

# The Clinton Post

VOL. XI - NO. 5

Monday, March 4, 2024

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## Clinton's New Craze: The Rise of Ping Pong



Players Gianni, Lev, Miles, Johnny, and Jaden by the ping pong tables at the start of lunch

Photo Credit // Clinton Post Staff

BY COOKIE STOTZ

The Clinton cafeteria has been more lively than usual this past month – due to the sudden ping pong craze taking over Clinton.

In addition to the lunch tables and booths, two ping pong tables have been set up, drawing many students to pick up a paddle and start a game. Facilitated by Mr. Gainesburg, a self-proclaimed “friend to ping pongers everywhere,” the game has grown in popularity throughout the school in the recent month – but what’s the appeal?

I interviewed one of The Clinton School’s most avid Ping Pongers, Johnny Zou, to get the inside perspective on the role that Ping Pong plays in Clinton social life. Johnny frequently plays ping pong during lunch, up to

five times a week, and faces off other players from across the upper grades.

First off, what is the appeal of ping pong? As students, most of us remember it as a gym class sport. Something you pick up for an hour and then move on from. Johnny provides a unique perspective into the intricacies of the allure of ping pong. “People think ping pong is a lazy sport, but you don’t just stand there. It helps with peripheral vision and there’s a lot of techniques to learn. Before I played ping pong, I always thought that it was just hitting the ball with the paddle, but I think it’s more complex than that. You need a very specific motion to add spin to the ball, which is important for succeeding.” Johnny attests that ping pong improves peripheral vision, as well as minute muscle

movement. The sport can function as a fun, competitive pastime while simultaneously improving physical skills.

On the outside, it seems as though ping pong itself was enough to draw the attention of students and keep them in during lunch, but Johnny suggests an opposite correlation of cause and effect. “I think ping pong has become more popular at Clinton because of the new out-lunch late policy. More people can’t go out for lunch so they find ping pong as their only source of entertainment. At least that’s the case for me.”

Despite students being confined to the school as the cause of the ping pong craze, Johnny says that that doesn’t take away from the entertainment the game provides. Although students do not have the option to go out, thus

only having a few options for lunch activities, Johnny says that students do not resent ping pong and instead see it as a silver lining.

Those of us that have not participated in the “Ping Pong Boom” don’t understand the impact it has had on the Clinton community. Clinton is a very separated school, students often stay within their grade level and rarely have the opportunity to venture outside. Johnny speaks on how ping pong provides a space for students of all grade levels to interact, “I think there’s a lot of interesting people who play ping pong – like the seniors who are going to be graduating this year, that I didn’t even know of until I started playing ping pong during lunch. It’s a way to make new friends, to be more involved, and foster new relationships.”

# Chiefs Hit Gold, Win Super Bowl LVIII Over 49ers

BY: JACOB MELCHOR



**Photo Credit: axios.com // The Clinton Post Staff**  
The Chiefs topped the 49ers 25-22 in an overtime thriller during Superbowl LVIII.

The Super Bowl is the culmination of the professional football season, where the top team from the National Football Conference and the American Football Conference face off for the Lombardi Trophy, the prize awarded to the winning team.

On February 11th, the Kansas City Chiefs topped the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in an overtime thriller in Super Bowl LVIII. Star quarterback Patrick Mahomes accumulated nearly 400 total yards to lead his team to its second consecutive title, and the team's third in five years.

Pro-bowl tight end Travis Kelce led the Chiefs in receiving with 93 yards and nine catches, while sophomore running back Isiah Pacheco added another 59 yards on the ground. The Chiefs also played spectacularly on special teams, with their kicker, Harrison Butker, nailing all four of his field goal tries. Additionally, their punt team was able to force a critical turnover when the ball hit a 49er player's foot.

The 49ers played a good game as well, with a few stumbles leading to them losing their chance at a Lombardi Trophy. Quarterback Brock Purdy threw for 255 yards and a touchdown, with wide receiver Jauan Jennings also throwing a touchdown pass on a trick play. All-pro running back Christian McCaffrey totaled 160 yards throughout the course of the contest.

The game started out slow, but the 49ers were able to jump to a 10-point lead. Initially, it appeared that the 49ers would be able to run the ball consistently over

the Chiefs' defense, though head coach Kyle Shanahan seemed to stray away from this tactic later in the game. Both teams' running backs fumbled the ball within the first half of the game, which may have led to both teams deciding to play a more pass-heavy style of offense.

