

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

NEW CELL PHONE POLICY: WHO DIS?

BY ZANDER HILL

In a controversial decision, BASIS Scottsdale banned cell phone use at the beginning of this school year. In previous years, this rule applied only to the campus’s hallways and classes, but the extension to all times in between has been controversial among students, who claim it limits their freedom or that it is unnecessary during lunch and Late Bird. But contrary to student opinion, there are also arguments to be made in favor of the policy.

Though it seems counterintuitive, one positive effect of banning cell phones is that it may increase socialization during lunch periods. When phones were allowed, many people spent the whole period playing mobile games or looking at social media instead of talking with their friends. This year, more people have started playing card games with their friends, or having conversations with their peers. However, was this a problem to begin with? Some people use social media to talk to friends outside of school, or to help with their academic pursuits. While it prevents students from talking to those immediately around them, it still comes down to a matter of opinion as to whether those online interactions are as fulfilling.

Another effect of this policy is that it reduces student communication with parents. Though the office phone is available for students to use to talk to their parents, the sheer volume of traffic generated by routing all communication



through one phone makes it an ineffective solution. There do seem to be some ways around this within the rule, though. Students waiting outside or in Late Bird after 4 p.m. may use their phones, allowing them to hear from their parents if plans for their pickup times change. These opportunities should be sufficient to coordinate between parent and student, given a basic plan of when to head outside, with possible daily changes discussed before

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SAVE THE DATE

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| October 7-11:
Fall Break | October 25:
End of Tri-1 |
| October 16:
PSAT Exam | October 31:
Halloween |

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going to school. It may create a slight inconvenience, but the new policy does not stop this kind of communication.

Furthermore, the phone policy helps with enforcing the photo policy so blatantly disrespected in previous years. Though many pictures people took were inoffensive, it still was an official rule few students adhered to, and with the difficulty of discerning if someone is using a phone specifically for a photo, it was nearly impossible to enforce. Now, staff can easily prevent illegal photography under this blanket policy. But even with it being easier, enforcement of the cell phone policy has been uneven. Many people still use their phones at lunch; few get caught, and fewer still have their phones confiscated. It may be near impossible to have perfect enforcement of these rules, but as-is, it can definitely be improved.

Regarding whether the policy as a whole is worthwhile, it depends on who you ask. Convincing students to agree to sign away a freedom they previously had isn't something that could ever go over well, but a couple months into school, students seem to have mostly adjusted. Though the rule isn't enforced in full, many students do seem to act more socially and take less photos. Just for that, the policy has made an effectual difference, even if its actual statement isn't perfectly followed.



VAPING: A 21ST CENTURY EPIDEMIC?

BY VIRAJ MEHTA

Since their inception, e-cigarettes have been touted as safer alternatives to real cigarettes. However, recent developments have revealed the shocking effects of vaping. A recent outbreak resulted in the hospitalization of more than 20 people with symptoms directly tied to vaping or juuling, with a further 450 reporting illness or symptoms related to these devices. Dr. Pirzada, a pulmonologist at NYU's Winthrop Hospital, states that it is "becoming an epidemic" as otherwise healthy teens and young adults have shown up in hospitals with serious symptoms including an inability to breathe, nausea, vomiting, and more. Patients have been placed in intensive care, or even into medically induced comas as their condition deteriorates, their lungs mysteriously afflicted by the debilitating effects of vaping.

Teens from across the country have inhaled nicotine, THC, or other substances through vaping devices. In fact, according to JUUL's website, each juul pod contains roughly the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Nonetheless, Kevin Burns, the CEO of Juul Labs, denies knowledge of evidence linking these hospitalizations to his products. Promised as flavorful, safe alternatives to cigarettes, juuls have quickly hooked

teens around the globe. However, the issue isn't only with vaping itself; it's the source of the devices and e-liquids. Experts hypothesize that in many of these cases, people buy vapes from unknown sources, middle-men, or old sellers, all of which may have been tampered with or somehow contaminated. However, that isn't to undersell the dangers of vaping in itself. Dr. Christy Sadreameli, a pediatric pulmonologist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, states that e-cigarettes are harmful to teen bodies, no matter the source or possible tampering. Teen lungs aren't fully developed, and "the aerosol has heavy metals and ultrafine toxic particles that penetrate deep into the lungs."

So what does this mean for teens? Despite the advertising by juul companies regarding their relative safety compared to normal cigarettes, there is very clearly something wrong, as more and more teens are hospitalized each week with respiratory failure and vape-related lung diseases. It's not an isolated incident. It's an epidemic, and teens and adults alike need to take a more critical look at this rapidly developing issue.

