

Talk of the Trails

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Bullying Prevention Month

By Brittany Thomas

October is a time for bonfires, pumpkin spice lattes, and Halloween. However, October is also a month that dedicates itself to important issues. As many of us know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Not as many people know that October is also Bullying Prevention Month.

Bullying is a very serious issue that many adolescents are faced with. There are children who refuse to go to school, missing out on their education, due to being severely bullied. Not only that, but the emotional toll on these people can lead to drastic situations such as suicide or self-harm.

Unfortunately, bullying is something that is continually growing in certain places. This is why Bullying Prevention Month was created: to raise awareness. When more people are aware, it will help bring the amount of bullied children and teens down.

Our National Honors Society here at Forest Trail Academy is coming together to create a project to raise awareness. A PSA video will be created showing stories of those

bullied, how to prevent bullying and showing flyers to bring attention to the damages of bullying.

We, as students, can do something to help. Even if you are not part of the NHS, you can help. Stand up to bullying if you see it. You are only allowing it to continue if you do nothing. Not only that, but think before you speak. You may not feel it is a hurtful thing to say, but it may hurt someone else. Lastly, there are many organizations (for example, Stomp Out Bullying) you can participate in.

Respect your peers, family and yourself. **Bullying is never okay.**





“As my tears fall down my face like a vicious storm.”

Broken Dreams

By Nia. A. K. Davy.

The one thing I grasp, the one thing I hold on to,
 You took it from me, so selfish, so careless.
 Your vision is perfect, yet, you are so blind,
 So blind that, are you aware of what you have done?
 Because of your selfish ways, I am now blind as well,
 I can no longer see my future ahead.
 I will now sit here, and look at myself,
 As my tears fall down my face like a vicious storm.
 Does my sadness give you pleasure? Does it amuse you?
 I congratulate you. I applaud your unstoppable persistence.
 As a little tear slips down the side of my face, you stare and me and say,
 Those little things you believed that would happen, would have never
 happened anyway.
 I look at you dead in the eye; I stand up and brush myself off,
 I take three pounding steps then turn to you and say,
 You may have crushed my dreams, but your attempt to take my soul,
 Will forever be, unsuccessful.

Halloween Short Story

By Ifaseyi Ifasanmi-Patton



On Halloween night we had our pouch of candy, and I could hear him chuckle as we walked through the thick dark woods looking for an escape to our house. We were moving so hasty that the trick-or-treaters could not keep up. My brother was starting to feel drowsy.

Then my foot got caught in a small burrow, but my brother was able to help me get out of it. We found out that it was my brother who was chuckling. The trick-or-treaters misunderstood where we were going. Then we heard a loud booming sound of

fireworks in the sky. I predict that we would make it safely back because we saw a big opening through the creepy forest. Finally, we were able to make it back to our house.

Student Spotlight: Ifaseyi Ifasanmi-Patton

My name is Ifaseyi Ifasanmi-Patton. I'm 10 years old and the owner/creator of a kid's fashion blog called "Kids Fashions." I created this blog when I was 9 years old. I really like fashion and my Aunt, who used to be an Ebony Fashion Fair Runway Model, inspired me to start the blog and to be a part of the fashion industry when I get older. I also started my kids' fashion blog because there are so many fun fashion trends for kids

today. It has always been one of my dreams to explore fashion. On my blog, I have fun fashion tips, information and ideas for kids. I would love for all of you to take a look at my blog. Please feel free to add comments to tell me what you think. All of you can visit my blog at <http://kidsfashionnews.blogspot.com>.

Student Spotlight: Ifadara Ifasanmi-Patton

My name is Ifadara Ifasanmi-Patton. I'm 16 years old and the owner/creator of a teen fashion blog called "Fashion." I created the blog a year ago because I saw that there were a variety of styles in the fashion industry today for teens to choose from. I always enjoyed putting outfits together, reading about new fashion trends and fashion events, so when I created this blog, I could not wait to start adding post to it. On my blog,

there are fun fashion tips, information and ideas for teens. I would love for all of you to take a look at my blog. Please feel free to leave comments or give any information about different fashion styles that you like. Fashion photos are welcomed. You can visit the blog at <http://fashionnewsnow.blogspot.com>



**IT'S TIME TO
GET
INVOLVED!**

FTA has a club for nearly every interest!

- Cars & Bikes Club
- Debate Club
- Dance Club
- Theatre Club
- Cooking Club
- French Club
- Pet Club
- Film Club
- Sports Club
- Beauty Club
- Art & Animation Club
- Talk of the Trails Newspaper Club

If you're interested in joining a club, drop by the Forum in the FTA Community and/or send a message to Student Services.

Is it Really Worth Buying the iPhone 6?

By Briana Dincher

If you have been following the news coming from Apple or any of the current blogs, you may have noticed the latest craze that is occurring among fans worldwide. People were camping out for days in front of the Apple store to get the first glimpse of the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus. However looking clearer into the issue – is it really worth buying the new phone and spending your money?



