

The Colonial

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Remember Funbrain?



BY OWEN CONYERS '20

Picture this, you're in fourth grade, you're done with all your work in the computer lab, and you're really, really bored. While some kids worked on their homework or talked to each other, many students immediately went to websites with unblocked games. In fact, most students still go out of their way to go on Coolmath Games or other unblocked websites, but one that very few still go on is Funbrain. Despite the website still being active today, very few people still talk about it or even mention it. So why did everyone forget about Funbrain?

One reason why Funbrain has become irrelevant is fairly obvious. Funbrain is for grade schoolers, not high schoolers. The website features a variety of simple games aimed at younger students between kindergarten and fifth grade that focus on basic arithmetic and decision making. So while it may be fun to revisit the website as a high schooler, there's not much on Funbrain that would be entertaining to someone who isn't in elementary school. A more interesting question to ask would be whether or not anything about the website has changed since we stopped using it. Interestingly, many parts of the website have changed.

Those who remember using Funbrain back in elementary school may be surprised to see that the layout has been completely redesigned. The new design has introduced a variety of changes including new games, a new user interface, a new logo, and surprisingly, the removal of the math arcade. While many features of


never heard of it or barely recognize the name. Out of eighteen students in Mr. James Carpenter's 5th hour class, thirteen students remembered the website while the other five did not. One junior, Jacob Wright, commented: "There was a math arcade that got harder depending on your grade." So while not everyone may

remember this website, the students who do remember it may be in for a pleasant and nostalgic surprise when they revisit it and see all the games they used to play when their teachers weren't looking, not to mention the fact that it's still unblocked after all these years.



the website such as the Pre-K playground (a page of games for young children) have been given a more modern look, the math arcade has been removed entirely and replaced with a simple list of math-related games. (For those who don't remember it, the math arcade was a virtual board game where players would progress through 25 math-related games.)

While the website used to be very prevalent in elementary school classrooms, not everyone remembers Funbrain. In fact, many students seem to have either



What is your favorite "educational" game site? Shoot me an email at owen67704@students.sbcs.k12.in.us

Photos by Funbrain

Editor's Note



Happy New Year Colonials! We are so excited to finish out the year strong. As always, we would appreciate your feedback on the articles, that helps us give you the best content possible. Also, if you are interested in joining newspaper next year, then be sure to let your counselor know when scheduling your classes. This is a great extracurricular where you will learn how to write better while actually writing about what you want to. See you next issue!

Sion Shepley '19

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Counselor's Corner: JAG: Jobs for America's Graduates

By Ms. Robin Shaffer

What do you want to be when you grow up?

That question may be fun to answer and easy when you're five years old and you're dreaming of a world that seems light years away. As you get closer to graduation and look forward to your independence, you may find yourself in the same place that I was at 15, 16, and 17 years old--uncertain. You may not be one of the students who is trying to decide where to apply for college, but rather if you're going to college. Or if you'll join the military, or if you seek specific training for an occupation, or if you'll go directly into the workforce...it can be a lot to take in! We have a course at Clay High School that can help you work through these questions, prepare for whatever it is you decide to do after graduation, and offer support and resources after you graduate. It's called JAG.

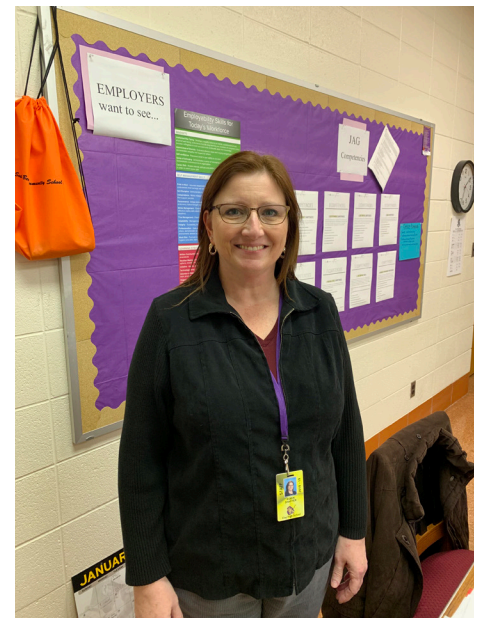
Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) uses a variety of fun and creative activities to help high school juniors and seniors learn the key competencies that will prepare them for life after high school. The six core competencies to be mastered by graduation are:

