

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

Leave Your Mark

Announcements, News and Creativity from the Landmark High School Community

Happy Summer...

to students, faculty and parents! Summer can be a time to explore new opportunities and grow. We congratulate all of the Landmark students who are taking a chance to learn something new this summer whether it be a new job, internship or class!

If you're reading our newsletter and you want to contribute, please join our newsletter class next year! We are more than just articles and news – we have explored gentrification, the best pizza in Chelsea, the effect of social media and more. We hope you enjoy what we've accomplished as a class this semester. Thanks for reading!

-Leave Your Mark Newsletter Team
Class, June 2017



Coollest Teachers at Landmark: We interview Eric, Zack, Naomi and Neha

Plus features of NPR's This I Believe, HBO's "Class Divide" Documentary and Black Mirror: Nosedive

Where is the best pizza in Chelsea? Our newsletter team takes a food tour around the nabe



Save the Date!

My Future PBAT
June 13th 2017

10th grade students explore college, career and the PBAT process

Graduation PBAT panels

June 14-June 22 2017

Class of 2017 Graduation

June 27th 2017

Congrats Seniors! Commencement ceremony at New York University

Black Mirror: The Nosedive

Our class watched the season 3 premiere of Black Mirror – an episode that explores the connection between ratings, social media and society. Collectively our class thought the episode was a hit – but our reflections and discussion were even more amazing! Read some student reflections to find out more.



Can Social Media Distract Us? By Jhanio Dorville

Yes social media can distract us because that's all some people care about. If there were a website like in this episode of Black Mirror where you could rate people I wouldn't support it because why should you care about what other people say? We shouldn't judge people without getting to know them. People with money have privileges and are valued in our society today. This relates to Black Mirror because people were judged by a certain thing they say. In our society I think we judge people because of their culture. There is also something called stereotypes which separates people.

Black Mirror Reflection by Brittney Nanton

I feel like social media is something that a lot of people depend on. It is their only way to express themselves and can be the only way that they can even gain some kind of popularity. In today's world, people care more and more about how many followers they have or how many views they get. It has gotten to the point that people are willing to do just about anything to get popular online. Some people are starting to believe that social media has become something merely based on how popular you are, and people are going as far as determining your self worth based on your popularity. Social media has started to become an endless battle of popularity, and it may be starting to get worse.

Is Social Media Good for us? by Sarata Gumaneh

I believe social media does not distract us from what's really going on in the real world because we use social media for everything. One reason is because it gets some students more engaged. Regular classroom experiences can be a bit dull, whether online or off. Social media offers a chance to engage these students through something they're already using, which makes learning a lot more interesting. Another reason is because it offers a chance to learn essential technological skills. The modern workplace requires a pretty thorough knowledge of a wide range of technical skills, even those related to social media. News and current events always appear on social media the fastest because everyone is always on it. We use social media for almost anything: to get our voice out there, to connect with others, and to speak with family around the world. Social media is very important to our society. Everyone has a reason for being on social media. I use social media to connect with my peers. I come to the defense of social media because it is one of the best ways to stay informed about the world.



This I believe...

The popular NPR series "This I Believe" explores original essays written about fundamental beliefs and values. This semester, students in Newsletter chose to write a short essay on a belief of their choice.

Everyone should be free by Rosario Islas

One thing I believe in is that everyone should be free to do whatever they want and not even your own parents should stop you. Other people believe your parents can control you but I believe they shouldn't, I believe you should grow up and explore and find out things yourself. If I were in a relationship with someone else and they don't agree with me then maybe I would still stay with them but I would try and convince them I'm right. Because it's not really a controversial thing.

