

H O L I D A Y 2 0 1 6

Leave Your Mark

Announcements, News and Creativity from the Landmark HS Community

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

Dear Landmark,

We wrote from our hearts in this issue.

From the results of our election to Thanksgiving and the New Year, we are filled with mixed emotions. But what we've learned the most is that we have so much hope left in our community here at Landmark. There are some awesome pieces in this issue. Feeling like you want to hear some reactions from the election? Check out our Dear America letters on pages 4-5. Want to hear from our teachers and new dean of students, Owen? Check out pages 6 and 7! We hope you enjoy this issue.

With love, Leave Your Mark Newsletter
Team



Check out what's inside!!

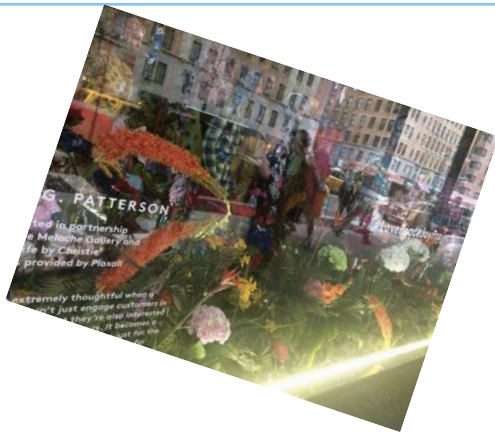


Save the Date!

Holiday Recess
December 24-Jan 2
Have a safe and happy holiday!

Mini PBATs
January 23-27
All students have mini PBATs. Juniors and seniors present History and English

End of Fall Term
January 30
Talk to your teachers and make sure your grades are on point!



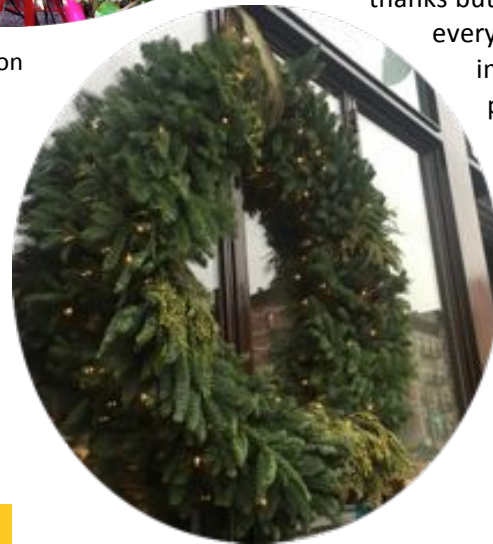
Holidays and Giving Thanks

Students share what they are thankful for this year during the holidays!

Being Thankful by Melody Cordero

Thanksgiving is all about giving thanks. Giving thanks to the ones you love and appreciating what they do for you and for their presence. I have a lot of people that I am thankful to have in my life. The number one person in my life that I am thankful to have is my mother because she gave me life. She taught me from right to wrong and she will always be there when I need her. My mom never fails me. Another person I am thankful for is my sisters and also Damaris who guides me to the right

direction and always gives me great advice. In life it's very important to have people like that. I am also thankful for my boyfriend who makes me very happy by making me laugh and being there for me when I really need companionship. People use thanksgiving as a day to show thanks but I show thanks everyday to these important people in my life.



FLOWER

DAY 1: SHE STOOD THERE BRIGHT AND TALL WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO NOTICE HER.
 DAY 2: SHE LOOKED AT ALL THE FEET WONDERING WHO WOULD NOTICE HER FIRST.
 DAY 3: GETTING IMPATIENT SHE ASKED HERSELF WHY NO ONE NOTICED HER.
 DAY 4: SOMEONE FINALLY NOTICE HER BUT IN THE WRONG WAY. THEY STEPPED ON HER.
 DAY 5: A LITTLE GIRL SAW A PRETTY FLOWER CRUSHED ON THE CORNER BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

ANONYMOUS

TURKEY Acrostic by Kevin Jones

Thanksgiving is time to enjoy with your family
 Under appreciated loving
 Reminiscing about great family memories
 Kind cooking made from the heart
 Everyone loving each other

Thankful for Family

I am thankful for my family for my family we aren't the closest or the strongest but we get by. What I mean by that is we aren't always on the same page with a lot of things and in between that there's a lot of frustration that builds up which creates distance between us, but we manage to still be apart of each other's lives if that makes sense. We sometimes put aside the differences and issues so that us cousins could bond and get to know each other because at the end of the day we share the same blood and we're family. To touch more on the get by part is our parents and elders in the family know that us having get together and celebrating occasions is crucial to our childhood and that we are aware of who our family is. As mentioned before it is important for family to intertwine and bond with each other regardless of the current situation or relationship with each other. This is why I am thankful for my Family. -Anonymous

Be BRAVE! What are we all about?

