

Greeley Central High School



Highlight



GCHS Arts Magnet Program

Greeley Central High School Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program

Chloe Forsyth

Greeley Central's Arts Magnet Program is a home for artistic students to take courses for what they are passionate about, such as theatre, dance, music, and visual arts.

The Arts Magnet program has been sanctioned in Greeley Central High School since 2005. In 2005, District 6 created a strategic plan, Reaching for Excellence, to focus on goals of academic success. Greeley Central came back with a plan to create a magnet program for the Performing Arts. The program offers an opportunity for extraordinary learning experiences in the performing and visual arts. There are many distinct emphases to choose from, including classes under theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts. The classes offered for each emphasis can include an introductory class, history classes, and AP classes differing by which emphasis you choose,

Our theatre department includes acting and technical theatre/directing classes. The theatre department is the second oldest operating thespian troupe in Colorado. In bigger events, the theatre group offers six invitations to perform at the Colorado State Thespian Convention and three invitations for the International Convention. This emphasis offers five first place State Convention scholarship contest winners.

The music program has band, vocal/choir, and orchestra. Throughout this talented and diverse department, there have been trips to Europe, but mostly in-country trips. The department has gotten Downbeat Magazine Awards, a music magazine company, and students in this emphasis have been to state/regional performances and have won many trophies. Many graduates have gone on to have a career in the music industry with some going as far as New York and Los Angeles for their music careers.

The last department, dance, includes four dancing classes, an acting class, and a couple of theatre classes. Students in this area are expected to contribute their experience into dance concerts and musicals. The head of the department, Christy O'Connell-Black, produces the concerts for students and collaborates with the University of Northern Colorado to make big events every fall.

It's noticeable that it is really difficult to find information about this program on our school website. We see the program throughout the school, but no one really gets to see it. Many students who would consider being in a program like this haven't quite gotten the chance. More awareness can bring more artistic students to our school for this amazing experience. Once these students discover the program, they could be deep into their freshman year or be sophomores, juniors, or seniors. It's very difficult to start the program, not as a freshman, because some who start in their sophomore and later years won't be acknowledged for completing the program at graduation due to starting late and not being able to do all the classes with your regular classes on top of that. More awareness of this program can help students see more about it and consider it.



The Arts Magnet program offers unique and beneficial skills like decision-making, collaboration with other students, and develops interconnectedness with the arts and other academic disciplines. It invites students' individual creativity and emphasizes academic achievement. If any of these classes and activities interest you, consider taking part and joining this substantial program. All you have to do is go to the Arts Magnet homepage through the Central page and find the Google form application. From here, you can sign up, but consider that it is recommended to start the program as a freshman. It is still possible to apply at any grade level, but you should request a meeting with the coordinator of the program, O-Connel Black, to determine if you would be a good fit. Students who join are required to have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, have good behavior, and regular attendance in school.

The heads of the Arts Magnet program state that "Our mission is to provide students a creative, challenging, and innovative learning experience in a rigorous and expanded advanced placement/fine arts curriculum that will prepare them for success in higher education and life," and it's clear through all of the great work they do as a program, this mission is being carried out effectively. Make sure to support the Arts Magnet program by attending their fall performance, Twelfth Night, this weekend.

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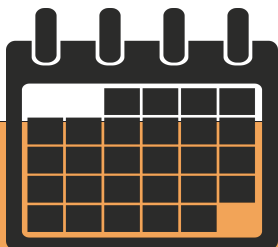
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Cross Country Team Runs for Suicide Awareness

Alex Quiej

October is Mental Health Awareness Month, and that means it is an important month for lots of people. Suicide is no joke, and that is why our Cross Country team throughout the month of October ran 100 miles for suicide awareness. It is truly no easy challenge to run 100 miles, but these Cross Country runners are tried their hardest to reach that goal and run even farther. One of the runners Jacob Ramos Astorga shared, "I enjoy running and doing it for a better cause is just more motivation for me to keep going!"

Jacob is a great runner and proceeds to run at least 3 miles a day and pushes himself to go farther. He also claims that "This is a great opportunity for everyone to do some good for others." Jacob has a great heart here at Greeley Central and shows our Wildcat pride everyday as a student and a runner. October marked the end of the Cross Country season, and the team capped off the season at the Regional Meet in Lyons, Colorado. Many Wildcat runners recorded personal bests on the difficult course which exemplified the great success of the season.



