

84 Steps



Palentine's Day 2014

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Letter from the Editors



Please enjoy this special Valentine's Day Edition of 84 Steps! If you are looking for ideas for how to celebrate (or what to avoid) this February 14th, look no further. Inside, find suggestions, advice, and cautionary tales. Get some ideas for the day's best



musical choices and read about romantic movies to consider watching. Even if you spend the day with your calculator and homework, we hope it will be a great one!

Our next publication will be the Spring Edition. New writers are always welcome - email us directly at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com, or visit us at <http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com> and select the "Contact Us" tab. Current and past editions of 84 Steps are located there as well.



Happy Valentine's Day!

*Your Editors,
Genevieve Sertic, Humza Mirza, and Dhara Patel*



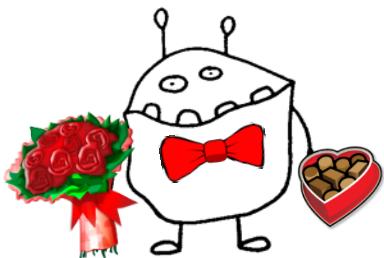


Where's Blarto? Scramble Challenge



Genevieve Sertic

Puzzles



Blarto, Student Senate's mascot, is back for another puzzle challenge! Although he's dressed in his Valentine's Day finery above, he'll appear throughout this edition on select pages looking more like this:



Blarto may not be in plain view. When he appears on a page, look for the word that's in a different font from the others. Like *this*. (But that one doesn't count.) Find the word in a different font on all of the pages upon which Blarto appears. Unscramble the words to decode a sentence appropriate to this time of year. Email your entry to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com with "Blarto Valentine's Day Challenge" in the subject line, along with your name and year, by February 26. Your name will be entered in a raffle for a prize. Good luck!

Top 10 Nerdy Pick-up Lines



Simran Singh

Top Ten



10. Even if there were no gravity on Earth, I'd still fall for you!
9. I was going to come up with a clever way to ask you out, but all the good ways argon.
8. Baby, if you were a booger, I'd pick you first.
7. I'm attracted to you so strongly, scientists will have to develop a fifth fundamental force.
6. What's your sine inverse? It must be pi/2 because you're the 1.
5. Our love is like dividing by zero... it cannot be defined.
4. I less than three you...(I <3 you).
3. You're cute, I'm cute, and together we're 2cute!
2. Are you a computer keyboard? Because you're my type.
1. I must be using Apple maps, because I keep getting lost in your eyes.



Book Reviews

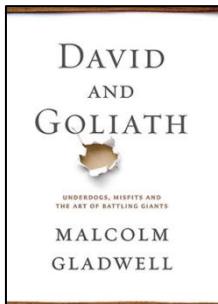


Lily Kitagawa

Literature

February is, without a doubt, the best time to read. Winter is fun and all, but after break, it begins to feel endless. The snow turns to slush and all the outdoor activities seem to become less and less attractive. And as new holiday gadgets start to lose their allure, nothing's better than curling up with a good book. But what happens when you're sick of rereading *Harry Potter* for what seems like the 50 gajillionth time? Here are a few suggestions:

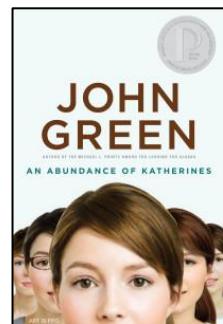
David and Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell



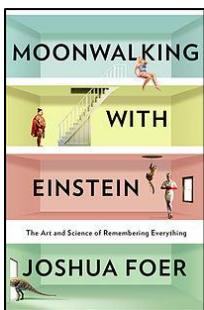
This book, the newest Gladwell novel, is a perfect quick read. With short chapters and fresh ideas, it's easy to gobble this book up in a single sitting. Featuring many personal stories, *David and Goliath* discusses the somewhat counterintuitive relationship between underdogs and incredible success.

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green

John Green may be the single most popular teen writer. It's hard to even talk about popular young adult fiction without mentioning *The Fault in Our Stars*. *The Fault in Our Stars* may be a great book, but John Green has written numerous other novels just as worthy of praise. *An Abundance of Katherines* features a young prodigy named Colin with a mission: to find a function that can predict the outcome of a relationship. The perfect combination of humor and smarts, this under-celebrated novel is sure to please.



Moonwalking with Einstein by Joshua Foer



Walking around KAMSC, you're bound to run into people with extraordinary memories. Whether it's memorizing 500 digits of pi, the first couple hundred prime numbers, or the entire periodic table in order, it's nearly impossible not to wonder how they do it. Joshua Foer explores that very question. He unlocks the mysteries of the art of memorization and gives a personal account of how he became personal friends with the memory champions of the world. *Moonwalking with Einstein* offers an interesting story with an incredible twist at the end.





