't do it alone. There are many ways to help survivors rebuild what's been broken. Some national and international organizations where one can donate include the SBP, Salvation Army, International Medical Corps, and Heart to Heart International. Also, the organization World Central Kitchen(WCK) have organized teams at four different locations across the Bahamas to cook meals for those badly affected by Dorian. On the WCK website, there is the option to donate.

In this issue of

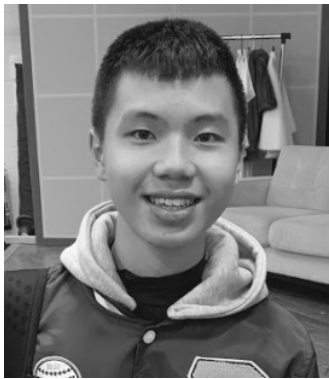


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# Student Spotlight



## Po-Yen “Edmond” Wang



Cultural Diversity is an important aspect for society. Learning about other cultures is not only beneficial for business but for our society. Cultural diversity allows people to learn about other cultures which helps people understand different perspectives and differences. Sayville High School is fortunate to contribute to cultural diversity by participating in a student foreign exchange program.

This year, Sayville High Schools welcomes Po-Yen Wang, who goes by Edmond, a 10th grade foreign exchange student from Taiwan. After talking with Edmond, I learned a lot of interesting tidbits about him. First, I found out that his parents chose the American name, Edmond. as his American name after they watched the movie “Chronicles of Narnia.” After telling him that I was impressed with how well he speaks English, Edmond said that he started learning how to speak English in kindergarten, and that it is a requirement where he’s from. Edmond said that he wanted to become a foreign exchange student to learn and experience different cultures firsthand, so he knew that learning to speak English was important.

When he first moved in with his host family, he was very nervous, as anyone that moves to a new country would be, but he quickly became comfortable with them. He said that he had visited the United States once before, but it was just for a vacation and that everything here in the U.S. is still new and different for him. One thing that was very new to him was school. In Taiwan, his high school is the National Hsinchu Senior High School. Edmond says that his high school in Taiwan is larger than Sayville High School, and that there are many different features between his Taiwanese school and his American school. One huge difference between the two schools is his school schedules. In Sayville, he said “I just go to school and leave at 3 and just do school work.” But in Taiwan, “I go early in the morning and I am not finished until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m.”

In Taiwan, there are many different parts that contribute to his day. The first thing he does when he gets to his school, is clean. All students are required to clean the school before and in between classes. After his morning cleaning session, he goes to study hall. Next, he starts his classes, and then he goes to lunch. So, after lunch all the students have to clean the school again and then they get to have nap time! You may be thinking that is unfair that they have nap time which sounds pretty appealing, but once you hear his whole schedule, you’ll understand why it’s necessary. After their nap time, they have more classes, and the regular school ends at 5 pm. However, Edmond’s day isn’t over,. After regular school ends, most students attend what he calls “extra school” from 5 to 9 or 10 pm. Also, Edmond said that school in Taiwan has much more homework than schools in the United States.

Another big change is the hobbies and activities that teenagers participate in. In America, kids do all kinds of sports, clubs, and physical games, while kids in Taiwan mostly just play video games and do things on their phones. Edmond says this may be due to the lack of time left in the day after school. Edmond said “I like to run, play basketball, table tennis, badminton, and hang out with his friends. Edmond says that he really likes American food, especially pizza and cinnamon rolls. Something interesting that he told me, was that there were a lot of “American” takeout places in Taiwan that sold many things, including fried foods, burgers, and fries. When I asked him what he misses about Taiwan he said the weather. He said that since Taiwan is so close to the equator it is very hot there and that it feels very cold here. He also told me that the thing he likes best in America is all the land we have. He said that Taiwan is very crowded and everyone lives in apartments due to the lack of space, but here most people have their own house and yard. He loves having his own room, and is very grateful for his host family and the house.

