



CREC Academy of Science and Innovation

Dec 7th, 2021

Monthly Announcements

- ❖ Dec 3rd - Dress Down Day
- ❖ Dec 8-10th - Half Days
- ❖ Dec 13th - Retake School Pictures / Make Up Day
- ❖ Dec 14th - Progress Reports for Q2
- ❖ Dec 17th - Dress Down Day
- ❖ Dec 23rd-Jan 2nd - Winter Break

Mr. Person and His Cross Country Philosophy

I interviewed Social Studies teacher Mr. Person, who has taught every grade except the eighth grade. It is his eighth year teaching, and prior to ASI, he worked for four years at another CREC school, MLC. He also coaches Cross Country here at ASI. He started coaching Cross Country at MLC in 2012 when his school did not have any sports programs at the time. The school noticed that lots of kids left after middle school because they wanted to play sports. Due to this, there was a middle school program implemented, which was the first sports program at MLC. After coaching for some time, he was offered by the principal to become the official cross country coach. At first, he told the principal “I don’t run, I don’t know much about cross country, I don’t think I should coach it.” But, the principal had faith in him and made him take on the new position. He then started getting into running and learning more about the sport. He moved to ASI in 2014 and began coaching as well as teaching social studies. When I asked him about why he continued coaching cross country, he explained that he “realized through the experience that [he loves] running, and [he enjoys] helping student-athletes develop that passion as well.” He also explained that it is a life-long fitness activity, and it benefits your mental health and your self-confidence. He enjoys helping the students both physically and mentally, and so he brought this into the classroom in the form of meditation. Mr. Person does a daily meditation activity before he starts the lesson every day in his class, and he has been doing that for years. He uses the app Headspace, which provides the users with a quick meditation. He says it helps the students have a quick reset before the class period starts. He loves it because it helps his students to “regulate emotions, reduce stress, and is a great coping mechanism.” He hopes for his students to continue meditating even after they graduate, and he wants his students to be physically and mentally happy.

Written and Edited by Karina Falcon

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

ASI Sports Scoop

Boys Basketball

Boys basketball officially started on Monday of this week. There will be a freshman team, a JV team, and a varsity team and this was one of the first years over 40 boys have tried out for basketball. The boys' first game is going to be held on December 13th away at East Granby for a scrimmage, and their first official game is on the 16th against Classical Magnet. JV starts at 5:00pm and Varsity will begin at 7:00pm here at our home court. Make sure to come and support our first home game!

Indoor Track

Indoor track has begun officially last week, with two brand new coaches, one focusing on throwing and weight lifting while the other concentrating on sprinting, jumping, and distance. This year's track teams show promising performances for returning senior athletes Carese Davis and Mya Saylor. Davis has been a consistent and solid distance runner for three years while Saylor has been a state qualifying hurdler for two years now, and both are eager to begin their last indoor track seasons. Junior Amya Ortiz is also expected to perform well after qualifying for states for the sprinting events leading up to this season. Three meets are expected to happen, so let's support our up and coming indoor track team!

Girls Basketball

Girls basketball has officially kicked off and has had many new members joining this year in hopes of having a successful season. Returning senior Te'ijah Roberts will be at her prime this basketball season after being one of Innovation's top players for a consecutive three years. Her senior season is expected to be her best and has hopes of making it count after making All Conference during the soccer season. This year, there will be both a varsity and a JV team for the girls and their first scrimmage is going to be on December 7th against Terryville at 7:00pm. The girls official first game is going to be away at Goodwin Tech on December 13th, so let's wish the basketball team a good season!

Pop Culture and Global News

Macy's Thanksgiving Parade 2021

Macy's is back with their annual Thanksgiving Day Parade with a live audience this year. Last year, they weren't able to have a live audience because of the pandemic, causing the parade to not have much hype as it did within previous years. To celebrate their comeback with an in-person audience they had many exciting parade balloons along with many amazing performances from popular performers like Nelly, Jordan Fisher and even Aespa, a girl group from South Korea. The parade was a hit, racking up a huge 25 million viewers, bringing back the hype of their Thanksgiving Day Parade. Hopefully they can keep the parade going for many more years to come.