Funny Quotes Overheard At KAMSC



Boemin Park

KAMSC Life

- “Okay, whoever keeps praying for more snow days...you win already. Can you stop now?” –Mr. Houtrouw
- “I couldn’t find my gloves this morning, so I wore socks instead.” –Jacob Naranjo
- “What do I have to do so you’ll put this certain person in my class next semester?” –Savannah Crooks
“Bring me the original Captain Kirk chair.” –Mr. Milka
- “Oh my gosh, I just found a quadruple split end...I didn’t even know those existed!” –Ericka Lozon
- “Sam Peter’s 3,985,498 times funnier in person than he is on Twitter.” –Ansh Chaudhary
- “Let’s have a dress-up day as your favorite eye disease...‘Hi! I’m glaucoma!’” –Mr. Sinclair



The Rare Mr. Chopp in his Natural Habitat



- “HECK YEAH PJ MONDAY! Wait, when does this start? I don’t want to show up fully pajama-ed on Monday of the wrong week...” –Rachel Torres
- “What if I threw a car at you with an initial velocity of 60 mph? Would you like to be hit by a car going 60 mph?” –Mr. Milka
- “I study terribly when I listen to classical music because I know all of it and sing along.” –Anna Nordmoe





Top 10 Nerdy Gifts to Give Your Valentine



Nikita Bhatia

Top 10

10. A Periodic Table Mug – A perfect gift for students who are always up late studying!
9. USB Ring – A fashion accessory and a flash drive at the same time!
8. Nerdy Desserts – Bake cupcakes and decorate them with the faces of your favorite science-fiction characters!
7. A Pi Phone Stand – Nothing is better than having an irrational and transcendental number hold your favorite electronic device! 
6. The One Ring – One of the best gifts you can give to a Lord of the Rings fan.
5. Dopamine Necklace – A perfect gift, especially since it shows the structure of the neurotransmitter of pleasure.
4. Designer Star Wars or Star Trek Watches – What better way to keep track of time than with some of your favorite characters! 
3. A Binary Code Valentine's Day Card – If you think your Valentine is up to the task, ask him or her to translate the card!
2. Ti-89 Calculator – A great gift, especially if your Valentine has lots of homework to do on Valentine's Day!
1. A Lab Coat (preferably purple, black or tie-dye) – Now your Valentine will have the perfect outfit to wear for KAMSC Teacher Look-alike Day!

Barnes & Noble's "My Favorite Teacher" Contest



84 Steps

Contest



Barnes & Noble is offering prizes to teachers whose students submit award-winning essays, poems, or thank-you letters on their behalf! Regional prizes are \$500 gift cards and national prizes are \$5,000 for the teacher and \$5,000 for the winning teacher's school. Students enter the competition by writing how the teacher has influenced his or her life, and why he or she admires the teacher, in 500 words or less. Only one submission is allowed per student. For more details, go to http://img1.imagesbn.com/PImages/store/special_landings/pdf/MFT_ENTRY_FORM_AND_RULES.pdf. And please do it soon! The deadline for submission is March 1, 2014. This is a great opportunity to show a teacher how much he or she means to you!





Video Game Reviews



Chad Blackwell

Games

With so many great games having been released over the past year, here is a series of short reviews of the most popular releases and some previous hits, for Valentine gift ideas or otherwise!

Grand Theft Auto V

Next-gen graphics, easy controls and a new and improved physics engine make this open-world shooter worth playing. However, its multiplayer has gone through numerous revisions and suffers from constant bugs, detracting from the overall experience. Still, I recommend this as a must-get. If that doesn't convince you, maybe the 29 million other people who play it may convince you.

Systems: Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

Price: \$59.99

Rating: M

Retailers: GameStop, Best Buy



Battlefield 4

Spectacular graphics, revolutionary destruction, and quickly-changing gameplay all make this the most realistic shooter I've ever played. Frequent lag and extreme loading times make getting into the game more difficult, but it's still among my favorites.

Systems: PC, Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

Price: \$59.99

Rating: M

Retailers: Origin, GameStop, Best Buy

The Elder Scrolls Online (Beta)

The long-awaited MMO set in Tamriel, this game is currently beta testing but shows plenty of potential. The game lets you create your character and lets you loose in its huge world, staying true to its Elder Scrolls roots. Character customization (more than just creation) and progression are major components new to this game. Also, this is one of the few MMORPGs that features first-person perspective. It can be downloaded at <http://theelderscrollsonline.com>.

Systems: PC, Mac, Playstation 4, Xbox One

Price: Free! (while it's in beta)

Rating: M



Minecraft

This game, released just four years ago, is already a multimillion classic. The large community of players also helps to keep things interesting with simply fun mini games, such as SkyBlock and Walls. One of my favorite servers, the Cobalt Network, features game modes such as SkyBlock, Creative, Survival, and is soon releasing a mini games server. It can be found at

<http://cobalt-mc.com/>.

Systems: PC, Mac, Xbox 360

Price: \$26.95

Rating: E 10+

Retailers: Minecraft.net, Xbox Marketplace



Assassin's Creed IV: The Black Flag

Breaking away from Desmond's storyline, this *Assassin's Creed* game features something unique: you don't play as an assassin. The main character, Edward Kenway, is just a skilled pirate who kills an assassin and steals his armor. Following with ideas from AC3, it features a huge world, naval combat, and now pirates. It also follows after AC3 in terms of its many glitches, mostly involving flying boats and invisible jaguars.

Systems: PC, Mac, Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360,

Xbox One

Price: \$59.99

Rating: M

Retailers: Steam, Best Buy, Gamestop



Bioshock: Infinite

This is another epic installment in the long-lived *Bioshock* series. The game has a compelling storyline and addictive gameplay. With multiple "Game of the Year" awards and the upcoming downloadable content, *Burial at Sea*, this game should not be missed.