COMING SOON TO THE CASTLE

- October 30, 2021**
 - **Saturday School**
 - **Twelfth Night (Matinee)**
 - **Twelfth Night (Second Showing)**
- November 3, 2021**
 - **Parent Teacher Conferences (Virtual)**
- November 5, 2021**
 - **Senior Photos Due**
- November 15, 2021**
 - **Winter Sports Begin**
- November 18 - 19, 2021**
 - **Winter Dance Concert / One Act**
- November 22 - 26, 2021**
 - **Thanksgiving Break**

GCHS Tennis Hosts Mixed Doubles Intramural Event

Nick Gordon

The GCHS Tennis program hosted a mixed doubles event where students and teachers faced off. On October 1st, 20 teams entered, but only one left with the title of intramural champions.

The tennis tournament was a fun event where students paired with teachers, students with students, and teachers with teachers. Coach Graefe set up an intense, single elimination bracket that lasted well into the evening. The atmosphere was fun, as balls zoomed back and forth, and Wildcats could be found running, jumping, and cheering for each other doing their best to advance. As the bracket progressed, two teams found themselves in the championship match, which went three full sets. Seniors Oliver Voight and Alexis Tapia faced off against Coach Kautz, a teacher of GCHS and her partner Zerisenay Tsige. It was an intense game, and Oliver and Alexis came out on top. This event marked the first in the GCHS athletic departments attempt to reintroduce intramural events back into the Castle. Overall, the event was a huge success, and everyone who watched and participated had a great night!





Safe Driving for Students

Lovely Paw

People are in car crashes everyday because they drive impaired or distracted. This article will give tips on how to drive safely. Accidents happen for many reasons like drunk driving, distracted driving, no seat belts, speeding, and drowsy driving.

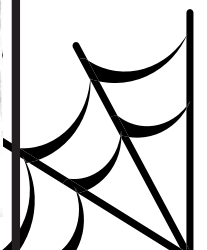
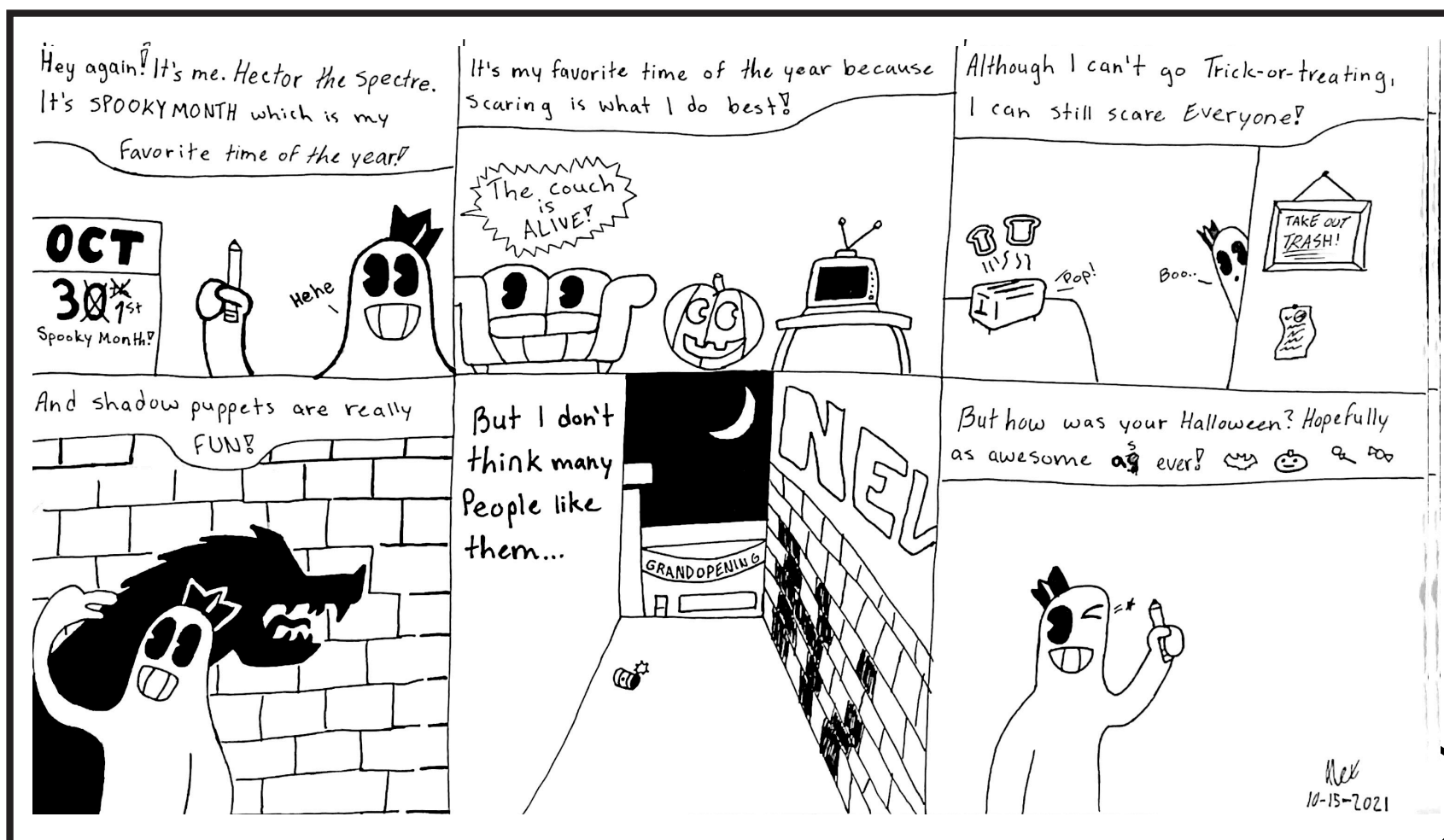
The first thing that you need to do before you drive is buckle up because it helps keep you safe and your family inside your vehicle, if you do not buckle up you can result in being totally ejected from the vehicle in a crash, which is almost always deadly. Young drivers especially can become easily distracted - some of them on their phone, having food, and people in their car. Teenage passengers may not remember to buckle up when riding in the car with their friends, but a study reported that seatbelts saved over 140,000 lives in driving accidents last year.