Something I believe in... by Jordi Rodriguez

Something I believe is in Jesus. Why? Because he is the reason I am still alive until this day. Also because my mother has the strength to work to be able to maintain the rent where we live at now. Others have always told me not to believe in him because you're supposed to sacrifice yourself in order to succeed in life but in this case it's a lie. Some things happen because He wants it to happen. In this case I'm struggling with school but I set my mind to it and thank Jesus for giving me another day in this beautiful world that we live in. Also is because my cousin was suffering from a brain tumor and my family will always pray for him and it ended up being removed after doctors said it wasn't able to be touched.

where is the best pizza in Chelsea, NYC? *the newsletter team investigates...*



Pizza Tour by Alana German

I went on a pizza tour with my class to try three different types of pizza from three different places. The first visited was Gotham. Their pizza was good - something creative that their pizza has is their crust because their crust is extra crispy. The second place was Stella's but I didn't like their pizza - everything was bad. It didn't excite me like how other pizza does. The third place was Artichoke - now their pizza really did excite me but only because I tried Shannon's pizza which was artichoke. Mine was a bad choice - I really didn't like it. And that's the end of the pizza tour.

Artichoke Was the BEST by Jahnay Williams

My pizza tour was bad at first but then the last place we went to blew my mind !!! Gotham pizza was very basic but wasn't that basic mainly because the pizza was very dry there wasn't enough sauce to make me want more. All I tasted was bread and cheese but that didn't bring out the flavor and they had regular sized slices. Stella's pizza I felt like was too burnt like it was too crunchy and I didn't like that I hate the taste of burnt food and it was thin but their sauce was good and their cheese was reasonable and the size was small to me like it didn't match with what I expected. And finally!!!!!! Artichoke my first impression was that it that there pizza was a little bigger than what I expected and the flavor tasted amazing. The crust was just the right amount of burnt but the rest was good and there was impressive sauce on there and the cheese was amazing. I like that it wasn't basic. My experience was great. At the end I felt big and full but it was exciting!!!!!!

Students by students: What is our typical student like at Landmark? Short answer: There is no “typical” student! Our students are AWESOME and full of spunk!

The Mayor of Landmark: Victor Burgos Interview by Cyrus Harden

You might think the mayor of NYC is Bill De Blasio, but Landmark high school has a mayor of its own. This student has to be one of the coolest people I know - he's never involved in any drama and everyone knows of him from either making a show on the court or because of his hilarious humor. The student I'm referring to: Victor Burgos. My name is Cyrus Harden I am a student in Shannon's Newsletter class and today I will be discussing an interview I had with one of my closest bros in school Victor Burgos a.k.a Vic Jesus. I chose to interview Vic because his love for basketball is identical to mine. The reason for this interview is because sometimes you have to go the extra mile to learn things about a person even if the topic isn't on a serious spectrum. So here's some questions I asked him. What age did you find your love for basketball? The most surprising answer to me was “At the age of 14.” The reason why that answer was so surprising to me is because he's really good at basketball despite the recent age he started playing. I followed up with, who's your favorite NBA



player and why? (This was one of my favorite parts of the interview) “The king LeBron James because he's the GOAT (greatest of all time) on and off the court.” The reason why it was my highlight of the interview is simply the fact that LeBron is the greatest of all time. My next question was one of my deeper questions for Vic, How does your height affect you on the court? “It affects me because it motivates me to try and play harder because I'm already at a disadvantage and as a point guard. People who play my position are much bigger than me.” That was some deep stuff right there from the bro (nah lemme stop). It was only right to ask him who's his role model on the court after the last question. “It would have to be Russell Westbrook because he inspires me to be myself and shows that you can do whatever you want as long as you approve of it and put your mind to it.” Loved that answer. My last question for The Mayor was which is his favorite pair of sneakers of all time and he replied with, “Easy: the Jordan Taxi 12s.”

