

# The Nova Herald

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR: ENTHUSIASM INSPIRES

*Timothy Palumbo*

It's been a year broken up by national tragedy and ridiculously potent storms. Both of which had the power to seriously distract us from our studies and our collective academic pursuits. Despite such obstacles, our little community continues to bustle. I remember after Sandy and Nemo seeing our students dashing through the halls of the Physics Building and being reminded that our scholarship here often supplies a safe haven from the calamities that go on outside.

My own energy flags yearly around the New Year. But this year the return of our weekly classes and the addition of my English Advanced A class reinvigorated me. The enthusiasm of my new students reminded me of the joy of shared learning experiences. The inquiries of parents after my classes brought to light the reason I teach: to prepare students with the tools that they should have in order to succeed. Likewise, the camaraderie in English Advanced B continued to grow as we have been participating in round table readings of legendary authors Edgar Allan Poe and Ray Bradbury.

It is a comfortable feeling to return to work each Sunday in a community of scholars of all ages. In a world filled with gas crises, snow drifts, and power outages, it is exactly where I feel at home.

## OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL: OUR TOP 4 KID FLICKS OF 2012

*Boris Kosikov and Faisal Karim*

1. **The Hunger Games**- The Hunger Games is a movie about a competition known as the Hunger Games where only one victor emerges alive. A boy and girl from District 12, Pita and Katniss, are the main characters of the film. They face many obstacles as they try to kill the other competitors and learn to trust one another. This film is based on the novel by Suzanne Collins.

2. **Chronicle**- This movie is about three teenagers who find a mysterious radioactive object that alters them to develop strange powers. They learn to harness these new abilities and as a result, conflicts develop between each of them. They must use these powers to stand up for what they believe in against one another. While this film is science fiction, its portrayal of teens makes it agreeable and easy with which to identify.

3. **The Avengers**- Six heroes are gathered to stop a god from using a very powerful object for himself. These heroes led by Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury are Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Captain America, Ironman, The Black Widow, and Hawkeye While the Avengers initially grapple with each other, they learn to team up in what was one of the best comic book-based films in years.



## SCHOOLNOVA'S CLASSES: A STUDENT'S EYE VIEW

### ***English Advanced B***

***David He and Eddie Yan***

English Advanced B is a language class at SchoolNova in room P129 on Sunday from 2pm to 2:45pm. This class offers a deep study of vocabulary, essay writing and reading comprehension for students from grades 7-10. Presently there are 5 students in the class. This is a great class for students who would like to enrich their education of the English language, specifically reading and writing.

Mr. Timothy Palumbo, our English teacher is great. This class is enjoyable and fun while we learn a hefty amount of the English Language Arts, specifically in reading and writing. Mr. Palumbo tries to incorporate a wide variety of writing tasks for us to perform so we are prepared in different settings. Furthermore, his instruction covers a wide variety of genres to read from nonfiction book reviews to horror-filled short stories from Edgar Allan Poe. He earned his Master's Degree from Stony Brook University and his Bachelor's from Syracuse University. He teaches for SchoolNova, Miller Place District and the Three Village Central School District. Previously, he was a writing consultant in educational publishing for about four years.

All in all, English B is very enjoyable and we students learn a great deal to prepare us for competitions, essay writing and the ELA assessment. We have been given tools like SOAPStone to break down texts critically. This class goes along nicely with the curriculum in secondary school and is enhanced with a friendly environment. One aspect I wish would change however is the class size. With only 5 students in the class, it is not easy to do group activities. I hope to see more kids join this fun and educational class!

### ***Math 7***

***Trevor Leong***

One thing I am sure of is that I learn a lot in Math at SchoolNova. After a few years taking the class, there is no doubt I am better at Math than I would have been if I was

not here. In the next few paragraphs, I will share with you what I enjoy about my Math class.

First, I'd like to compare SchoolNova's math classes to my regular school. During the week my math curriculum has me learning graphing with the slope and y-intercept. In SchoolNova, I am learning trigonometry with cosine and sine. These two areas of math are different: in graphing I need to use a coordinate plane and in trig I use hypotenuses to find the dimensions of triangles.

One aspect I enjoy about Math in SchoolNova is that it is preparing me for a future where I will need to know this material. I only take two classes at SchoolNova, so I feel I should do well in them. By learning this subject matter now, I will get better grades in high school and college, and be ready to succeed in my career.

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## SCHOOLNOVA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS!

*Faisal Karim*



At the Holiday Party, SchoolNova students and faculty gathered to celebrate the holidays and share their culture. The party was organized by the efforts of teachers and parents of SchoolNova. Special thanks to Alexei Tkachenko and Dasha Shavarina for the prompt delivery of Father Frost and Snegurochka (his granddaughter) and presents for children of our community.

The festivities were highlighted by the play *Twelve Month* by Samuli Marshak. The play was presented by the Theater Club "Dragonfly", and was the result of a cast of more than 20 of SchoolNova students.

