



*CREC Academy of Science and Innovation*

*June 4th, 2021*

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### Monthly Announcements

- ❖ June 7th-9th - Senior Final Exams
- ❖ June 10th - Heublein Tower Hike
- ❖ June 11th - Senior Field Day
- ❖ June 14th - Senior Graduation
- ❖ June 14th-17th - Final Exams (Half Days)
- ❖ June 18th - Field Day
- ❖ June 18th - Last Day of School!

### Mrs. Askintowicz Wins ASI Teacher of the Year!

The Teacher of the Year award has been given in many schools in order to recognize the hard work and dedication of one of the teachers throughout the school year. This year's award is handed to Mrs. Askintowicz, who teaches 7th grade English and has worked at ASI for 7 years and for 4 years at 2 Rivers Middle School. I had the privilege of conducting an interview with her about her receiving this award and how she became a teacher. When asked how she felt about receiving the award, she mentioned "feeling very humbled and grateful" and how it "was very nice knowing that my peers thought that of me" which provided her with a piece of mind and a kindness that helped her throughout the remainder of the school year. She talked about some of the challenges of this year and how "divided" and "difficult it was to give everyone my attention" which was one of the hardships many teachers faced this school year. However, Askintowicz saw this as a challenge and made sure she did the best she could to keep the students engaged while simultaneously checking on their well being. For 25 years, Mrs. Askintowicz has been involved in education in many different areas and in many different grade levels, and when asked what she loves about teaching at ASI, she said "definitely the students" and how that is her "big, grounding reason for why" she loves to teach here. She appreciates the "diversity and commitment our teachers make to the students" and likes the "non-traditional approaches" our schools take to give students a new and unique experience here at our school. From her time of being an ASI, she feels very "invested and excited" to see students grow up through education and hopes to continue being a positive influence and teacher for years to come. Congratulations to Mrs. Askintowicz for receiving the Teacher of Year Award for 2021!

Written and Edited by Alice Bidoae

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**Have the scoop? Let us know at [asi.times@gmail.com](mailto:asi.times@gmail.com)!**

## ASI's Sports Scoop

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The Ravens boys baseball team had a successful season this spring finishing as the 17th seed and qualifying for states. The team ended with a record of 7 wins and only gave up 5 losses and for some players, was one of their strongest seasons yet. Junior Adam Renta had a total of 41 strikeouts with 29 hits, 25 runs and 18 RBIs (Runners Batted In). Junior Yonathan Ramos had a total of 57 strikeouts along with scoring a homerun, getting 13 hits, 12 RBIs and had a .386 batting average.



Angel Maldonado was the catcher for the boys team and also had a respectable 8 runs scored and a total of 17 hits. Despite the successful junior class, freshman Landon Wyskiewicz had a .423 batting average, 19 runs, 11 hits, and 8 RBIs which was one of the best performances the boys team had this season. Landon also won the CREC Pride award, so congratulations! Winning 7 games lead the boys to the states where they fell short to Hale Ray in the first round. Despite the loss, the boys team put up a strong season and the future junior and freshman class shows promising hope for next spring! Congratulations to the boys for making states!

The Raven's softball team also had a rebuilding year for their team due to more than half of the team just learning how to play the sport. Despite giving up many victories, the lady ravens came out with a solid 3 victories against Weaver twice and Prince Tech, and many players had solid seasons for their first year of playing. Captain Senior Kaylee Dobransky who has been playing for years put up a tough performance for the Ravens making both All Conference and the 2021 Softball All-League Team and was also selected to play in the Senior All-Star Softball Team on June 14th. Dobransky had a batting average of .686, 7 homeruns, 2 grand slams, 35 RBIs, and 18 strikeouts, one of the best performances of a softball player ever at ASI. The junior class also had new athletes that showed tough performances including Alice Bidoae, Katherine Palombizio, and Lujayn Banday. Banday and Palombizio teamed up in the defense to make multiple plays at second and first base, and Bidoae became the pitcher for the ravens, with 30 strikeouts and multiple double plays. Freshman Nataly Rodriguez became the defensive player of the year at Center Field along with sophomore Niara Largent who was catcher for the remainder of the season. Both athletes had strong performances and our top four hitters for the ravens included Kaylee Dobransky, Niara Largent, Yahailey Montanez, and Alice Bidoae with a respectable amount of RBIs and runs scored. Alice Bidoae also won the CREC Pride Award for the ravens so congratulations! Next year shows a great and promising future for the brand new softball team!

