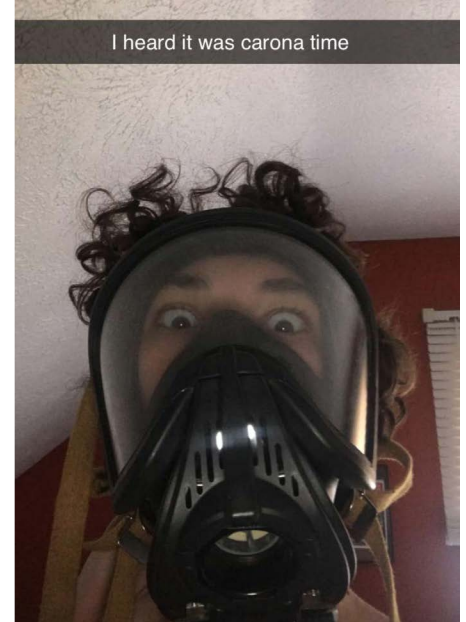


the COLONIAL

volume eighty-four issue nine || 3-27-20



Book Nook

Alumni
Corner

Dance
Teachers

Boxed
Groceries

Mock Trial

What's Up
with Lunch?

One Size Too
Small

A Note from the Editors



During these hard times, The Colonial Staff reaches out to all the Clay Friends and Families. We hope to be a stable rock during these changing and confusing events.
Stay safe, and wash your hands.

If you would like to be featured on The Colonial's Front Page

send your school spirit pictures to Kyla Andrews:

email: kyla79667@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us

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The Book Nook Reviews *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

BY MRS. ANGIE BITNER

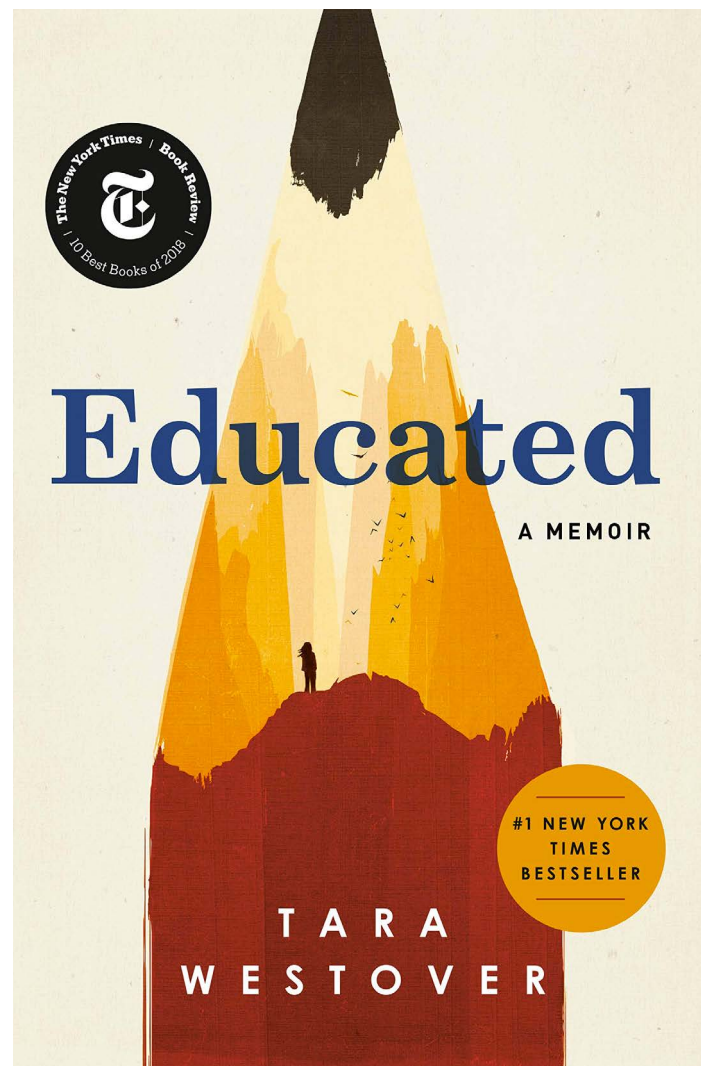
This month the book nook is reviewing the non-fiction, best seller *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. This book has been honored by several awards including: The New York Times Top Ten Books of the Year, One of Barack Obama's Favorite Books of the Year, Bill Gates Holiday Reading List, Nominated for Paste's Book of the Decade, Finalist for Oprah's Book of the Year, and Good Morning America's Book of the Year. With all this hype, I had to read this book!

