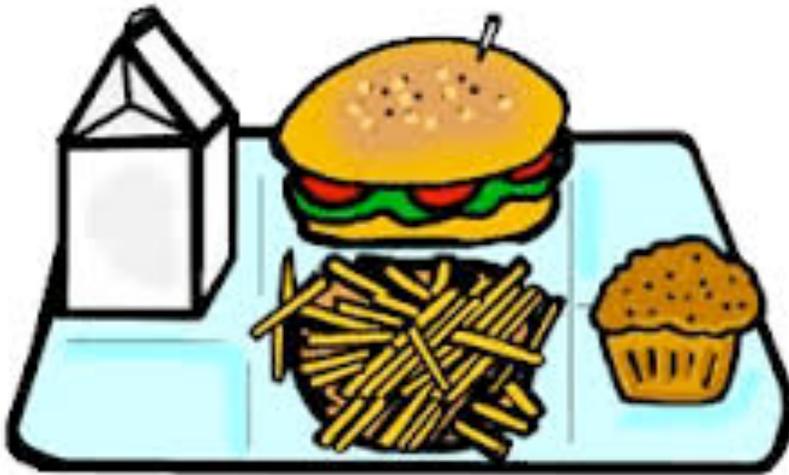


The USA Voice

Good or Bland?

Students Discuss if the lunch is good or Bland

by Carlai Danh (Class of 2018)



In Boston public schools, school lunches are often a big deal amongst students. It's what we as students have to eat after class, and it's what's offered at the cafeteria for free. However one debate though is the quality of the food being served to students. Often times the main talk about school lunch is the taste of it, and how fresh and delicious it is.

"It's not really good because some of the choices being served to us are the same things. It gets pretty nasty,

and you get sick of the taste as they serve the same meals every other week." Says a student who wishes to be anonymous. Another student who has been at Urban Science Academy for 2 years now states that the staff is friendly, but the lunches -like what many other students said- weren't as good. Joshua Bonilla (Class of 2018) expects more variety. *Continued on page 2...*

We're Back!

It's our pleasure to bring back a student-run newspaper to the Urban Science Academy. Originally founded in 2009, *The USA Voice* is a place for students to deliver important news to their peers.

We hope to give you our insights on news in Boston, New England, the United States, and the world!

We welcome all feedback and ideas for stories. Please contact us at emueller@urbansci.net.

-Mr. Mueller,
Editor-in-Chief

RECENT MASS SHOOTING IN CALIFORNIA MAY BE TIED TO TERRORISM

by Teaka Ennis (Class of 2018)

On Monday, December 7th, 2015, in San Bernardino, California, a mass shooting took place. Occurring at a rehabilitative services clinic that primarily services people with mental disabilities, the shooting was another example of the tragic mass shootings that are terrorizing the United States. Tashfeen Malik,

29, and Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, were husband and wife and are the primary suspects in this shooting. They allegedly killed 14 people and wounded 21, firing over 150 bullets. "We are working with our foreign counterparts to determine as much as we can," FBI agent David Bowdich said. *Continued on page 2...*

GOOD OR BLAND? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His idea was, “We need to have fresher meals by having fresher and more organic ingredients.”

Quality and taste were main factors that triggered students to think this way about school lunches and not eat it. The students I've interviewed had claimed, “Nothing is wrong with the staff. They're nice and sometimes funny. It's just the food that gets bland.” Boston Public Schools (BPS) must improve their lunches by having either a professional chef or serving fresher ingredients to students. Since students go to school for most of the day, they deserve better choices and it is BPS's job to help students' environments and tend to their needs.

Students seem to want more of a variety with lunches. Other than fresher ingredients, they wish to be

served different things rather than seeing the same meals every week. One favorite meal amongst the Boston Public Students is Pizza Friday's. Even the students who normally don't eat lunch, go for Pizza Fridays only. In order to change things, we should also add more variety which includes lactose-free milk (students were concerned for others with this), juices, different vegetarian dishes for those who do not eat meat, etc. The same things shouldn't be served daily and more students would feel the need to eat at school more comfortably without worries about the quality of the food being served to them.