SIDNYE GENDREY: I MIGHT COME LATE BUT I'M STILL DOING GREAT INTERVIEW BY EMMY ALVARADO



Known for coming late to school most of the time and for her short stylish hair you wouldn't believe how Sidnye feels about the school. Although she has late night shifts at work and a pretty busy schedule, she still finds the energy to make it here everyday and experience quality education, as well as sharing conversation with her friends. Sidnye says school is stressful not the school itself but trying to balance everything that goes on inside the school like the work, keeping friends and dealing with teachers. When I asked Sidnye about how she thinks the social life looks here from her perspective she said, “I feel like everyone has their own little cliques that they came from. Everyone's pretty diverse in my opinion like you got the weirdo kids, wannabe emo kids, so-called popular kids, but they all stick together in one group.” Despite all of these responses to questions about Landmark, I was shocked when I finally asked her if she would recommend Landmark to any younger students who will soon be entering high school. Smiling, she said, “Yeah.” Sidnye said although the school can be stressful, the fact that we only take one Regents exam in our junior year is relieving and she feels that for students who can't handle those big tests, this school is a good fit for them. Finally, although Landmark may be stressful and “irritating” as Sidnye may say, she says that as long as she's still here, she's still a big part of the Landmark community and always will be.

Busy and thriving Lara Buchan – interview by Sarata Gumaneh

I am interviewing a student at landmark named Lara Buchan. I am interviewing her because she is one of my closest friend. Lara is a mixed child with a dad from Africa and a mom from Scotland. She was born in America but was raised in Scotland until the age of 12 then she moved back to America. When Lara moved back to America she went to one of the finest schools. She graduated being an honor student and started high school at landmark. A typical day for Lara is going to her after school programs after a long day of school. She goes to Sailing Academy at the Hudson River pier 66 until 6:00 p.m. After that she goes to tutoring for a couple of hours from it until 7:30 pm then she's on her way home. Some days after school Lara babysits all night! When Lara gets home she does homework and catches up with studying – even after so much activities she still focuses on school. Then she does what everyone else does: eat, shower and watches Netflix till she falls asleep.

The Class Divide: Reactions to Gentrification

We explored themes of gentrification, identity, education and socio-economic class in watching the HBO documentary "The Class Divide." Students

Reflection by Jordi Rodriguez

In the short film in class that we watched I learned a lot about how high-class kids think the low-class kids look at them differently because they live a wealthier life. It's kind of like the same thing as the low-class feeling like the high-class kids look at them differently. I realize that at the end of this ride we end in the same spot 6 feet under dirt so whether you are living or not living a good life enjoy it because you never know when it's your time to be covered with a white sheet. The reason I enjoyed this documentary was because I realized that when I was younger I wanted things I couldn't afford. I always wanted to be like the other kids and once I started growing up I then started to realize that it doesn't matter what lifestyle you living what clothes or jewelry you're buying - if a person doesn't like you for who you are then let them exit out from your life.



Gentrification by Cyrus Harden

Gentrification is the business of people with money and power try to force the community that is currently active there out by raising rent, knocking down buildings, making houses and other expensive things that slowly push out minorities. My favorite part about the neighborhood where I live is the character, the vibe, and the people within it. My favorite season has to be summer time when everyone is outside blasting music on speakers, having basketball tournaments and cookouts, and days that celebrate the neighborhood like It's Red Hook day and Old Timer's day. Some changes that were made are good like the Barclays center but there are also bad changes like building more Whole Foods and getting rid of affordable housing and supermarkets. I slowly see the race and population change. Supermarkets and moving people is just the tip of the iceberg in my neighborhood of Red Hook when we're talking about gentrification. They have recently built a headquarters to a multimillionaire company by the name of Tesla which is drawing attention from many tourist and non-native people to the community of Red Hook. They are currently in the process of building a race track for the electric racing company of *Formula.e* and will be hosting its first races on the 15th & 16th of July. The worst part about this race track is that it's really cool and as a citizen of Red Hook I know that we aren't welcome. What I mean by that is that the word of this event only made it so far within the community, mostly the area that's been through the gentrified process already. My thing is if you're going to destroy native properties and make it look more "hip" at least invite those who belong there. In the next couple years I only see more price raises and more natives forced to leave because they pushing away new people or should I say paying customers.

