



The Bishop Bulletin



Original Artwork by Quentin Clark

From the Berlin Bureau...

By Mila Rockedal

In August, my family and I moved from Providence, Rhode Island to Berlin, Germany for a year. Although I lived here in Berlin in second grade, it was still a huge change for me. I went from going to Nathan Bishop, to a small bilingual school called Freie Schule Anna Sophie (FSAS). It's been a long month of adjustments, starting with the fact that most of my classe are in German (which I don't speak that well), but there are also many other things that differentiate the two schools.

Instead of having seven classes, like at Nathan Bishop, I have about 18 classes, all scattered out over the course of the week. Along with the normal classes like English, math, and history, we also take some more unconventional classes, such as ethics, politics, and geography. Many classes are more specialized, where for example, instead of having science, we have three separate classes for physics, biology, and chemistry.

Although Nathan Bishop has a general dress code, FSAS requires all of their students to wear an official school top with their logo on it every day. If you don't, you will be given community service, where you stay late on Friday and help the janitor clean the school.

At FSAS, students are rewarded (and punished) very differently than at Nathan Bishop. There is a system, in which one earns social points by positively contributing to the school community. These contributions can include volunteering to read books to the lower school, signing up for clubs, and doing other good deeds. All students start at level one, which comes with no privileges, but also no punishments. Once you earn about 10 social points, you can graduate to the next level. The higher the level, the more privileges you earn. For example, at level two, you can leave school an hour earlier, and not attend study hall, which is normally the last class. At level three, along with the privileges of level two, you can sleep in and skip homeroom. In level four, which is the hardest to achieve, you are allowed to choose the classes you want to go to. However, with every privilege comes consequences. If you get community service a certain number of times, or do something very bad, you will get de-graduated to level zero. At level zero, you have to hand in your phone to the principal every morning and must stay at level zero for at least six weeks. *(Continued on Page 2)*

Why Can't I Vote?

By Simon Kislak Brown

The American system of government is an indirect democracy -- the citizens of the U.S. vote for representatives to make the rules and laws of our country. Well, not every citizen. Citizens eighteen years of age, or older, have the right to vote. I, a thirteen year old, cannot vote, and anyone else below eighteen can't vote either. Why is this? Has the age limit changed in the past? Why can my parents vote and not me?

For over a century, only people who were twenty one years old or older could vote due to the 14th amendment passed in 1868. This began to change in the 1960s, due to the war in Vietnam. In the 1960s the US government forced young men eighteen or older to fight in the war, this began a controversy. The men in between ages of eighteen and twenty one believed that if they were forced to fight for their country they should be allowed to vote.