The Chiefs were able to put points on the board just before the half with a Butker field goal, but it still seemed like the 49ers had momentum going into halftime. In the third quarter, Mahomes overthrew Kelce leading to a 49ers interception. The Chiefs were able to make a defensive stand and would force the turnover on special teams later in the quarter. The 49ers' offense struggled and was unable to put up any points while the Chiefs scored 10. At the end of the third quarter, the Chiefs lead 13-10.

In the fourth quarter, Brock Purdy was able to orchestrate a touchdown drive that gave the 49ers a lead. However, 49ers kicker Jake Moody missed the critical extra point, which meant the Chiefs were only a field goal behind. The 49ers and Chiefs would exchange field goals, giving San Francisco a 19-16 lead toward the end

of the fourth quarter. However, with 1:50 on the clock, Mahomes would put together a drive that ended in a field goal, tying the game at the end of regulation – meaning overtime would commence to determine the winner.

The 49ers would win the coin toss to open overtime and made the odd decision to receive the ball first. They would go on to score a field goal, leaving themselves in the dangerous position of risking a championship on the proposition of preventing Patrick Mahomes from scoring. Mahomes would end up driving down the length of the field to put the game away, throwing a three-yard game-winner to receiver Mecole Hardman.

This game featured two of the league's premier defenses, and it showed. Both quarterbacks struggled to get things going at times, but in the end, Mahomes' experience and talent carried him to his third career Super Bowl.

Super Bowl LVIII became the most-watched television event in American history, with many Clintonians among the fans watching the spectacular game. One such Clintonian, Noah Jack Caswell of the 11th grade, said

that it “was an overall entertaining game.” He stated that the game's tightness made it more interesting, though there were “too many field goals.”

This year's Super Bowl also featured a half-time performance headlined by Usher. A handful of other artists also participated, including Alicia Keys, H.E.R., will.i.am, Lil John, and Ludacris. The halftime show was comprised of some of Usher's greatest hits and was one that many are not likely to forget anytime soon.

Super Bowl LVIII was a phenomenal game between two of the NFL's finest franchises. While the Chiefs were able to cement their legacy as one of the greatest teams the league has ever seen, the 49ers will surely be competing for the Lombardi Trophy again next year.

# Grammys Recap

BY: EMMA CHEN

The 2024 Grammys took place on February 4th of this year and was full of many highlights and fantastic performances.

Taylor Swift officially broke the record for most Album of the Year awards by winning the honorable award four impressive times. Miley Cyrus officially won her first Grammy for Best Pop Solo Performance for her hit, “Flowers”, and is now a two-time Grammy award winner! The show was full of various hilarious, thoughtful, and raw acceptance speeches, with JAY-Z calling out the Recording Academy for not awarding his wife Beyoncé Album of the Year, despite holding the record for most Grammys. The show featured many performances and captured the energy of the rapidly changing, diverse, music industry.

Taylor Swift, an artist students frequently hear in the bell songs, won two Grammys this year out of six nominations. Out of her six Grammy nominations this year, Swift won the coveted Album of the Year award, and Best Pop Vocal Album for her album “Midnights”. By winning Album of the Year for the fourth time, Taylor Swift officially broke the record for most Album of the Year awards! She broke the tie she held previously with legends Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, and Frank Sinatra.

Taylor Swift didn't just win one of the most prestigious award categories, she also surprised her fans with her new album! Leading up to the Grammys, fans anticipated the announcement of “Reputation (Taylor's Version)”, which is her re-recorded album that she would own. Swift dropped hints on various platforms, by changing her website to black and white, as well as her profile pictures. Swift's famous friends such as Taylor Lautner, Gigi Hadid, Blake Lively, and her boyfriend Travis Kelce changed their profile pictures to be black and white, which are the colors of the Reputation album cover.

However, fans were pleasantly surprised when Swift announced her completely new album, “The Tortured Poets Department”, during her acceptance speech, which will be released on April 19th.

Each year, artists show off their outfits on the red carpet of the Grammys, and Miley Cyrus surely drew eyes with her almost invisible, clothespin dress. Miley Cyrus wore many bedazzled outfits throughout the night, some of which were more skimpy than others, and displayed her hair in a full, poofy style.

Although Miley Cyrus is a well-known singer, for both Hannah Montana and her own successful musical career, she has never won a Grammy. She has had two previous Grammy nominations, and received six nominations

in 2024, three for her popular song “Flowers.”