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## **OPINION PIECE: HOW WE CAN STOP GLOBAL WARMING**

*Kevin Wen*

Earth's environment has been affected by many disasters over the years. Yet recently, abnormal conditions have been appearing, some of which may be caused by humans. For example, during the warm month of October, snow started to fall as I walked home. Some of the trees in the neighborhood had leaves and were crushed by the extra weight resulting from the snow. Later, the temperature rose to a "springtime feeling" later in the week. This abnormal increase in temperature may be related to Global Warming. Early snowfall is one of the effects of global warming as is rising sea level. Overall, such issues could soon affect humans and may start to make conditions on Earth more extreme and unfavorable for life.

Global Warming is mainly caused by the "greenhouse effect," in which gas in the atmosphere traps heat, like a greenhouse. How is this possible? The answer lies with humans. As a result of increasing population, more energy is consumed, leading to a greater release of "greenhouse gases." Greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, trap heat from the sun and prevent it from being released into space. Therefore, the gigantic increase in greenhouse gases has led to an abnormal warming period on Earth.

This period of warming has caused many problems to the environment. The two continental ice sheets, Greenland and Antarctica, are melting at an alarming rate. If the melting does not stop, the habitat of the polar bears and penguins may vanish and the whole ecosystem could be thrown off balance. Furthermore, if the ice caps melt, many coastal cities will flood, causing islands to be flooded, Hawaii is an example.

Although humans are destroying the environment every day, there is still a way to help bring the rapid warming rate to a halt. We can start by biking or walking to locations that are close to our homes and try to reduce the amount they use their cars. They may also conserve light, as electricity is mainly produced from coal, a rock that is made from carbon. Also it is essential that humans start looking for renewable energy as it does not harm the environment.

Hopefully, with all the reducing done, the environment can recover to its normal conditions and the rate of warming will decrease. Global Warming has now become a major problem and is recognized by humans. If the warming continues, the environment and the human population will be affected in a negative way. Yet, there is still a glimpse of hope in this dark situation, humans are now trying to reduce the amount of energy they consume and are hoping to reduce their impact on the environment.

## **CONTINUING TO COMPETE**

*Boris Kosikov*

Every year, the American Math Competition is held twice, in the autumn and the winter, and every year SchoolNova allows its students to participate in the competition. The American Math Competition encourages students to explore a broad range of topics and vie for dominance among them.

This past November, students of SchoolNova were given the opportunity to compete in the national competition. Many local public schools do not offer students the chance to write in the competition, so SchoolNova is happy to allow its students the opportunity to do so. The competition is divided into three parts: AMC 8, AMC 10, and AMC 12. Dedication to the AMC is a hallmark of SchoolNova's academic results. Each year we have students who are on the U.S Distinguished Honor Roll list. This year was no different as we had one student place in the top 5% of the competition.

AMC 8 was held in Stony Brook on November 13. School Nova proudly displays our national distinction roll (top 1%). As of this February SchoolNova will also be participating in AMC 10 and 12.

AMC 10B and 12B were held on February 20 and SchoolNova students made up roughly a quarter of the team.

## ELEGY FOR A TWINKIE

*David He*

Made by Hostess  
The Twinkie was grand  
Filled with cream  
It had many fans

Many showed frowns  
As they heard around  
That Hostess shut down  
So the yelled aloud

We need the sponge cake  
With its amazing cream filling  
Now they can't be baked  
Cause Hostess failed with its billing  
Surely this counts as a dilemma  
Cause all we got now is Nutella

People still sell 'em  
But now for a fortune  
Really, one million?  
Now this just is torture

Hostess we need your treats  
Come back  
We need those sweets!

*...Holiday Party continued from page 2*

However, the play was not the only source of entertainment. The Russian classes of Tatyana Kuvshinova, Tatiana Tcherevik, Marta Kondratyuk, and Tatiana Weakley performed a small concert.

Also, there was a variety of different foods available to all. There was candy and sweets for the children, fruits, vegetables, and foods such as pasta, ham, cheeses, etc.

After the food and the play, we also enjoyed the chance to see a Russian cartoons for small children, and

## THE RETURN OF SIGMACAMP!

*Contributions by Danya Lukin and Marina Polonskaia*

SchoolNova is proud to announce that this summer will mark the return of SigmaCamp, which debuted last year. The camp is a hands-on experience where students will take part in Math, Physics, Biology and Chemistry experiments. Students come equipped with a passion for science and an enthusiasm to take part in a group learning environment. This camp takes place from June 22 until June 29 this summer in Shelter Island, New York.

All SigmaCamp staff members are professors and researchers from Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Lab, Harvard University, and Northeastern University. Many of the staff members are SchoolNova faculty that students will already know.

In a final note, continue to stay tuned for the results of the "Problems of the Month" Contest. This contest began in October and it offered students the chance for early admission to SigmaCamp. As of January, the winners are: Margarita Abanov, Sophia Abanov, David Bershadsky, Andrey Khesin, Nikita Podobedov and Nestor Tkachenko. Congratulations to them all! The names of further winners will be released in March.

there was music and dances. In the end, Father Frost and Snow Maiden came to the party. Father Frost handed children little bags filled with Russian candy, a necklace with Christmas colors that lit up and a small party toy that made a loud noise.