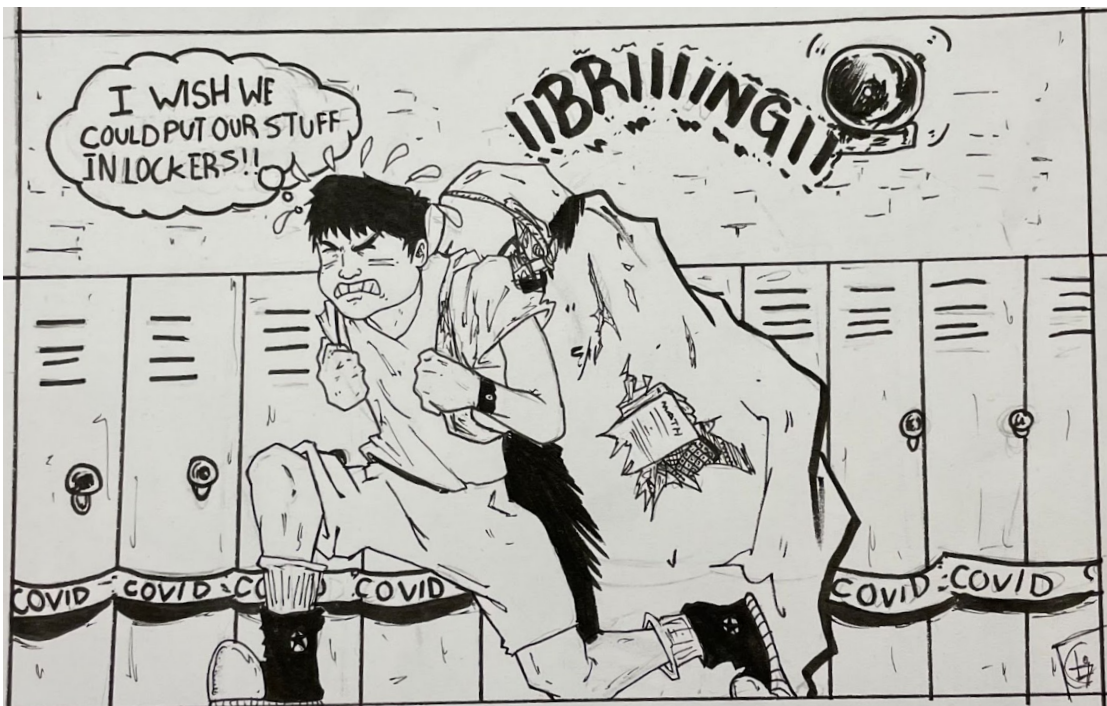
Protesters began to push congress to pass a bill to lower the voting age by three years. These protests gained publicity and the idea of lowering the age of eligibility began to gain popularity. In 1970, congress passed The Voting Rights Act, lowering the voting age to eighteen for national elections.

In 1971 the 26th amendment permanently changed eligibility for voting in all elections. This law has remained in effect to this day. This is how the current age limit was created, but why do they even exist?

The prefrontal cortex is a part of the brain located in the very front of the mind that affects how humans regulate emotions, control impulsive behavior, make long term paths, and assess risks. For the democratic process to work best, it is vital for this part of the brain to be developed enough for someone to not fall under peer pressure, and to make their own independent decision.

The voting eligibility is eighteen and high school ends at the same age. In the last year of high school, kids have obtained intelligence and knowledge from school that people didn't have at younger ages. All voters have been through the education system meaning they can use the knowledge from school to make an intelligent decision when voting.

The people of the United States of America get to mold their country to best fit them and get to continually create a more perfect union. Though there are restrictions to the voting process, anyone -- even kids like me -- can partake in the democratic process in so many ways: you can talk to your family about issues you care about, you can campaign for politicians you support, and, as per the constitution, you have the legal right to fight for your rights, even if you can't vote. *(Sources on Page 5)*



Original Artwork by Linus Greve

From The Berlin Bureau... (Cont.)

By Mila Rockedal

In most American schools, there are three main school groups, elementary, middle, and high school, before you attend college. In Germany however, there are only two. The first is Grundschule (elementary school), which lasts until the end of 6th grade. In their last year of Grundschule, German children make a decision that will determine the course of their lives. Some chose to go to a gymnasium, which lasts until 12th grade, where students prepare and learn for the arbitur, the test which allows you to apply to university, and, if you get a good score, it betters your chances of getting into good universities. Other students choose to go to Realschule, or Hauptschule, which offers a more general education and prepares students for a less academic focused future. It ends with an exam in grade 10.

The switch from Nathan Bishop to FSAS was a big change in many ways, but one of the things that I found the most surprising was all the independence and trust the school gives us, especially to walk freely around the building. For example, most of the time, my gym class is at a public track and field that is a 15-20 minute walk from my school. We are all expected to get there on our own over the span of our 20 minute morning break while the teachers wait for us at the field. Hall passes are not needed at school, and if you are walking through the hallway during class time, no one will stop you or question you.

I may only be starting to get used to the school, but of course outside of school, Germany is very culturally different, and I look forward to sharing those differences over the course of the year!

The Death of Queen Elizabeth II

By Lucy Schneider

The Queen of England passed away on September 8th at the Balmoral Castle. She was the longest reigning queen of England, and lived through many major political events in English history, including the Trouble in Ireland and devolution in the United Kingdom. She had over one hundred and seventy prime ministers and met five popes during her time as queen. So now, after her seventy year long reign has come to an end, what will happen to England?