the neighborhood of Chelsea by Jhanio Dorville

The neighborhood of Chelsea is located in lower Manhattan between 26th street through 14th street. Going to school in Chelsea is very expensive because they charge you \$1.50 for a candy bar. The one thing about Chelsea it has a lot of fast food restaurants. But it's very quiet no music is ever playing which shows no culture. The class divide that is spoken about in the film is about Avenues a \$50,000 private school that is in front of the projects. The film is basically based on interviews with kids from the both classes and relatives of the children. We could stop all of these buildings and keep Chelsea the way it is. Don't kick out the people that been living here. The rich people would not like if they kicked them out their house without even a warning. We also need to not

The Class Divide, Rich, Poor and Race by Rosario Islas

The neighborhood of Chelsea in New York City is very big and expensive. One of the best school in Chelsea is the Avenues School - it's a very expensive school and hard to get into. The school is right across from the housing projects in Chelsea, and the kids who live in the projects wish to go to a school like this but unfortunately their parents can't afford it. One thing they talk about in the film is "Class divide". The students in Avenues believe Chelsea is split up between the rich and the poor but the kids who live in the projects believe it is also about race. I don't think there's anything to do but every kid deserves to have an education.



Chelsea Market is a product of the gentrification in the last decade in Manhattan. Chelsea Market has become a destination for locals and tourists alike. Students from Landmark enjoy Artisanal Gelato on a recent newsletter field trip.

Gentrification – the good and the bad by Emmy Alvarado

A lot of gentrification is happening in different neighborhoods. Communities are slowly being changed into something different and people are not liking it. In my neighborhood there is gentrification because a lot of newer buildings or improved buildings are being made and worked on. More white people and other races besides Spanish are moving in, while me community has always been Spanish. New businesses are being opened that I've never imagine would be near me too. I think these changes are both good and bad. Good because some buildings need to be improved on after time and some business are good too since more stores are closer to my home. It's also bad because if white people keep moving in and taking our apartments, the Spanish feel that what has always been here will slowly fade away.

my neighborhood by Emmanuel Pearson

Gentrification is when white people come to Harlem and other neighborhoods and try to take over. No, I don't see nothing changing in my neighborhood. My favorite part about my neighborhood is the basketball court and the gym. My favorite season is summer because it's hot and I get to play ball all day and have fun with my friends. No negatives have changed.

What makes Landmark different from other schools?

Is it the classes, teachers, sports or just that Landmark je ne sais quoi?



Naomi – the most dedicated teacher by Jahnay Williams

My interview is with the 9th grader math teacher Naomi Hawkins who was my best influence last year. Neha told me that Naomi would be at the school at 7 o'clock in the morning every day and she lives all the way in New Jersey!!!! You know how early she would have to wake up to get here in time for that? What I like about Naomi is that she tries to take a positive from a negative view on life and she always wants to motive her students to at least try in math like at least do the first step and that's good enough for her.



Eric Adisa: quiet words of wisdom by Brittney Nanton

At first glance, you may think of Eric Adisa as a quiet person who prefers to hang out in the background. However Eric Adisa is known as being one of the most popular teachers at Landmark High School. Eric is one of the teachers at Landmark that may be misunderstood due to his quiet nature, though underneath that he is a very selfless and kind person -- which not everyone may know. When asked about one thing that most people might not

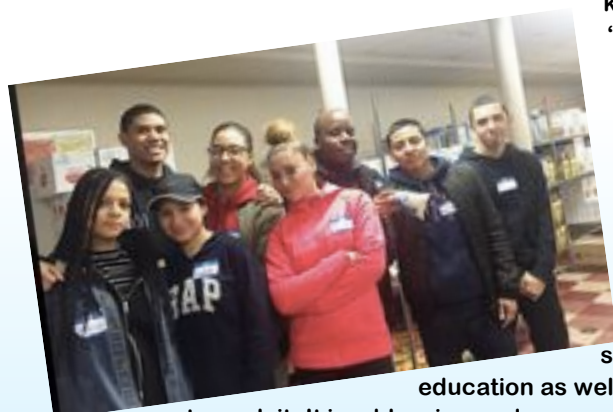
know about him, he explains his love for exploring the world.

