E-Cigarettes Linked to Lung Illness

by Rothela Namadi and John Wang

On August 21st, 2019, the CDC released a media statement concerning 193 cases of mysterious lung illnesses that were associated with e-cigarette product use, all reported between June 28th and August 20th of this year. According to the statement, many of these patients suffered symptoms such as fatigue, difficulty breathing, chest pains, and vomiting, prior to hospitalization. Though all of the reported cases involved e-cigarette product use or vaping, the statement goes on to explain that as of now, “investigators have not identified any specific product or compound that is linked to health officials whether these illnesses were caused by one substance or several, the statement mentions, and an article by the New York Times states that public health officials have declined to say whether the products in question are made by mass-market companies or counterfeiters.

New York Times, Dr. John Holcolmbo, a pulmonologist, sheds some light on why there is so much confusion surrounding this outbreak, mentioning that the “FDA has no control over the ingredients used in vaping products.” According to him, “the problem is we don’t know what’s being inhaled through these devices, of which there are five or six hundred kinds... We have to assume that some of them may be dangerous and some may not be dangerous.”

The Clarion Student Newspaper of East Brunswick High School

by Clara Lee

On August 20, entertainment company Sony Pictures announced the end of their partnership with Disney on the Spider-Man franchise due to a disagreement over co-financing. Shockingly, this dispute removed Spider-Man from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, separating the iconic character from the largely popular superhero movie franchise. The partnership began in 2015 when Sony and the Disney-owned Marvel Studios agreed to share the Spider-Man character, allowing Disney to use Tom Holland’s version of Spiderman in its Marvel Studios movies. Holland’s character quickly grew in popularity through his appearances in Captain America: Civil War, Avengers: Infinity War, and one of 2019’s biggest films, Avengers: Endgame. With this agreement, Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige integrated Sony Pictures’ Spider-Man movies into the Marvel Cinematic Universe through Spider-Man: Homecoming and the recently released Spider-Man: Far From Home, which currently stands as Sony Picture’s highest-grossing film worldwide.

Following the success of Spider-Man: Far From Home, Disney stated that they wanted a 50/50 split in profits with Sony for any future Spider-Man movies. When Sony refused to settle on Disney’s stipulation, Disney ended the previously-arranged partnership, removing Feige and Marvel Studios as producers of Sony’s future Spider-Man films and along with them, Spider-Man from the MCU.

Many fans are quite shocked and saddened by Spider-Man’s departure from the MCU, as the superhero has become a fan-favorite character. Junior Abigail Lam expresses that “the removal of Spider-Man from the MCU is quite disappointing because we will no longer be able to see interesting battles between Spider-Man and other Avengers. I always looked forward to seeing Holland’s comedic and youthful character in the films.” Other voices have voiced a more dramatic reaction to the news, as senior Eric Barak claims, “it’s ruining my life, and I will truly miss Spider-Man.” The charming and adorably awkward version of Peter Parker attracted the attention of old and new Marvel fans, with many of them agreeing that his introduction to Marvel was beneficial for both studios. Fans have already begun to question the future of Spider-Man as they will not only no longer see him battle with many of the iconic Marvel characters but also his departure from the MCU will undoubtedly be remembered for his enduring character and contributions to the MCU.

Mr. Stark, I Don’t Feel So Good...

by Rothela Namadi and John Wang

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Hello EBHS!

Welcome back to school! We are excited to be your Editor-in-Chiefs this year and are looking forward to another great year of East Brunswick High School’s elite print newspaper, the Clarion. Just as September marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall, make this school year the beginning of something great. Take the time to get to know your classmates and teachers— you never know who your next best friend could be. Use this year to grow, not only as students, athletes, and artists, but as individuals, learning from every obstacle and going on with new knowledge and wisdom. We wish you the very best of luck as you embark on yet another rigorous school year. Be kind, work hard, and enjoy!

Yours,
Amasha and Eva

HUMANS OF EB

I’ve always wanted to go into the entertainment industry; ever since I was a kid I loved making and editing videos. In the future, I’d love to work in film and television production. When I got to EBHS, I joined video newsmakers and began working on the production team for the morning announcements. Having a place that gives me an opportunity to be creative and practice my passion while still being able to focus on my schoolwork is really important to me.