- Career Development
- Job Attainment
- Job Survival
- Basic Competencies (Communication Skills)
- Leadership and Self Development
- Personal Skills (values, goals, decision making)

Additional competencies addressed:

- Life Survival Skills
- Workplace Competencies
- Economic Empowerment

Many activities allow students opportunities to develop and practice the interpersonal skills that will make them stronger candidates for employment. For instance, last semester the students attended a job fair with more than 20 employers participating. Students were well-prepared for the event, and felt comfortable introducing themselves to hiring managers and engaging them in conversations about their companies, jobs available, as



well as their own strengths and employment needs. (Ask a JAG student for their "GNAP!") Adding to their confidence was knowledge gained by taking assessments and further researching in their areas of interest.

This spring, students will participate in other activities like resume development and mock interviews, work site and college tours, and hosting guest speakers.

JAG offers opportunities for students to apply everything they have learned by competing in local, regional, state, and national conferences, as well as being placed in internships, training programs, and job interviews!

We always have room for more members! If you're interested, see myself (in room 125A) or your guidance counselor for more information.

Below are some JAG National statistics: JAG Performance Outcomes for Class of 2017:

Graduation Rate: 95%
Employment Rate: 64%
Positive Outcomes Rate: 84%
Full-time Jobs Rate: 77%
Full-time Placement Rate: 91%
Postsecondary Education Enrollment Rate: 44%

“Rambling thru January 2019 A.D. Skies: The View from Clay”

~ The “4,500,001th ” Journey Begins ~

How Time Works: A Historical Perspective

Regardless of your religious beliefs, dis-beliefs or no beliefs we label all years with B.C. (before Christ) or A.D. (anno domini, or in the year of our lord/Lord).

There is no “zero year”. In this system the year Christ was born is 1 A.D. and the year preceding it is 1 B.C.

January 2019 begins with a dazzling “morning star”: the planet Venus which is at its brightest for all year. On January 3rd, at 12:20am, the Earth is at perihelion, the point in its elliptical orbit closest to the Sun, being at a distance of 91,403,554 miles. Since the beginning of this month the Sun has been setting later each day and will continue to do so. On January 11th the Sun begins to rise earlier, an event which will continue all month. Thus, this month, days will be getting longer and nights will be getting shorter. However, darkness will still be greater in length than daylight until the beginning of Spring in March at which time daylight and darkness will be “equal” in length. January 1st contains about 9 hours of daylight and January 31st contains about 10 hours of daylight. The January Sun still rises and sets south of east and west but not as far “south of” as it did in December. That is why your January noon Sun will increase in altitude and shadows will decrease in length during the entire month.

January begins with a Waning Crescent Moon. There is a New Moon on the 5th, followed by a Waxing Crescent Moon, a 1st Quarter Moon on the 14th, followed by a Waxing Gibbous Moon, a Full Moon on the 21st, followed by a Waning Gibbous Moon and a 3rd Quarter Moon on the 27th followed by a Waning Crescent Moon. The Moon is farthest from (at Apogee) the Earth on the 9th and closest to (at Perigee) the Earth on the 21st. The Earth’s shadow will eclipse the Full Moon (while it is near Perigee) beginning at 10:34pm on the 20th, with totality scheduled for 11:41pm. Remember, because the Sun and the Full Moon are opposite each other (1800 apart) the Full Moon is visible all night, rising at sunset and setting at sunrise.

Your January “morning stars” are Mercury, Saturn, Jupiter and Venus in that order from east to west. Your January “evening star” is Mars. Your January nighttime significant star patterns (constellations), visible from sunset to sunrise will be Orion (with Betelgeuse and Rigel), Gemini (with Castor and Pollux), Leo (with Regulus), Canis Major (with Sirius) and Taurus (with Aldebaran and the Hyades). Don’t forget the North Star Polaris and the Big and Little Dippers in the north.