The goal is make sure a safe sharing space is consistently available to the girls at all Six High Schools in one to continue to foster community and support around these particularly sensitive areas of experience.

The majority of our students are living in poverty, and many of them face academic and social emotional hardships as well. Due to challenging home lives and circumstances, many of my students reach a fork in the road during their high school years. If someone can catch them at the crucial moment, we can keep them on the path towards graduation and college. Be Brave provides a space for girls to engage with their peers and other young women in the processes of self-reflection, celebration and empowerment.

Gentrification in NYC Today by Franchesca Del Villar

If I can change on thing about New York City it would be gentrification. Gentrification is defined as a process of renovation and revival of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by more affluent residents moving in that results in increased property values and forces lower-income families and small businesses to find other places to live and work. According to an online source, gentrification has swept through two-thirds of what used to be New York City's low-income neighborhoods in the last fifteen years. For me, I think of gentrification as one of the worst things that can happen in my neighborhood. It's bad for my people, my neighbors and residents, my family, the places I love to eat shop and socialize in and future generations to come. The local bakeries have turned into Starbucks Coffee Shops. The small beautiful apartments that were as part of my "deteriorated urban neighborhood" have turned into unsightly condos, and the bodega cats have been "Yelped" away.



How can we celebrate the Holidays in times like these? Our students reflect on local and world news.

National Holiday Threats by Luke Louisme

Holidays are always the best time around until threats are spread around across the city. On December 19, 2016 in Berlin a truck rammed into a Christmas Market leaving nine people dead and dozens injured. The United States believes Isis has mentioned about carrying out their attacks in Europe During Christmas season. I feel that this is devastating because the people that died in Berlin and that are injured their families are probably horrified by this act of terrorism. I also believe security should be more uptight to threats

or any suspicion and also the people and community should protect each other. Stay alert. This same day the Russian Ambassador to Turkey was assassinated by a gunman shouting out, "Allah Akbar." The police think there is no link to what happened in Berlin but you could never be too sure. The holidays are a time you spend with your families, friends, and most loved ones. For them to be taken away by incidents happening around the country and cities are saddening. I believe the United States Should help support the lost ones and retaliate back against theses terrorist.

Sarata Gumaneh's

BAKED ZITI Recipe!

Share it with family and friends over the holiday

Ingredients:

- Chopped onion
- 1 lb ground beef
- Jar of Spaghetti Sauce
- Ziti Pasta Barilla
- Provolone Cheese
- Sour Cream
- Mozzarella Cheese
- Parmesan Cheese

Steps:

1. Boil a large pot of lightly salted water. Add ziti pasta, and cook until it is soft. (about 8 minutes). Drain it when finish.
2. In a large pan, put in cut onion and ground beef over medium heat. Add spaghetti sauce, and let it cook for 15-20 mins.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
4. Butter a 9x13 inch baking dish. Layer as follows: 1/2 of the ziti, Provolone cheese, sour cream, 1/2 sauce mixture, remaining ziti, mozzarella cheese and remaining sauce mixture. Top with grated Parmesan cheese.
5. Mix until everything is fully combined.
6. Bake for 30 minutes in the preheated oven, or until cheese is melted.

Write a letter to America in response to the election results

Hopeful? Pessimistic? What are our responses?

Dear America,

My name is Camille Sosa and I am a hopeful 17-year-old female. The reason why I'm saying that I'm hopeful is because we went through a tough election day but I feel like not everything might be so bad as Trump being president. Yeah we got a reality T.V star as our president but hey he's also a millionaire who actually might provide America with a lot of money. Think about the positives not the negatives, I mean yeah there is a lot of negatives but with every negative there's always a positive. Think about it: Donald Trump's grandchildren and he's our rich grandfather always giving us money, so it's a win-win situation! Keep your head up high America because this is going to be an interesting four years.

With love and care,
Camille Sosa



Dear America,

Electing Donald Trump was the wrong idea. I didn't think Hillary was going to win. 99% of me felt Hillary was going to lose. Was I rooting for Trump? NO! But I knew he would win without a doubt. Wasn't a surprise his strategy was great. A lot of his votes came from the racist people to, a lot of genuine and general republicans, people who thought of Hillary's hidden/deleted emails, and maybe just real supporters. I don't see it going all out bad but I'm curious to see what he does. Who would've thought Donald Trump the man who played the main role on "The Apprentice" which has a 5.4/10 star rating?