Prince Charles, now King Charles, will be taking the throne. At the age of 73 he will be the oldest person to become king. King Charles has started multiple charities, some being the Prince's Trust and The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust. He's started schools, mostly art schools. In addition, he supports the ending of climate change.

Charles was also the husband of Princess Diana. Unfortunately, Charles cheated on Princess Diana with Camilla, who is now the current Queen Consort. Diana expressed her doubt for how well Charles could be for the throne on public television. While Charles has started many charities and has done a few good things for the environment, Princess Diana did not believe that he was fit to be king, though that was a biased statement due to their history. King Charles is the first king England has had in decades, and we await to see what he offers both England and the world. (Sources on Page 5)

This Month In History: 9/11

By Jibreel Reda Frayn

On September 11th, our country becomes solemn remembering in 2001 when four planes were hijacked by the terrorist group Al-Qaeda. Those of us who are teenagers were not born, yet we still understand the significance of the event as a turning point for American society.

At 8:54 AM, American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. The collision left a burning hole in the 80th floor, killing hundreds and trapping even more in the floors above. People thought this was some kind of freak accident. The evacuation of both Twin Towers started almost immediately. Then, less than twenty minutes after the first plane hit, a second plane, United Airlines Flight 175, crashed into the south tower. The impact caused an explosion that showered flaming debris on the streets below.

At 9:48 AM, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the west side of the Pentagon building near Washington DC. Jet fuel from the plane caused a huge fire, which led to the collapse of the Pentagon's side.

Less than fifteen minutes later, The south tower in New York collapsed in a cloud of dust and smoke. At 10:30 AM, the north tower collapsed, not able to withstand the heat of the jet fuel fire. Only six people in the World Trade Center at the time of the collapse survived.

Meanwhile, United Airlines Flight 93 was heading toward Washington DC, and is suspected to have been planning to crash into either the Capitol Building or the White House. During a takeoff delay, passengers learned of the events in New York and DC through cell phones, and made a plan to take back control of the plane. The passengers fought the four hijackers, who crashed the plane into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. There were no survivors.

In the aftermath of the attacks, President George W. Bush declared the "War On Terror." In October 2001, NATO invaded Afghanistan to remove the Taliban from power and capture Al-Qaeda operatives. The US withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021 under President Joe Biden after occupying and fighting in the country for twenty years. This led to the return of the Taliban in power. The US government has also confirmed that its invasion of Iraq is also connected to 9/11.

In total, the attacks themselves led to 2,977 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries. 2,753 of the deaths were from the World Trade Center, 184 from the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania. On top of all of the tragic deaths it caused, 9/11 also started numerous wars and conflicts internationally. (Sources on Page 5)

FIFA World Cup 2022: Schedules and Standings

By Theodore Anderson

November is rapidly approaching and with that, comes the FIFA World Cup. The qualifiers for the tournament recently concluded and the 32 teams that will be competing are split into 8 groups of 4. These groups are decided using a system of pots. Every qualified team is put in one of 4 pots based on the FIFA World Rankings. The top 7 teams are put in pot 1 (along with the host nation), the 9th to 16th teams are put in pot 2 and so on. Each group consists of 1 team from each pot to make the groups evenly distributed and fair for all teams. The groups going into the World Cup are as follows:

Group A:	Group B:	Group C:	Group D:
Qatar	England	Argentina	France
Ecuador	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia
Senegal	USA	Mexico	Denmark
Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia
Group E:	Group F:	Group G:	Group H:
Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal
Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay
Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	South Korea

The World Cup will kick off on Sunday, November 20 with Qatar vs. Ecuador in Al Bayt Stadium. The following Monday the games continue with England vs. Iran, Senegal vs. Netherlands, and USA vs. Wales. The group stage will finish on Friday, December 2. Each win counts as 3 points, a draw is 1 point, and a loss is 0. The 2 teams with the most points in each group at the end will advance to the knockout stage. The knockout stage is a single elimination bracket and the losers of the semi finals will play a match for 3rd place. The winner of the 2022 World Cup will be decided on December 18, 2022. *(Sources on Page)*

NBMS Sports Report

By Richard Belisle, revised by Eliya Brody

The City of Providence offers two sports for fall, cross country and soccer. Each sport has a separate boys' and girls' team. Eight middle schools participate in the sports league: DelSesto, Nathanael Greene, Paul Cuffee, Esek Hopkins, West Broadway, Roger Williams, Gilbert Stuart, and Nathan Bishop.