A LOOK INTO THE MARS ROVER 2020

BY HARRY LI

NASA scientists and engineers are currently assembling and modifying the Mars Rover 2020 for an upcoming mission to Mars. The rover will be launched from Florida in July, 2020, and its mission is expected to last at least one Mars year (687 Earth days). To give you more insight into this trip to Mars, let's dive into the details of this rover.

What is the Mars Rover 2020?

The Mars Rover 2020 is a car-sized rover based on the model of the NASA *Curiosity* rover launched in 2011, which is still carrying out its mission of collecting evidence for a habitable environment in the past on Mars. The rover is 10 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 7 feet tall, weighing 2,314 pounds.

The Mars Rover 2020 has an intricate design. The rover is covered in a strong protective layer painted with gold and insulated with aerogel, a material with extremely low weight and heat conductivity, meant to maintain its internal temperature. Underneath this layer lies the rover's computers, which direct its precise and safe movements, monitor the heat control system, and perform its investigations. On the top of the rover sits a series of cameras that will record the conditions of Mars's surface, analyze the chemical makeup of substances on the ground, and help the vehicle navigate. Microphones and chemical sensors also capture the smell and sound of Mars, adding to the sensory data. At the front of the rover is a flexible robotic arm that holds investigative tools and sensors such as a drill that collects samples of Martian rocks and devices that scan the chemical makeup of Mars's surface, which allow it to gather more data by sampling and analyzing various substances from the planet.

What is the Goal of the Mars Rover 2020?

The Mars Rover 2020 has two main objectives: investigating potential life forms and gathering data for future missions to Mars. With previous explorations on Mars revealing signs of habitable conditions, such as the presence of liquid water in the past and minerals and chemicals essential for life, this new rover will directly search for signs of microbial life in the past and take samples of rocks and soils to be analyzed in NASA laboratories. Simultaneously, the rover will gather data to

prepare for future crewed expeditions to Mars, including identifying natural resources, mapping Martian geography, and marking weather patterns.

What is new about the Mars Rover 2020?

Although the Mars Rover 2020 is based on the *Curiosity* Rover, the new rover contains many new instruments to fulfill its tasks. First, it uses a new set of landing cameras that take pictures of the geography as the rover descends to ensure a safe landing. Second, the rover is equipped with a special drill that allows the rover to extract samples directly from the core of the rocks, exposing the unweathered surfaces for analysis. Finally, while previous rovers require manual control from the NASA operators on Earth, the new software that controls Mars Rover 2020 allows it to make decisions on its own and require less manual control, significantly improving the investigation's efficiency.

Excited yet? The Mars 2020 mission is a milestone in our exploration of Mars. It is crucial to the planned crewed mission to Mars in the future and will greatly expand our knowledge of the Martian landscape and of the possibility of aliens. If you're interested in contributing to this exciting adventure to Mars, check out the Mars 2020 "Name the Rover" essay contest NASA recently started that allows students to name the Mars 2020 Rover!



Source: space.com

THE RAGING AMAZON FIRES

BY TANAY
VEDARTHAM

Twenty percent of the earth's oxygen comes from one forest. And that forest is burning. Though these fires have only recently come into the public eye, their development has been a much longer process. This disaster is the culmination of environmental and political factors. The fact that there have been two man-made natural disasters within a year is frightening, but preventative and relief efforts can be taken to counter this disastrous pattern.



Source: i-D Magazine

Fundamentally, this is an environmental issue. The trees are on fire and burning by the mass. But how? Farmers want the land that the trees cover for their cattle ranching and soy farming. The easiest way for the farmers to clear the land is by cutting them down and burning them, either manually or naturally. Although these fires to clear trees for land – slash and burn – take place annually, a drought this year meant less water to quell the typically controlled fires. Carbon dioxide abundance from the lack of tree photosynthesis furthers fuels the fires. There has been so much smoke produced by the fires that in Sao Paulo, a city in Brazil roughly 1,734 miles from the Amazon, the sky became black during the day. It seems like the government should be working rapidly to resolve the problem, but that is not the case.

The election of Jair Bolsonaro as president of Brazil in July of 2019 was seen as a conservative and nationalist victory. Bolsonaro sought to reduce the amount of private and foreign influence in the Amazon forests, particularly preservation acts, as he wanted to restore Brazil's claim to the forest. Additionally, Bolsonaro promised to restore mining jobs that had been lost due to a clean energy transition. On the global stage, a leader in charge of one of the world's most biodiverse areas who

ignores climate change can be dangerous, but in nations with unemployment issues, especially those that rely on jobs based around natural resource extraction, solving nature's problems falls low on the political agenda.

