



The Raptor's Roar

March 2019

20th Year, No. 4

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Celebrating
20 Years!

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Some Holiday Traditions are highlighted. Some Rosa teachers share their family favorites p. 2

PARCC REPLACED?

Don't get too excited! Turn to page 4 for the scoop on state testing this year.

SPRING PUZZLES

Pages 6 and 7 offer some fun spring puzzles to welcome the return of more daylight and warm weather.

CONGRATS!

15 Band members were accepted into the All South Jersey Band. And one of Rosa's own made it into All State Orchestra.

UPCOMING EVENTS

page 8



Quebec 2019: A True Experience

By Vivian Rong
Editor-In-Chief, Grade 8

Forty-four tired-eyed eighth graders have just recently returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Quebec City. This trip, organized by seventh and eighth grade World Language teachers, Madame Farkas and Madame Bittout, is a breathtaking trip that is offered to eighth grade French students

Approximately a year before the annual February trip, parents claim their children's first-come, first-serve spots on the trip. Those who don't initially snag a spot are placed on a waiting list, so there is always room for hope. There are also plenty more opportunities at our high schools to travel to Quebec as well as French students.

This 8th grade trip is a significant deal because it is the only trip at the middle school level in the Cherry Hill public school district that travels out of the country.

Sure, there are two other overnight trips during middle

school: Mount Misery in Sixth Grade and Washington, D.C., in eighth grade. However, the voyage to Quebec grade is a whole new level of experiences, fun and, most importantly, education.

The lucky eighth graders left for the exhausting trip on the night of Thursday, February 7, and returned on Monday, February 11. Prior to the trip, many meetings were held with both students and their parents.

The supervisors of this trip, Madame Farkas and Madame Bittout, described this trip as "not a relaxing trip. It is certainly a fun trip, but it is a go go go trip. We are going to be walking non-stop."

Little did we know that our teachers were not at all exaggerating. After getting on the bus at ten in the evening of the February 7, the bus headed straight to Quebec City, Canada. During the nighttime bus ride, many stops were made, including at the border between America and Canada, sometime in the early morning.

After arriving, the students were able to experience a lot of different activities and foods that were unique to Quebec, not to

mention practicing French in a French community. All three Quebec days were filled with music, culture, fun, and maple syrup - a large amount of maple syrup.

Besides dog sledding, which was a very popular choice for a "favorite activity," students also experienced snow tubing, the Carnaval de Québec, and the Ice Hotel.

Gina Liu, a student who attended the trip recalls, "Well, my favorite part of the trip was snow tubing because the ride down was long and fun, while the trip up the hill was easy. Outside of the actual schedule, the bus rides to and from Quebec were really fun as well."

However, the cold in Quebec was unbearable. Our eighth graders from New Jersey were shocked by the cold. Temperatures often dropped below zero. Still the cold did not stop students from continuing their French journey. It was truly an unforgettable experience. A very special thanks is sent to Madame Bittout and Madame Farkas for giving Rosa students an opportunity of a lifetime. **Pictures on p. 7**

Winter Olympics A Hot Draw

By Sophia Liu
Grade 7

Last year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, was watched by 19.8 million people. Many athletes earned medals in individual events or team events.

While some people only watch the sports that interest them, there are plenty of sports in the Winter Olympics. Let's get to know the three most popular winter sports (according to Sports Illustrated): Snowboard

Halfpipe, Four-Man Bobsled, and Figure Skating.

Snowboard Halfpipe: A halfpipe is a U-shaped ramp that can be used by snowboarders, skiers, and skateboarders. There is both snowboarding and skiing halfpipe events in the Olympics, but the snowboard halfpipe was voted most popular.

But just how does the halfpipe event work and how are snowboarders scored? Well, after a snowboarder goes through a "run," which is basically one ride from one side of the halfpipe

halfpipe to the other, a panel of six judges scores them from 1-100 with 100 being the best score possible.

The athletes are judged in a variety of components, including the number of tricks, the difficulty of the tricks and the execution of the tricks.