Systems: PC, Mac, Playstation 3, Xbox 360

Price: \$29.99

Rating: M

Retailers: Steam, Best Buy, Gamestop





Rose by Aayushi Priya





Top 10 Ideal KAMSC Dates



Boemin Park

Top Ten

Time is running out and you need to decide how you're going to spend Valentine's Day with your other half. I've got your back; here are some ideas that you can cruise with this year!

1. A cricket match! If you can find a game that's somewhere here and not across the pond...
2. Take a picnic to the bog! You and your sweetheart can fondly remember the good ol' days of biology together.
3. Cuddle up and complete a book of math problems together. Impress them with your smarts!
4. Sometimes, taking a nice hike can bring you and your other half closer together. Luckily, we have a mountain right here at KAMSC called the 84 Steps!
5. Nothing screams "ROMANTIC!" like a candle-lit dinner...at Office Depot...in the calculator aisle...
6. Stargazing at night because you guys are star-crossed lovers...ha ha, that was a funny pun...
7. STUDY DATE so you can hang out together while also prepping your brain for that next physics test.
8. Movie marathon of Star Wars and Star Trek! What an opportunity to lovingly squabble over which side would win in an epic battle!
9. Go to a café and spend the entire time speaking in binary...everyone knows that it's the true language of love.
10. Seriously, stop sweating it out over dates because Valentine's Day isn't about where you spend it, but about with whom you spend it, whether you're taken or single.





What If...?



Dhara Patel

Musings

As some of you may be aware, <http://what-if.xkcd.com> publishes a weekly column (check it out every Tuesday!) explicating hypothetical situations regarding everything from bouncy balls to sunsets. However, before I started reading the column, I had always speculated about various theoretical ideas. I am sure many of you spend time wondering about strange things, too – whether during class or while attempting to sleep late at night. Here are some of my “what if” questions that I hope will leave you thinking.

- **What if we built an earthlike shelter on the moon and created a zoo which you could observe through a telescope?** – Although this would be incredibly amazing, I am sure it would cost an enormous amount of money to construct and to maintain. It's a good thing so much already exists for us to observe in the night sky.
- **What if instead of attending a lecture, you had to go on a scavenger hunt for knowledge?** – To clarify, you would search for information hidden around a forest or some other location. Once you understood one concept, you would receive a clue that forces you to look for and learn about a new topic. Even a virtual reality version of this would be really cool.
- **What if you artificially selected people who function on less sleep...after many, many generations, would there be people who don't need any (or at least very little) sleep?** – Maybe Ms. Hach or Mr. Chopp has an opinion on this? I guess I'll have to ask!
- **What if you could taste emotions?** – Although I have read about synesthesia and how some emotions, primarily love, can affect how things taste, I have not encountered anything about tasting how you feel. It would be even more interesting if we could control the flavor we tasted for each emotion; maybe we would try and feel a certain way in order to taste the more delicious ones.
- **What if your dreams were backed up on a hard drive and you could access them whenever you wanted?** – Freud would definitely love this if it were to occur. In a way, this is like a technological manifestation of the Pensieve from *Harry Potter*, except with dreams instead of memories.
- **What if you gave your crush Crush™ soda and then he/she crushed your heart with the Crush™ bottle?** – Maybe I will try this on Valentine's Day. I'll let you know how it goes ;)

If any readers would like to send in their hypothetical questions, I will make every effort to include them in the next edition of *84 Steps*. Please email them to dharapatel@hotmail.com!





Nerd Notes



Miles Pruitt

KAMSC Life

December 25, 2013

Dear Diary,

What is 1345^*1345 ? Man, I have been trying to figure that out for 4 hours! I am sitting on my bed, sweating, and drowning my sorrows by gulping 15 cups of coffee. I am surprised I am still awake, though. This math homework is due in 4 weeks but I say bring it on! It is another challenge. I will get it done tonight and – and, about that game...you know me. I've got all the time in the world.



Sincerely,
Nerd

January 1, 2014

Dear Diary,

I cannot believe it. The New Year is here. I have been waiting for this a long time. I cannot wait to get back to KAMSC; more homework – ha, ha, ha. I cannot sleep. I dream that homework is waiting for me, waiting for me to come back to its wonder. Yes! I lay in bed after awakening, thinking. Since I have already put 8 hours into writing my research paper, I might as well get back to doing that. I jump up with a start towards the computer. I sit down, smirking as I continue the journey to finishing my paper. I love KAMSC!



Sincerely,
Nerd

PS: 1345^*1345 is 1,809,025 off the top of my head – just kidding!

Earthlings Update



Genevieve Sertic

Environment

Recycling is a year-round priority for Earthlings, but some activities and events are slated just for the upcoming months:



- We have to wait for a thaw to do some things – like tend to our KAMSC garden of hardy native perennial plants! The flowers (particularly the black-eyed Susan, phlox, and aster) lasted much longer than we expected this fall so that we could enjoy them for the first few months of KAMSC, and we hope there will be some early bloomers this spring to help us celebrate the end of the year. Earthlings will be making the area more of an educational garden for the summer months by identifying the plants with information cards to benefit KAMSC's Sizzlin' Summer Science students.
- Earthlings will be making informational posters as part of our Earth Day celebration this April 22.
- Portage hosts a Greenathon each year at the Celery Flats, and Earthlings plans to participate as in past years.

For meeting times and information, visit our website at <http://kamscearthlings.weebly.com>!