The Innovation Track Team also had a great rebuilding period along with multiple athletes who had their best seasons despite the challenges of no outdoor track last year and a limited indoor track season. Sophomore Patrice Broughton is the Conference Champion in the triple jump along with Te'ijah Roberts finishing second in the triple jump in the CRAL Championships. Junior Mya Saylor is the Conference Champion in the 100-meter hurdles and also qualified for states. Broughton, Saylor, Roberts, and sophomore Amya-Ariana Ortiz made up the strong girls 4x100 team and finished second along with qualifying for states and running the season best time. Senior Nadia Joseph finished third in the discus throw as well. Junior Tyvonn Thompson ran a PR in the 200m, finished as the Conference Champion in the 400m, and qualified for states in the 400m. Most of the team all qualified for states including Patrice Broughton, Amya-Ariana Ortiz, Tyvonn Thompson, Te'ijah Roberts, Carese Davis, and Mya Saylor. Also, a big congratulations to Carese Davis for receiving the CREC Pride award! Another big thanks to the seniors who are leaving which include Serelia Poole and Nadia Joseph, who both heavily contributed to the team's success.

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## Pop Culture and Global News

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### Indigenous Children Found

At a former residential school for indigenous children, 215 bodies were found, some as young as three-years-old. The children were students at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia before it closed in 1978. At the time, Canada's residential schools would segregate indigenous children from their families as a form of "cultural genocide". According to BuzzFeed news, "The report documented horrific physical abuse, rape, malnutrition and other atrocities suffered by many of the 150,000 children who attended the schools, typically run by Christian churches on behalf of Ottawa from the 1840s to the 1990s." Clearly, this incident was the result of a vicious plan to erase the indigenous people and their culture from Canadian history.



Image: News in 24 English

### Grande Officially Tied the Knot!



Big news for pop princess Ariana Grande! She officially tied the knot on May 15th with her fiancé Dalton Gomez. The two held a private wedding with about only 20 guests. Many fans and other celebs have expressed their thoughts and congratulations to the newlyweds. On May 26, she shared photos from the reception wearing a strapless wedding dress and a veil with the date of their wedding "5.15.21" tied with a bow in the back. We are so happy for the now married couple and wish many happy days for them in the future!

Image: Metro

# Breaking News

## Roe v Wade Questioned?

The Supreme Court is currently hearing the case of *Dobbs v Jackson's Women's Health Organization*, revolving around the abortion laws in Mississippi. This case might just render the previous rulings of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* powerless. Jackson's Women's Health Organization is the only licensed abortion clinic in the state of Mississippi, meaning that women all over the state have to drive hours just to visit the clinic. The case of *Dobbs v JWHO* started as a challenge against the Mississippi law that abortions are forbidden if the fetus is older than 15 weeks. This case would make it so that women would not be able to have an abortion unless the woman is facing a medical emergency that could affect her permanently, or the fetus would not be able to survive even after staying in the womb the full 9 months. Subjects of rape and incest are not considered.



Image Source - Honest Journalist

### **Special Thank You To Our Newspaper Staff!**

*Advice Column* - Carese Davis

*Announcements and Calendar* - Katherine Palombizio and Lujayn Banday

*Editor in Chief* - Alice Bidoae

*Local News Team* - Jasmine Carby  
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*Pop Culture Team* - Ajae Lynch  
Ariana Vicens  
Sarah Omary  
Jonale Walters

## Local News

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### State Officials Open Up Summer Camps in Connecticut

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With the academic school year nearing its end, Connecticut parents are looking for a way to actively engage their youth. After two years of precautionary restriction, they will finally be allowed this chance as June 29th marks the official date of the opening of summer camps in Connecticut. Multiple summer camps that have run in previous years will be reopening, although they were dramatically affected by the impacts of the pandemic. A prominent example of how summer camps were affected would be at The Hole in the Wall Camp, where they not only had to deal with the effects and impacts of the pandemic, but also by the results of a devastating fire on the campsite earlier in the year on February 12th. The fire resulted in several buildings being destroyed. Despite the tragic incident and the death of the camp's founder Paul Newman, the camp still continues to help 20,000 children and families annually. This camp held in Ashford, Connecticut amongst many others in the state will be making a season appearance but will not quite look the same. The Connecticut Chief of Staff, Paul Mounds stated that proper health protocol will be enforced. Such as enhanced health screening, a group size limited to no more than 10 children, government consent to serve more than 30 children, the enforcement of employees to wear cloth face masks, as well as the general implementation of hand hygiene products and proper social distancing.