Sincerely,
Kevin Jones

Dear America,

As I read Michael Moore's proposition I think to myself his thought process is just like mine. Hillary won the popular vote and the Electoral College is an outdated system that does NOT give the people what the people really want. I kind of want to know what an electoral college is and why do we still even use this method as a way to elect a president. I ended up finding out that the Electoral College is an outdated system that its original purpose was to serve as a way to give people more of a voice. Since the United States felt like people couldn't make a well-informed decision especially land owners the Electoral College served as a means of making sure people had a voice.

Sincerely,
Franchesca Del Villar

Dear America,

This 2016 Presidential Election was the WORST I repeat the W O R S T election in history. Did America really just picked Donald Trump as president of this country. He has no political experience whatsoever. He is a businessman for crying out loud. America just let a racist non-experienced run this country. A man who built office towers, hotels, casinos, golf courses, and other branded facilities. He clearly has no respect for woman that has me concerned as of how his wife is still with him. He defeated democratic candidate Hillary Clinton after winning the electoral vote. Hillary is another candidate who does not fit presidency. She is full of false statements and straight lies. Only good thing about her is that she has political experience in serving Senator of New York from 2001 to 2009 and secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. She also took role as the first lady when her husband Bill Clinton served 42nd president from 1993 to 2001. I'm not really amused on who is president because both candidates are horrible.

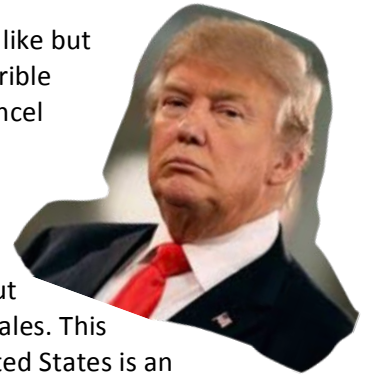
Sincerely,
Artie Acuna

Dear America, Sincerely the Students of Landmark

Dear America,

I feel deeply scared for the future that lays ahead of us, I have no idea what it will look like but I'm going to keep my hopes up. One hope I have is that Donald Trump will not be the horrible president that so many people (including myself) believe. I also hope that he does not cancel federal funding for sanctuary cities because that will have a really negative affect on the upcoming generations of immigrants who come to the United States looking for a better life. Taking away this money will only encourage them to fit into the stereotype that Latinos and other people of color not becoming successful in life. A fear that I have is that Donald Trump will not lead this country with good intentions for everyone but with racism and sexism, making the next 4 years difficult for people who are not white males. This all feels like we have taken many steps backward instead of forward as a nation. The United States is an amazing country and its diversity is what makes it so special. I hope to see that we keep it this way and that this hard time will keep us together not drive us apart.

Love, Rachel Pena



Dear America,

I live in a generation where lying is becoming into a lifestyle. I live in a generation where my ex boyfriend thinks it's cool and that it's okay to play with my feelings just because he can. I live in a generation where we people as low as Donald Trump as a president. I live in a generation where people think it's okay to treat people like complete crap just because they know that person has a weak spot for them. I live in a generation where Latino and black individuals fight for their lives on a daily basis. I live in a generation where boys hide their feelings because they don't want to seem weak. I live in a generation where people lie and change just to fit in. I live in a generation where playing people and taking advantage of people is becoming into a cycle because of so many broken hearts roaming around. I live in generation where no one cares to change any of the problems going around in the world. I live in a generation where we give power and fame to people who simply don't deserve it. I live in a generation I don't want to live in but have no choice but to live in it.

Sincerely, Anabel Pena

Dear America,

Unfortunately, Donald Trump is officially president of the United States so we have to figure out a way to coexist with this idea. The first step we need to do to get around this is, Instead of complaining and feeling like we are hopeless, we need to try to except he won and figure out what we need to do to guide him the best we. This is so he can be the best president as possible because as people of this country we should make it a priority to move on and try to make as much progress for the present and the future to come. Last we should keep up to date with what is going on with politics to keep up with what Trump is planning to do with the country just in case he does something that was not a good choice and we do not agree with it, and it is also good to be aware of what is happening.