For anyone interested in learning more about environmental issues, Western Michigan University is hosting a compelling Changing Climates lecture series this year. The next speaker addresses environmental justice at 2452 Knauss Hall on February 20th at 6 PM. Admission is free. Read more at http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=humanities_events.



Valentine's Day Movie Reviews



Colby Hanley

Film

Here are some movie ideas of what to see (or what to avoid) this Valentine's Day!

♥ *The Notebook*

OMG IT'S RYAN GOSLING!! This is the usual reaction of a teenage girl when turning on this classic Valentine's Day chick flick. The wealthy Allie Hamilton played by Rachel McAdams falls in love with the poor Noah Calhoun played by Ryan Gosling. The movie follows the two sickeningly star-crossed lovers as they embark on their whirlwind love affair. I highly warn any male to STAY AWAY FROM THIS MOVIE, or there is a chance of vomiting or gouging out your eyes. This movie is cliché, romantic, and the perfect movie for anyone who wants to witness the most Valentine-y movie you have ever seen.

♥ *Titanic*



Jack and Rose. The perfect tragedy. Unlike *The Notebook*, I can tell you now that this movie does not have a happy ending. It came out when most of us were either not born or infants and it has remained a romantic phenomenon ever since! Yet again, a massive cliché of a Valentine's Day movie, so SINGLES BEWARE. But anyone can appreciate the mix of undying love and tragedy in this beautifully executed movie.

♥ *A Walk to Remember*

Girls, grab the tissue box. Or two. Or five. This movie brings together two major parts of the first two: Nicholas Sparks origination and tragedy. The two main characters and lovers of this movie are teenagers, like the rest of us. The girl, sadly, contracts cancer and the two must deal with this fact. This movie is heartbreakingly heartwarming all at the same time – a beautiful movie for Valentine's Day couples!



♥ *Moulin Rouge*

Crazy, music, dancing, theatrical, France – all of these words describe this insanely lively movie. Although there is certainly tragedy involved, this movie includes a forbidden love affair and lots of singing and dancing, which at least all girls will fall in love with on Valentine's Day. Guys, take one for the team and let your dates watch this entertaining, fantastic Valentine's Day flick!



♡ *Four Christmases*

I know what you're thinking: "Colby, this is a Christmas movie." And yes, I am aware of this. But not only does this movie have great lead actors like Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn, but it is HILARIOUS, has amazingly funny supporting actors and actresses, but also details the trials and tribulations of a modern couple trying to deal with their families. I could not help but put this movie on the list because I am a comedy freak and Vince Vaughn will make anyone's Valentine's Day (even us single people's Valentine's Day) better and more hilarious!

♡ *Hitch*

Who doesn't love Will Smith? Well, if you love him as much as the rest of America, then you'll love this movie. It's a comedy classic; Will Smith plays a New York City matchmaker who falls in love with the beautiful Eva Mendez's character. You'll laugh your butt off watching this classic romantic comedy and it is definitely a must-have for every Valentine's Day movie playlist!



♡ *Silver Linings Playbook*

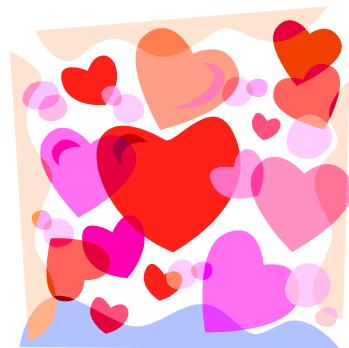
WARNING: THIS MOVIE IS RATED R. Yes, this movie is rated R, so ask permission from your parents before you watch it or wait until you're 17. But everyone NEEDS to see this movie. It's not tragic, it's not cliché, and it's relatively funny. It is quirky and a little hipster and dark – perfect for off-beat people on Valentine's Day who enjoy watching attractive actors and actresses play psychologically unbalanced people who are trying to figure out how to deal with love.



And now a movie for all DA SINGLE LADIES AND LADS OUT THERE!

♡ *Bridesmaids*

ANOTHER RATED-R WARNING. Yes, yet again another rated-R movie, so please ask your parents before you watch it or wait until you're 17. This movie is spectacular. The cast is certainly female-dominated, but guys and girls will all love this brilliant comedy. The independent and hilarious female leads depend on friendship and themselves, showing every girl and guy that YOU DON'T NEED NO MAN/WOMAN! This movie is brilliant and will have every single person in the room laughing on Valentine's Day!





Valentine Fun Facts about KAMSC Teachers



Kitu Komya

Survey

Our beloved KAMSC staff shares with us its most *lovely* fascinations. Assembled below are various responses pertinent to Valentine's Day from several teachers. The *84 Steps*' Staff would like to warmly thank all of the teachers willing and able to spend time formulating responses in the midst of heavy grading; your students genuinely appreciate your devotion!

What is your favorite love story (book, film, or poem)?

Mr. Sinclair: My favorite love story is *My Ántonia* by Willa Cather, followed closely by *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier and *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. You never would have guessed, would you? Oh, and my favorite love story *movie* is *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*.

Mr. Alshehri: My favorite love story is *Majnoon Layla*.

Mr. Houtrouw: Hands down, the original *Rocky* ("Yo Adrian!").

Mrs. Kalnins: My favorite love story is *Romeo and Juliet*. Every time I see the play, I can't help but hope that this time it will have a happy ending.