Lastly, he said that the hardest part of his transition was the swap of languages. He says that it is still a little hard talking and communicating with people, and he still needs to use his google translate sometimes. Edmond thinks that he might want to be a reporter when he grows up and he wants to come back to the United States after his time as a foreign exchange student expires because it is filled with opportunity. I would like to thank Edmond for giving me and *The Current* the opportunity to interview him and experience what it is like to be a foreign exchange student.



# Book Reviews

By Nora O’Donnell

## Don’t Kiss The Messenger

Book by Katie Ray

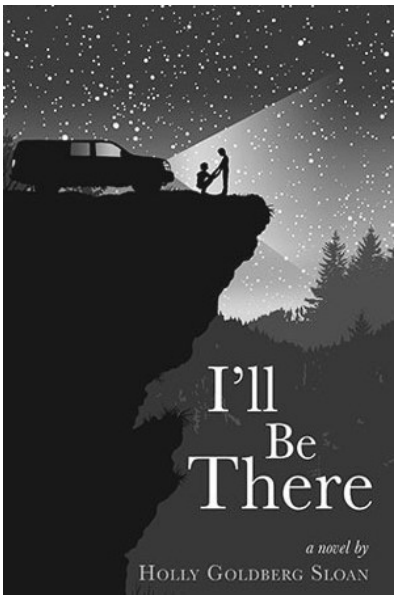
For most of her life Cece Edmonds has dealt with stares, and whispers when she passes. After a car accident as a child left her with a large scar across her face Cece has had to endure more than most. Cece never cared about her looks , that is until emmet brady transfer student and football star joins her english class. There's only one problem Emmet is blinded by Bryn Deneuveville. One of CeCe gorgeous new volleyball team mates. When Bryn asks Cece for help she breaking the ice with emmet , cece writes an email for bryn to send. Things quickly get out of hand as Cece fall for Emmet , Emmet is unknowingly falling for the wrong girl.



## I’ll Be There

Book by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Emily Bell believes in fate. To her Bringing selected to sing the solo in her church choir despite being a below average singer,is fate because that is when she first sees Sam.There is a deep connection at first sight. Sam enters the church that day to find a safe place. Sams whole life he has wished to escape. To escape his father and the life he has forced upon him and his brother. That is until he sees emily. One glance, one second can change everything.This is a story of struggle, loss,and new beginning. To find out how this story unfolds, stop on down in the library to pick up a copy today.



## Fall Comedy Reviews: *Clue* & *She Kills Monsters*

### Current Staff

It was another great night of theater, with close to sold out performances of the Sayville Players’ fall comedy production of the plays *Clue* and *She Kills Monsters*. These two short plays showcased the skills and talents of many Sayville students.

*Clue*, based on the board game and the movie, is a fast paced, mad cap comedy of murderers, rooms and weapons. Our favorite characters from the board game were brought to life by Amelia Wells as Mrs. White, Jude Ramsaywak as Miss Scarlett and Maya Guacci as Mrs. Peacock. The male characters featured Aidan DeVerna as Col. Mustard, Hunter Caiazzo as Professor Plum and James Anderson as Mr. Green. The characters were managed and manipulated by the butler, Wadsworth, played by Khalil Kaczmarek and the maid, Yvette, played by Olivia Reiss. All of the actors did a great job playing these familiar characters. We especially enjoyed the final scene, when the murderers are revealed along with the truth about Wadsworth.

The second show, *She Kills Monsters*, centers on two characters, Agnes, (played by Elizabeth Campbell) a young high school English teacher, and her younger sister Tilly (Amber Gidden), who was recently killed in a car crash. All that Tilly leaves behind is her notes for a Dungeons and Dragons adventure, which Agnes follows in an effort to get to know her sister. Though very funny, particularly in scenes featuring Evan Powers, as Chuck, the Dungeonmaster, or Victoria Earvolino, as the salty Guidance Counselor, we were impressed by how emotional the show became at the end, and were really impressed by Katrina Kranzle’s portrayal of a young high school student who Tilly had a crush on. Kranzle moved easily between her roles as Lilith, the demonic princess inside the game, and Lilly, the shy high schooler.