Shooting, Continued from Page 1

Ms. Rizwan Farook is under suspicion of being an ISIS supporter, having made Facebook posts supporting the terrorist group. She is thought to have influenced her husband to adopt her violent, extreme views. Many people are also concerned that the guns are too easy to obtain, as both of these people were able to legally obtain firearms, even though the government knew they were involved with ISIS. In the United States over the past three years, there have been 1,052 mass shootings like the one in San Bernardino. President Obama is on record as saying ‘We have a pattern of mass shooting in this country that has no parallel anywhere else in the world.’

 THE PROS AND CONS OF GENTRIFICATION

by Kimberly Cajuste (Class of 2016)

“We are taking one step forward and two steps back as gentrification in some neighborhoods and continued deterioration in others leads to the removal of vitally needed lower-cost rental housing” said Nicholas Retsinas, a senior Lecturer in Real Estate at Harvard University. Two days ago we had the opportunity to interview two habitants of Jamaica plain, Jada Robinson and Erich Mueller. It was interesting to see the different views that they had on the same place. When asked to describe their neighborhood Jada, who has been living there her whole life, said that it's “ghetto” and also there is a lot of drama and killing, while Erich Mueller said there are a lot of parks, green space, and artistic murals. As the interview progressed they were asked what they disliked or liked about gentrification. Erich Mueller did not have any specific thing that he disliked, but Robinson and Mueller both feel bad that so many people's homes were taken away from them. Overall, we learn from the interview that gentrification is bad, however it can benefit one group of people which are the gentrifiers and impact the gentrified people's lives negatively. Either it's losing their properties, their culture or sense of community. Every Time a neighborhood gets gentrified we think that it's going to get better, there will be new schools and better supplies. It's going to become more advanced. We don't stop and look at the fact that some of the people who have been living in the neighborhood for a long time don't get to enjoy those changes, it becomes all about the gentrifiers.

The Effects of *Empire*

by Madashley Cajuste (Class of 2019)

'Empire' is no doubt one of the most popular and entertaining shows in America now. When we asked the question "What is it about *Empire* that makes it interesting?", a teacher at Urban Science Academy, named Mr. Russel respond "It indicated to the youth, gives them an outlook on how to make it coming from a violent environment and it gives an opportunity on life through music." Although 'Empire' is a good show, Mr. Russel suggested that "It should come on more, at least twice a week to have a stronger impact on teens." He also says that *Empire's* ratings have dropped because "it turned into a musical instead of an actual sitcom series." "I think all TV shows affect people that's why they watch it, to have something to talk about. People realize that it's only a script not reality but people noticed the fact that the characters physically are real but they're not mentally, it's a script." says Mr. Russel when asked if *Empire* really affects the people who watch it. It turns out it does some it affects them in a good way and some it just does not. Everyone learns something different, some might want to be like Cookie and some might want to be like Lucious"



A Former Drummer

by Janeliz Martinez (Class of 2018)

If you were a police officer, and you saw someone very suspicious, would you go up to them and ask them what they are doing outside? Would you just go up to them and shoot them just because he was an African American? How will you describe police brutality in your neighborhood? A 31-year old man named Corey Jones, was a church musician and had just played a gig, and was heading home after midnight in Palm Beach, Florida. When his car broke down, he was waiting for a tow truck after making calls to a roadside assistance group. Nouman Raja, a 38-year old police officer was the one who shot him 6 times and killed Jones. Jones had a gun because he had expensive drums and other equipment. He did not threaten Raja all he was doing was protecting himself.

Jones family's attorney, Benjamin Crump said that there was no video of the incident because Raja's car didn't have a dash camera. There are a lot more crimes that have been committed with police officers and an African Americans that we never see in the news. Some examples are, Dontre Hamilton, Eric Garner, John Crawford, Michael Brown, Ezell Ford, Dante Park, Akai Gurley, Romain, Brisbon, Tanisha Anderson, and Tamir Rice. There are so many minorities that were shot and killed by a police officers under seemingly criminal circumstances. We can solve this problem by making sure that whenever police officers are not called for duty, they should not carry any guns. Instead, they should have non-lethal force with them. Our government needs to control our police force and not let them attack innocent civilians.



Are Drugs a Problem at USA?