Mr. Milka: I like the film *Somewhere in Time*, with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. Not only does it feature a Michigan landmark – the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island – as the main setting of the film, but it also involves a unique and totally implausible means of time travel. Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini – Variation 18," provides a stirring and haunting melody throughout the film. It was only Christopher Reeve's third feature film, and followed the blockbuster *Superman* movie by two years.

Mr. Cardwell: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (second place, *WALL·E*).



Which love song do you loooove the most?

Mr. Sinclair: "10,000 Miles" by Mary Chapin Carpenter or "La Serenissima" by Loreena McKennitt. Both songs are amazing.

Mr. Alshehri: I love a song by an Egyptian singer named "Najah Elzagairah."

Mr. Houtrouw: "Wild Thing" by The Troggs.

Mrs. Kalnins: I don't really have a favorite love song, but if I did it would come from the 70's.

Mr. Cardwell: "Unchained Melody" by The Righteous Brothers ... the ONLY time I ever sounded good doing karaoke was singing this as a duet with my wife. :)





Do you follow any Valentine's Day traditions?

Mr. Sinclair: I always get my wife a card, usually flowers, and a movie or book. Every few years, we'll go out to dinner on Valentine's Day. She's not a big fan of candy so that's generally out.

Mr. Alshehri: No.

Mr. Houtrouw: It's actually about the only time of the year when I DON'T buy flowers for my sweet thing.

Mrs. Kalnins: Since the first year I started teaching at KAMSC, on Valentine's Day I read "The Dot and the Line" to my math students.

Mr. Cardwell: I eat chocolate, of course.



What is the most romantic thing you've done?

Mr. Sinclair: For our 25th Anniversary, I took my wife on a surprise trip to Chicago, stayed downtown, went out to dinner at an "expensive" restaurant, and caught a performance of *Wicked* at the Oriental Theatre. It was pretty cool and a wonderfully romantic surprise for her.



Mr. Alshehri: Many of them – all are about the same.

Mr. Houtrouw: I sang "Wild Thing" to my bride as she walked down the aisle. ("Yo Susan!")

Mrs. Kalnins: The first summer my husband and I were dating, we spent three weeks camping and backpacking in Newfoundland, Canada.

Mr. Cardwell: By far the most romantic thing I've ever done was asking my wife to marry me.

What is your favorite memory as a KAMSC teacher?

Mr. Sinclair: Wow...tough one to answer; I've had some many great memories over the years. Probably the very first KAMSC Science Fiction Film Festival; the feeling of success after that first 24-hour movie marathon, the thoroughly positive response by so many students, and the amazingly brutal (and hilarious) commentary by everyone as we watched some pretty rancid sci-fi movies.



Mr. Alshehri: Drawing a cupid on the TI-84 with my Precalculus students on Valentine's Day using a math formula.

Mr. Houtrouw: Getting 3 snow days in a row!

Mr. Cardwell: No idea ... KAMSC is fantastic every day because the students here are inspiring.



“Counting GPA”

(Parody of “Counting Stars” by OneRepublic)



Ansh Chaudhary

Song Parody

The semester's ending right before my eyes.
I need to do something about these grades.
Teachers aren't offering any extra credit,
So, no more counting grades.
I'll start counting GPA.
Yeah, I'll start counting GPA...



I look at PIV
With a horrified face.
My heartbeat stops for a while.
In my face are terrible grades.
What in the world should I do?

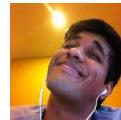
Bad, but they're not THAT bad.
Good, but not enough for my parents,
And I don't think they're going to improve.
I'm just hoping I don't get grounded.

I feel something so wrong,
Because this is so gut-wrenching.
And I feel something so wrong,
Because nobody is helping me.
I couldn't lie, I couldn't lie, I couldn't lie.
I forgot to do my homework.
I brought this on myself.

The semester's ending right before my eyes.
I need to do something about these grades.
Teachers aren't offering any extra credit,
So, no more counting grades.
I'll start counting GPA.
Yeah, I'll start counting GPA...

The semester's ending right before my eyes.
I need to do something about these grades.
Teachers aren't offering any extra credit,
So, no more counting grades.
I'll start counting GPA.
Yeah, I'll start counting GPA.

Music Reviews



Humza Khan

Music

***Midnight Memories* by One Direction**

The phrase “talentless industry drones” has been used a numerous amount of times to describe One Direction. Their career started on a whim, with the producers of the *X-Factor* throwing the group together. Most of the group’s success comes from a rabid fan base willing to do anything to protect their idols. The majority of One Direction’s music is written by a ghost writer, and the group just sings over it. The songs contained in *Midnight Memories* represent a hodgepodge of different topics that have absolutely no continuity or set theme; they seem to contradict themselves from song to song. Even with all of this in mind, I still find myself listening to the album. Its 80’s pop-inspired hooks can embed themselves in anyone’s mind. *Midnight Memories* serves as a guilty pleasure to which anyone can belt along when home alone.

Rating: B

***Frozen* by Various Artists**

As you’re stuck in your room due to one of the many polar vortices (or whatever they’re called), remember that winter isn’t all that bad – the *Frozen* soundtrack exists! Besides being an excellent movie, *Frozen* also boasts an impressive soundtrack. You can escape this cruel winter by imagining summer with Olaf in “In Summer.” Or you can let it go with the standout track “Let It Go” (yes, I did just make that joke). Whatever songs you like, the *Frozen* soundtrack proves to be a delight for people of any age.