Sincerely, Andrew Gomez Burgos

Dear America,

People have to take a step back and look at this big controversy that they have created with the election of Donald Trump soon to be the 45th president of the United States. What many don't know is that the majority of the country voted in favor of Hillary Clinton. In fact, 64,660,114 americans voted for Hillary while only 62,421,232 voted for Trump. So in reality, the people voted for Hillary. The system elected Trump. Other than that, the citizens took the peaceful out of "peaceful protesting". It's all over the news - people are going nuts. Obstruction of Property, Assault, it's everywhere. But don't get me wrong, no one is taking this situation lightly. Especially since he's claiming that he is going to "Make America Great Again," but in reality all he wants to do is build a wall at the borders of Mexico so it can be significant to the country and "stop illegal immigrants from coming into the country." I personally don't see him doing any good in this country. No one does, and the fact that a majority of the country voted on the opposite side of him and he STILL got elected. It probably wouldn't get any worse. Here is a picture of how the country really is under trumps control. Sincerely, Anonymous

Survey the Staff: Ivette asks teachers the hard questions. We kept it anonymous – see if you can guess which teacher said which response!

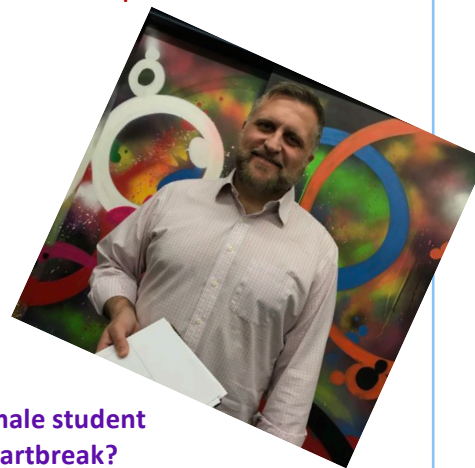
What/who made you become a teacher?

- A lot of young people don't like math and a lot of girls thought they weren't good at math so I wanted to change that.
- I like to work with young people and like to feel like making a difference. Didn't want to work just for cash
- Change the whole system
- Help kids improve their life
- Lord forgive me
- Me
- It was something I enjoyed doing in college
- A series of unfortunate events
- Still figuring it out



How old are you?

- Nunya business
- 31
- Old enough
- 57
- 42
- Over 21
- 75
- 34 or something close to that



What would you tell a female student who is going through a heartbreak?

- Focus on yourself
- Things always seem more serious when it's happening at the moment & when you look back it won't be a big deal
- Plenty more fishes in the sea
- Find out why
- Listen, you're going to college and there's going to be mad honey's there
- Move on
- Use the following pick up line: "Are you made out of copper or tellurium because you are Cu-Te"
- Don't let anyone take your sunshine
- Nothing I'll say will make you feel better but I'm willing to listen

What do you do on your free time?

- Cook and spent time with family
- Hang out with wife and daughter and cat. Likes to watch sports with friends
- Read
- Play basketball, read about history / politics
- Listen to rap music
- Nothing
- Go to a Chemistry party with my 77 Facebook friends
- Go to concerts, cook, watch a lot of television
- I have children

Senior Interview Interviewer: Sophomore Kevin Jones Interviewee: Senior Sophia Alvarez

Interviewer: How has your overall experience at Landmark been on a Scale 1-10 ?

Interviewee: 7.5

Interviewer: What could've made it better?

Interviewee: Learn the stuff that is needed for college

Interviewer: Any struggles? Biggest challenge?

Interviewee: Keeping up with all work from each class as the years flew past

Interviewer: Outside of schoolwork, what have you learned in Landmark?

Interviewee: The trust to have in someone is limited.

Interviewer: For the freshman and sophomores coming in thinking school is a joke what would you tell them?

Interviewee: I would tell them to pick themselves up now because it will come back and mess you up later on.

Interviewer: Plans after you graduate?

Interviewee: Attend a 4-year college bachelor's degree in psychology

Who is Owen Aquino? Camille and Eternity find out!

Once school started, everyone must of been asking themselves, "Where's Omar, where's Omar?" Omar is no longer here but to replace him Landmark has a new staff member named Owen Aquino! Camille Sosa and Eternity Richardson took the time to interview this new face of Landmark to see how his transition in Landmark was going so far. Camille asked, "how do you like being the dean at Landmark so far?" and Owen responded, "I like it very much, I love interacting with the students and getting to know them and I think it's a great opportunity for me to meet youth and just work on mediation with them and their troubles." So not only is Owen the dean at Landmark but he's also a low-key counselor if Guinelle and Karina aren't available. Eternity asked, "How did you come about being a dean?" Owen responded, "I was interested because I knew the position was open so I just wanted to give it a shot to work in a public school system so I can get that motion to work with kids individually as far as conflict resolution." Owen sure does love the kids; he seems more like a guidance counselor rather than the dean of school! Camille asked,