Cyrus was ecstatic when Mariah Carey presented her with her first Grammy ever, Best Pop Solo Performance, for her hit “Flowers”. Soon after, she performed “Flowers” live at the Grammys, and Cyrus acknowledged that it was her second time performing the song live. During her performance, she playfully asked the audience, “Why are you acting like you don't know this song?” Soon after, she hilariously shouted, “I just won my first Grammy!” – displaying her pure excitement for the award.

Later in the night, Miley Cyrus also took home one of the “Big Four” awards, Record of the Year. The “Big Four” awards are the most prestigious, and consist of Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist.

One of the most well-known and beloved Grammys traditions are the acceptance speeches. You never know what an artist might say. Some thank their team and family, others make jokes and tell stories, and some anger the public.

In his acceptance speech for the 2nd Annual Dr. Dre Global Impact Award, JAY-Z decided to call out the Recording Academy, the same organization that awarded him the coveted award.

He called out the Academy, saying “I don't want to embarrass this young lady, but she has

more Grammys than everyone and never won album of the year. So even by your own metrics, that doesn't work. Think about that.”

The young lady he referred to seemed to be his wife Beyoncé, who has the most Grammy awards, 32 in total, in more minor categories. Despite the fact she has been nominated for Album of the Year four times, she has never won.

On the other hand, Annie Lennox made a tribute to Sinéad O'Connor with her performance of “Nothing Compares 2 U”, a song originally sung by Prince, that O'Connor is most known for singing. O'Connor is remembered for her powerful singing, and her activism against racism, sexism, and for pacifism. At the end of her performance, Lennox fittingly said, “Artists for cease-fire”, referring to the Israel-Hamas war.

The 2024 Grammys was full of many memorable acceptance speeches, performances, and records, so if you have not watched the event live already, consider viewing a recording of it or watching clips!

# Should Clinton's Pep Rally Include More Sports?

BY: LIVI LASNER

The Clinton Pep Rally occurred on February 7th, 2024, during 9th period for high school students. Filled with all the upper grades students, teachers, and staff members, it was an entertaining event that brought the Clinton community together. During this pep rally, different grades sat in different sections of the gym, wearing different colors to represent their grade. Ninth grade wore gray, tenth grade wore red, eleventh grade wore white, and twelfth grade wore black.

What is the point of a pep rally, you may ask?

A pep rally is an event held for many schools to raise school spirit and to get all students engaged and excited about their school's sports teams!

At Clinton, we have a bunch of sports teams, but are also lacking a lot as well. During the pep rally, we saw the girls' basketball team, the boys' basketball team,

the girls' volleyball team, the cross country team, the girls' soccer team, and the boys' soccer team. However, there are many Clinton students that are interested in sports that our school doesn't have teams for, such as swimming, softball, baseball, football, lacrosse and many other sports.

The sports that Clinton doesn't offer are offered at other schools— which allow for students at Clinton and other schools to try out and potentially join another school's team, all possible through the PSAL (Public School Athletic League).

Since Clinton is a small school, the sports that are offered are the most popular ones among our students, and Clinton also has coaches that are interested in these sports as well.

Finding coaches who are willing to give up their free time to help our athletic students pursue their extracurriculars is not easy, and it's remarkable of the coaches

we do have to take on this extra challenge. I got the opportunity to speak with Rachel Kenny, a 10th grader attending Clinton, who feels that Clinton should have more of a variety of sports teams.

She says, "As an athlete I very much would love to participate in the school's sports teams, but because my sport [softball] is not offered by Clinton it becomes much more difficult to play for a school. Through the PSAL All-Access program I could play for another school, but the logistics become very complicated and at that point it doesn't seem worth it to me."

Additionally, I got the opportunity to speak with Lauren Hsu, another 10th grader attending Clinton, who was first a part of the Stuyvesant swim team, but then got moved to the Seward Park Campus team during the PSAL season.

Lauren says, "While I had met such amazing people and coaches, I wish

I got to represent my school more. It would've been awesome to still compete under Clinton's name, and I also would've liked to participate in Clinton school spirit days like the Pep Rally and to be recognized as a Clinton athlete. So, while I thoroughly enjoy having the opportunity to participate in a Varsity PSAL sport, I wish that All-Access athletes were more recognized within Clinton."

It would be more accessible for many students at Clinton that have different interests, if Clinton offered more sports opportunities.

In the future, I believe the Clinton Pep Rally should give notice to all other sports players who have to travel around to many places in order to play the sport they love. After all, one sport isn't more important than another.

# The Return of EEEs

BY: ABBY CHEN

This current school year marked the return of the previous beloved Exploratory, Enrichment, and Extended learning classes, or known by most, EEEs.