The decline of mining jobs has been determined by experts like Heidi Przybyla, to be a key factor for Donald Trump's election in 2016, as Trump won states with the heaviest reliance on mining. Fulfilling his campaign promise, Trump subsequently pulled the United States out of the Paris Accords, which outlined restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions. With two major countries ignoring climate change, the responsibility of relief falls on private interest groups and civilians.

Although climate change is not slowing down, we can help alter the future for the better. An organization to get involved with The Environmental Defense Fund, which is a non-profit that aims to curb carbon emissions and institute renewable energy. Though fighting climate change is a rather arduous task, making positive change in the Amazon is possible, even from your home. The Amazon Aid Foundation aims to protect the rainforest and raise awareness, so in addition to donating, you can become an "Artist for the Amazon," where you can create artwork to convey the true destruction of natural beauty. We can also make change by becoming politically involved in our local communities, putting pressure on the politicians who represent us. In the end, the Amazon fires signify the growing necessity of environmental and political change, but learning from the mistakes made can yield solutions for the future.



Source: Wall Street Journal

BLINDNESS AND THE OTHER HIDDEN DANGERS OF JUNK FOOD

BY ZAK HORI

We typically associate unhealthy eating with obesity and poor cardiovascular health, yet a teenager who recently lost his sight due to excessive consumption of junk food surprised communities worldwide. This young man, who lives in the UK, is suffering from a condition called *Nutritional optic neuropathy*, which occurs when malabsorption of the B12 vitamin and eating habits cause a dysfunction in the nervous system. The deficiency of B12, which is naturally found in animal products, can also be seen in vegans as well, showcasing the importance of a varied diet. We need to question the preconceptions of junk food and ask, what are other consequences of eating junk food?

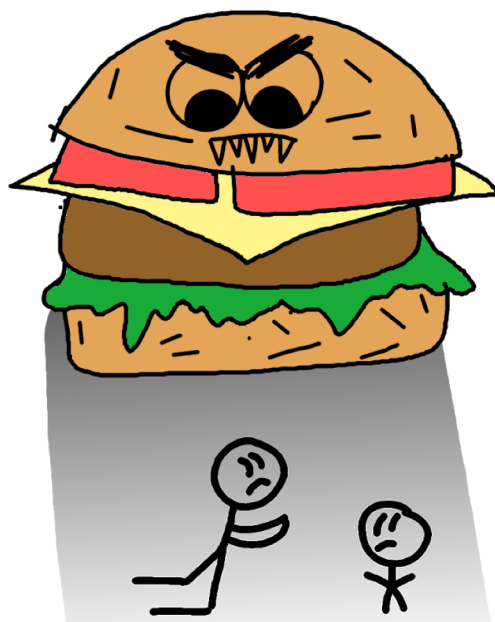
According to the Journal of Childhood Obesity, junk food encompasses food with high levels of calories, fat, sugar, and salt. The boy from the UK ate Pringles, white bread, ham, and sausage for basically every meal. His doctor repeatedly told the boy to change to a varied diet and recommended B12 injections before the incident. However, the boy refused to change and eventually developed life-changing symptoms.

Other extreme diets comprised of constant junk food has been involved in past incidents of unanticipated health concerns. A woman from Monaco who only drank soda for sixteen years displayed an irregular heartbeat. A

Wisconsin resident who has claimed to have eaten over 30,000 Big Macs over the past 40 years, appears to be skinny – just like the UK teen – but may be suffering from malfunctions within his body.

In the past, different forms of evidence show the relatively unknown consequences of junk food. For example, a study conducted by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the University of Granada posted by the Public Health Nutrition Journal shows that consumers who eat junk food with every meal are 51% more likely to develop depression. In addition, Australia's University of New South Wales concluded that junk food “programs” the brain to crave more junk food, even while feeling satisfied with a meal.

Junk food tells us one thing: appearances are deceiving. Although some people may look skinny and healthy while eating lots of junk food, other problems like mental and nervous issues may start to form in the body. Mental depression, nerve malfunction, and irregular heartbeats can result from a bad diet and lifestyle. Though junk food often provides quick and easy satiation, to avoid these potential harms, it's imperative to find a balance between junk food products and whole, nutrient-rich ones.



