



The Pulse

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Arundel's first All Gender Bathroom reopens

By Natalie Adams

Arundel's first All Gender Bathroom was opened on Friday, December 14th, but closed later that day due to misuse. Almost two months later, the bathroom was reopened on Monday, February 4th, albeit in a new location.

The process for opening the All Gender Bathroom began late last school year. Arundel's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) created a proposition, collected signatures in support, and proposed the idea to Principal Davenport at the beginning of the current school year.

Brendon Bailey, the President of GSA, explained that Davenport was very supportive of the idea and completely on board. He stated, "it was a relief to know that Ms. Davenport had our backs," and the club felt, "we finally achieved something."

However, that feeling was short lived when the bathroom closed about an hour and a half after it opened. Bailey described it as, "a punch in the stomach," and like taking "one step forward, two steps back."

There were a few unforeseen issues with the bathroom, such as its location, the multiple stalls, and lack of communication with students and teachers.

The original bathroom replaced the girl's room at the end of upstairs F-hall, which was rather secluded, since it is around the corner from classrooms and next to an unfrequented stairwell. It also has multiple stalls, which led to students using it as a hang-out instead of a bathroom.

The opening of the bathroom was unannounced to teachers and students outside of GSA. This led to confusion over the bath-



room and students wandering in just to check it out.

Bailey explained that the GSA decided not to announce the opening of the bathroom to the entire school because they feared it would invite unwanted attention to students using it. Ms. Funk, an advisor for the GSA, also stated that the club and Davenport agreed a, "reallocation of school function is not really anything that [we] need to let everybody know about."

Instead, the GSA held an opening ceremony during Pride Period the day it opened. At this time, a cu-

stodian took down the sign marking it as a girl's restroom and replaced it with a sign that read "All Gender Bathroom."

Following the bathroom's closure, the school and GSA faced backlash. Bailey explained there were complaints from students, parents, and teachers, who did not understand the importance of the bathroom and thought it was "perverted" and "disgusting."

Bailey stated, "it was meant to be for safety," and that some students at Arundel either would not go to the bathroom at all

during school, or would "go to some bathroom where they don't feel like they belong." He gave an example of a transgender male who would be unwelcome in the boy's room because he is viewed as female by boys, but also unwelcome in the girl's room because he is viewed as male by girls.

Bailey also explained that transgender students were permitted to use the single-stall restrooms in the main office, but students who were non-binary or questioning did not have this privilege.

With the backlash, there has also been support. Bailey stated that since the closing of the bathroom, more and more allies have stepped forward to say that they understand and support the club, its members, and the bathroom.

In order to explain...

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Arundel tests positive for lead in drinking water

By Caitlyn Freeman

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) released the updated results from the county-wide testing for lead content in school water sources on Friday, February 1st. Eight water sources at Arundel High tested positive for elevated lead content.

According to the letter that Principal Davenport sent home to students and parents Friday afternoon explaining the testing results, Microbac Laboratories Inc., a second private lab hired by the county to conduct the testing, collected 175 water samples from Arundel on Saturday, December 15th, 2018.

Out of the 175 tested outlets, eight samples (three consumable and five non-consumable), tested positive for levels of lead



that exceeded the legal limit, set by the Maryland Department of the Environment, of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

According to the AACPS website, a consumable source is any source that is designated for water consumption like water fountains, ice machines, and hot water machines. Other drinking water sources like slop sinks, kitchen sinks, and hand sinks are considered non-consumable sources.

Although the legal limit for lead content in drinking water in Maryland is 20 ppb, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends an action level (AL) of 15 ppb for lead content in drinking water. However, due to the Safe Drinking Water Act, states are allowed to set the standards for the legal amount of lead content that is allowed in drinking water.

Arundel's testing results show the water foun-

tains and bubblers (a type of water fountain) in the girl's locker room, Team Room 1, and the rightmost fountain near A109 (closest to C-hall) are consumable sources that exceed 20 ppb.

As for the non-consumable sources, two hand sinks in the G-Hall girl's bathroom, two hand sinks in the upstairs E-Hall girl's bathroom, and the hand sink in Team Room 3 all have a lead content that exceeds 20 ppb.

As previously reported in a November 8th article in The Pulse, Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer for AACPS, explained that water outlets that have tested positive for lead and exceeded 20 ppb, are shut off immediately and will not be used until retesting occurs and a

negative result appears.

Aside from the eight samples which presented levels of lead that exceed 20 ppb, the testing results also show that nine consumable sources and eight non-consumable sources showed a lead content of higher than 1.0 ppb but lower than 20 ppb. Some of the sources deemed acceptable for consumption presented levels above the EPA recommended 15 ppb AL.

As for the non-consumable sources, multiple hand sinks around the building as well as multiple sinks in the cafeteria kitchen have levels of lead that quite exceed the legal limit but are above 1.0 ppb.

In an interview with The Pulse, Mosier explained that the school...

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Wildcat Ink: Arundel student's share their tattoos

By Evangeline Fox

Expression at a young age is vital to growing up. When people learn how to be vulnerable from a creative standpoint, they can also learn how to become confident and grow. Tattoos are one of the many ways people choose to express themselves. Body art can hold secret meanings or defining stories which showcase the individual in a deeper way. At a young age, several Arundel students have gotten pieces on their bodies to cater to their own personalities and share a side of them that outside perspectives might not ever know.