EEEs are additional classes, similar to electives. Unlike electives, EEEs are assigned, however, students are able to make requests and give their preference as to which EEEs they would like to participate in. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that students will be placed in their first choice.

EEEs are currently mixed between grades in select classes and for 10th and 9th graders occur four times a week. The EEEs range from classes such as Latin to courses like Chemistry Enrichment.

This year, EEEs in 10th grade include a variety of courses, such as enrichment classes like Chemistry and Algebra. EEEs also provide crucial classes to help students prepare for Regents requirements like Algebra I with Mr. Clock in the new semester. Students can also participate in exploratory classes, which include Literature Exploratory (Fairy Tales), Physics, Financial Literacy Exploratory, and, in this current semester, new to the 10th graders, Nuclear Chemistry.

Throughout the year, the EEE courses offered have varied. For instance the Middle Years Programme (The Personal Project), was introduced in the second semester as an opportunity to pilot a component of the Middle Years Program of the IB, before it is introduced to the middle grades and lowerclassmen the coming school year. Other EEEs, such as Algebra I preparation are also new this semester. And

with EEEs being newly reintroduced, the grades to which the courses are offered have also changed over this year.

These classes, which occur four times a week, have the time to have a true impact and influence on students academically.

EEE classes are partially mixed between 9th and 10th graders. Students in both grades have options of classes such as Nuclear Chemistry and Physics. However, some EEEs are ninth grade exclusive, such as Latin.

New EEEs have been added for the second semester. Ms. Nelson, the previous 8th grade ELA teacher and current librarian, is now teaching a Middle Years Programme EEE (MYP). Moreover, EEE sizes have decreased, with some EEEs, such as Literature Exploratory (Fairy Tales), having fewer than 20 students. Smaller class sizes like this allow teachers to focus on individual students more, thus enhancing students' knowledge and allowing the opportunity for a close knit community.

While many students enjoy EEEs, for the opportunity to blend between classes and grades, and smaller class sizes, EEE classes also come with some drawbacks.

The implementation of EEEs, which occur 4 times a week (the same amount of occurrences as core classes, such as ELA and Algebra for the IB), has taken a toll on the number of class periods for other classes. In the previous school year, when teachers began to find out about this change of schedule, many of them expressed concern over its effect on students' learning. Some students already struggled when we had each core class every day, and with a 20% reduction of class periods,

Section	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10A	●			●											
10B				●											
10C				●											
10D				●											

Photo Credit: Ms. Lundy's Newsletter // The Clinton Post Staff

Ms. Lundy's "bean board" session tracker has been a useful tool for students confused by differences in schedules.

it had the potential to affect learning and lesson plans.

EEEs have made it more difficult for teachers to plan tests and keep track of lessons. They have left some classes falling behind others due to various days off. For instance, some 10th grade classes do not have Chemistry on Monday, while others do. As students commonly have Mondays off due to long weekends, the classes that do not have Chemistry on Mondays fall behind.

A current 10th Grader, Sophia Baluch, who entered Clinton in 9th grade shared her opinion on the schedule impact of EEE. Sophia expressed, "At first I thought EEE was a complete waste of time because it was taking from our main classes and keeping us away from valuable class time but now I think it is important for kids to have a break in between their week, just to keep them motivated. I also thought that the schedules would be completely messed up but I think that the school managed it well."

Teachers and students often get mixed up because of the differences of schedules between classes. Ms. Lundy, the 10th grade Chemistry teacher, has implemented a solution. Her bean charts, which track

which session classes are on and provide information on future class periods, are extremely helpful in tracking classes.

While there are drawbacks of EEEs, the classes bring new choice and variation in coursework for lowerclassmen and middle school students at Clinton. In a school with a smaller enrollment, such as Clinton, there is little choice in coursework. The reintroduction of EEE this previous semester has given students a chance to explore new topics, and merge with students from other classes. New 10th grader Ellis Howe expressed a similar perspective and shared, "I've never really had a class like it before, so I think it is interesting how it allows you to learn something that's either not part of a normal curriculum like financial literacy or it allows you to pursue something you're more interested in that isn't included in the classes you're taking."

Many students are excited to see the return of EEEs and surely hope they are here to stay!

# Foundations of Justice: Reflections on Clinton's First Mock Trial Challenge

BY:  
SAREENA  
PERNAMBUCO



Photo Credit: @ClintonMockTrial on Instagram // Clinton Post Staff  
Members of the Mock Trial team after their recent loss.