Cross-country takes place at the Broad Street entrance to Roger Williams Park (Hawthorne Avenue). The course is slightly under a mile long with boys and girls running separately. Cross-country typically goes from mid-September to mid-October.

Soccer has a 7-game regular season (one game versus each middle school). Each team generally plays twice per week with the games taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although there are no specific rules regarding minimum playing time, depending upon the circumstances of the game the coaches do their best to give everyone an opportunity to play. Soccer begins in mid-October and ends in mid-November.

Any team practices take place at Nathan Bishop school from 2:45 until approximately 4:00. Bus transportation is not provided for after-school practices; therefore, students need to make arrangements to get a ride home after practice. A student may, however, be excused from practice if they're having difficulty getting transportation home.

A schedule of games/meets is provided for each sport prior to the start of the season. For sports there are individual awards (medals) given to the top athletes, with a banner and first-place trophy awarded to the city champion---as well as a second-place trophy awarded to the runner-up.

Signing up for a sport does not necessarily guarantee that a student will be able to participate. Grades, class attendance, and behavior are considered prior to any student being eligible to either try-out or join a team. If any student is failing one or more courses, has two or more D's, has inconsistent class attendance, or has any discipline referrals--the student's teachers and guidance counselor help to determine whether the student has been responsible enough in their academic studies and/or in following school guidelines regarding behavior to join a Nathan Bishop sports team. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Interview with Math Teacher Madeline Garcia

By Eliya Brody



Madeline Garcia in front of the school mascot at San Francisco State University.

Madeline Garcia is the new advanced eighth grade math teacher at Nathan Bishop. Here are some questions to get to know this first year teacher.

EB: You are originally from San Francisco I believe. What made you decide to move to the east coast?

MG: I wanted to try something new and I also have family here.

EB: What made you want to pursue a career in mathematics?

MG: When I was in elementary school I really struggled with math. I took a calculus class in college and my professor inspired me by telling me I was good at math.

EB: What activities do you enjoy doing outside of school?

MG: I really like baking, hiking, and listening to music.

EB: Great answer. Finally, what do you want to inspire in your students?

MG: I want to teach my students that math can be hard but it's doable and that everybody can be good at it.

NBMS Sports Report (Cont.)

By Richard Belisle, revised by Eliya Brody

For each sport, team members are provided with a Nathan Bishop team jersey that must be returned at the end of the season. The players are also asked to wear dark blue shorts in keeping with Nathan Bishop colors, although shorts of any color are acceptable. Soccer shoes, soccer socks, and shin guards are also required for soccer. For meets/games the players and coaches leave from Nathan Bishop on a school bus at about 3:00, arriving at any of the above-mentioned venues (Mount Pleasant High School or Roger Williams Park) depending upon the sport.

Although only players and coaches are allowed to ride on the bus---students, staff, family, and friends are always encouraged to support our Nathan Bishop teams at all sporting events. Nathan Bishop has an extraordinary history of sports participation, support, and success. Particularly in recent years, because of the tremendous support of the PTO, parents, coaches, administration, staff, and of course our phenomenal student athletes. Just since the fall of 2018, the Nathan Bishop Cougars have won 10 city championships in the various sports (And if sports hadn't been canceled for 17 months due to Covid, the list of championship accomplishments may be even more extensive.

Despite our success, what is most inspiring is how our Nathan Bishop student athletes take pride in representing our school community and competing with heart and character--yet always within the framework of respect and sportsmanship. There is no greater feeling than seeing so many parents, students, staff, family, and friends cheering on our teams and being a cornerstone of Nathan Bishop sports.