The twelve top-scoring athletes move on to the final. Among the famous names who competed in the halfpipe event include Shaun White (U.S.), Ayumu Hirano (Japan), and Chloe Kim (U.S.). **see p. 2**

Winter Olympics

From Olympics, cover **Four-Man**

Bobsled: Modern bobsledding is a team sport, with teams of two or teams of four. Bobsledding events take place on a special track called a run, which is also usable for luge and skeleton competitions. Bobsled races begin with athletes pushing the bobsled down a straight stretch which is one of the most important points of the race. After the push-off, the team relies on the driver's steering ability and on gravity to propel them through the finish line.

Besides the driver, a bobsled team includes a brakemen and crewmen. Brakemen and crewmen are the ones who get the bobsled moving in the beginning of the race. An interesting thing about bobsledding is that it is known to the rest of the world as bobsleigh.

Figure Skating: Figure skating has five events: men's singles, women's singles, pairs, ice dance, and a team event. Each individual event consists of a short program and a free skate where the scores for each program are combined for a total score. Pairs, which is a partner event, also has a short program and free skate. The ice dance event is scored by combining the scores of the short dance and free dance. The team event consists of the total of the scores of eight members, two athletes from the women's singles category, two from the men's singles, one team from the ice dance category and one team from the pairs category. Previously, pairs and individual performance music was not allowed to include lyrics, but recently, it has been allowed.

In ice dance, however, lyrics have been allowed for a while. Furthermore, each season, the International Skating Union picks a specific genre of music for athletes to use during the short skate performance. In the 2018 Winter Olympics, the genre for short skate was Latin American rhythms.

Figure skating is known for its many jumps. Men's jumps are often more complicated than women's jumps simply because of the strength difference between men and women. The main types of jumps include: toe loops, salchows, axels, lutzes, loops, and flips. Spins are also commonly split into different types: camel spins, sit spins, and upright spins. Although all the fancy names seem confusing, figure skating is still a great sport to watch. In conclusion, I hope you have learned something new about these sports that you may have not known before. Maybe you will feel more inclined to watch the sports in the Winter Olympics of 2022!

Holiday Traditions

By Ellie Noh, Kyle Lehrfeld, Sophia Liu
Grade 7

Mrs. Halden's Note: The months that have passed since the Winter Holidays afforded the Raptor's Roar Staff the time to canvass Rosa staff about the traditions they observe. Here is their report.

We all have our own holiday traditions that we do every year. Whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, there is so much to be enjoyed! So we decided to go on our own adventure through Rosa. We spoke with some of the staff here in our own building to see what they enjoy doing on their holiday vacation.

Mrs. Trocola, Grade 6, Individuals and Societies: "[I] have been collecting menorahs when since I've been married. (We have) menorahs from France, Israel, and all around the world." Mrs. Trocola also likes to invite lots of friends and family to her home to make lots and lots of potato latkes. Mrs. Trocola also enjoys eating the Hanukkah delicacy, Sufganiyot, which are jelly donuts. And, of course, Mrs. Trocola's grandchildren receive presents.

Mrs. Pistone, Grade 7, Language and Literature: "[I] love to make cookies with my grandkids who live fairly close by." The specific kind of cookies they make are chocolate chip. Mrs. Pistone said they like to sit together at the Christmas table and discuss what they are grateful for.

Ms. Caruso, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Guy: "[I] make sure the children are all together to enjoy one another's company. They also play games such as Trivia and Bean Boozled.

Mrs. Covelli, Mathematics: Mrs. Covelli and her family celebrate Christmas in a big way with family and extended family. They enjoy the Seven Fishes Dinner on Christmas Eve as her dad is Italian. On Christmas morning, the family sits at top of stairs to open presents.

Mr. Murtha, Music: Mr. Murtha plays in a praise band at the church he attends. Afterwards, he puts on a Charlie Brown CD. He says the family opens presents together, including extended family. Mr. Murtha says lots of music is played and that the family jams together.

Mrs. Halden, Grade 8, Language and Literature: Mrs. Halden celebrates Hanukkah. She loves lighting candles with her family and enjoys making latkes – potato pancakes – from scratch. Mrs. Halden says that she and Mr. Halden enjoy Winter Break by having as many boring evenings at home as possible.

Madame Farkas, Grade 7, Language Acquisition: Madame Farkas says her family's biggest holiday celebration happens on Christmas Eve. Since she is Italian, Madame Farkas says her family enjoys the Seven Fishes Dinner. Among the most traditional kinds of fish are bucala, salted cod, calamari and smelts, tiny little fish fillets. Everyone in her family goes to her parents' house on Christmas Eve.