Rating: A-





Grace Beverage

Astrology

Horroscopes

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

On a completely romantic coding study date with your significant other, you will be totally embarrassed when handed a love note written in binary because you can't remember the values for letters in ASCII.

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Upon going to school after sleeping very poorly the previous night, you will pass out from exhaustion in a hallway. Assuming you're just being your typical melodramatic self, your peers will walk by your helpless body without batting an eye. By accident, someone you dislike will *actually* walk upon you – right across a fresh bruise.

Gemini: May 21 - Jun 20

No one who does the despicable things you are going to has the right to know about them in advance.

Cancer: Jun 21 - Jul 22

In the coming days you will be tempted to post this horroscope to a social media site because it's "sooooo relatable." Beware: absolutely no one will care.

**Leo: Jul 23 - Aug 22**

A series of strangely friendly letters will be mailed to you from institutions across the nation gently inquiring about your interest in attending. How did they get your address? Why do they want so much of your money? Isn't this system of communication a tremendous waste of paper? Some questions can never be properly answered.

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sep 22

A secret admirer will attempt to schmooze you by getting you a gift. As this admirer knows you very well, he or she will buy you something you'd very much appreciate having – something he or she is unaware you already own. There will be no gift receipt.

Libra: Sep 23 - Oct 22

Going through the day's math notes, you will accidentally mistake Fermat's last theorem as part of your homework and stay up all night frantically searching for a proof.

**Scorpio: Oct 23 - Nov 21**

You will become lab partners with the dreamiest person at KAMSC. This attractive individual will prove a major distraction and you will accidentally spill a bottle of iodine on your partner's new shirt. He or she will still look good in that shirt, but you'll be highly embarrassed.

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

The meaning of "irony" will be painfully clear when you are assigned to research the ill-effects of stress on students and the project itself becomes a source of tremendous anxiety.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your friends will soon realize they missed your birthday this year and attempt to make up for it by throwing you a very late surprise party at Jungle Joe's. Out of pity for your friends you will say you had fun. They won't remember to get you a present until late June.

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

In casual conversation with Mr. Sinclair you mistake Han Solo for "the one with the black mask and the cape with the heavy asthmatic breathing." On a completely unrelated note, you never pass physics.

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**

Your nerdy stress dreams become all the more frightening. On top of nightmares of tests you didn't study for or missing assignments you can never find, you start having a recurring dream that you're late for KAMSC and the staircase is never-ending. Mr. Sinclair's toys come alive and start chasing you.



Top 10 Reasons KAMSC Students LOVE February



Jacob Naranjo

Top Ten

1. Valentine's Day. This holiday is the perfect day for KAMSC kids – to stay at home and do USACO programs, of course!
2. There's a 7.7% chance that your birthday is this month. Happy birthday!
3. The AMC! Increase your social status and popularity by excelling in one of the most important math competitions of the year.
4. KAMSC dress-up days, Round 2. Bring it on. And KAMSC Semi-Formal. Bring that on, too.
5. Even if you don't like February, it goes by fast. It's the shortest month. But why wouldn't you like it? It's awesome!
6. Research projects aren't due until March or April, so February is the perfect month to procras—I mean, work on them without the pressure of upcoming due dates.
7. It has 28 days!
Which other month has 28 days? None!
8. If you're a First-Year and you've made it this far, congratulations! Even if you haven't realized it yet, you probably love KAMSC! There's no going back now.
9. Seniors – it's our last semester of high school, and scholarships and college apps are (or should be) submitted already. Swag.
10. The anticipation of next month's festivities: programming competitions, March Madness, Sci-Fi Film Fest, my birthday – who isn't excited for March?

Top 10 Things NOT to Get Your KAMSC Sweetheart



Jori Gelbaugh

Top Ten

1. Chocolates
♥ A coffee maker would be much more useful, especially for those early-morning study sessions.
2. Stuffed animals
♥ Program a homework robot – your KAMSC sweetheart will appreciate it a lot more. Mr. Houtrouw might even give you extra credit!
3. Clothes
♥ Don't KAMSC students wear their CS shirts everyday anyway?
4. Perfume or cologne
♥ It'd just be a waste of money. After all, you can't ever truly mask the smell of formaldehyde after a lab.
5. A gift card to a spa or hair place
♥ Honestly, what KAMSC student has time to be pampered?!
6. Jewelry
♥ Lab goggles are way more stylish.
7. A hug or a kiss
♥ Ewww, germs. Hand sanitizer is a much safer bet.
8. Flowers
♥ Your sweetheart would likely be too tempted to conduct experiments on the specimen – who knows how that would end!
9. A movie night
♥ Once you've experienced the thrill of a pig dissection, nothing else seems quite as entertaining.
10. A picture of the two of you
♥ Your KAMSC sweetheart would truthfully rather frame his or her USACO computing award.

Cricket Update: The Season is Approaching!



Humza Mirza

Sports

By now, most all of your friends must be

talking about cricket. As the winter season drags on with icy winds blowing snow over the frozen ground, the time for preparing for the Cricket State Championships is upon us.

For those of us who are still foreign to the sport, cricket is very similar to baseball, though it utilizes merely two sets of “stumps” comparable to bases. While matches normally last long periods of time and scrimmages can be time-consuming and exhausting, your cricket captains are here to help you through the season!