Joined by Connecticut Children and Families Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes, Governor Ned Lamont held a news conference involving other state health leaders to address the concerns of reopening summer camps and the effects that the pandemic has had on its operations. It has been the decision of The State Department of Education that a total amount of 9 million dollars would be allotted to help places offer summer fun without financial burdens. The reopening of summer camps is an effort that holds close to many because of the significant impacts of the pandemic on adolescents' exposure to social interaction. Many feel that kids need this summer and in person summer camp experiences to take their minds off of the pandemic. One camp director states that she is so passionate about this goal that she is stretching every dollar. Including hiring, offering more spots, and providing transportation to swim lessons. She states that, "We've got enough money that we can offer several families or individual children scholarships. There are full scholarships, there are partial scholarships to make it easier for families." Although Chief of Staff Paul Mounds states that overnight camps do not qualify for the state's first stage of reopening, many kids are just happy and content to be out of the house again with their friends in the sun.

**Local News Written and Edited By: Jasmine Carby**



## Free Bicycles Given Away to Hartford Residents

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As summer is approaching, and the weather is clearing up, Connecticut residents are ready to venture off outside and spend some time in the great outdoors. As a result, to give back to the community and support this effort The Hamden County Sheriff's Department from Springfield, Massachusetts partnered up with Officer Jim Barrett from the Hartford Police Department to give out a total of 100 bicycles, helmets, and bike locks to the homeless. The event was held out in South Green Park on May 27th, 2021 and started at 10:30 AM. However some residents were eager to seek out this opportunity and arrived as early as 9:00 AM.

One of these residents was Tajuana Peoples, who was second in line to make sure that she received a free bike. When asked why she attended the event she said, "To get around and all. I can get on the bus and they have a bike rack so I'll be able to get some exercise at the same time, so it will help me." Tajuana along with many other Hartford residents greatly benefitted from this event and left the capital city with a smile on their faces. In addition to gaining access to free bikes, the residents were also provided with other amenities, toiletries and other living supplies. Deputy Robert Charland said, "[Jim Barrett] reached out to me for 50 bikes and we said we are going to do 100 and also brought 100 backpacks full of supplies for the homeless men and women. We bought juice, food, snacks." After a rough few nights of walking and sleeping outside in the city, Peoples was elated to have a new bike and basket to help her carry all of her possessions. Singing out, "I got my basket, I got my basket." The 47 year old just so happened to be charging her phone at an outlet in the park downtown when she saw what she described as a parade of trucks, motorcycles and police cars pull up. The wonders of this event got a lot of other positive recognition from other news articles and also partook in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Image Source: Hartford Courant

## *Counseling with Carese*

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Hello fellow Students and Staff of ASI, the school year is rapidly coming to an end. I know everyone is excited for summer break after such a long year, however, it is pivotal to stay productive over the summer. Do not worry, it is still a break, but there is still plenty you can do to keep your mind stimulated. The problem many students face after going on break, is they come back to school unprepared and out of routine. By designating a short amount of time for yourself everyday, you can prioritize important tasks and prevent procrastination in the long run.

There are so many ways to maximize time over the summer. One that is good for everyone is simply reading. Reading outside of school is very beneficial to your school career, but not enough students do it. By reading for just thirty minutes to an hour a day, you can increase your vocabulary and comprehension massively. These skills carry over to the next school year and will be of aid for all your classes. Studies have shown that reading improves our memory, helps us connect with others, increases positivity and even reduces your chances of developing Alzheimer's. I hope that is motivating enough to make you pick up a few books this summer.

Another productive activity you can participate in over the summer is exercise. There are many forms of exercise, whether you want to go on a run, ride your bike, or do yoga. Not only are these all good for your body, but they also enhance mental health and other skills, like motivation and concentration. Those of you who are student-athletes will especially benefit from it. If you have not already, make sure to stay in contact with your coaches about possible summer conditioning.

Specifically for the juniors, summer is the perfect time to begin the college application process. Taking a little bit of time to start now will make your senior year more enjoyable. You can begin drafting your college essay, asking teachers for your letters of recommendation, narrowing down your list and more. Do not be afraid to reach out to your guidance counselor for any inquiries you may have.

Last but not least, consider getting a summer job or internship if you have the time. There are plenty of opportunities out there, you just have to look for them. Camp counseling and summer mentoring programs are perfect for high school students, plus a lovely addition to your resume! I am wishing all of you an amazing summer and we look forward to seeing the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classes back for the 2021-2022 school year! To our seniors, congratulations on making it through your final year of highschool, we cannot wait to see what you do next!

Written and Edited by Carese Davis

make the most out of  
**summer**

## June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 SENIOR HIGH MEADOWS	4 SENIOR AND JUNIOR DANCE	5
6	7 EXAMS 1,2,3 (SENIORS)	8 EXAMS 5,6,7 (SENIORS)	9 EXAMS 4,8 (SENIORS)	10 SENIOR HIKE!	11 SENIOR FIELD DAY	12
13	14 EXAMS 1,2 SENIOR GRADUATION	15 EXAMS 5,6	16 EXAMS 7,8	17 EXAMS 3,4	18 FIELD DAY!! LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			