Both plays made excellent use of sound effects and music, which was controlled by Kyle Finn and Chris Moglia. Congratulations to everyone involved in these plays.



## New Faces at Sayville High School

By Nora O’Donnell

We are fortunate this year to be joined by several new teachers at the high school. For the next few issues of *The Current*, we will feature them all, but for now, here are three teachers we should all get to know.

### Mr. Muller

Subject: Social Studies  
College attended: Stony Brook University  
High School Attended: Connetquot  
Fun Fact: Mr. Muller is a Manager at Starbucks  
Mr. Muller is the leave replacement for Mr. Aronsen. As a student of Mr. Muller, I can honestly say that every class is a great experience, in a very comfortable environment. Mr.Muller believes in the importance of the classroom as a safe place for all his students to learn and grow. He is a believer that life happens, and he is there to help us learn, not just assign a grade. We will all truly miss Mr. Muller when he leaves us at the end of November.

### Mr.Williams

College attended: Florida Atlantic University, Stony Brook University  
High School Attended: Hauppauge High School  
Subject: Science  
Fun Fact: Runs 5Ks  
Mr.Williams is a new science teacher here at Sayville High School. He teaches Chemistry and Biology. When asked why he chose to teach science, her replied that science was something that came naturally to him, and that it was fun and exciting. When speaking to his students Mr.Williams was described as great teacher who is able to help his students learn and grow.



### Mrs. Galante

We’re also really happy that Mrs. Galante is a full-time substitute in the high school this year. Many of us know Mrs. G from her time subbing in the Middle and Elementary schools, and we’re sure that she will bring her fun personality to her job as a full time sub.

In the next issue of *The Current* we will feature another group of Sayville’s new teachers!

## The Royal Four

By Current Staff



It all started about this time last year, when four friends got together and listed to some Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons albums. Those four, Hunter Caiazzo, Aidan DeVerna, Kyle Finn and Evan Powers, all dedicated music students , quickly realized that they could combine their passion for the music of Frankie Valli with their own musicality to make something really special. The result? The Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute band, The Royal Four. What started out as four friends getting together over a shared interest has led to numerous concerts and performances, including performing for Frankie Valli himself.



Anyone who knows music knows the Four Seasons. With Hits like “Sherry,” “ Just Hang On” and “Walk Like a Man,” the performance possibilities for The Royal Four are endless. Performing on local street corners, and at Sayville Summerfest was a start, but when they got the attention of Mrs. Danielle Gaudio, daughter of original Four Seasons member, Bob Gaudio, things started to take off. Recent performances have included a massive fundraiser for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, and a performance in the Middle School Auditorium to benefit Matt Zender. At that performance they were joined by another 50s music aficionado, Gabby Luthy, who performed the Patsy Cline classic, “Where the Boys Are,” and their backing band, Guitarist Khalil Kaczmarek, percussionist Asher DeVerna and trumpeter Ryan VanBoxel.

The members of The Royal Four all agree that the highlight of their career so far was having the opportunity to perform for Frankie Valli. himself, after a concert at the Pennysaver Amphitheatre in July. The Royal Four already has several new dates booked for the holiday season, including an audition for America’s Got Talent.

## Every Child's Dream

### Holiday Extravaganza

Join your classmates, friends and teachers as our community comes together to produce one of the most important charitable efforts of our year. Sign up with your club and class advisors, and keep your ears and eyes open for announcements about gift wrapping, coat sorting and mandatory training sessions.

*The Current* is a publication of Sayville High School.

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Faculty Adviser: Mr. Shaw

The Current welcomes letters to the editor and article submissions.



## HELP WANTED !

Join *The Current*

Meet us Wednesdays,  
10th period in Room 132.