Book Review: “They Both Die at the End”

By Chloe Rourke

Adam Silvera’s novel *They Both Die at the End* is set in New York City on September 5th, 2017. It takes place in a world where people receive calls within 24 hours of their death. Death Cast, a program, calls the people within those 24 hours, giving the news they are about to die. Then they will send their deepest apologies and tell them to live the day to the fullest. The events of the book begin when Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio get the Death Cast call. The book switches between both of their perspectives, with timestamps at the beginning of each chapter.

The book starts with both boys getting a call from Death Cast. In the beginning you find out some of what Rufus and Mateo have been through and learn a lot about them in the process. The boys are strangers from the beginning, but both desire to make a friend for their last day on Earth for different reasons. Rufus doesn’t want his old friends to feel the guilt of him passing away like he feels with his family. Mateo never leaves his house, except for school. Luckily there’s an app for “deckers” (people who will die that day) that connects them both. Rufus and Mateo get together and try to do the impossible, live a lifetime in less than 24 hours.

For some, the start may seem a little slow, but the book picks up. There is a lot of character development throughout the book, especially for Mateo. This is a bit surprising since the story takes place in such a small window of time. Even so, it feels natural, not too fast, and not like everything is piling on top of each other. There’s also a lot of ups and downs in the book that take the reader on an emotional rollercoaster. You will feel for the characters. You may agree or disagree with their decisions, but you should stick it out until the end.

When I read this book for the first time it felt bittersweet, like saying goodbye to a good friend. When I finished, I had to sit back and process before I went on with my day. The book embodies the lesson: you never know what is going to happen, so live your life to the fullest.

Reading this book was very entertaining, despite the title giving away the ending. I highly recommend reading *They Both Die at the End*, whether it be for a life lesson or for entertainment. You will get the most out of this read!

The Flora of Nathan Bishop: Kentucky Bluegrass and the Norway Pine

By Khalil Garcia Llorens

Everyday when I walk into Nathan Bishop Middle School, I wish I could imagine the natural scene. Alas, the tall, homologous trees and grasses, the non-native cypresses, Norwegian pines, mint, chives, and swamp milkweed: they carry a small part of the essence of the untainted forest that was once in the place of the school.

As students arrive at the grounds of Nathan Bishop, a feature of the American image that we often take for granted displays itself proudly: Kentucky bluegrass, in its scientific name *Poa pratensis*, is one of the most common grasses in lawns and fields all over the world. Ironically, Kentucky bluegrass isn’t even native to the New World: it is a common clearing grass all over Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa. The bluegrass was introduced to the Americas by Christopher Columbus and his Spanish Conquistadors, along with a variety of other European and Old World grasses. Since then it has spread throughout North America, occasionally outcompeting native grasses and leaving their population disjunct, as well as all matter of herbaceous perennials (herbaceous perennials are often small, flowering plants that stay alive for many years, but die back and live in the ground during the winter). In all cases, this is an unfortunate story. For hundreds of years Europeans have valued the image of a well kept lawn; this mentality has been detrimental to the biodiversity of flora in New World habitats. Every square inch of lawn is a space that a native plant in need could find a home, protected and safe of natural environmental stresses, such as deer, or people. Regardless, countless people value their lawns tremendously, and it is the most prominent plant in our Nathan Bishop ecosystem.

As students walk around the perimeter of the school, a row of trees planted on the perimeter of our school grounds, bordering the sidewalk, form a natural shield from the harshness of the road. Upon further inspection, there stand a variety of species of trees, all between fifty and twenty years old, most of which are European, or Old World species. The large, stately purple trees on the left side of the school, relative to facing the entrance, are *Acer platanoides*, or Norway maple. This tree is native to Europe (hence ‘Norway’), where it most commonly occurs with leaves of green. This variety, however, called ‘Crimson King’, is a cultivar of Norway maple with deep purple leaves, and was likely selectively bred by humans over time for its striking ornamental value.

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