



The Pulse

arundelhighnews.com

Volume 1: Quarter 4

Arundel High School's Official Student News Source

Spring 2018

AP Psychology teacher creates online learning platform

By Tamoor Hamid

Xamplr.com is a website designed to help students understand terms through creating examples and non-examples. Students then identify examples and non-examples by clicking “is” or “isn’t.” Currently, Xamplr’s database has around 700 psychology terms, with new terms added weekly.

The history of Xamplr

The creator behind Xamplr is Brad Wray. Mr. Wray is an AP Psychology and Computer Science teacher at Arundel High School. Before Xamplr, Mr. Wray had a psychology wiki that would help students better understand concepts through definitions and examples. The site worked well, but he ran into a problem: it was possible for people to write bad examples for psychol-



ogy terms that could be in the site for weeks without being corrected.

He then had the idea that would become Xamplr.

Xamplr started in spring 2016 after the AP exams of that year. Mr. Wray learned ReactJS, a version of JavaScript, and started to work

on the site through the summer. Xamplr became functional for psychology student use last year, with changes coming regularly.

During the 2017 AP exam season, there were a few schools using Xamplr consistently: Arundel High, Plymouth South High, Brown High, and Albemarle High. Now, Xamplr has spread to almost every state in the U.S. and has more than 3,000 registered users. This past fall, Arundel High seniors Connor Markwell and Ian Carder joined Mr. Wray as programmers in an internship with him. Both have helped fix numerous bugs and are adding features to the site.

The site also has content curators, including Arundel seniors Ashleigh Dziarnowski, Arrianna Curtis, Hanna Mathews, and Katelyn Shibilski, who add

examples or definitions to Xamplr. Arundel seniors Brendan Gillespy and Sarah Valerien intern as web developers for Xamplr.

In the last few months, the site has increased the traffic spread across the U.S., with much of the traffic originating from Pennsylvania.

How it all works

Xamplr is based on the idea of learning from creating examples and non-examples. Teachers make “todo” lists that feature specific words for students to create examples and non-examples for. After students have made a set amount of examples and non-examples, they are sent to a feed filled with examples and non-examples students.

The site does not tell the **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**

ESOL program faces unique challenges

By Rachel Heller

In Arundel High’s ESOL class in room G110, English learner students can be found studying their ABC’s and numbers. Then there are students learning past tense and future tense. And then there are students reading books. The students come from multiple continents. Some are registered for free lunch. Others are below a high school education level. Each year, they take an English proficiency test that has steadily risen in difficulty.

Playing out are the complexities of Arundel High School’s English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program—complexities that coincide with county-wide challenges as the ESOL teacher population struggles to keep pace with the English learner population.

At the helm of the program is Jorge Cordoba, Arundel High and Arundel Middle’s only ESOL teacher. After growing up in Bogotá, Colombia, Cordoba came to the United States when he was 31 with the Visiting International Faculty Program, now called Participate, to teach Biology in North Carolina. But when he arrived at McGee’s Crossroads Elementary School, he was told that they were in need of an ESOL Spanish teacher, an opportunity that he accepted.

15 years later, Cordoba still teaches ESOL classes, now at Arundel High School and Arundel Middle School. He has been teaching ESOL at Arundel High and Arundel Middle ever since the program’s inception at the two schools four years ago in 2014.

Despite the short time



since the program’s implementation, it has undergone various changes over the years—including an increase in the number of students and the regional diversity of students—which have made teaching and learning English more complicated.

Cordoba says that Arundel High’s ESOL program started with around less than 10 students. According to county data, the number of English learners has risen to 50. The middle school has

15.

Arundel High Administrator Alison Mikeska says that the school sees an increase in the English learner population every year.

“When it comes to staffing and that sort of thing, schools like Annapolis High School have a significantly higher ESOL population, so staffing is going to go there, because the resources are needed more there,” she said. “It’s been really, really challenging because we don’t get enough of what we

need because we don’t have quite enough.”

There are English learners at every AACPS school. Annapolis High School currently has the most English learners in the county, with 351. There are currently nine full-time ESOL teachers employed at Annapolis, including the department chair.

The Arundel High ESOL program has also seen an increase in the regional diversity of its students.

“[Four years ago] we had some [...] students from Nepal, Vietnamese students and Central American,” Cordoba said. “Now we have almost people from 20 countries.”

In a county dominated by English learners from Central America—with 804 students from El Salvador, 255 **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**

Arundel students explore Wall Street



By Natalie Adams

On Thursday, April 12, Signature, Leadership, and Economics students visited Wall Street and Times Square in New York City to learn more about the history of Wall Street, the financial industry, the economy, and New York City. Originally, on Thursday,

March 22, students were scheduled to visit New York for a tour of Wall Street. The 25 Japanese exchange students and two teachers from Arundel's sister school, Sagamihara High School in Sagamihara-Shi Japan, were visiting at the time, and a few of the Japanese students were planning

to attend the trip. However, a snow storm, which began on Tuesday, March 20, and continued into the following day, caused the trip to be rescheduled for Thursday, April 12.