Members of the student body enjoyed their final homecoming before joining the ranks of Sayville Alumni. At top, Class officers Kerry O’Donahue, Nicole Mocio and Mary Vermilyea plan their homecoming projects. Below, Senior Class Homecoming King and Queen, Morgan Peres and Liam Conlon, Liam Cummins, Chris Quartuccio and Connor Brennan get their “Bro” on for Twin Day. Meg Bast and Meg Hanley channeling *The Shining* and Chris Perez enjoys Sayville’s First Sayville Pride Pasta Party.

### Family Connection Day Survey Results

November 20 was designated one of several Family Connection days in Sayville Schools. Teachers were directed not to assign homework, nor plan tests for the next day, all in an effort to give students more time to spend with their families. *The Current* surveyed students the following day on how they spent that time.

Almost 90% of respondants reported that they were not assigned homework on Nov. 20. 47% of respondants replied that they did find themselves with more free time that afternoon and evening. Students reported utilizing that free time in a variety of ways. 47% indicated that they spent more time with their families. 14% indicated that they caught up on much needed sleep.

Ironically, on this day which had been designated by the school for students to spend more time with their families, over 16% of students responded that they still had school commitments, including detention, sports, rehearsals or club commitments.

Of the students who responded, 37% reported that their families had planned something different for that afternoon and evening. Sayville Movie Theatre and local restaurants enjoyed a busy night, and some families took advantage of the time to get a jump on their holiday shopping.

There are several more “Family Connection Nights” planned for this year.

### Making it Matter for Matt

Hundreds of students and teachers wore yellow a few weeks ago to “Make it Matter for Matt,” to honor Junior, Matt Zender who is currently fighting with bone cancer. Matt has undergone several rounds of aggressive chemotherapy and an eight hour surgery, but his spirits are, as always, excellent. He has been seen at several school events including the Homecoming Pep Rally and the Fall Comedies. We at *The Current* wish him a speedy and full recovery and a quick return to school.



## Homecoming 2019

Spirit Week and Homecoming is always an exciting time at Sayville High School. Theme Days, Float Building, and varsity games all combine for a week of fun and good-natured competition. Congratulations to all the Class and Student Government officers who worked so hard to pull it all together, and “thanks you” to the student government and class advisors who make it all happen. Congratulations to the Junior Class for their Homecoming Class Competition win!

### Anime lovers and alien enthusiasts all converge on Area 51!

By Dominic Lewis

What was intended to be a joke, ended up becoming a very controversial event on September 21, 2019. Matty Roberts posted on social media that people intended to storm on Area 51 to finally find out the truth of the Air Force base. This comment gained traction and people started to believe it later dying out when Roberts was interviewed and stated that he meant it as a joke. However, under the shadows, alien believers started getting an idea. On September 21, hundreds of thousands of tin foiled covered alien hunters were all huddled up in the middle of nowhere in Nevada right next to the line of the Area 51; however, none were successful except for two Dutch YouTubers who came within three miles of the base before they were arrested. Originally, their punishment was one year in jail, but in the end they only received three days of jail time due to paying off a fine.

Freshman Ameila Wells, when asked what she thought of the Area 51 raid thus far, replied, “it’s fine as long as nobody is putting themselves in harm’s way.” We asked, “If you could summarize this raid in three words, what would they be?” She replied “Taken too far.” When asked what she would be doing there, she replied, “Probably talking to the people there and having conversations with them.” She noted that clearly the government was prepared, but relieved that they didn’t have to use their weaponry.

We also spoke to local self-proclaimed nerd, CJ. His three words: “Stupid, funny and awesome.” When asked what his role would be, he replied, “Trying to take home an alien.”

Local student Colin Stagg says his three words would be, “Non-accomplished, horrific and satisfying.” His role: “Eating a hot dog and watching the raid.” When asked what he thought the government’s opinion of the event was he noted, “They couldn’t do anything about it because it was people having fun.”



When you were planning to go to the Area 51 Raid but mom forgot to sign the permission slip



#### WHERE IN SAYVILLE?

The first student to come to the Little Theatre to identify where in Sayville the picture below was taken will win a \$10.00 gift card to

### SOBOL SAYVILLE!