Tara Westover was born a survivalist, her family lived off the land in the mountains of Idaho. Her father scrapped metal that was found or recycled, and her mother was an herbalist and midwife. She was born without a birth certificate, without a Social Security number, and even without knowing her actual birthdate. Her family was so isolated from society, she was 17 before she stepped foot into any type of classroom. Being this isolated from society came at a high price for Tara and her siblings. Not only was there no one to advocate about their lack of public education, there was no one to intervene when her older brother became violent, there was no one to intervene when medical attention was needed, and there was no one to advocate for her dreams. The only person Tara had to rely on really was herself. Her quest for knowledge and an outside world education started in her teenage years. She began saving

what little money she could to buy textbooks, to take the SAT, and to fill out college admissions. Her desire to want more eventually took her across the ocean, to Harvard, and to Cambridge. Transforming the way she felt about her family's way of life, the way she was raised, and more importantly what she wanted out of life.

This book deserves all the praise it has gotten. An absolutely beautifully written memoir, Tara Westover vividly describes the life she was raised in and fiercely explains the inner strength it took to want something better. Though the concept of living a "survivalist" life is foreign to most, the way she relates to the reader is beyond amazing. Tara Westover is the underdog we all cheer for!

If you are interested in reading *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover, you can find multiple copies in the Clay High School Library.



Alumni Corner ... |

Mitchell Hartman

BY HAYLEY DEMLER '20

Let's reminisce back to 7 years ago. The class of 2013 was excitedly getting ready to graduate and move on to higher education. In that group of seniors was a young man named Mitchell Hartman.

Hartman is a South Bend native, but currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana with his dog Cooper, his best friend from

Clay as his roommate, and his brother as his neighbor. While living in Indianapolis he works as a project engineer at Shiel Sexton and plans on working for them for a minimum of 7 years as he has currently has been with them for a year and a half. He is currently on track to be promoted to assistant project manager by the end of 2021 and hopes to be promoted to

project manager by 2025.

To get to where he is now, Hartman went on to further his education at Ball State University. In college he studied and got a bachelor's degree in Construction Management and a minor in Business Administration. Outside of his academics at Ball State, Hartman participated in rock climbing and a wrestling club.

During Hartman's high

school years he was involved in many of our highly recognizable sports teams. He was a member of our wrestling, football, and baseball teams. Thinking about his high school years, he has fond recollections of the great times he had during Friday night football games with the fans and his teammates.

Here at Clay, Hartman's athletic career was one for the ages. Beginning his freshman year, 4 year starter in football, wrestling, and baseball. In his wrestling career, he was a 4-year all-conference, sectional champion, semi-state champion, and a 3-time state champ. He currently still holds the school record for wins in wrestling at 164-18. Also during his senior year in baseball we helped his team defeat Penn to win the sectional championship.

As we inch closer to our 2020 seniors graduating, Hartman has a piece of advice for them: "You have to be willing and able to consistently learn and improve yourself as a student and employee. Learning and studying doesn't stop after your graduation." He says there is one thing he wants our seniors to know, "...the most useful ability you can learn from school is the proper techniques to retain and compartmentalize useful information."



Introducing Clay High's Dance Teachers!

BY LYDIA TALCOTT '21

Shakurah Grumbacher, or Mrs. G, is one of two dance teachers here at Clay. She started teaching here in 2011, meaning this is her ninth year

at Clay. She teaches intro to dance, dance two, three, and four; jazz, and choreography.

artists and performers.