1. Courtesy of Apple.com

At first glance, let's explore the cost and how much will come out of your pocket for the new gadget. Apple lists the price as \$199 for the iPhone 6 16 GB with a 4.7-inch display, which will appear quite cheap for a brand new phone. As advertised in the description, the iPhone has Touch ID technology and becomes your wallet in a time of need - that is, if you have a credit card. Upon your preparation of buying the new phone, you soon realize that things are really too good to be true. The price of \$199 will only be taken into account if you sign a 2-year contract, a money sucking leech and a pain that you cannot untangle yourself out of.

Let's take a look at one of the most popular carriers on the market; Verizon and the MORE Everything plan. The minimum monthly fee is \$55, giving you unlimited talk

and text, but a restriction of 250MB data. The limit on data completely obscures the whole point of the iPhone that many people use for emailing and web surfing. If you plan on going higher with the data, expect to spend more money as rates go up to \$415 for 50GB of data. AT&T and Sprint are not shying away from these two and three figure digits, with the minimum monthly rates at \$60 and \$70 respectively.

In the case that you are a T-Mobile user, you might as well forget about the price of \$199 and be prepared to shell out at least \$649 for a 16GB iPhone 6. The plans are relatively cheaper than that of the three carriers, yet will still cost at least \$50 a month and only 1 GB of high-speed data.

If you are not surprised yet, it might interest you to know that these prices are only for the 16GB versions. For those of you who have thousands of songs on your phone and hundreds of apps, this storage amount will run out in no time. Therefore, the 64 GB or even the 128 GB may be the best choices for you. As we all know, Apple doesn't give out anything for free and prices for the 64GB and 128GB are from \$299 and \$399, respectively. In addition, the monthly fees are added on and the 2 year contract that has severe penalties in case you try to run away. Don't try it though – Apple makes sure they have everyone's information when you purchase a plan.

If the iPhone 6 doesn't have a big enough screen and you are looking for more of an iPad mini/iPhone all-in-one, the iPhone 6 Plus has been designed especially for you.

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Opinion Piece: War

By Haley Boswell

“If we don’t end war, war will end us.” – H.G. Wells

This quote is scarily accurate. If mankind continues with pointless destruction, there will be no mankind left. However, I feel that many of us don’t understand what it means to be war free. Lately, I have seen young people slamming our nation (and others like it) for going to war. Just this morning, I scrolled across a photo on Instagram which read “The world spent \$1735 billion on war in 2012 while it would take approximately \$135 billion to totally eradicate poverty.” First and foremost, I will not even question the accreditation behind this, or how exactly this person knew the precise amount it would take to completely eradicate poverty. There is a much bigger issue at hand here. It seems that the young adults of today see the act of going to war as completely avoidable, but sadly, our world is not utopia, and sometimes, we must fight to survive. If there were no war, nations would collapse. Consider WWII. To those who advocate a war-free world, should we have just allowed innocent lives to be taken? Should we have allowed one man to dominate almost all of Europe? Should we have simply sat back and allowed humanity to crumble? The answer to that is a resounding no.

War is easy to accept in conditions such as that, but the key element to avoid said situations is to stop the problem before it is exacerbated. Quite frankly, if we see a potential threat and don’t nip it in the bud then, we are just allowing it to manifest into something much worse. This is why war is necessary. War is not fighting for the destruction of humanity; it is fighting for its preservation (that is, in some cases). It might not be rainbows and butterflies; it is gruesome, cold, bitter, and bleak. It is a disease of mankind, and we must work our best to find its cure. My point here is that in order to attain peace, we must fight for it (quite contradictory, I know). Peace is not a world without war; peace is a world in which no war is needed. As we can see, that is not the case, no matter how much we wish it were. Ignoring a problem will not make it go away. We can turn our cheeks on the facts and advocate the end of all wars, but the threats will still remain. That being said, true believers of peace are willing to fight for it. They understand it is not something already here, but rather, something we must work to attain.

Autumn Recipes

By Katherine Jahns

It's officially sweater weather! That's right, autumn is here. Autumn is the time of hot chocolate, tea, soup, stew, apple cider, and roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfire. Now that it's fall, Halloween is just around the corner. Although the only thing people usually look forward to in autumn is Halloween, there are many other things to be excited for, including caramel apples and many pumpkin treats. There are so many delicious things you can make with pumpkin, such as: pumpkin pie, pumpkin bars, and a pumpkin roll. Here is a recipe for **pumpkin bars** that has been in my family for more than 15 years.

Pumpkin Bars

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup oil
15 ounce can (2 cups) pumpkin
2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 cup raisins or chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease (not oil) 15x10 inch jelly roll pan. In large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add sugar, oil, and pumpkin; beat 2 minutes at medium speed. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon; beat 1 minute at low speed. Stir in raisins. Pour into prepared pan. Bake at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool.

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, margarine, milk, and vanilla until fluffy. Add powdered sugar; blend until smooth. Spread frosting over cooled bars. Cut into bars.

Frosting

3 ounce package cream cheese
1/3 cup margarine or butter, softened
1 tablespoon milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup powdered sugar

Another great fall recipe is a **pumpkin roll**. This recipe has been passed through my family for a long time, and my great aunt passed it down to my mom more than 20 years ago.