By Stephanica Charles (Class of 2016)

Some teenagers struggle with drugs, and teenagers at the Urban Science Academy are no exception. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 43% of Massachusetts high schoolers (grades 9-12) have at least tried marijuana once in their life. The national average for this is 40%.

Some teenagers, ages 12-17 and young adults, ages 18-25. I asked some students in my school what they think of drug use at Urban Science Academy. When I asked a female student if she smoked marijuana, she replied "Yes, because when I smoke weed, I feel good and chill. I don't smoke weed by myself. I smoke with friends."

I also spoke with Ms. Burgos, a Dean at the school. Ms. Burgos deals with disciplinary issues, drug possession and use being among them. On drug use at the school, Ms. Burgos said "If students use drugs, especially marijuana, they're not in the right mind to study and succeed." Ms. Burgos has also noticed in an uptick in students coming to school under the influence of marijuana. "If a student is worried about their own drug use or a friend's, they can always talk to a dean and not worry about getting in trouble. We're here to help and talk about this." Ms. Burgos said.



The USA Voice is a student-run newspaper of the Urban Science Academy. Its views express those of the writers and editors. Students responsible for this edition are:

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Mr. Banks' Photography Class (Thanks!)

Our offices are located in room 101. We can be reached for comments, leads, or any other questions at emueller@urbansci.net





Sports



Basketball Teams Expected to Succeed on and Off Court

by Sam Vernet (Class of 2019)

On a Tuesday morning, I had the pleasure to sit down with the girls' JV basketball coach, Mr. Summerville. In the interview I asked Mr. Summerville what is the goal for this year's girls' basketball team. He said "To get better everyday and maximize our potential". When asked what they wanted to do that they did not do last season, Summerville responded "To make it to state tournament". Another question that came in mind was "Who are the players on the team?" He answered me "There are a couple of freshman, and he expect the upperclassmen to become leaders and set an example for the freshman." He also mentioned the first game is December 18th, 2015.

I also spoke with Mr. Sommers, the boys' varsity coach. When asked about what he wanted for his team this season he said, 'The goal for the season is to teach my players how to become mature, disciplined, committed young men. Also, to teach them that academics is their number one priority right now. As for basketball, we want to win as many games as possible and get better as a team each and every day. Go 100% all the time. Last year, we made it to the Boston City Semi-Finals and made it to the second round of the State Tournament. We must practice our drills in order to get better on offense and defense.' Several students from USA made the boys' basketball teams. USA students making the varsity squad are: McCarthy Akinkuoye, Bryan Desir, Willie Veal, and Erven Exilhomme.

The boys junior varsity squad are: Tevaughn Gayle, Shaquille Smith, Nayquan Wallace, Zack Silas, and Jamel Gibbs. The boys' varsity team won their first game on Tuesday December 15th, beating Boston Latin Academy by a score of 56-43.

Patriots Should Have a Ring for Each Finger After Super Bowl 50

by Joshua Bonilla (Class of 2018) and Kalonji Hill (Class of 2018)

The Patriots are the best team in NFL history during the current century. They have won a total of 4 Super Bowls in the last 15 years. The Pats won their fourth ring last year against the Seattle Seahawks. They have won 13 AFC East Championships, 8 AFC Championship appearances, and 6 AFC Championships. However, this season is back to business as always. So far throughout the first 13 weeks of football action, the Patriots are looking as good as usual. Tom Brady is currently leading the league in passing yards with 3,912. He is also leading the league in touchdown passes with 31. Although, our rushing attack is not as good as it was at the start of the season. Ever since the loss of Dion Lewis, our rushing game became very poor and less aggressive. As a team, the Pats have a total 1,062 rushing yards and 9 touchdowns. This is good enough to put our team with the second best offense in the league averaging 31.9 points a game only behind the Arizona Cardinals. On the other side of the ball, its looking choppy as always, but a lot of improvement has been made. Our defense is top 15 of the league. The secondary has a total of ten takeaways and 36 sacks which is top five in the league. However, too many yards are being given away. During the last two games, the Pats have looked very scary on both sides of the ball. Brady is struggling to contribute and execute on offense. The Patriots have faced a handful of teams that are over .500%. Some were competitive and some weren't. We hope for the best throughout the rest of the season to make another trip to the bowl.

GO PATS!!!