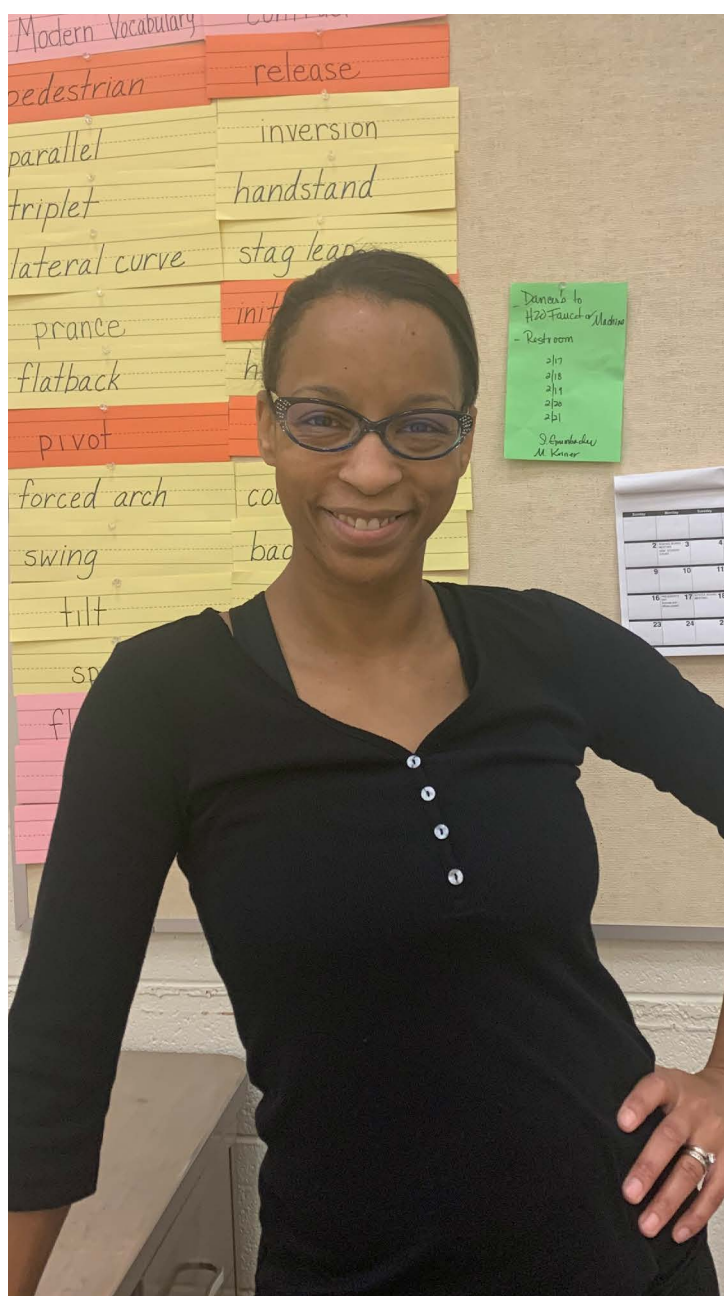
Michele Kriner is the second dance teacher here at Clay. She is only at Clay for fifth, sixth, and seventh hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This year she teaches ballet levels two, three, and four. She and Mrs. G alternate days of teaching these classes. In past years, she has also taught jazz and ethnic folk, modern levels two, three, and four, as well as choreography. This year is her 13th year teaching at Clay.

Outside of Clay, she is a professor of dance at Saint Mary's, where she has also been for 13 years. She teaches a very wide variety of classes there: all levels of jazz and modern, beginning ballet, choreography, improvisation, and dance for musical theatre. At Saint Mary's, there is also a performing company called "Dance Ensemble Workshop." She is the Assistant Director and faculty choreographer of this company.

Finally, her favorite part about teaching dance is "seeing our students progress over time, and watching them realize how much they love dance!"

Outside of Clay, Mrs. G teaches at the Southold Dance Theater, where she has taught since 2006. There, she teaches primary ballet one and two, ballet one, and jazz. She also teaches colorguard at Concord High School, this being her third year there, as well as John Glenn High School since 2003. She formerly taught colorguard at Penn, stopping in 2007.

Mrs. G's favorite part about teaching dance is seeing her students get to grow as



Pictured: Mrs. Grumacher

Boxed Groceries

By OLIVIA LARGENT '22

Some families in the area do not have time to go out and go grocery shopping for fruits and vegetables; ordering in is the new way to shop!

Misfits Market is a company that delivers fresh, all organic, produce right to your doorstep. They are similar to an online grocery store, however, they specialize in recycling and reusing produce that gets otherwise thrown away -- produce that is too small, weirdly shaped, or even a slightly different color than usual, which creates a significant amount of waste.

The market says that a common misconception about produce is that there is something wrong with them if they do not look picture-perfect. However, the produce that looks perfect are commonly engineered in labs and genetically modified. Fruits and vegetables are bound to look different when they are all-natural! It is normal for it to occur, and this produce is still nutritious and delicious!

Ordering from their company is simple: you choose either a smaller or larger box, and choose how often you would like to receive your box, whether that be once a week

or biweekly. You can choose what items you would like to receive in your box, or let your box be filled randomly. The boxes cost from \$22 - \$35. You pay 25-40% less than you would at a grocery store, and you get to have it delivered right to your doorstep for a shipping fee of only \$4.50!

So, the next time you don't feel like going out to go shopping for your produce, go online to misfitsmarket.com and order yourself a box of fresh organic vegetables that you can have right at your front door! Eating healthy has never been this easy!