Closing Thought: If a red house is made from red bricks, a blue house is made from blue bricks, a pink House is made from pink bricks, a black house is made from black bricks and a White House is made from white bricks then what is a green house made from?

So, may your skies always be clear, may your eyes always look upward. . .and, no matter how you believe, may you always “feel” the beauty and mysteries of the Universe.

Edmund C. Sweeney Jr.
Earth and Space Science
Clay High School

MIDWINTER
FEBRUARY 1ST

8:00PM - 11:45 PM



**ID'S
NEEDED!**



ALL YOU CAN EAT CANDY!



SINGLE \$15 • COUPLE \$25



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
51490 LAUREL RD, SOUTH BEND, IN 46637



Designed by Chloe Hanley

Clay High Girls Soccer

By SOPHIE RIDENOUR '19

Clay High School may not always be the best at sports and have winning records, but athletics are improving, starting with the involvement of dedicated athletes and coaches.

The 2018-2019 Clay High School Girls Soccer team was recognized by the SBCSC School Board and SBCSC Director of Athletics, Seabe Gavin, for their sportsmanship over the past fall season. Their coach, Mr. Brian Ginzer (Clay's Pla-to coordinator), said over the past two years the Girls Soccer team showed outstanding sportsmanship. Whether they won or lost, they showed sportsmanship toward other teams. Leading the team and bringing them together were the four team captains Karen Ramirez, Autumn Wrobel, Heidi Hodges, and Sydney Maurer.

"We were recognized by Clay's true character. Parents, teachers, coaches, student-athletes, fans, and for our admin-

istration's dedication to producing quality programs. I would like to personally thank other programs for sharing the girls on my last two teams over the past two years. My team can be seen on the field, on stage, playing an instrument, participating in clubs and other awesome venues at Clay," said Ginzer.

The team was showing the true character of Clay in their sportsmanship.

"Well, it sure wasn't easy for us as we worked our hearts out every day on the field. We may have not been the best players or had the best skills but one thing we did have was the heart to play. It's not about winning, it's about having fun, and at the end of it all, we've created a family as well as an unbreakable bond. Even though we lost our games, we've always played to the buzzer. We may not have won the games but we always win in our heads and in our hearts," said senior Karen Ramirez. "This is what made this team special over

the past two years."

The award came as a surprise to some.

"When I heard that we had gotten an award, I thought they had made a mistake since we hadn't won a game the whole season. It was so cool to learn that we had actually won the sportsmanship award. The team was always supportive of each other and of the opposing team so I believe that we do deserve the recognition," said sophomore Sydney Maurer.

Award or not, these stellar girls will continue to have one thing, each other.

"What made this team so special is how much we are a family! We continuously pick each other up and our determination overcomes everything! That and our love for the game is what keeps us fighting hard," said junior Autumn Wrobel.



The Best Spider-Man Film

Score: 100/100

BY SION SHEPLEY '19

In 2002, Marvel's flagship character, Spider-Man, swung onto the silver screen for the first time. In the seventeen years since there have been six other *Spider-Man* films in four different universes. Needless to say, the character has been done to death in film. However, 2018's *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* has changed the mold of what people currently think of as Spider-Man. Not only is it the first *Spider-Man* film to be animated, as well as the first one to have Miles Morales as the lead instead of Peter Parker, but it's the first in my mind that really thought outside of the box to bring to the screen a universe that not only challenges the idea of Spider-Man, but maybe even the animation art form itself. This may be one of the best movies I have seen in a really long time.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse centers around Miles (Shameik Moore), an African American-Latin American high school student getting ready to move into a new school---which he doesn't exactly feel at home in. His life gets harder though when he is bitten by a radioactive spider while doing graffiti with his Uncle Aaron (Mahershala Ali). He gets all the powers that the Spider-Man (Chris Pine) in his universe has. However, Miles does not have much time to adjust to his newfound powers as the villainous Kingpin (Liev Schreiber) has built a machine that opens portals to several different universes, as well as destroys them. When it opens, many different characters who play the role of Spider-Man