The Mock Trial Club is a gem among Clinton clubs, often overlooked and deserving of more appreciation. Upon interviewing some key members, I learned so much more than I had ever thought I would know about mock trial. Essentially, mock trial is exactly what it sounds like—

students gain first-hand knowledge of civil and criminal law as well as courtroom procedures. Club members learn about court cases, review mock files and, as the name implies, participate in mock trials. Recently, the Clinton Mock Trial Club had their first meet where they ventured out to an official courthouse at 100 Centre street in Manhattan and competed with another school's mock trial team. Our beloved Clintonians went up against Salanter Yeshiva, Akiba Hebrew Academy, and the Riverdale Hebrew Day School (SAR Academy). The trial ended as a tie but Clinton unfortunately lost on the judge's ruling. Although they suffered an unfortunate loss, Clin-

ton's mock trial president, Sammy Shnyder, grade 11, asserted that "it was a great learning opportunity for us to better understand how to act with civility in a courtroom setting". The members of the mock trial club are satisfied with their performance at their very first meet. The head of legal, Noah J. Caswell, grade 11, expressed that "for our first time actually going to a courthouse and doing mock trial I think it's incredibly impressive that we managed to tie with a team that has done this for a few years." Despite the judge deeming Clinton to lose, the member's skills are not to be underestimated.

The club's next meet will take place on February 28th. Clin-

ton will represent the prosecution, going up against The Bronx High school of Law and finance. Noah J. Caswell declared his predictions for this future competition: "I think we're gonna win." After I inquired as to what they might do differently to ensure their victory, Shnyder said, "I think we're just gonna keep up the same standards that we had before, while also being sure to follow courtroom procedure to a better point." Caswell added, "I think now that we've done it just that one time, that took a lot of stress off of us. Cause the first time you walk into a courtroom ever, you're like— oh my god, it's an actual courtroom."

Upon being questioned more about

specific things they could have done better, Shnyder stated that "I think next time we need to focus on making more objections and like I said before, making sure that our evidence is in tip-top shape." Caswell said, "I think generally about how we presented ourselves— I think we presented ourselves good, but I think we were all a little...

just—um— not thrown off, but just a little surprised, I guess." The members of Clinton's Mock Trial club seem prepared and enthusiastic for their upcoming meet, displaying a keen sense of anticipation and dedication to their craft. The only thing left to do is wish them good luck on the 28th! Remember to send your best wishes to your fellow students in mock trial before their upcoming meet.

*UPDATE: This past Thursday, February 28th, the Clinton Mocktrial Club won their trial against The Bronx high school of law and finance!*

# We HE(ART) NYC: A Review of Judy Chicago's "Herstory"



"Virginia Woolf", The Resurrection Triptych, by Judy Chicago  
Photo Credit: Maeve Hannert // The Clinton Post Staff

BY: MAEVE  
HANNERT

In the past decade, pop culture has undergone a transformation: from the #MeToo movement to the overturning of Roe v. Wade to Greta Gerwig's latest Barbie (2023), the message of "F\*\*\* the Patriarchy!" has perhaps never felt so relevant. So that may explain why the New Museum is now showing Herstory, a complete retrospective of artist Judy Chicago's sixty-year career. For those of you who, like me, had never heard of Judy Chicago, she is an American feminist multimedia artist, known for her large-scale collabora-

tive installations that examine and challenge the role of women in history and culture.

What struck me as I walked through the four floors of her collection was the sheer breadth of her work. Unmarried to any one technique or medium, Chicago expresses her ideas through mastery of ceramics, textiles, metals, painting, and even smoke.

The Birth Hood series was a part of the exhibit that stood out to me most. Chicago enrolled herself in an auto body workshop (where she was the only woman among 250 men), learning how to spray automotive lacquer. The resulting works are bold, wall-mounted car hoods spray-painted

with decorative, pastel-colored shapes that gesture at abstract female reproductive organs.

This tension between traditionally masculine techniques and feminine representation is contrasted with another stand-out piece, Birth Project, a collaborative project with more than 150 needleworkers depicting and celebrating the uniquely female experience of birth-giving.

Given Judy Chicago's feminist interest in collaborative creation, it is fitting that Herstory includes a show-within-a-show: one floor is devoted to more than 80 women artists — some famous, some marginalized — including Georgia O'Keeffe and Frida

Kahlo.