ARE BULLETPROOF BACKPACKS AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION?

BY DAVID YIN

While students were enjoying Labor Day Weekend, many parents were worried about their kids' safety. On August 31, 2019, "seven people were killed and at least 21 others were injured in a brazen daylight drive-by mass shooting in the West Texas cities of Midland and Odessa," Texas authorities reported. These mass shootings are not a rare phenomenon in the U.S.; according to Gun Violence Archive, a non-profit corporation formed to provide free online public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the United States, 502 children and teens have been either killed or injured as of September 17th in 2019 due to gun violence. Most of these deaths have happened on school campuses.

Concern over gun violence in America has led to the development of bulletproof products, including bulletproof backpacks. These products raise the question: what does "bulletproof" mean? In a recent experiment, Guard Dog Security's backpack was able to stop a bullet fired from a handgun, but not from AR-15 style rifles, which were involved in the mass shootings in Parkland and at the Pulse Night Club. Other backpacks in the experiment also proved unable to stop the AR-15 style's high-speed bullet. To mitigate this issue, Yousef Sansour, a former sheriff's deputy with more than 20 years of experience, recommends heavier, pricier armor rated at a level four or higher by the National Institute of Justice.

However, these backpacks are unable to cover the whole body against the threat of guns. Does this mean that every student should also go to school, armed with a helmet, a body armor, and bulletproof goggles? The flaws of bulletproof backpacks should encourage parents to reconsider how they choose to protect their kids. But how would a parent be able to guarantee child safety without these bulletproof backpacks in further occurrences? After all, the right to own a gun for self-defense is clearly stated in the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which states that "a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." So, without gun control legislation, the presence of guns cannot be directly curtailed.

Considering the staggering and heartbreaking devastation brought by gun violence on school campuses, we shouldn't wait for an election to tackle the issue of gun violence. Though all elected leaders say they will address this violence, none have enforced gun control policies effectively. What we can do is to spread awareness of the importance of gun control to inspire future changes, even if they are only within our own environment. Emma Gonzales, a survivor of the 2018 shooting in Parkland, Florida, captured this call to action that many students have heeded in a speech following the incident: "We are using our words fiercely and desperately because that's the only thing standing between us and this happening again."

A popular model of bulletproof backpack available for \$329



Source: TheManSpotUSA

ASK M.E. – NEW YEAR, SAME PROBLEMS

BY MALIA KUO & ESTHER LI-CHEN

As high schoolers, we know BASIS Scottsdale is demanding. Paired with the fluctuating hormones that make teenagers dramatic and irritable, school work can sometimes be overwhelming; luckily, as experienced seniors, we are here to ease that pain with some advice. In this advice column, we will be providing our unlicensed, uncertified, and sometimes unsolicited, help. High school is rough, but with M.E., you'll be able to make the best of it, or at least make it a relatively bearable blip in your life. This month, we're going to be answering some questions about how to deal with the beginning of the school year.

Waking up is so hard. Any tips?

We've all been there. That morning grogginess making us fall asleep in classes and leaving us too tired to do homework after school. We all wish we could just flip a switch and be wide-awake at 6 a.m., even though our homework makes us stay up until ungodly hours. Scientists recommend the average person sleep at least 8 hours, and even more for teenagers because of our growing bodies, but at BASIS, sleep is for the weak. We all know natural selection preys upon the unresponsive who cannot defend themselves, and that is exactly what happens to us when we're asleep. We must not succumb to the alluring idea of sleep, because that'll just weaken us for when we wake up. Instead, a simple solution to the difficulties of waking up is to never sleep at all. Humans can go 11 days without sleep, which is around a week and a half, with only a handful of consequences. If you're not a morning person, just pull four all-nighters (Monday-Thursday) and catch up on your sleep during the weekend.

Lunch is too late/too early and I don't know when to eat.

It's the BASIS Back to School Bash and one of the administrators hands you that manila folder that holds your fate for the upcoming school year. Excitedly, you open it, and there it is: the sixth period lunch. What have you done to deserve this punishment? No teacher likes to see their students eating in class, so this disaster has to be handled with finesse and subtlety. Now, we've all seen those backpacks meant to be used for hiking that have the straws and water bag. However, since backpacks are not allowed in school, we suggest a more unique option - water pencils. Yes, that's right. Where you usually stuff sixteen pieces of lead, these pencils will be filled with approximately one mL of any drink of your choice! Through our studies, we've found that it takes only six

hundred of these pencils for a full serving of a smoothie, perfect for secretive slurping and studying. If this doesn't appeal to you for whatever reason, we suggest you man up and just let your citric acid eat away at your stomach lining. A human dies after only three whole weeks of starvation. So you'll be fine for eight hours.