"I've travelled to almost every continent in the world -- 6 out of 7. Traveling is very important to me and it gives me a bigger perspective of the world. I have also taught in other countries as well." His love for traveling has also led to impactful moments in his life that will stick with him forever. He explains one trip in particular that he'll never forget.

"Studying abroad in Costa Rica I got to live in another country during college for a month and a half and was able to work with the community. [It] made me realize how big the world is and was a life altering experience teaching students who were in need. I think that it also made me go into

education as well - one of my main goals in life is to help others who are willing to seek it. It is a blessing and a curse." When asked about where he sees himself in the next 10

years, he gave an optimistic response, explaining how he still sees himself as being in the world of education. "I see myself probably being an educational administrator -- a school leader or assistant principal. Eric is also known for giving advice. A lot of students turn to him whenever they have any problems. One may wonder what kind of advice Eric would give to his teenage self if he were able to: "I would tell myself a couple things. One, to realize that people are in your life for certain reasons but they won't always be there. Sometimes a person can enter your life and you'll think it's forever -- but it's not. It doesn't mean that anything is wrong with you, but just that they weren't meant to be a part of your life. Second, I would tell myself to get a better sense of what I want to do with my life so I can have a more targeted outlook. Lastly, I would tell myself to not be afraid to be different." Eric Adisa is known to be really involved in politics and was the number one source to go to about anything involving the Presidential Election -- so much that students started to wonder what he'd be like as president of the United States. "I would try to create more opportunities for the working class people such as educational services, as well as ways to help them earn more money. [I'd] try to end poverty to prevent people from going to prison, as well as other problems." As my final question for my interview with Eric, I decided to ask him about a quote that has meant a lot to him throughout his life. "One that has stuck with me for almost my whole life is from Machiavelli, 'The end justifies the means.' We certainly hope to see Eric continuing to be the voice of reason at Landmark for students, past and present.



What makes Landmark different from other schools?

Is it the classes, teachers, sports or just that Landmark je ne sais quoi?

Neha: by Emmanuel Pearson



Neha, a 10th grade math teacher is a caring person and she helps students when they are slacking in class. She's one of those teachers who helps you after school and never gives up on you. But what most people don't know about her is that she went to Northwestern University - one of the best colleges in America. Something else people might not even expect: she used to have math anxiety when she was a student taking math exams!

Neha has been teaching for 8 years also and has only taught one subject which is math. Neha has taught in 2 schools. I asked Neha what does she want to do when her teaching career comes to an end she told me that she wants to get her PhD and wants to be either a dean at a school or a principal. I asked Neha what is her favorite

hobbies she told me she likes to teach and stay up on her work. Neha told me that she loves her job and doesn't want to do anything else in the meantime. Neha went to Northwestern University after college where she became a teacher and has been doing that all her life. Neha has a brother and she only has one sibling. Neha is a loving person and the interview was great she answered all my questions and I learned a lot about my teacher.



Best part about Landmark by Emmy Alvarado

As an underclassmen at Landmark High School, my experience here has been very interesting. From the drama, breakdowns, fun, laughter, and so much more, I'm happy to say it has actually all been worth it. When I came in freshman year, I was scared, I was worried about what everyone thought about me and I was worried about all the work and I was basically just a mess. But from that time to now, I can proudly say that I've learned to not let people get to me and I've grown as a person as well as growing my own voice. I'm a sophomore now and I've been through friendships that no longer exist anymore and I've made memories I wish I could go back to if a time machine ever existed. My favorite parts about Landmark so far has been the time Kevin Hart & The Rock came, field day, and events like Bear Mountain and ice skating. But, if I were to HONESTLY choose my favorite part about Landmark, it would probably be just showing up everyday because you never know what you're going to walk into. Even if something crazy were to happen after school instead of in Landmark, I'll remember that my day started off with me entering Landmark and taking all my classes. By the time I leave this school I'm pretty sure I'll remember Landmark for life.