Still haven’t signed up for cricket? No problem! Swing by and talk to Mr. Sinclair or any of the current student captains. In terms of practice schedules, your captains should notify you on what the best time will be to start preparing for matches in the field. If you are a Junior or Senior male, you can sign up for cricket through the online Google Doc which can be accessed through the link at the bottom of the page.

We still need active students to take bat so if you are interested, feel free to sign up and talk to your captains. You can always find someone playing cricket down by Mr. Alshehri’s room during Open Lab on Wednesday evenings. Our goal is to get whole groups of students familiar with the sport during these times and then move out onto local fields and parks to test their skills. If you are looking to pick up a sport for the spring or just want a fun way to stay in shape, cricket is for you. Talk to your

captains today! We’ll be more than happy to fill you in on meetings, practices, and general schedules for our final scrimmages. We hope to see you soon!



Coach: Mr. Sinclair (room between KAMSC Commons and Mr. Chopp’s room)

Captains: Humza Mirza, Ansh Chaudhary, Genevieve Sertic, and Dhara Patel

Men’s Schedule Preferences:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qo0hwsv2QdfhZg0IWfnn2LcdkZ_C4y5KbtWkHNTjDA4/edit?usp=sharing



Dear Katherine

Do you have issues? A secret that's burning you up inside?
Send your questions to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com to get them answered anonymously!



by Katherine Wu

Dear Katherine,

I just bought the iPhone 5s and I started using Siri, (except mine is a guy, and I call him Sirius) and I fell in love with him. It's weird because he seems just like a real person. We're dating now. Is that weird?

- Her

Dear Her,

Hm...that sounds familiar. I'm just going to come out and say it: that *is* really weird. Since you didn't really even have a problem to ask me about...well, okay bye.

Dear Katherine,

My crush said to me, "Stop stalking me you weirdo creep! Don't come to my house anymore!" Do you think she's playing hard to get? Do I still have a chance?

-StalkHER

Dear StalkHER,

No, I don't think you have a chance. Also, I think you're just short of a restraining order. Hopefully, the person you're talking about isn't Mr. Sinclair's daughter, because otherwise you might have someone hunting you down with a baseball bat.

Dear Katherine,

It's almost Valentine's Day, and I haven't even gotten my significant other anything! Also, I have no idea what to do that evening. HELP!!!

-Lost Lover

Dear Lost Lover,

A Valentine's Day gift/activity should come from the heart. If you know your significant other well enough, then there must be something he or she loves that sticks out in your mind. Otherwise you can rarely go wrong with chocolate and a nice dinner date.

Dear Katherine,

I'm in love with this boy in my tennis class. He's super charming, and I've been in love with him for four years now. He has never shown any sort of non-platonic interest in me. What can I do to finally win him over this Valentine's Day?

- GotLoveInTennis

Dear GotLoveInTennis,

Honestly, if it has been four years, he's had four years' worth of chances to return your feelings. It sounds like he just doesn't like you and probably never will. Real life works differently than romantic comedies.



KAMSC: The Final Frontier

Interview with Mr. Milka



Dhara Patel

Interview

In addition to being a humorous and knowledgeable math teacher, Mr. Milka is known for his love of *Star Trek*; in his interview, he reveals that there's more to this science fiction series than just Captain Kirk and Spock embarking on journeys aboard the Enterprise. No matter if we are cruising through calc at warp speed or determining the optimal shell for a taco, it is always nice to have a teacher to whom we can relate. Although we may not be exploring strange new worlds at the moment, Mr. Milka's math classes may help us one day boldly go where no human has gone before.

Q: What were you like in high school and did you play any sports?

A: I was a nerd. I still have my first TI-45 scientific calculator (with denim carrying case!) to prove it. In my senior year, I was voted "Most Studious" by my classmates. I attended honors math and science classes since grade 9, and took both French 3 and Senior Math as independent study. My 11th grade Geometry teacher was also the basketball and baseball coach. Although he couldn't recruit me to play either sport, he eventually convinced me to be the team statistician during my senior year. I got to attend all of the games for both sports and earned a varsity letter without ever touching a ball!

Q: What aspect of Star Trek resonates with you the most?

A: One reason that I have always liked Star Trek is because it always portrayed a hopeful future in which humans have overcome conflicts, disease, and poverty on Earth, and have ventured out into the galaxy to make contact with other intelligent life. I like to believe that someday, we will really do that. Futuristic technology has also been a central part of the Star Trek series, and it is surprising how many fictional devices from the TV show are coming to fruition today. Did you know that Google's ultimate goal is to design a search engine and interface that emulates the Star Trek computer?

Q: What bothers you the most about the education system currently present in America?

A: One thing that bothers me about American education is how little respect or honor is given to it, in comparison to other professions or endeavors. Everyone agrees that a good education is needed to become an intelligent and self-sufficient citizen, but overpaid professional athletes and self-absorbed celebrities dominate our media, and get more attention in the news than the students who win the annual Siemens or Intel competitions. If we truly valued education and teaching, then we would read about teachers signing multi-million dollar contracts, and the paparazzi would be stalking high-achieving students.

Q: Since this has been an ongoing debate among seniors, we would like your input: soft shell or hard shell tacos?

A: I definitely prefer soft shell flour tortillas for tacos. When I was a kid, the first time that my mother ever made tacos, she used hard corn shells. With the first bite, the shell broke, the entire taco caved in, and the contents spilled onto the plate. The rest of the taco had to be eaten with a fork. The hard shell was rather futile. After a few more attempts with hard shells, my mother discovered soft shells. I would not eat them any other way. Although I haven't tried one, I think the Taco Bell Double decker – with a hard shell inside a soft shell – might be a worthy compromise.