"What's the difference between your old job and Landmark?" Owen said, "I don't think there's much difference because previously I was working as a college advisor and advise students on their college choices and their college application process, now I'm mostly advising students on their actions and behaviors and it's sort of similar because the main goal is to prepare them for the next steps to go to college." He was already basically prepared to run the halls of Landmark High School. Seniors if you have any trouble with your college applications and Sara or Karina isn't available just go to Owen! Eternity ended the interview asking, "Do you think you have what it takes to be Landmark's dean?" Owen said, "I hope so, I like to think that I do, it is a new role for be but I think and I feel that I am adjusting very well. It's just about getting more experience just because I'm new and I'm definitely looking forward on taking on training for a few so I can become better at what I do." There you have it Landmark Students and staff, Owen our new dean is kind, and very

helpful! He is definitely the new face of Landmark. Can't wait to see what he has in store next!

• Reporting by
Camille Sosa and Eternity
Richardson



the



Where am I from? By Darlene Delacruz

I was born and raised in East Harlem. Born on September 30 2000 to a family who originated in Dominican Republic. Both Dad and Mom who are now New York citizens. I currently live in Jackie Robinson houses and have been living here since I was born - 16 years now. Jackie Robinson was a special famous person. He was the first African American to play Major League baseball outside of a black league. He represents racial equality to me and he changed baseball in America forever. My neighborhood of East Harlem has a mixture of all cultures, religions and nationalities. Harlem was a very unique famous place back then in the 1920's. It was mainly known for its extraordinary era for arts, music and culture called Harlem Renaissance. It is home to many African Americans, black writers, intellectuals, and progressive thinkers. It was also the time of iconic jazz artists like Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and famous Harlem jazz clubs like the Apollo Theater. After time passed it's turned into a place that feels like it's full of poverty and delinquency. Crimes have progressed. In my childhood and times now till this day still exist and has, in my opinion, worsened with time.

Where I am from is a part of who I am today and will always be a part of me. Where I'm from is also something that has taught me a lot. I say this because I know my neighborhood has taught me the difference in environment living in NYC. It has also taught me good and bad because I have been living in this environment all my life. I will always know the city atmosphere just by the looks and I can easily adapt to living in that type of environment and will definitely never be fooled by someone with delinquency because I already know it and have been around it. Being a NYC citizen and living in NYC has taught me how to adapt to change and living in different places quickly. I love being from the city that never sleeps.

Intramural Basketball

Landmark basketball is during lunch Thursdays and Wednesdays. So if you play basketball and think you have what it takes, sign up for next season. The tournament is a very good way to showcase your skills as a basketball player whether you have good handles, can shoot really well, or can lock up on defense. These games that go down during lunch get very competitive and everyone gets in on the action on the team, especially on the well used, "iso" where one person from each team goes one-on-one for each player to show their skills individually. The competitiveness can get so intense sometimes that one player will score over 40 points or catch an ankle-breaker because everyone goes at each other. By Andrew Gomez Burgos



Mentoring Retreat

Our mentoring program is off to a great start! There was an overnight retreat where mentors, mentors in training and mentees got to know each other and got paired up! According to mentee Jeily Dilone, "It was amazing. We got to know each other better. We shared our thoughts, we made friends and I want it to happen again." Jerchy Dilone says, "It was nice meeting juniors and new people."

Happy New Year! We welcome 2017 with some opportunities below:

College and Career Announcements from Karina



- Currently recruiting for BMCC and John Jay College now programs for Spring. Note: Sophomores can take any of the BMCC course offerings!! They should take advantage!!
- College Now on site - Intro to Psychology (M/W after school), English 101 (T/W/F 6th period), Criminal Law (TBD/during 6th or after school)
- Reminder: College Now classes are the equivalent to AP in that they prepare you for college level work and help you stand out as an applicant.
- Day trip to St. Thomas Aquinas College in February
- Already planning overnight college trip for April! Top 20 juniors and sophomores that are involved in the Landmark Community will be the first invited.

Shout Outs:

- Kudos to juniors Rafael Newman, Kathy Guiracocha, and Catherine Robinson; plus sophomores Ayo Akintayo and Luis Ventura for attaining the highest PSAT scores this year!
- Shout out to Monique, Taina, Brittney, Eternity, Camille, Vizion, Delilah, and Sophia, who have all received college acceptance letters already!!!