Photo from JoBlo.com

in their universe arrive in Miles' universe. They include an anime girl named Peni Parker (Kimiko Glenn), Spider-Man Noir (Nicolas Cage), the original Peter Parker (Jake Johnson), Spider-Gwen (Hailee Steinfeld), and even Peter Porker, also known as Spider-Ham (John Mulaney). It's up to Miles and the Spider-people to stop the machine and also to train Miles to truly become Spider-Man.

As previously mentioned, this is a very out-of-the-box story. I don't know that anyone was really expecting to see a pig Spider-Man on the big screen let alone be in the best *Spider-Man* film. This bizarre combination of characters leads to a very charming story and one that feels very fresh, even though we have seen Spider-Man so many times in film in this century alone. It's worth mentioning that this film was co-produced by Phil Lord (who also co-wrote the film) and Christopher Miller. These two were also responsible for some other movies that showed an appreciation for the original source material as well as created new wacky ideas on how to tell their story. These include films like *The LEGO Movie* and *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. Ironically Lord and Miller's wacky ideas have also led to them getting kicked off of movies like 2018's *Solo*.

This freshness of the story extends to the characters, as each and every one of them feel like a new character you're getting to know and they are all so likable. They are also set up brilliantly, as some characters like Miles and Peter have long story arcs that extend throughout the film. Others like the Spider-people and Kingpin have a very short set up that maybe takes

a minute each. Both of them are perfectly easy to understand. That's a result of two things, brilliant writing and perfect visual storytelling.

The visuals in this movie are absolutely stunning. I have simply never seen an animated film like this. What's interesting is that the film is 3D animation like is seen most often nowadays, but the animation also combines techniques used to animate both hand drawn films as well as even the anime style. *Into the Spider-Verse* looks like a comic book. There is not a single shot that does not embrace that art style. In all honesty, after I watched this movie, I couldn't watch another animated film for a short period of time as the animation just felt outdated. Yeah, the animation is that good and it's able to best show the movement of Spider-Man without the restraints of live action. This movie nails the idea of an animated film, it truly understands the limitless possibilities of that art form.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse is one of the best films I have ever seen. I'm a huge superhero nerd and I'm a huge animation nerd. I absolutely love it when those two are tied together in film such as in *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm* and the *Incredibles* movies, both of which I would rank among the best in both superhero films and animated films. But I'm not going to lie: *Spider-Verse* may be a little better than those films. It understood the ideologies behind superheroes and animation better than a lot of other movies do. Bottom line, I absolutely adored this movie and I would recommend you swing in and watch it as soon as you possibly can.



Photo from imdb.com

The Clay High School Blood Drive

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE: January 25, 2019

Not a single Clay High School Alumni forgets one of the main traditions, National Honor Society's (NHS) Blood Drive. Many students get involved in this tradition at least once during their high school career. Clay hosts three drives yearly. In September's Blood Drive 64 out of the 120 individuals who initially signed up actually donated. Seventy-three percent of these donations were successful. Approximately 20 NHS students participate in each drive.



Above is Senior Quentin Rodriguez getting his blood drawn. One donation can save three lives

**Blood donations help save lives and
are a great way for young adults to
give back to the community!!!**

General Guidelines for Blood Donation (according to the Red Cross)

- Be in good general health and feeling well.
- Be at least 17 years old in most states (16 years old with parental consent in some states).
- Weigh at least 110 lbs. Additional height and weight requirements apply for donors 18 years old and younger and all high school student donors.
- Have not donated blood in the last 56 days.
- A brief health consultation will ultimately determine if you are eligible to donate blood.

Ask A Colonial:

What's your New Year's resolution?



Madison Woolley
Senior
"I just want to graduate."



Ms. Christopher
English Department
"I didn't make any because I don't keep them."