Run, don't walk, to see this impressive show before it closes on March 3rd. Otherwise, you can go visit her best-known work, "The Dinner Party", at the Brooklyn Museum, its permanent home. Featuring 39 place settings on a triangular table for 39 famous women from history and mythology, Chicago said her intention was to "end the ongoing cycle of omission in which women were written out of the historical record." Were it created in 2024 rather than the late 70s, perhaps Greta Gerwig — or even Barbie herself — would have a seat at Chicago's table.

# What's on the Menu?

## A Review of Clinton School Lunch

BY: TENZIN CHIME  
AND  
NICHOLAS BELIDA



Photo Credit // Mary Esch, NBC News  
// The Clinton Post Staff

Missing the out-lunch cut off at 12:19, having your ID picture flash green, or being late the day before are common unpleasant feelings felt by a Clintonian on a regular basis. You are hungry, and have been craving a bite from outside school premises but are forced to find food in another fashion.

We've all been there. We have all had to rely on "disgusting" public school cafeteria food to meet these cravings. Public school food has attained the reputation of being horrible not just at Clinton but all over.

As Clinton students, we took the liberty to try the school lunch and give you our honest opinions on the food for a random week, which happened to feature pizza, Build your own burrito, mozzarella sticks, roasted bbq chicken and the PB&Js.

Starting off the week with a simple plain slice of pizza. Honestly, pizza is very hard to mess up and the pizza that was served was a good bite. Nothing compares to a slice from Little Italy but it still has a satisfying cheese to tomato ratio.

Tuesday was more of a custom to your liking. The burrito taco might not be the most popular food on the lunch menu, but it has gotten pretty high ratings by some of the students at Clinton. Anna Loof, 11th grader and the vice president of Student Council has a busy Wednesday due to her executive student meetings. Sometimes she finds herself unable to pack herself lunches in the hectic morning. This

is where the burrito school lunch comes into play. According to Anna, she would give the burrito a solid eight out of ten on the deliciousness scale, stating that some of her favorite aspects is the ability to DIY what goes on to burrito and getting to control the combination of beans, meat, lettuce, cheese etc.

Likely one of the most popular foods on the lunch schedule are the mozzarella sticks which have boasted a reputation for its cheese pull and amazing combination with the mariana sauce. As food that appears only every other week, people run to the lunch line to be one of the first to grab a plate of sticks. And when seconds are offered, students dash to get another

share. You can't really go wrong with a classic toasty, breaded, mozzarella stick. This common Clinton opinion shines through on mozzarella stick day as the lunch line always seems to go outside the cafeteria when they are in stock. Since the line gets so long, sometimes it's easier to wait till the initial crowd dies down and to revisit once the line has shortened.

The Roasted BBQ chicken is not exactly a crowd favorite. The chicken is not as juicy as chicken from the outside world but a brilliant hack that I've learned is creating a chicken salad. Gather lettuce, cucumber, and top your chicken with some ranch dressing and rip the side bread that is provided.

Regardless if you decide to bring your own lunch to school, or just ask for the cheese sandwich everyday, we hope our advice on the daily lunch menu will offer as a guide to the best lunch meals to start with.

# What's a Snow Day Again?

BY: VASILISA  
LASKOVA

Clinton students were dispersed throughout the building in various classes when the exciting news was shared to all during second period. I couldn't believe it when I heard we had the next day, February 13th, off. To my immense surprise, the DOE announced a snow day for the first time in what seemed like decades. Rejoicing, my mind went in search of all the fun memories I used to associate with snow days before the COVID-19 global pandemic and shutdown. To my dismay, I couldn't remember the last time we had a true snow day. It was lodged so far in my memory that it was the last thing I expected when finding out we would receive the next day off. I heard the excited whispers around the room at the thought of a snow day and joined in expressing my excitement.

What I hadn't realized was that the pretense of all I used to associate with a snow day was blinding me, keeping me from realizing that the assumption of remote school lied behind the once familiar name this day was

given. There were to be extra-credit assignments posted, which were not to be ignored by many hard-working students at Clinton looking for a grade booster. Students rather automatically lengthened their mental to-do lists for the next day. If not for the issue with the internet that many students faced the following day, we would not have received the email urging us not to worry about work for the day. We were relieved from new work, yet still stuck compulsively checking all the google classrooms to avoid seeing missing work on Jupiter. Traditional snow days with no work or worry attached used to be welcomed with open arms. These days used to bring forward opportunities for kids to take their sleds out of their closets, build snowmen, drink hot chocolate, or simply sit in a warm setting with a warmer drink while watching the chaos continue outside. This is not the case anymore.