The Mystery Puzzle: The Rubik's Cube

By Maxwell Wang
Grade 6

Do you know how to solve a Rubik's cube? If not, don't feel bad. There are 43 quadrillion different ways to mix it up, while there is only one way to solve it. So you might be asking, who created it? How do people know how to solve it?

The Rubik's Cube was created in 1974 by Erno Rubik - who obviously named it after himself. When it was first released, this new puzzle fascinated thousands of buyers and the creator himself, as it took him more than a month to solve his own invention! In fact, it is the best-selling toy ever!

Then, from 1980 through 1982, more the

100 million cubes were sold. In 1980, David Singmaster created the first step-by-step guide to solve the Rubik's Cube. Today, the Rubik's Cube still puzzles people around the globe. Among those hooked on the cube is Rosa graduate and current University of Pennsylvania student Dana Yi, who has solved the puzzle in a record 5.37 seconds!



The History Behind President's Day

By Giorgio Abdalla
Grade 7

On February 18th, while you were enjoying your day off from school, did you stop to think why you were off from school on this day? The reason you got the day off was because the school district was celebrating the holiday of Presidents' Day. Presidents' Day is a holiday honoring the past Presidents, although whom and how the holiday is celebrated has changed since the beginning.

The very first Presidents' Day was celebrated on February 22, 1885, as an anniversary of the birthday of the first President of the United States. It was the first national holiday that honored one person, George Washington. One celebration that began on this holiday was a uniform day off for most people. On this day, many workplaces and shops closed, a tradition that continues. Even after that, the holiday continued to change.

In 1968, Congress passed a law to take a more orderly approach to this holiday. Instead of this holiday being on George Washington's birthday, the observation was moved to the 3rd Monday of February. They did this so that there would be more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. They also did this to keep the holiday on the same day to reduce worker absenteeism.

Once this national holiday had a change, so did its meaning. Instead of the holiday celebrating only George Washington's birthday, the celebration included the commemorations of Abraham Lincoln, William H. Harrison, and George Washington. Later, they added more presidents to the list. These new changes and additions to the holiday have given it a different twist from the time it began in 1885.

In the year 2019, almost 140 years since the first Presidents' Day, a lot has changed, especially the way we celebrate. For example, a modern Presidents' Day celebration could be to visit some amazing historical sites. By doing this, we reenact our nation's history to see where our past has been. Some local places to celebrate Presidents' Day this year are the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. This is a great start to see our nation's history, and learn more about our leaders. Another site for Presidents' Day the Raptor's Roar staff recommends is going to see Independence Hall located less than half a mile from the Liberty Bell. It is such an inspiring and creative way to learn about our nation's leaders.

Even though the history and tradition of the holiday of Presidents' Day has changed, the true reason, to honor past leaders of our nation, remains the same. Hope you had a great Presidents' Day everyone.

A Little Peek Into Fashion Week

By Erika Tsai
Grade 6

On a Wednesday at the recent fall edition of The Paris Fashion Week, Viktor and Rolf's Spring and Summer 2019 dresses were making headlines. Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren are Dutch designers who founded their fashion house in 1993. They are known for cutting-edge, avant-garde designs.

This latest sassy collection defines the phrase: "Wear your heart on your sleeve." Now people say these dresses are meme worthy. These dresses are unique, but they all have one thing in common: Their pointed messages.

From sassy phrases such as "I'm Not Shy, I Just Don't Like You" to "Leave Me Alone," these amazing dresses literally speak for themselves. The designers have created statement gowns for your sarcastic and humorous side. Other dresses proclaim, "Sorry I'm Late, I Didn't Want to Come," "I Am My Own Muse" and "Trust Me, I'm A Liar."

People around the world are being inspired by these bold dresses, and the designers, Viktor and Rolf, continue to be heard by the fashion industry loudly and clearly.



Viktor and Rolf's Spring/Summer 2019 Slogan Dresses Have a Lot To Say



**2019 All South
Jersey Band
Members:**

Ellie Noh – 1st Chair Flute
Lydia Ding
Erin Kang
Olivia Ding
Heidi Kwak
Amanda Chen
Sofia Sicard-Archambeault
Sehoon Kim
Mira Wang
Melinda Wu
Noah Yang
Zach Mailman
Elizabeth Rohr
Calvin Bouch
Eric Luo

Have You Had Peking Duck Before?