Zack: Someone Worth Listening To by Fantasia Roman

They say he's mean. They say he's strict. They say he's the one who plays no games when it comes to work. He's the one who pushes students to do the work to get ready for college, the one who makes sure things get done even if it's a Write Now or a circle. If you were a fly on the wall in his class, you would see how all the kids do the work; you would see the kids rushing to get to his class. Zack is one of the English teachers at Landmark High School, specializing in getting seniors ready for the English PBAT and ready for college English courses. When Zack was asked why teaching his dream job he responded, "it was definitely not my dream job as a kid. In fact, when I was in high school, I said there is no way I would ever be a teacher. Funny thing is that all of my friends told me that I would be." Any child growing up wouldn't want to be a teacher when they grow up, teaching looks like it really isn't fun and looks boring and the kids could even seem rude and not respectful at times. Despite this, Zack seems to look like he loves his job. I would say he does because anyone who teaches for a certain amount of time starts to love it. Without him, kids wouldn't be able to finish school and be successful in life just like them. But any teacher will always have that other side of their life. Zack told me that he was and still is "on some occasion of being an electrician before becoming a teacher." This means that he was an electrician before he became a teacher. He also is an electrician who helps out people and businesses on Long Island when he's not teaching. Life has a lot of surprises and would lead you or anyone else into a path that would get you somewhere successful regardless. Especially if someone went to school for a long period of time to get the career they want. No one would ever want to give up on something they worked really hard on, to give up on something that they based their life on. To Zack, to not good life would be a waste.

The people made it for me by Alana German

I'm a senior at Landmark High School and I'm proud to say that I'm finally graduating and leaving this hellhole behind. Something that I'll always remember is the good times I had with the people that I use to be friends with but hey things happen people change, you move forward. One thing I regret in Landmark High School is not leaving when I had to chance to transform schools but I stood because I had already met people here and I was already vibing with them. I learned a lot here at Landmark like life lessons, educationally and self lesson. People that I'm thankful for the help they gave me was Guinelle and Omar because they was help me and never gave up on me even when I was acting crazy. I knew Cali for one year and she was also another person help me when I had trouble. Also Eric Adisa, even when I got on his nerves, he always told me to be nice to people and to stop being so mean. Lastly my senior advisor Shannon, from the minute I met her I never had a problem with her. She always helped and stood after school with me and I'm thankful for her.

Leave Your Mark Newsletter

Announcements about College and Careers from Karina!



- Major shout-out to the ALMOST 60 students that have secured amazing summer program opportunities this year! Students will be involved in paid internships, paid college visits, multiple College Now programs, STEP, Culinary Arts, SAT Prep, Photography, Leadership, and more. Amazing!!
- Kudos to the 50+ students who submitted their applications to take a College Now class in the fall!!! There is still time to apply, so please stop by the College Office before the end of June to complete an application. Students can register for classes at BMCC, John Jay, Baruch, and even Landmark!
- There is still space in the SAT Prep and College Readiness program our partners at NYU have put together. The program meets for 2 hours a day, from July 17 to August 17. Please let me know if there is anyone (any grade!) you'd like to be considered for the program.
- Landmark's College Office will also be conducting an intensive College Application Workshop for juniors that will be applying to private schools in the fall. This will take place throughout the first week of summer school (July 10th-14th). The goal is to have students finalize school selections, start the Common Application, and gain some footing on their personal and supplemental essays.
- If there are any juniors interested in an individual college-counseling meeting, they can make an appointment for any day throughout the month of July.
- Happy shopping to the Landmark High School grads going away for college in the fall!
- Cheers to a great summer!