Clay High School Mock Trial Goes to State

BY OLIVIA LARGENT AND OLIVIA HUPP '22

On February 22, 2020, Clay High School's Mock Trial team competed in their annual regional competition at John Adams High School. The team of eleven students spent their entire Saturday, from 7:00 in the morning to 8:00 in the evening, dominating against other Mock Trial teams.

Mock Trial, for those who do not know, is a competitive team sport in which members take on the role of an attorney or a witness. The team takes on either a Prosecution/Plaintiff side or Defense, and acts out their case-in-chief in a fake courtroom; they use skills they've learned from law students, attorneys, and legal aids, and act as though they are in real court. This year, Mock Trial teams all over Indiana got to work with a murder case, involving a detective with a funny run and a deceased drug dealer.

Clay High School's team, deMOCKracy, won a total of four out of six possible awards at competition. Olivia Largent, a second year mock trial competitor, took home her first award for "Outstanding Attorney" during the first round. Maria Aguilera, a first year team member, took home "Outstanding Witness," for her performance during the second round of competing. Harley Largent, another second year member, took home the "Outstanding Attorney" award

also during the second round. In the third and final round, Olivia Largent took home a second "Outstanding Attorney" award; she became one of three attorneys in 19 different teams to take home two.

At the end of the competition, deMOCKracy did not make the top eight teams at regionals and did not get a plaque or an invitation to State Competition in Indianapolis. They were in the top ten best teams at Regionals, however, placed at tenth. Although the team was a bit discouraged at this point, their coach Veronica Navarro, a 2019 Clay grad and current freshman at Sait Mary's, lifted their hopes tremendously - there were still four WildCards to be given out. WildCards are similar to what their name states; multiple teams are selected "wildly", and are given an invitation to go to State Competition along with the other twenty teams that have been invited in their Regional Competition. Due to Clay's team's number of awards, trial wins, and overall performance/point differential, Veronica Navarro said that her team had a great chance of getting a second chance of going to State.

Clay's team had to wait for four days to hear the results of the WildCards. On Tuesday, February 25, they received the news. In an email Veronica Navarro sent out she said, "You better start packing

your bags. We're going to state."

Nathan Brown, a senior from the team, said that he was not expecting much from State due to how nervous he was. "But when I heard about the WildCard I was excited and thought we can go all the way [to Nationals]."

On March 7th and 8th, deMOCKracy arrived at Indianapolis. The team spent the next two days competing against four other teams at the Indianapolis City-County Building. Olivia Largent received a third overall "Outstanding Attorney" award during their second round, in which tears of joy and cheers could be heard from outside of the courtroom. The team only received this one award. Contrarily, in their ballots (scoring sheets), multiple team members received high scores on their witnesses and performances as attorneys, such as Olivia Hupp and Maria Aguilera. The next day, deMOCKracy sat in the State Competition award ceremony, at the Indiana State House. After an exhausting weekend, the team waited in the front row of seats to hear if they had worked hard enough to earn "Best Witness" or "Best Attorney" awards, or even hard enough to make it into the top five. Some of the team members were not as focused on getting a high placement or getting awards as others were, however. "It'd be

absolutely amazing to be in the top five, maybe even get to compete in the fifth round for Nationals, but even if we get 6th or 7th place, I still had a blast this weekend. But, I do think we've made it into the top five." Olivia Largent said.

deMOCKracy was not in the top five. Not even the top ten.

In fact, they placed 24th out of 24 teams. Disappointment, anger, and a lot of tears flowed throughout many of the team members as they discovered this news; although they placed last at State Competition, not Regionals, placing last was painful for the team. Especially considering how hard the students had worked the past eight, almost nine, months. A group hug with their coach, filled with sobs and tears, lasted almost an entire minute on the steps of the Indiana State House after they looked at the placement chart.

On the two and a half hour ride home, the team was talking. Team

members were angry at judges. Angry at other team members. Even angry at themselves. Many members told performers that they didn't work as hard as they should have, and it was their fault the team didn't place higher. Some said that the judges were biased. Some even blamed parents and coaches. This caused arguments to start. Apologies followed almost immediately after. The storm of mixed emotions rampaged throughout each high schooler.

After the ride home, their initial emotions fizzled down. Pride for not only themselves filled the team, but primarily pride in their coach.