When COVID-19 hit, traditional snow days suddenly became a thing of the past, as rare an occurrence as a double rainbow in New York. I have faint memories of sledding with family and friends,

followed by faint memories of the change. Students such as myself used to receive snow days for the purpose of escaping the pressure that comes with studying in an academic environment by indulging in snow-related activities. Suddenly, I was hearing teachers on Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic remind me and my peers what a grand privilege we had to have remote classes and learning for only half the day, followed by a reminder to keep track of assignments and practice time-management.

Snow isn't half as fun when you have an alarm clock waking you up, a different schedule, deadlines looming over you, and a mental timer counting off the hours left to finish assigned work before the chance to revel in a rare winter wonderland disappears. This feeling of a day of freedom seems to be lost for good, and the remote snow days have pushed procrastination to an all-time high, as students worry about finishing their work in a desperate attempt to get outside before the snowfall ceases or the day ends. Work during the new and improved snow days always leaves questions

and worries that can't be addressed till later in the week. There is no doubt that the snow can still be enjoyed by many for some time, but the unfinished assignments wait to greet students upon their arrival back to their homes. Most times, the magic of snow is ruined by whatever stress awaits them upon logging into google classroom, no matter how much time they spend outside. Traditional snow days have been quietly fading away to make room for a more stressful, modernized version. Some major districts serving wide student populations have already swapped snow days for remote learning, including districts such as ours in New York City, along with districts in Anchorage, Alaska; and St. Paul, Minnesota. In an interview with WNYW's "Good Day New York", New York City's own Department of Education chancellor David C. Banks conveyed a positive opinion of replacing snow days ahead of the start of the 2022-23 school year. "There are technically no more snow days," he said, followed by: "So, sorry kids — no more snow days, but it's going to be good for you!"

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Banks' announcement and comments left a lot of parents and students upset, feeling much the same way as Amy Klein, a Washington Post writer who voiced her disappointment at the chancellor's words: "'So, sorry, kids! No more snow days, but it's gonna be good for you!' Except it's not. Beyond the documented shortcomings of remote learning [such as less time spent outside, engaging in physical activity, spending with friends in person and virtually, and worse mental and emotional health in students], there's also the less quantifiable cost of shutting down a reliable source of pleasure for children — one that often got them outside in the fresh winter air".

While Banks has had a positive impact on school enrollment rates and education in general, many are unhappy with his words. Citing the need to meet the state's requirement of 180 days of learning per year along with expressing the importance that kids continue to learn on days traditionally meant for fun and relaxation, New York City public schools scrapped snow days during the pandemic and have continued the policy in the years fol-

lowing.

While our recent snow day was closer to being relaxing because of the lack of Zoom classes and graded assignments, many other public schools in NYC did not receive the same privilege. Students were still expected to log into Zoom early in the morning. Clintonians got to sleep in, but according to AMNY, many other students across New York didn't. "Parents flocked to X, Facebook and other social media to express their frustration at the system failure. Many spent hours trying to log on to a variety of platforms, including Google Classroom and Zoom, as early as 8 a.m., to no avail. As parents and students continued to make several login attempts all morning, they were met with a barrage of 'service unavailable' error messages".

While Clintonians expected optional extra-credit work to be posted some time during the day, schools in Long Island along with students in other areas of New York were braced for a Zoom-filled day, especially following the confidence of the DOE in the success of the snow day. According to AMNY, Schools Chancellor David Banks had assured New Yorkers

during a news conference on Monday that the agency and the city were well prepared for a remote-learning school day. "We feel really good about this," the chancellor said during the press conference. "We've taken some time as a school system to do simulations and prepare for this. It's one of the good things that, in fact, emerged from the pandemic, was our preparedness to be ready for moments like this. And I think the school system is more than prepared". The DOE was not prepared, but many students tried to persevere, continuously logging in to Zoom and google classroom. Many students stressed much more than students at Clinton all over New York, their faculties pushing for a more strict schedule and remote snow day despite the issues with the internet. It would seem that The Clinton School is more of an outlier among NYC schools for not enforcing a day of Zoom meetings. But, are full remote days inevitable in the future?

Considering New York City is an outlier within a country filled with states such as Vermont, which still gives schools a certain amount of snow days to use, not

all hope is lost in the realm of true snow days for NY schools. Similarly, snow days were defended in New Jersey, according to USA TODAY: "'Snow days are chances for on-site learners and virtual learners to just be kids by playing in the snow, baking cookies, reading books and watching a good movie,' New Jersey's Mahwah Township Public Schools told parents in an email in October. 'These are times for memory-making, and we believe these types of opportunities should remain intact.'" Moreover, internet issues and differences in the technology available in homes continue to prevent productive and efficient remote learning days, leading schools such as ours to hold off on posting new assignments during snow days.