How can I look good with this strict dress code?

With modern technology, it's easy for us to get swept up in the trends of crop tops and mini-skirts. However, BASIS Scottsdale is an esteemed school, and such clothing and fads are inappropriate because of the distraction that they bring. This has been the foundation for school rules across the globe, and it would be disrespectful to go against it. If you struggle with the dress code, just take a blast to the past, and dress in accordance with the '90s: the 1790s. Big hair, high necklines and collars, tight corsets -which may be pushing it-, wrist-length sleeves, puffy skirts, and layers upon layers of fabric. Never mind the hundred-degree heat, the 1790s were the epitome of fashion and conservatism, and is a perfect decade to look back to if you ever have trouble deciding what to wear.

What are other ways to carry our books when we can't use backpacks?

Kids nowadays are weak. Ever heard of arms? Enough said.

We hope this was able to motivate you for the new school year! We're always here to provide helpful and meaningful support to the youth of BASIS.



OFF-CAMPUS LUNCH SPOTS NEAR BASIS

BY VIRAJ MEHTA &
SHAWN SAHNAN

New year, same dilemma. Every year, a new batch of juniors arrive, eager to exercise their newfound rights by doing something they could never do before: going off-campus for lunch. While the rest of the school has to stay trapped behind the imposing, lifeless walls of the BASIS campus – with the “food” provided by BASIS – juniors and seniors are set free, allowed to roam the surrounding areas and enjoy whatever delicacies nearby eateries and restaurants may provide. However, as many juniors and seniors have come to realize, one quickly exhausts the novelty of nearby food sources after too many visits. It’s only a matter of time before one has had enough of Taco Bell, Subway, or Dunkin’ (if donuts and coffee can be considered “lunch”). But, at last, those worries can be put to rest, for below is a selection of lunch locations that provide a delightful and delectable experience.

DJ’s Bagel Cafe

While most people head west on Shea towards the Ancala Village Plaza, it might surprise you to find that heading east towards Fountain Hills offers a surprisingly unique selection of eateries with a scrumptious selection of food, including DJ’s Bagel Cafe. DJ’s offers a variety of bagels, sandwiches, and salads that are both tasty and moderately priced. Reviewers state that they have a “solid lunch and breakfast menu”, especially for vegetarians and vegans, as they offer a large variety of toppings and preserves. If you’re looking for a quick and delicious breakfast or lunch place, DJ’s Bagels is the place to try.

Nekter Juice Bar



Near the Chipotle and Sprouts, Nekter Juice Bar isn’t necessarily “overlooked.” Nonetheless, while Sprouts does offer a variety of drinks, Nekter’s broad selection for any craving and fresh ingredients can’t be overlooked. Near the back of the plaza on N. 93rd Street off Shea, Nekter’s healthy selection offers a lighter substitute to the energy drinks one often gets from Sprouts. Their inviting staff and well-kept interior are sure to make your visit enjoyable.

Gyro Express



An often-overlooked and underrated restaurant is Gyro Express. Tucked away off of Shea and N. 92nd street, people often forego Gyro Express in favor of more popular nearby luncheries such as Chiptole and Starbucks. However, don’t allow the nondescript exterior fool you; Gyro Express offers some of the best Mediterranean cuisine in the city. Offering a mouth-watering selection of salads, gyros, pitas, shawarmas, and plates, Gyro Express is an authentic Mediterranean experience that is perfect for those craving something new. Surprisingly, Gyro also provides an array of sandwiches and burgers for those looking for a more “American” experience.

From gyro to fresh juice, these unique spots are sure to be a welcome change for your taste buds. Hopefully, the juniors will explore these local options and can save Taco Bell just for those special Taco Tuesdays with LeBron.

IT CHAPTER 2 REVIEW: IT'S (PENNY)WISE TO SAVE YOUR MONEY

BY BOBBY YALAM

Nail-biting, tense, heartfelt, nostalgic – that's everything fans of 2017's *IT* had hoped the highly-anticipated sequel would be. The recently-released sequel film's undeniable box-office success may deceive you to believe it lives up to this hype, but, unfortunately, *IT Chapter 2* falls flat. In spite of a star-studded cast and a decent sprinkling of genuine laughs, the movie feels like a copy of the first installation in the two-part series, with few distinguishing features to redeem its three-hour run-time.