If it had not been for Veronica Navarro, Clay High School's Mock Trial team would not have been able to break school history a second time. Last year, she helped bring her teammates to State by competing. This year, her first year ever coaching, she helped bring this new team to State by herself. Being only eighteen years old and

a freshman in college, this season was a remarkable and outstanding achievement. She spent countless hours and days of her own time coaching her team, and the amount of effort she put in showed throughout their competitions. Although some points during the season were hard, Veronica continued to coach the students, and they owe much of their success to her. Now, the team gets a week off of Mock Trial; some members say they have a Mock Trial hangover (or "Mockover").

deMOCKracy did not place as high as they wanted to. However, the team once again was able to crush school history by even making it to State. The skills, the experience, and the knowledge they gained this past season was worth so much more than a higher placement, and the eleven spectacular team members would not have traded it for the world.

Mock Trial is coached by English Teacher Dianna Christopher.



What Should Change about Lunch?

BY OWEN CONYERS '20

To most, if not all of the Clay student body, Chartwells has undeniably changed Clay's school lunches for the better, with options being greatly expanded and general quality also improving. Prior to receiving help from the company Chartwells, the Clay lunch system was more like a line, with the same, widely criticized food being served daily. While many students celebrate this as a very positive change in our lunch system, these changes aren't without problems of their own.

It is clear to most if not all students that Clay's current lunch system is still flawed, with the old food from the last system still being served being a key issue along with the extremely disorganized line, if it can even be called as such. While this can generally be agreed on, a system that feeds so many people is naturally going to be contentious, with many students having their own subjective opinions on the subject.

To find out more about Clay students' issues with the current system, students were interviewed and asked for their largest issue with Clay's lunch. Firstly, Annika Fervida, a freshman, gave us an excerpt on many issues regarding the food that Chartwells provides, stating "There is some variety but not as much as there used

to be. There is constantly pizza, nachos, and spicy/normal chicken sandwiches. When there is variety [sic], there is no taste value. Just eating the food makes me sick and looking at the weirdly most or oddly super dried food even makes all my friends gag. Even when the food is warm, it still feels cold and obviously feels rushed. Even busy restaurants that get twice the many customers as a school has in one day can make much better food. Not only do we need more money for better produce, we need chefs and cooks that will properly make good food. We help pay them as we are the ones going to school to give them a job. We spend our time and money to go to school for a proper education, we deserve proper food as well. This is especially so during winter when sicknesses like the flu are going around.

Good food leads to better health which can lead to a better body, allowing kids to stay in school rather than home sick in bed because the school food may have had a play in them getting sick. While it isn't a direct cause, the school diet can be a deciding factor. When you think about it, kids, like me, prefer to starve then eat the school food. This can lead to health issues and hunger. If food is so bad that kids would prefer to starve, there are obvious issues that need to be addressed and fixed."

Maria Aguilera, a sophomore, also provided a very simple and concise statement that summarizes many students' gripes with the system as a whole:

"The spicy chicken sandwich
vomits"

Ultimately, it seems that while Chartwells has certainly improved upon the school's old lunch system, there are still improvements to be made. In fact, some problems have carried over from that system, mainly the spicy chicken sandwich, which appears to be the exact same as the one that was served before Chartwells changed the lunch menu. While that menu is mostly good with the new "Sonos" meals being regarded mostly positively, it could certainly use more variety from time to time. To find out more about Chartwells and their food, be sure to visit their [website](#).





One Size Too Small

BY ESSENCE WILLIAMS '20

While fashion is great, there are downsides. Hard to imagine right? Let me enlighten you. There are millions of stores to shop from; millions of clothes to choose from; but only a few sizes. You would think with the variety of clothes that we are given, we would have

more options for sizes, sadly we don't, and some people don't like dressing up specifically because of that. While there are some stores that carry a variety of sizes, the majority don't.



For example, Hollister. They've only just recently expanded their sizes. Former CEO Micheal Jefferies made comments regarding "fat" people wearing his clothes. Because of a drop in sales, Hollister is attempting to rebrand themselves with a line called "In It For Everyone" for different body shapes and genders. Yes, rebranding is great, but wouldn't it have been nice if it would have started that way or changed with times instead of being forced because of a narrow unchanged company mission?

Another example is Victoria's

Secret. Victoria's Secret sizes have been known to run a bit small, and they haven't changed since they started. It was a hot topic when Rihanna came out with her lingerie line and people noticed that she had a variety of sizes, unlike Victoria's Secret, which caused a drop in sales for them as well.

What's even worse is that the online stores that specialize in carrying sizes besides small, are very expensive; and a lot of people just don't have the money to buy them, which is completely understandable. So why is it we are still stuck with stores still cemented in their ways? I'll leave that for you to answer.