By Maxwell Wang
Grade 6



There are Peking Duck houses throughout the world. Peking Duck originated in Nanjing, the capital city of the Jiangsu Province. But it *really* all started with the Yuan Dynasty, when the dish was included in a cookbook written by a man named Hu Sihui.

This duck recipe was different because it called for the duck being roasted in a sheep's stomach. Peking Duck used to take a really long time to make. However, it has gotten easier because of something that will truly blow your mind: the oven.

So the Peking Duck that is served in, well, Peking, now known as Beijing, is similar to the Peking Duck one would experience locally, including Joe's Peking Duck House in Marlton. "The skin is crispier in Beijing," said Max, who travelled there with his family last summer. "However, the duck is plated the same way here as in China."

Want to know how to make Peking Duck?

1. Soak the whole duck in a large pot of boiling water.
2. Sprinkle the inside of the duck with sugar, salt and five-spice powder.
3. Preheat a rotisserie oven to 375 degrees and bake for 45 minutes or until the skin is reddish brown.
4. Before serving, pour hot oil over the skin to increase the crispiness. If you want to learn more, search the Food Network for Peking Duck recipes.

PARCC IS Being Replaced?

By Vivian Rong
Editor-in-Chief, Grade 8

2019, the year New Jersey demolishes PARCC. Yes, it is true, but don't get too excited. There is a new test coming our way. Whether it is deemed to be a good or bad thing, it is happening either way. Rumor has it that the PARCC test did not reach "federal requirements." What does that mean for the students here at Rosa? Let's take a look at how this change made its way to us in the first place.

Are we discussing the same test our Cherry Hill Public High Schools said had to be passed in order to graduate from high school? Yes, we are. The NJASK, otherwise known as the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge, lasted about eleven years, making its debut in 2003 and leaving in favor of PARCC in 2014.

PARCC took over in 2015, lasting only three short years. In fact, many critics have stated that the PARCC test forced teachers to narrow their teaching to fit what the assessment required of students. Governor Phil Murphy felt that it was time to get rid of PARCC after visiting an elementary school in Asbury Park during testing season. Mr. Murphy said that it was time to "end the failed experiment that has been PARCC testing and create new, more effective and less time-intrusive means for measuring student achievement." Many people agree with Murphy.

New Jersey parents and teachers also disagreed with this Common Core test. The company that initially made PARCC exams claimed that PARCC supposedly aligned with the national Common Core standards. However, many of the state's students and parents disagreed with this claim. This resulted in the NJEA, or the New Jersey Education Association, launching an online

petition to end PARCC testing.

After being asked the question, "What are your thoughts on PARCC being replaced this year?" many Rosa students responded similarly: "Students don't have any idea what it is going to be like. It is not clear what the new test is." Students also feel that standardized testing has not been consistent in recent years: "We (should) either bring (the) NJASK back or keep (using) PARC so people have an idea of what the test is like."

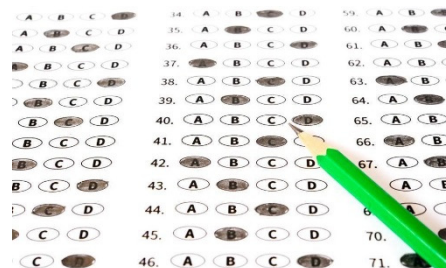
Our Rosa students do in fact feel that the NJASK was a better way to go compared to PARCC: "(It was) very convenient and better than taking PARCC. (The test was) paper based, (which was) much easier (to take). There were no glitches (with technology) which may cause delays."

Some students believe that a change in state testing requirements will result in a positive outcome: "I hope that the new test can improve on where PARCC failed to help students show their full potential."

As of now, even the administrators of the district are unsure of the exact changes for standardized state testing. It is, however, clear that the senior classes of 2019 at our high schools do indeed need to pass the PARCC exam in order to graduate. That may not be the case in a couple of years, looking at how the state has been in between testing, and changing rules for the past decade. The test that is currently replacing PARCC is the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments, or the NJSLA for short. This new exam is said to have fewer questions and will take 25% less time than PARCC.

Others claim that the NJSLA is really just a new and improved version of PARCC, renamed.