My friends and I share a passion for QuizBowl, where we put our trivia skills to test in competitions against some of the best schools in the tri-state area. Every week, we host open practices, where the allure of buzzing first and a desire to share knowledge with others creates an accessible environment. We invite anyone committed enough to competitions, and we are hoping to qualify two teams for the National tournament this spring. With new laptops, hosting online practices becomes much easier. Come join us for a fun Friday afternoon, or for our annual QuizBowl night later this year!

I’ve been dancing for 15 years; it’s always been a creative outlet for me to turn to. I’m able to express myself free of the judgment of others, and there’s no right or wrong way to do it. The most difficult thing can be when you work so hard towards a goal, and you get injured – it can potentially be a really big setback. But time off only reminds you how much you’d miss it, and how lost you’d be without it. Dance has boosted my confidence both on stage and in my daily life - I don’t know where I’d be without it.

Participating in a sport at EBHS is so much more than just going to practice and competing against others; it’s about the lessons you learn, the connections you make, and the memories that last a lifetime. Being on the swim team, I was able to meet some of my closest friends on the pool deck, along with numerous others that I doubt I would have ever known, had we not been on the team together. I can’t count how many times I was at a meet cheering on my peers until I got a headache, and had to go into school the next day with my throat sore. But despite all that, I can say that it was worth it every time.
by John Wang and Rothela Samadi

Recently, protests have rocked Hong Kong as its citizens have called for action from the government. Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China ever since it was released from Britain in 1997, functions similar to an independent country under the “one country, two systems” principle. As of late, the government of Hong Kong has adamantly refused to meet all the demands of its people. After the proposed—and now withdrawn—Hong Kong Extradition Bill was brought to the streets calling for its full withdrawal. Initially, the bill was meant to allow for the extradition of criminals between Hong Kong and Taiwan after a legal loophole prevented a murder case from being prosecuted. Although it was introduced with good intentions, the people of Hong Kong took issue with it because it could be a precursor to the erosion of Hong Kong’s independence.

A major fear was the possibility of the extradition of Hong Kong citizens to politically China. Rising senior Kyle Wang believes that “increased transparency between both governments and the people would ease a lot of tension, or at least answer some questions.”

While this political debate is on the other side of the world, it is important to remain aware and knowledgeable of global issues, especially when they relate to our own country’s history.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam speaking to the press by Julia Maling

The main characters of Stranger Things Season 3 episodes and earning a score of 100 percent “fresh.” Stranger Things 3 smashed Netflix records, having the most viewers (40.7 million) of any series or movie in its first four days. Billie Eilish topped Billboard’s Hot 100 with “Bad Guy,” combining soprano vocals with edgy lyrics, with another version displaying Justin Bieber’s vocals on the second verse. Bieber also sings with Ed Sheeran in “I Don’t Care,” which junior Liliana Camillo called “light and fun.” Junior Jessica Chou noted that the hit isn’t special as “a lot of songs focus on an artist’s reliance on their significant other.” Someone famous for doing so, Taylor Swift, released her album, Lover, Junior and Concert Choir member Annaika Taniguchi described that the title track demonstrates Swift returning to her “slower, country roots,” and as school rolls in, we now return to our roots.

by Shreya Rajeshwaran

Hong Kong Protests

by Shreya Rajeshwaran

Meet Some of Our New Teachers!

Ms. Regan Gillespie

Miss Taylor Wapelhorst

Mr. Dana Breen

Ms. Christine Jarrach

Ms. Christine Jarrach is teaching Culinary Arts I. While Ms. Jarrach was raised in New Jersey, she used to live in Arizona. She has an Italian greyhound that she loves to run with.

Miss Taylor Wapelhorst is teaching the Preschool Education and Teaching courses this year. Miss Wapelhorst has a dog named Bruce, and loves to bake. When she was in high school, Miss Wapelhorst took the same course she’s teaching now.

Mr. Dana Breen

Mr. Dana Breen is a teacher in Resource and In-Class Resource capacities for U.S. History II and World History classes. Before teaching, Mr. Breen had a 30-year career in the U.S. Army and the Federal Air Marshal Service. He raises honeybees as a hobby.