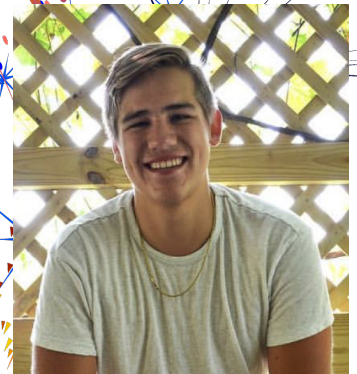
Abigail Mitchel
Junior
"Relax"



Benjamin Chavez
Junior
"To get more girls' numbers."



Alexis Love
Senior
"To get more matches on Tinder"



Quentin Rodriquez
Senior
"To be a better person and take the high road"



Tyler Gibbs
Sophomore
"To be a better person."

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019

Reporting by Jessica Aldridge '19

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BY KYLA ANDREWS '20

Morgan Naragon has a GPA of 4.182.



Pictured above is Morgan Naragon

She has been a student at Clay High School all four years having previously attended LaSalle Intermediate Academy. Morgan is a member of the girls varsity golf team. She is in the Fine Arts Magnet Program. Naragon says, "I love the atmosphere of Clay. The students are always super spirited." Naragon has "studied hard and made sure to put in maximum effort" for her spot in the top five students. Although she did most of the work herself, she says, "Mrs. Hartman has pushed me the most to do my best and [has] been super supportive."

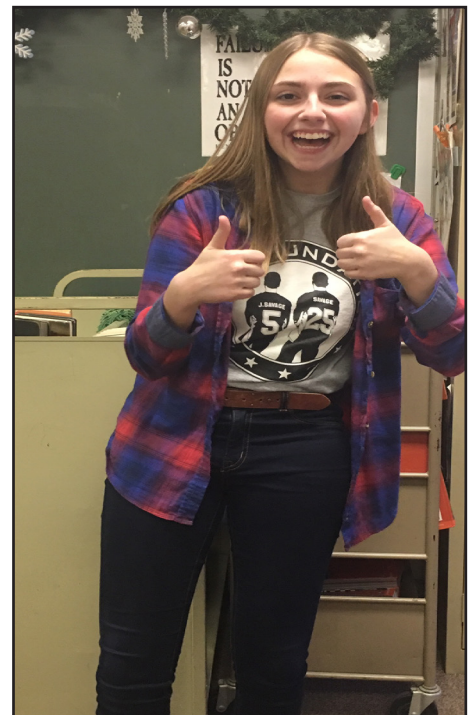
Naragon says that being at the top of her class is, "an exciting, accomplishing feeling." Morgan is continuing her studies at Trine University to study Forensic Science.

Carly Colvin has a 4.179 GPA. She has been a student at Clay for all four years of high school. She attended Corpus Christi. Colvin has played tennis all four years and played varsity for three. Carly has participated all four years in the theatre magnet including stints in acting, stagecraft, and directing. She's also been on the Quiz Bowl team since freshman year. For two years, she's been included in C.L.A.Y., our youth advisory council on drug and alcohol prevention, and National Honor Society.

"My favorite part of Clay is the welcoming environment of everyone in the school- students, teachers, coaches. I have formed such strong bonds with so many people," she said.

Colvin says she's at the top because "I do all my work to the best of my ability. I try not to turn in something that does not make me proud. My work is just another representation of myself and I want to make a good impression. I just enjoy learning. I know my teachers work hard to educate me, so I do the same for them in return." Colvin gives credit to Mrs. Diana Christopher in the English Department. "Mrs. Christopher influences me to be a better student. Her class is one of the most difficult classes I've ever taken. Her assignments are exciting, her intelligence is impressive. Her class makes me truly want to learn and improve in all areas of my academics."

Colvin says "I have always been expected to do well and it is relieving to have something to show for that." As of now, Carly is planning on attending IU Bloomington's Kelley School of Business to major in finance with a double major or a minor in mathematics. She hopes to become a financial advisor or an actuary.



Pictured above is Carly Colvin

Pictures by Morgan Naragon and Mrs. Susan Groves