Students arrived at Arundel around 6:10 a.m. on the morning of the trip since the bus was scheduled to depart promptly at 6:30 a.m. However, the bus, a charter from Hubers Bus Service Inc., did not leave until 6:45 because Mrs. Stawas, the lead teacher and chaperone, was having difficulty with the school's computers and printers crashing.

Students brought a plethora of pillows, blankets, and breakfast from Chick-fil-a and Dunkin' Donuts for the drive that took approximately four hours. Once in New York, students were allowed to leave belongings on the bus, such as their

Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com

Humans of Arundel: Jenny Madden



By Caitlyn Freeman

In 1954, the Baltimore Colts became the first team in the NFL to form a cheerleading squad. The Colts cheerleaders were loved by fans and are considered the pioneers for cheerleading in the NFL. Despite the adoring fans, the franchise moved to Indianapolis in 1984, leaving Maryland without a home team to support. 12 years later in 1996, Art Modell founded the Baltimore Ravens, filling the void in the hearts of many Marylanders.

While the Ravens were playing their inaugural season at Memorial Stadium, former Ravens cheerleader and current Arundel High School Physical Education Department Chair Jenny Madden was a sophomore at Arundel.

Born Jenny Palmer and raised in Gambrills, Maryland, she attended Four Seasons Elementary School, Arundel Middle School, and graduated from Arundel High School in 1998.

At 8 years old, Madden joined the GORC Wildcats cheer squad, where she cheered in elementary school and through middle school. She joined the Arundel Wildcats cheer squad during her freshman year of high school in 1994. Although she left the squad during her sophomore and

junior year, choosing to cheer for the Calvert Hall College Co-ed team, she returned to Arundel cheer for her senior year.

Madden, who describes her adolescent self as upbeat, was never a fan of contact sports. Cheer served as the outlet that allowed her eccentric personality to prevail and encouraged her to "be excited about other people's accomplishments." Madden loved to cheer for all sports, from football to lacrosse. Her sports coaching career began at age 14, when she began coaching 5-year-olds. Cheerleading wasn't the only thing Madden partook in during her adolescence. She was a gymnast, as well as a speed skater—who almost made it to the Junior Olympics with speed skating.

After studying kinesiology at Morehead State University before transferring to Towson University, she began teaching at Arundel in October 2004. Before she landed her job at Arundel, Madden was a long-term sub at Broadneck High School and at a school in Baltimore City. Her passion for teaching came from her desire to work with children, specifically the ability to assist children in their growth and development.

Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com

'Avengers: Infinity War' is jam-packed and heavy

By Brooke Kaluziński

The movie "Avengers: Infinity War" is the culmination of ten years of Marvel movies, starting with 2008's "Iron Man."

The titan Thanos (Josh Brolin) wants to save the universe by destroying half of its population, and he intends to do this by using the power of the Infinity Stones. The Avengers, Guardians of the Galaxy, and other miscellaneous heroes like Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) have to join forces to stop him.

With a movie so jam-packed with characters, naturally, some heroes received more focus than others, and some were given just a few minutes of screen time.

Altogether, the movie did a good job juggling the storylines of multiple characters, with characters like Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Doctor Strange, Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), and Steve Rogers (Chris Evans). Gamora (Zoe Saldana) also had an interesting journey with the Soul Stone and her ultimate death, and more was revealed about her past with Thanos.

Stan Lee was not the only cameo in the movie, with characters from past movies showing up. One of these cameos is that of Peter Parker (Tom Holland)'s friend Ned Leeds (Jacob Batalon), who causes a distraction that allows Peter to put on his Spider-Man suit and go to save New York.

Another cameo occurs when the location of the Soul Stone is revealed. This cameo is a throwback all the **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**



Photo via Marvel/Disney



Scan this code on SnapChat to be directed to The Pulse at arundelhighnews.com

Follow The Pulse on Twitter @Arundel_Pulse

Want to contribute?

The Pulse is a joint effort of Arundel's Newspaper/Media Production/Journalism classes and the Arundel Student Journalists club. The club meets Mondays during Pride Period in Mr. Perraud's room (F104). If you cannot be in the classes or club, articles and article ideas can be sent to the contact information of some of the Pulse staff, listed to the right.

Natalie Adams,
News Editor:
nataliea1216@comcast.net

Caitlyn Freeman,
Copy Editor:
caitylfreeman102611@gmail.com

Never miss a story: check out arundelhighnews.com and see what else Arundel's student journalists are reporting...

A letter from The Pulse's departing editor-in-chief
"My time as the editor-in-chief of The Pulse has had a lasting influence on me that will never go away. I might be leaving Arundel, but I will never be leaving The Pulse."

Book Review: Sing, Unburied, Sing
"This story will have you on the edge of your seat one minute and sobbing profusely the next. Ward's book highlights the race and class struggles Jojo and his family encounter."

Physics classes visit Six Flags for Physics Day
"It is an annual trip that students take to relax before AP testing and see real life applications of physics."