That's not to say this movie doesn't have any notable qualities. Much like the first *IT*, the cast's natural chemistry keeps the audience engaged. Scenes featuring the adult actors (whose characters return to the town of Derry, Maine, twenty-seven years after their first fight against the evil shape-shifting clown Pennywise to end his reign of terror) carry a perfect blend of humor, largely thanks to the efforts of Bill Hader; drama, owing to Jessica Chastain's honed acting chops; and intrigue, due to the immersion of the entire ensemble in the movie's storyline. Fans of the first film will also greatly appreciate scenes between the younger actors who starred in the first film and feature in frequent flashbacks in the sequel. Their wit and charm beyond their years keep the scenes from the 2017 release relevant in the context of the sequel's plot.

Despite the cast's commitment to their roles, *IT Chapter 2* is marred by structural flaws stemming from the screenplay. While the jarring beginning that sets up the return of the "Losers' Club" to Derry feels rushed,

subsequent scenes in which the now-adult characters rediscover their traumatic childhood memories drag on for what feels like half of the movie's run-time, inevitably becoming repetitive. Moreover, the Native American imagery that is at the core of the Losers' Club's plan to defeat Pennywise, once and for all, departs from the emotion-based, personal nature of the fight against the enigmatic clown that made the first film so intriguing. More problematic about this aspect of the film, though, is the stereotypical portrayal of Native American culture that serves to advance the film's plot, rendering scenes that feature such imagery come across as under-researched and reductive. The third act of the film runs as nearly a play-by-play remake of the first film's ending, just much longer, rife with unnecessary details that drag the ending out and diminish its intended impact. The lack of originality that plagues the film's writing makes the film feel unnecessary, not adding anything new to the story that captured so many eager viewers.

If you're looking for an exciting film to watch, don't put your eggs in *IT Chapter 2*'s basket. Fans of the first *IT* may enjoy the sense of finality to Pennywise's story that this film provides, but, beyond that, this film's few merits do not make up for its fundamental flaws. And for those of us who have already invested in this underwhelming production, I suggest rewatching the first *IT* to remind us of what the sequel could have been.

Rating: 1.5 good jokes out of 5 identical 20-minute scenes



HOW ON-TREND ARE YOU?

BY ANGIE WONG

Yeet skeet everyone! Here's all the tea on what's popping right now, but in quiz form. So let's find out: how updated are you on the latest trends?

1. A person drops their brand new phone in water. Your response is:
 - a. Fat mood. But also you're DUMB. (2 pts)
 - b. Sis I- (3 pts)
 - c. You're absolutely thriving. (1 pt)
 - d. I hope you have a warranty. (0 pts)
2. Quick, catch it!
 - a. Catch what? (0 pts)
 - b. Wait, I don't play sports. (1 pt)
 - c. \(\cdot \equiv \cdot\),\hat{ } WHOA. (3 pts)
 - d. How do you do it again? (2 pts)
3. Someone gives you some boiling hot tea. What do you do?
 - a. *Sues them like that lady with McDonald's* (1 pt)
 - b. That's the tea, Sis. (3 pts)
 - c. I...wait until it's cool and then drink it? (0 pts)
 - d. And I oop- (2 pts)
4. Road work ahead.
 - a. Dang it. (2 pts)
 - b. OK. (1 pt)
 - c. uH i SuRe hOpE iT dOeS! (3 pts)
 - d. What? (0 pts)
5. What is the name of the current hurricane?
 - a. They give those things names? (0 pts)
 - b. Dorian. (3 pts)
 - c. Durian. (2 pts)
 - d. Dora the Explorian. (1 pt)
6. So I am confUSIAN.
 - a. Haha, same. (2 pts)
 - b. Idk. (1 pt)
 - c. wHy is THIS one Kansas, but this one is not ARK-KANSAS?! (3 pts)
 - d. You spelled confusion wrong. (0 points)
7. Pewdiepie.
 - a. I don't watch him. (1 pt)
 - b. Omg! He finally married Marzia. (3 pts)
 - c. Vs. T Series. (2 pts)
 - d. Who? (0 pts)
8. What is the keto diet?
 - a. A diet. (2 pts)
 - b. Something I do not want because I'm here for a good time not a long time. (1 pt)
 - c. The ke(y)-to weight loss? (0 pts)
 - d. Low carb, high fat. (3 pts)
9. There is a dance party! How do you dance?
 - a. Floss. (2 pts)
 - b. Orange justice. (3 pts)
 - c. I don't. Leave me alone. (0 pts)
 - d. I'm at home like an introvert. (1 pt)
10. Your incredibly smart friend just says something unbelievably stupid. Your reaction is:
 - a. Bruh. (1 pt)
 - b. I believe you dropped a chromosome there. (2 pts)
 - c. I just lost my last brain cell. (3 pts)
 - d. Why are you like this? (0 pts)
11. You want it? You're asking for it? You're DYING for it!
 - a. For... what? (2 pts)
 - b. No I'm not. (0 pts)
 - c. What is this behavior? (3 pts)
 - d. Get away from me, weirdo. (1 pt)
12. So, James Charles.
 - a. Oooh – tea, tea, tea. (3 pts)
 - b. Who? (0 pts)
 - c. Omg, I love his makeup tutorials. (1 pt)
 - d. Stop. Leave. Get out. (2 pts)
13. I love you 3000.
 - a. I'm still crying. (□_□) (3 pts)
 - b. Ok, I've seen that meme but I still haven't watched the movie. (2 pts)
 - c. Ew, what? I don't know you? (0 pts)
 - d. I love you 3001? (1 pt)
14. No one:
 - a. *silence* (0 pts)
 - b. I love that riddle. (1 pt)
 - c. Not a single soul: (3 pts)
 - d. Me, tho. (2 pts)
15. I'm gonna take my horse to the old town road.
 - a. Weird flex but ok. (1 pt)
 - b. Which remix? (3 pts)
 - c. I'm gonna riiiiide till I can't no more. Can't nobody tell me nothin' you can't tell me nothin'. (2 pts)
 - d. Aw, I love horses. (0 pts)
16. Thoughts on Spiderman Far From Home?
 - a. I'm going to STRANGLE Sony. (3 pts)
 - b. I love Andrew Garfield. (1 pt)
 - c. I love Tom Holland. (2 pts)
 - d. I haven't watched any of the Spiderman movies. (0 pts)