While snow days may never be restored to their former glory, the hope is that the abandonment of traditional snow days doesn't spread to the smaller community of Clinton, and that schools and teachers continue to sympathize with students and decide against assigning work to gift their students a chance to take the day and enjoy the rare snow.

## Illegal Freedom: The History of Urbex

BY:  
SAM COHEN

Urban exploration, also known as 'urbex', is a trend that has started sweeping across cities and countries around the globe, even finding its way into the minds of high schoolers here in New York City.

The idea of exploring man-made structures that are typically abandoned has been commonplace for a long time. In November of 1793 a man by the name of Philibert Aspairet became what many regard as the first cataphile, a person that illegally explores the parisian catacombs underneath the city of Paris. While exploring the tunnels and chambers, Aspairet became lost. His body was discovered 11 years later. In 1861 a poet by the name of Walt Whitman described an abandoned terminal in brooklyn in his poem 'Brooklynania' where he spoke about the passages of "Acheron-like solemnity and darkness, now all closed and filled up, and



Photo Credit: @samcohenphotography // Clinton Post

soon to be utterly forgotten."

The term 'urbex' however, was not seen until about 135 years later, in a 1996 issue of 'infiltration' magazine, authored by Jeff Chapman (known as Ninja-licious). Chapman was an urban explorer based out of Toronto, Canada. His works in Infiltration magazine covered topics ranging from exploring storm drains to evading hotel security. Even though this August marks the 19th anniversary of his death, his influence can be clearly seen within the modern day urbex community.

Urbex started to gain

a lot of popularity through the advent of social media, with more and more people sharing their adventures and exploration on platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. Breaking into abandoned and still active sites becoming a trend on TikTok and Instagram, a community of explorers, photographers, and artists has emerged.

More and more people are documenting their adventures into a wide variety of locations — ranging from old and abandoned buildings, to skyscrapers under construction, where people have been known to climb to the top of the cranes on

these buildings. One of the most notable modern urban explorers is urbexer and musical artist Shiey, who explored and documented his travels to places such as old NATO bases, industrial factories, and even the town of Pripjat in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. The methodology of exploration, first made popular by Chapman, can still be seen today in the work of Shiey and many others.

The urbex trend has even made its way into the minds and lives of high schoolers, with many using it as a way to de-stress and forget about life for a while. An anonymous junior at Clinton was quoted saying "urbex creates an environment in which people feel free from the constraints and expectations of everyday life". In a school where academics can sometimes make students feel stressed or overworked, urbex provides an opportunity to forget about that.

## The Spanish column

*¡En el mes de marzo se celebra a la mujer!*

Poema

¿Eres un gallo? No. No soy un gallo, ¡Soy una gallina!  
Pero escapé de tu corral arcaico a pura letra y poesía  
Me monté en un verso que decía que tu silla y la mía son la misma  
Insistía y repetía que tu frente y la mía son la misma  
Tú camino más estrecho,  
mi mirada más oscura, pero igual...  
Ven y escapa conmigo gallo de hoy.  
No tengas miedo gallo asustado  
Crece conmigo...  
Quizá así lograrás verme mañana

A. De León

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**CLINTON WORD HUNT!**

M A Q W N B S H L F I T M C W  
 B Z T G C Y I O W R M Q R G G  
 B P U U M K C H O O O V I N V  
 X R E M L I J C B L C Q T O E  
 S E A X S X W L R Y K Z R P H  
 C R B S Y S E M E S T E R G P  
 G D X R L R G Y P C R W O N S  
 P V Q U U Y O Z U E I W Q I S  
 Y E N B X B D T S Z A K D P S  
 O C P G N X X W S C L A H I B  
 H Y X R X W W J F R L D J L X  
 T D J O A G I Z J V E J L J Z  
 Q W H L F L S Y P R R H C Q V  
 S D E S T K L N U K I P C M J  
 H L S F J C T Y D A D E J V Y

Word Bank

GRAMMYS  
MOCKTRIAL  
SEMESTER

URBEX  
HERSTORY  
PEPRALLY

SNOW  
LUNCH  
PINGPONG  
SUPERBOWL

H Г Z E J C L A D V D E J A A  
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**Answers**

**CLINTON WORD HUNT!**