Ms. Regan Gillespie is an Environmental Science teacher, and this is her first year teaching. Ms. Gillespie enjoys participating in color guard, loves cats but doesn’t have one, and likes the color yellow.

Ms. Christine Jarrach

Environmental Science teacher, Ms. Christine Jarrach has one, and likes the color yellow. She enjoys participating in color guard, loves cats but doesn’t have one, and likes the color yellow.

People protesting in the streets

forth, demonstrators took motivated courts in Mainland
by Ryan Lin

With the start of the 2019-2020 school year comes a wide selection of new classes within the East Brunswick High School curriculum. Long gone are the days when students are restricted to follow a regimented schedule, with the same few core classes to take every year. Instead, EBHS hopes to break the monotony with a varied selection of electives. One of the courses that will be introduced this year is the Nazi Germany and the Holocaust (H) history elective, which takes a deep dive into the rise of “widespread discriminatory practices”, focusing primarily on the atrocities committed and the aftermaths of the Holocaust. Senior Aamer Sanii wanted to take this class because, “taking genocides with Mr. Gangi was an eye-opening experience,” and he hopes to “take away a newfound respect for what kind of time period the Second World War was.” This course takes on a similar subject matter as the widely popular and widely requested, Genocide with Mr. Gangi. This class offers any student a chance to gain insight into publishing.

For years, the EBHS language department has been set to teach four languages, Spanish, French, German, and Italian. Recently, however, the status quo has been changed with the introduction of Mandarin as an option for students for a foreign language. This trend continues through the addition of AP Mandarin, allowing students with the highest proficiency in the language to prove their skills with finality. Jackson Lee, a senior currently taking Mandarin, states that “I have high hopes for [AP] Mandarin and it is a course that seems rewarding despite its challenges.” For students looking to better their Mandarin and challenge their aptitudes, AP Mandarin is the perfect course to take. Along with the new classes mentioned above, there are many other new classes such as “Human Biology” and “Science, Engineering, and Public Policy” which are sure to please the interests of some. These classes are just the tip of the iceberg, with new classes being created every year, and fascinating electives just waiting to be discovered. With the addition of so many of these classes, it is nearly impossible to not be interested in at least one of them. To learn more about the classes available within East Brunswick High School, refer to the 2019 course guide on the EBHS website.

by Rohit Narla

The NBA season is quickly approaching, and this year is looking like it will definitely be a year to watch. Players such as Zion Williamson, Ja Morant, RJ Barrett, and many more rookies will be making their NBA debuts. With moves such as Kawhi Leonard and Paul George to the Clippers, or AD to the Lakers, many teams have a shot at winning the NBA Championship this season. Junior Ben Lipman is “very excited to watch the Washington Wizards. They picked up Isaiah Thomas, and the duo of him and Bradley Beal will be very exciting, due to the fact that John Wall is injured.” John Wall ruptured his Achilles, and will most likely be out for next season, so Isaiah Thomas will most likely take the starting point guard spot. Thomas, who played for the Nuggets last season, averaged 8.1 points per game for 12 games, could definitely have a major impact on the Wizards, if he gets more minutes. Junior Aalok Thakar says he is “excited to see how LeBron plays this upcoming season. He has had a lot of time off from the league and I believe he is going to destroy anyone who comes into his way.” LeBron James could definitely have a phenomenal season, and with the addition of Anthony Davis, the Lakers could definitely be serious contenders. Stay tuned for what could definitely be a very exciting, competitive NBA season!

by Carley Doktorski and Srinidhi Ayalamayajula

As the 2020 presidential race gains momentum, high school students find themselves caught between wanting a voice and not having a vote. Some wonder if it is truly possible to make a difference.

In response to last year’s shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, teens nationwide were inspired to take a stand. “I was never heavily politically involved, but after the Parkland shooting, I decided I couldn’t stand idly by,” said sophomore Rachel Gurevich, founder of Students Demand Action East Brunswick. “I was inspired to take a stand. “I was hesitant. “The fact that each and every individual has their own voice means that everyone deserves to express their opinion.” Parth Patel, a junior at East Brunswick High School

Students meet with East Brunswick’s Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman

The Holocaust memorial in Berlin, commemorating those who lost their lives in the Holocaust