Image Source: CNN

The AMAs

The American Music Awards took place on November 21, with a number of famous artists attending, like BTS, Taylor Swift, and Olivia Rodrigo. The show kicked off with performances from Bad Bunny, BTS, Silk Sonic, Tyler the Creator, Coldplay, and many more.



Image Source: whattowatch.com

Some of the most anticipated awards went to Olivia Rodrigo for New Artist of the Year and BTS for Artist of the Year. The Weeknd won Favorite Male R&B Artist, and Taylor Swift won Favorite Pop Album. Doja Cat took home the award for Favorite Female R&B Artist and Megan Thee Stallion won Favorite Female Rap/Hip-Hop Artist. Congratulations to all artists and performers! Did your fave win?

Breaking News

On November 30th, a horrible shooting happened at Oxford High School. A total of four people died and seven others were injured, including a teacher. The suspect responsible for this heinous act is a 15-year-old boy, armed with a semi-automatic handgun. He allegedly used the handgun that his father bought. During the attack, students hid under desks for safety. The suspect's parents told him to not talk to police and officers searched his home. New reports are saying that students stayed home the day before the shooting due to safety concerns. According to BBC News, one parent, Jody Job, said her son missed school because “he felt like something was going to go down.” Sadly, the son’s prediction was correct and many young lives were taken quickly on the next day. Gun violence continues to affect the country's most vulnerable people. When will enough be enough?



Image Source: Detroit Free Press

Join the Newspaper!

Want to help us get the scoop? Join the newspaper club! You can either sign up to be an editor, writer, photographer, or news source to help create our monthly newspaper! For more information, talk to Mr. Schlechtweg or Alice Bidoae!

Thank You To Our Newspaper Staff

Calendar and Announcements - Lujayn Bandy and Katherine Palombizio

Advice Column - Carese Davis

Interviewers and News Sources - Karina Falcon and Naida Dautovic

Local News Team - Jasmine Carby

Global News Team - Ajae Lynch, Ariana Vicens, Jonale Walters, and Sarah Omary

Editors - Macyn Rosay and Ashley Palombizio

Editor in Chief - Alice Bidoae

Local News

Connecticut Children Ages 5-11 Are Eligible for Vaccination

It was recently announced by the CDC that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination would be eligible to be administered for children between the ages of 5-11. The decision was made on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021 by vaccine advisers to the US CDC. Members of this advisory committee voted 14-0 in favor of the COVID-19 vaccination being administered to young kids in this age group. CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky was the last to sign off in favor of the vote. She stated that she was in favor of administering the vaccine because the risks of not administering the shot to these young kids outweighed the risks. The CDC notes that a total of 745 teenagers and children under the age of 18 have passed away from COVID-19. In regards to this, Dr. Walensky said that, "The chance that a child will have severe Covid, require hospitalization or develop a long term complication like MIS-C remains low, but still the risk is too high and too devastating to our children, and far higher than for many other diseases for which we vaccinate children". According to a report done by the American Academy of Pediatrics the children in this age group accounted for a quarter of all of the new cases during the past week, making the 28 million newly eligible kids for the vaccine more prominent in decreasing COVID rates than ever.

Although physicians hope for the same effect in kids that they have received from adults, not everything about this new vaccine is the same. The younger age group vaccine, which became FDA approved last Friday, is only one third of the dose of what people ages 12 and older have received. In addition to this, the vaccination is also less concentrated. Doctors said that they hope the smaller dose and other adaptations will help decrease any risks of side effects in the young kids. In Connecticut, Hartford HealthCare vaccinated it's first six children on Tuesday evening, with more shots hopeful to be administered as the week goes on. Children in Connecticut will also be able to get the vaccine in pharmacies, pediatrician offices, and hopefully soon at mobile clinics at some schools. The kids themselves were nervous but expressed that they were more excited than anything with one kid, Kailyn Cronin saying, "I felt very nervous but now it's over. Now we're vaccinated. That's a big step into making the world normal again, so we all don't need to wear masks and for everyone to be safe and healthy."