This spring, we hope that you are prepared for the changes to come. Even though we are middle school students, we are a part of one big educational community. The changes being made are supposed to make our lives easier and improve our education. Therefore, despite the change, our staff would like to wish everyone good luck in advance for the state testing coming this spring.



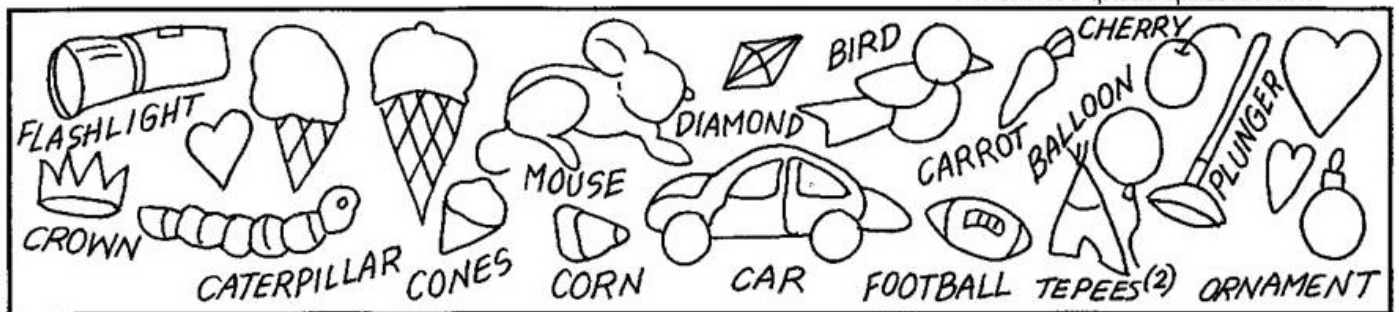


Spring

BUDS
DAFFODILS
FLOWERS
GRASS
RAIN

RAINBOW
SEEDS
SPRING
TULIPS
UMBRELLA

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FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MAIN OFFICE.**

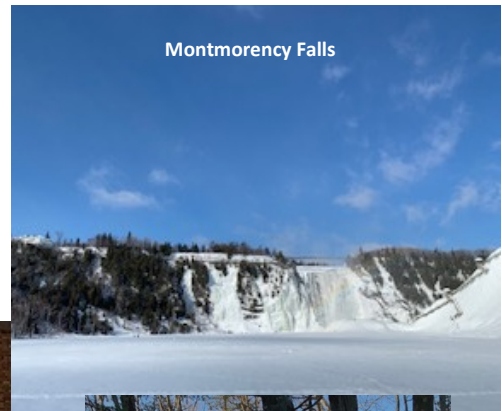
Le Chateau Frontenac – One of
Quebec's Luxury Hotels



*Scenes from
Quebec 2019*

By Vivian

Montmorency Falls

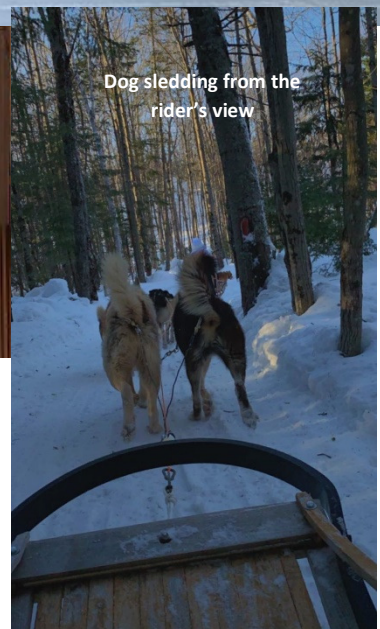


An ice sculpture in the Ice Hotel,
Hôtel de Glace in Quebec City



Bonhomme – The Quebec Carnival
mascot

Dog sledding from the
rider's view





March 29 – End of Marking Period 3

April 4 and 5 – Rosa Musical

April 11 – Rosa Piano Recital, 7 p.m.

May 2 – McDonald's Night

May 13 – Instrumental Spring Concert at EAST, 7 p.m.

May 20 – Vocal, Recorder, Orff Spring Concert at WEST, 7 p.m.

May 31 – Hershey Music Festival

June 5 and 6 – 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

June 19 – Rosa 8th Grade Graduation

Way to go!

Sehoon Kim

Accepted into the
New Jersey All State
Orchestra!

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