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17. I would die for you.
- Uwu. (3 pts)
 - What is it with you and the overwhelming affection? (1 pt)
 - Can't say the same for you. (0 pts)
 - 10/10 would die for you, too. (2 pts)
18. Save the turtles.
- Ban plastic straws! (2 pts)
 - *Pulls out metal straw* Sksksksk and I oop and I oop. (3 pts)
 - I agree. (1 pt)
 - Why what's happening to them? (0 pts)
19. Cauliflower rice.
- For the skinny legends. (3 pts)
 - You disgrace my Asian culture (2 pts)
 - How do you even make rice out of cauliflower? (0 pts)
 - Eww, that sounds healthy! (1 pt)
20. Quick everyone we're storming area 51!
- Storm where?! (0 pts)
 - Yes! I can meet the aliens! (3 pts)
 - I shall find all my missing socks. (2 pts)
 - I'm too lazy just go without me. (1 pt)

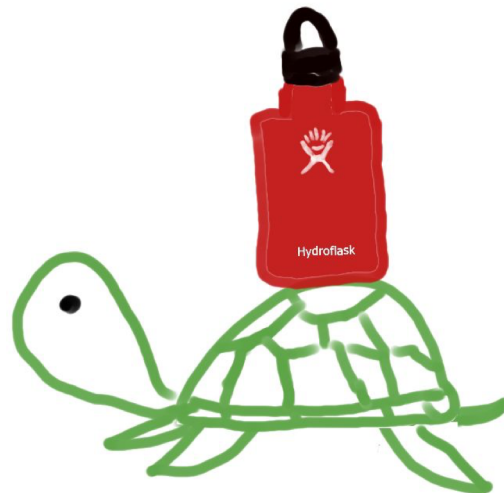
Results:

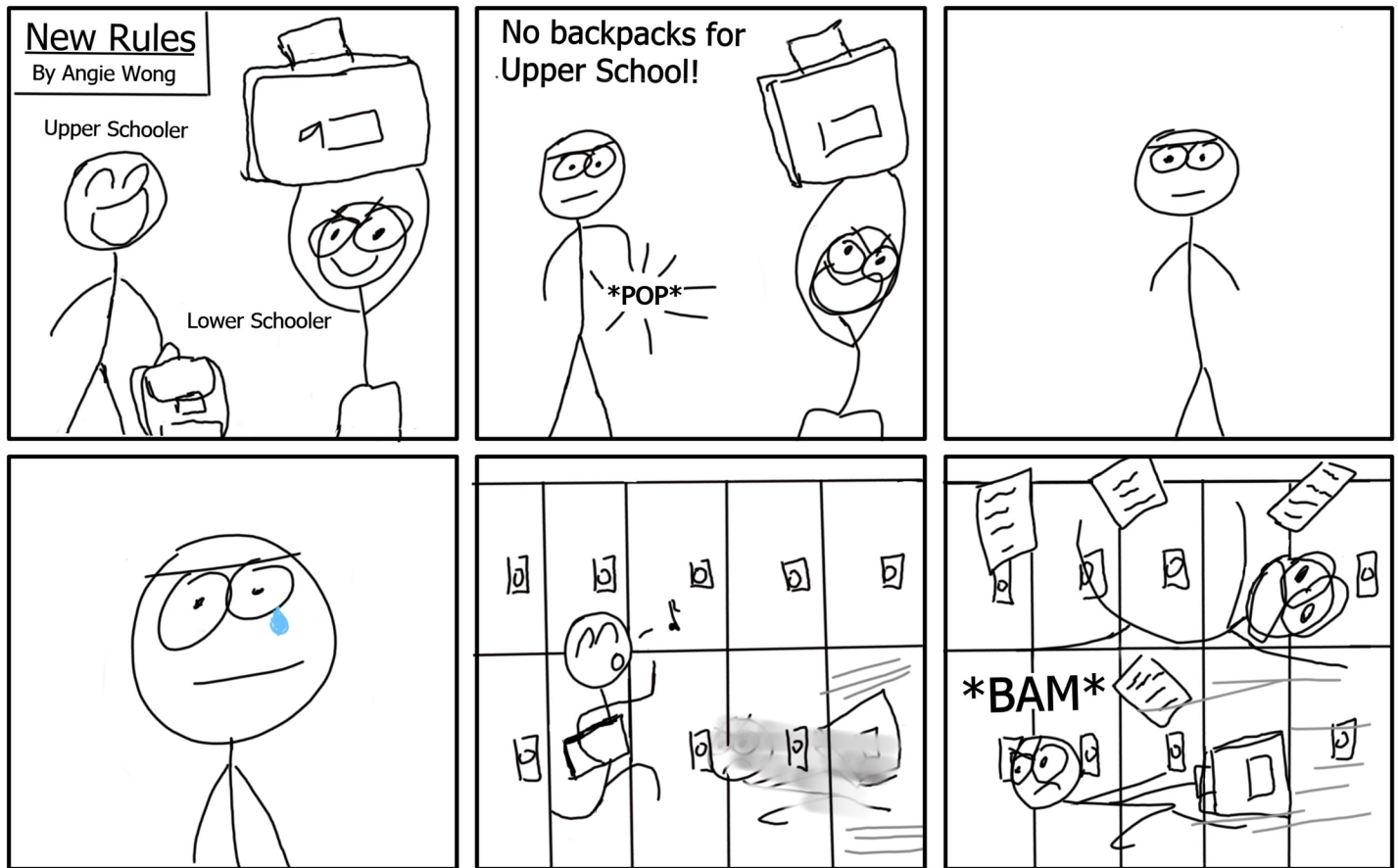
(0-15) The Hermit- Well, from these results it seems like you either have no social media, don't talk to people, don't have enough contact with younger people, don't care about the outside world, live under a rock, or just popped out of a time machine from a completely different era. Or perhaps a combination of some of those. I suggest talking to more people or at least read the news if you don't like communication. However, because of your lack of knowledge, some may view you as more innocent.

(16-30) The Uninformed/Uninterested- Good job! You got slightly higher than "living under a rock"! The reason for your lack of trend knowledge is either because you don't care or because you're usually late to updates. It seems like you might lack a social media or never use it. Unlike the Hermit, people may view you as naïve rather than innocent.

(31-45) The Tea Spiller- You are very updated on trends and current events! Except for the occasional obscure reference, you understand most references and are updated on all the tea. Sometimes your references aren't exactly fit to the scenario, but they are pop culture references nonetheless. You may not know how to do certain trendy dance moves or understand specific references fully, but at the very least, you've heard of them. You use your social media relatively frequently and talk to others regularly.

(46-60) The Absolute Kween- Sis, you are the most updated, trendy, cultured individual out there. You can quote vines by heart, your tiktok account slaps, you get all the song and meme references, and your tea knowledge is always on point. Or maybe you were able to guess the right answer based on the points. Whatever the reason, congratulations on being awarded the Absolute Kween status of trends!





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