McKenzie Meehan, a senior and a star on Arundel's volleyball court, has a simple lotus flower tattoo next to a Bible verse on her wrist, open for her and all the world to see. The story behind her tattoo is just as beautiful as the art itself. It starts with her middle name, Mei-Len, which is "beautiful lotus" in Chinese. According to McKenzie, it represents "self-awareness, rising out of suffering, patience, and a lot more."



Photo by McKenzie Meehan

The Bible verse, Luke 1:45, also chips in to the self-awareness theme, as it states, "Blessed is she who believes that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." The placement of the tattoo was crucial for her, because she wanted to see it so it would be a constant reminder of encouragement. Like McKenzie, many other students also have tattoos placed on their forearms.

Senior Mathew Hutzelman has a multilayered skull and dagger tattoo. From afar, you mainly make out the skull with a dagger going through the top with bits and pieces, like flowers, surrounding it. As you get closer, its vibrant color shines and an image of a snake and jewels pop from the tattoo as well. "The flowers represent my mother as well as the jewels; they're her birthstone," Hutzelman said. As for the rest of the tattoo, he explains that he got it because he admired its style.



Mathew Hutzelman's tattoo

One common theme for students at Arundel who have tattoos is mortality. Seniors Mikey Brewer and Jackson Nicholson (also known as Jackson Dean) have tattoos with completely different styles that represent the same philosophy.

Looking at Mikey's, its main image is of a traditional style grim reaper, and like Mathew's, it's full of color. Mikey even joked that "Mathew got the color in his after seeing mine done." The tattoo also has a rose, which signifies life and how it changes. Mikey had an artist add flames and a cross to the piece to contribute to the whole entity. Overall, the tattoo is appealing to the eye with its clear images and its dynamic colors.

Jackson, known to many for his burgeoning country music career, chose a different direction for his

tattoo. Placed on the left of his chest is a massive skull, dressed in a Native American head piece. Its realistic style is black and grey, with hard lines that emphasize every crack in the skull and each line in the feathers. His reasoning for such distinct styling is because of family background and heritage in the Native American culture. Many of his other tattoos follow the theme as well. He even got to partake in drawing some of the designs which ended up on his body.

From a more inspirational standpoint, senior Sarah Post had a beautiful phrase inked on her forearm to remind her of what n life. The quote, "Vievere la vita chi ami," in cursive type text, is an Italian quote which means "live the life you love."

"I went through a lot of emotional stress and my mental health was at its worst," she said. "I was in and out of the hospital; it was such a hard time for me." So, Sarah got the tattoo to "remind her that life isn't going the way she wants it to, and that she needs to change instead of making bad decisions."



Photo by Sarah Post

Her tattoo not only has inspirational meaning behind it, but also matches her father's tattoo, which is "Ama la vita che vivi," which means "love the life you live." The tattoo created a new connection with her father, which she feels is significant because she doesn't see him as often as she once did.

Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com

Board of Education for AACPS elects new leadership



By Caitlyn Freeman

During the bi-weekly Board of Education meeting for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) on Wednesday, February 6th, former board Vice President Terry Gilleland was elected President and Josie Urrea was elected Vice President of the Board. Urrea, a senior at Severna Park High School and the current Student Member of the Board (SMOB), is the youngest Vice President to serve on the board.

The election has been a highly discussed topic between the board and community members. During the last meeting of the board on Wednesday, January 23rd, the board adopted a new policy for board officer elections to occur in December instead of the original June election date. The reason for this change being to give newly elected members the chance to choose the new president and vice president.

Gilleland, a graduate of North County High School who served as the student member of the board during the 1994-1995 school year, was nominated by fellow board member Eric Grannon. Grannon has attempted to elect Gilleland multiple times during past meetings, however, his advances failed due to a break in board regulations.

According to the new board officer election policy, if a member nominates a fellow member for

an officer position, it does not require a second by another member.

Gilleland was the only member nominated for the position. After a board vote, Gilleland was elected the new President of the board 9-0.

According to Gilleland, he plans to use his presidency to help lead the board through the transition from being an appointed board to an elected one.

"We need to steer the ship through this transition. I think a lot of people have known that it's been a difficult time for the last couple of months, because we've been on a learning curve that we're working through. But then also the contentiousness that's been here needs to stop," Gilleland said in regards to his role as president.

After Gilleland was elected, it was time for the board to elect a vice president. Unlike the presidential election, two members of the board were nominated for the vice president position.

Robert Leib nominated Michelle Corkadel and Melissa Ellis nominated Urrea. After some deliberation by the members over how to vote with two nominees, they decided to vote for each member separately, with the vote for Corkadel first, since she was the first to be nominated.

Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com



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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 Tuesdays during Pride Period in Mr. Perraud's room (F104). If you cannot be in the classes or club, articles and ideas can be sent to the contact information of some of the Pulse staff, listed to the right.

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Study food reviews: final edition

"You read that right folks, we are going all the way back to 2018 (terrifying, I know)."

Changes to dismissal protocol affect student parking

"Also, students will only be allowed to exit through the middle school if they leave before the buses."

Pride Period suspended for start of third quarter

"This is not the first time Pride has been suspended."