Written and Edited By: Jasmine Carby

Advice Column and School Announcements

Counseling with Carese

Hello students and staff of ASI, Happy Holidays! December has come around the corner very quickly, and I am sure everyone is excited for holiday break as I am too. We are almost there, but make sure to stay on top of your work now, so you are able to enjoy the luxury of a break later. What is the point of a break if you cannot truly enjoy it without the stress of school?

To proceed, the topic of discussion this month is balance, more specifically, balancing sports and school. It is that time of the year for basketball players and track and field athletes with more to come in the spring. ASI has an array of vastly talented athletes who are passionate about the sports they play, but it can be challenging to balance both school and sports at times. This is why time management is so important to everyone, especially student-athletes. With a busy schedule, there is no time for procrastination. Do work in class when it is assigned, take advantage of the study halls before practice, and use your time wisely! I want each and everyone of you to enjoy your seasons to their fullest potential as I know COVID has caused so much abnormality. In order to do that, you have to keep your grades up and I know how capable all of you are.

Until next time, Carese.

La Parranda

A message from Mrs. Ruiz:

“ASI will be holding its annual parranda on Wednesday, December 22nd to bring in some Christmas cheer. A parranda is a Puerto Rican music tradition that takes place in Puerto Rico during the Christmas season. Parrandas are given to family members and neighbors throughout the night. Carolers go from house to house singing Christmas carols and playing traditional Puerto Rican instruments. Families receive the carolers with snacks, drinks like coquito, or homemade chicken stew called sancocho. Hope everyone can enjoy the music while embracing the culture.” Make sure to either participate or support our annual parranda on December 22nd!

Senior Pictures

Seniors! Make sure to sign up for your senior pictures so they can be put in the yearbook and in the graduation slideshow. Make sure to sign up on www.prestigeportraits.com online to schedule an appointment and make your payment. You can sign up for Dec 15th and 16th, and the last dates are going to be on January 18th, 19th, and 20th. Each of you have been sent a code either via mail or email and you need it to schedule your appointment. Remember to wear your best outfits and don't forget to sign up!

A Word on Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is held during November to celebrate Native American culture and to recognize their significant contributions to what America has become today. It is important to recognize Native Americans for founding rich cultures and traditions, and for laying the foundation of our country. Recently, Columbus Day has been switched to Indigenous People's Day, October 10th, in order to mourn and remember the lives lost during the genocides that occurred once Columbus landed on what is now called America. Since then, more opportunities for Native Americans have been opened up in order to provide educational equality, diversity of Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages, and the chance to preserve important stories and artifacts that keep their culture alive. In order to learn more about Native American Heritage, research some fun facts, history, and traditions to experience a new perspective and culture.



<https://www.doi.gov/blog/celebrate-native-american-heritage-month>

Winter Clothing Drive



The Innovation Student-Athlete Advisory Board here at ASI will be holding a winter clothing drive beginning on Monday December 13th and running until Friday January 14th. We will be collecting winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and sweatpants/sweatshirts. Men's items are going to be donated to Open Hearth and women's and kids items will be donated to La Bodeguita de la Gente in Hartford. For high school each House will have a collection box (location TBD) where the items will be collected, and it is hoped to become a competition between the houses. The house with the most items will receive the most points that are added up towards the end of the year, so make sure to participate and contribute!

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2.	3. DRESS DOWN DAY	4.
5.	6.	7.	8. HALF DAY	9. HALF DAY	10. HALF DAY	11.
12.	13. RETAKE SCHOOL PICTURE	14. PROGRESS REPORTS (Q2)	15.	16.	17. DRESS DOWN DAY	18.
19.	20.	21.	22. DECEMBER PBIS REWARD DAY	23. FIRST DAY OF WINTER BREAK	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	