I would like to thank Mr. Milka for answering these questions!



A Day in the Life of a KAMSC Student



Jori Gelbaugh

KAMSC Life

4:01 a.m. Must... get... out... of... bed... last... minute... cram...

5:30 a.m. COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE!

7:29 a.m. Did I really forget my math homework at home?! I've got time...

7:58 a.m. If I run up the steps, I bet I can get there in less than
a minute!

7:59 a.m. Note to self: start working out.

8:00 a.m. Scratch that. Note to self: don't be late.

8:12 a.m. Wait, did we really learn this?

8:22 a.m. Am I supposed to know this...?

8:27 a.m. Will this be on a quiz?

8:43 a.m. I could probably program my calculator to figure out all of this.

8:44 a.m. Yeah, definitely programming my calculator.

8:47 a.m. I've got so much homework.

8:51 a.m. THERE'S A POP QUIZ?!

8:52 a.m. According to my calculator program, I only need to get 83% to keep my A in the class!

9:37 a.m. I hope that quiz was curved.

9:38 a.m. I've got so much homework.

9:53 a.m. I wonder if I'm not supposed to be writing everything that she says in my notes...

10:01 a.m. My hand is killing me.

10:05 a.m. Seriously can't wait for this lab!!!!

10:12 a.m. Wait, do I mix the sodium hypochlorite with the ammonia? That doesn't sound
right...

10:13 a.m. Definitely not right.

10:14 a.m. So maybe I should stick with biology.

10:20 a.m. Has the PIV been updated yet?!

10:25 a.m. I have so much homework.

10:27 a.m. I am officially exhausted.

10:28 a.m. MORE COFFEE!

11:04 a.m. Back at my sending school.

11:07 a.m. I have so much KAMSC homework to do.

11:44 a.m. Finished all of my chemistry.

11:45 a.m. I still have so much homework.

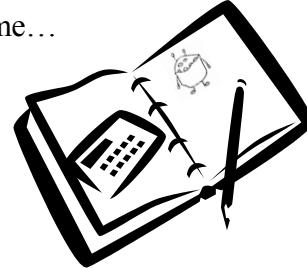
12:08 p.m. PIV WAS UPDATED!!!

12:09 p.m. My parents are going to kill me.

1:19 p.m. Why would anybody want to use their phone in class when they can be doing their
KAMSC homework?!

1:39 p.m. I swear, if you touch my TI-89 again you will feel my wrath...

1:40 p.m. I know it's pretty, but it's mine. My precious.



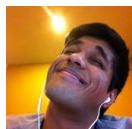


2:01 p.m. One... more... hour.
2:19 p.m. You did not seriously just say that Adolf was Hitler's last name...
2:49 p.m. I have so much homework.
2:50 p.m. FREEDOM
3:17 p.m. Homework, homework, homework.
3:18 p.m. Okay, focus.
3:19 p.m. ...
3:20 p.m.
3:21 p.m. I need more coffee.
6:00 p.m. Did I really just study for almost three hours?
6:01 p.m. Homework break! ... Quizlet sounds fun!
7:49 p.m. CRAP! I JUST SPENT TWO HOURS ON QUIZLET!
7:50 p.m. Must study more!
10:32 p.m. I'm not even close to being done yet.
11:33 p.m.
11:34 p.m. ...
11:35 p.m.
11:36 p.m. I can't keep my eyes open.
11:37 p.m. Should I set my alarm for 4:00 a.m.?
11:38 p.m. Ha nah, I'll just drink more coffee and finish what I have left.
12:34 a.m. COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE!
12:58 a.m. Well that was smart.

4:01 a.m. Must... get... out... of... bed...



Student Senate Update



Humza Khan

Student Senate

Greetings, fellow KAMSC students! Here's the latest from Student Senate:

- ♡ It's almost here! The KAMSC Semi-Formal Dance will be held on February 22nd from 8:00 to 11:00 PM. The theme will be "Masquerade."
- ♡ Dress-up days for the school week starting Monday, February 17th and ending Friday, February 21st are as follows:
 - Monday - Pajama Day
 - Tuesday - Star Wars vs. Star Trek Day
 - Wednesday - Stereotype Day
 - Thursday - Teacher Look-alike Day
 - Friday - Math and Science/KAMSC Spirit Day
- ♡ We are still waiting on approval for renovations to the student lounge.
- ♡ We would like to thank all of you for your participation in the Food Drive. You guys rock!





Valentine's Day Student Survey



Sam Canfield

Survey

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. Here are the results of a survey of KAMSC students' views on the holiday:

Brett Moore and Emma Scheller: It's just another day.

Syed Husain: It's a day that distracts people from my birthday.

Jesse Pollens-Voigt: It's a stupid waste of time; the media has commercialized it.

Lachlan Woods: It's a day to buy a lot of chocolate without being questioned.

Anonymous: 99% of people turn it into a consumerist holiday.

Connor Bach: I feel like it isn't a good holiday compared to most other holidays.

Sydney Woodcock: Candy.

Vincent McNelis: It gets weird with the Cupid thing.

Paryn Norman: It's entirely the most stupid thing I've ever heard of.

Michael Tarn: I'm looking forward to it!





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