Noble, Lucy "15 Reasons to Be Excited For Autumn" thedailytouch.com. September 25, 2014 web October 6, 2014

Pumpkin Roll

3 eggs – beat for 5 minutes
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup pumpkin
1 teaspoon lemon juice
¾ cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoon pumpkin spice
1 teaspoon baking powder

Gradually mix all ingredients into beaten eggs – grease and flour jelly roll sheet. Spread batter on sheet. Bake at 375°F for 15-20 minutes. When done, turn on towel that has been sprinkled with powdered sugar – roll and let cool.

Filling

1 cup powdered sugar
2-3 ounces cream cheese
4 tablespoons margarine
½ teaspoon vanilla
¾ cup nuts

Spread on above – Roll up – may sprinkle with powdered sugar and nuts.

How to Make Delicious Chocolate Chip Cookies

By Briana Dincher

Ingredients:

(This recipe will make 12 cookies)

- 1/2 cup of white sugar
- 1/2 cup of butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp of baking soda
- 1/2 tsp of salt
- a pinch of ground cinnamon
- 1 cup of semisweet chocolate chips



1. In a mixer, combine the white sugar and the butter. Cream them together until they are well-combined.
2. Add the egg to your mixture and beat everything on slow, until well mixed.
3. Pour the flour slowly into the mixer until everything is combined with the wet ingredients.
4. Add in the salt, cinnamon, and baking soda while you keep mixing everything together.
5. Remove the bowl from the mixer and put the chocolate chips into your cookie dough.
6. Combine the chocolate chips into the cookie dough until they are well mixed.
7. Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. Grease a baking pan with some butter.
9. Using an ice-cream scooper, create 12 small balls from the cookie dough and place them on the pan.
10. Once all 12 balls are on the pan, put it in the oven for 10 to 15 minutes.
11. Enjoy your cookies! 😊

HIGH 5 CORNER

By Briana Dincher

Polish Your Vocab Skills!

1. Genuine – true to what is claimed
2. Clatter – to make a loud, rattling noise
3. Appeal – an earnest request for help
4. Earnest – showing a serious manner
5. Rave – to praise with enthusiasm

Capital Madness!

1. New York - Albany
2. Ohio - Columbus
3. Texas - Austin
4. Washington - Olympia
5. California - Sacramento

Just for Laughs!

1. What's it called in bowling when you knock down all 10 pins at once? - A strike!
2. What do you call an alligator in a vest? - An investigator!
3. Why did the two 4's skip lunch? - They already 8 (ate)!
4. Why was the birthday cake as hard as a rock? - Because it was marble cake!
5. Why is England the wettest country? - Because the queen has reigned there for years!

Mailbag

Are you excited for the new school year to begin? Send your reply to the Newspaper Club and your answer might be published in the upcoming issue of *Talk of the Trails!*

History Corner!

1. Who settled in Canada first: the English or the French? - The French
2. Who is the president of France? François Hollande
3. Where was the first colony founded? Jamestown, Virginia
4. What branches form our federal government? - Legislative, judicial, executive
5. What did Thomas Edison invent? - Light bulb, phonograph

iPhone 6

continued from page 4

Its 5.5-inch display will allow you to browse the web and make calls, but the drawbacks may be the inability to fit it into your pocket.

Nevertheless, “bigger than bigger” is exactly what the iPhone 6 plus is about. As we all know, the bigger something is, the higher the price tag.

The iPhone 6 Plus is currently retailed at \$299 for the cheapest version that comes with 16 GB of storage. This adds on to the contract with the same plan prices as that of the iPhone 6 and goes up higher as the storage increases. From T-Mobile, you can buy the phone from \$649 and contract free, although you will still have to pay for the plan you purchase.

If calculating all the costs, including the iPhone 6 or iPhone 6 Plus, your total after 2 years may come to several thousand dollars. By the time the 2 years are over and you can happily call the phone yours, Apple will have released another phone and your will be considered “old news.” Just take a look at all the people who had their iPhone 5S and iPhone 5C last week, and now they are considered history.

In addition, if you are clumsy and are likely to drop your phone, get ready to buy a super protective case or kiss your phone good-bye. Unlike the iPhone 3G that may have been thrown on the ground and remained intact, the iPhone 6 does not have this advantage. In plain words, if you drop the phone without a case, it will crack. Just take a look at the first iPhone 6 buyer who purchased an iPhone 6 and ended up dropping it, breaking the screen and embarrassing himself in front of the world’s cameras.

If you plan on saving money and not wasting thousands on a new phone, it might be better to invest in an older model such as the 5S or 5C. At the moment, you can purchase an iPhone 5C for \$450 or get it for free with the 2 year contract. The iPhone 5S is sold for \$549 contract-free or starting at \$99 with a 2-year contract.

Yet if you remain a true Apple fan and has made it a tradition to buy the new iPhone as soon as it comes out, be prepared to spend a good amount of money and possibly wait several months before it comes in the mail. Always remember with Apple: “bigger isn’t cheaper.”

ART CORNER

Submitted by Faith Ballew



Image Courtesy of Google Images

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the Talk of the Trails?
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for the next edition!