Cell phone use is one of the biggest causes of car crashes. "In 2019, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers". Teens are especially prone to cell phone related distractions, that's why staying off your phone while driving is so important. We all know that students are constantly using their phones - while walking, during class, at the house, and unfortunately in the car. Behind the wheel is one place we need to remember to keep our phones down.

Drowsiness is another key cause of accidents while driving. In 2017, 91,000 police-reported crashes involved drowsy drivers. Most teenagers can easily become drowsy while driving because they slept in too late, stayed up doing school work or playing games late into the night. For all these reasons students need to get better sleep, limit their stress, and need to go to sleep earlier everyday to maintain good health and make roads a safer place to be in the mornings.



Hector the Spectre Alex Quiej



School Preparedness *Trigger Warning - Difficult subject matter*

Preston Roser

A difficult subject for all, school shootings have been occurring more in recent years than ever before. The question is, how do schools respond to this increase in school shootings?

Since the Columbine mass shooting occurred in 1999, schools have taken the initiative to prepare for and try to prevent school shootings through an increase in security, drills, staff training, and mental health resources. Though some question the effectiveness of these drills, around 95% of schools in America performed active shooter drills before the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering this widespread participation in active school shooter drills, most students in today's society grow up with these drills being the norm, simply due to how much they are exposed to school shooting preparation. During the most recent school shooting drill at Greeley Central, students could be seen on their phones and laughing with friends because of how non-threatening they perceived the situation to be. However, certain students may find these drills "triggering," as stated by the 11th grade Greeley Central counselor, Mr. Rahn. Students with higher anxiety and/or special needs may find the drills and discussion of school shootings traumatic.

The difficult part is that these preparations are necessary in order to protect students, staff, and even families from the horrible details of most school shootings. So what can we do to reduce these "triggering" drills and to keep students and staff safe? Mr. Rahn suggested increasing security checks near doors and limiting access to the building through one or a few entrances. The reasoning behind this is because people have the ability to walk in and throughout most of the building without being stopped. An example of this being put in place would be the building of a new school/campus for West, as this was a concern among the faculty. While this may not have been the only reason for building a new school, it was definitely a factor.

On top of more security checks and limiting entrances, other schools and counselors have suggested as well as started to implement more mental health resources available to students. Most school shooters have mental health concerns that weren't addressed, which led to the consideration of additional resources. The implementation of more mental health resources at school would help to prevent triggering these students, help students out of or from becoming depressed, as well as decrease the chance of students committing suicide, and prevent a school shooting from even occurring. Considering all of these benefits, mental health resources have been increasing throughout the US, especially through school districts.



"Devious Licks"
Tik Tok Trend
Wreaking
Havoc
Worldwide

Kailtyn Romero

Tik Tok trend "Devious Licks" are hitting schools world wide.

The new devious licks challenge on tik tok leads to school vandalism and property damages.

On September 1st, the Tik-Tok user @jugg4elias posted a video of himself stealing school property, captioning the video, "only a month into school and got this absolute devious lick." This video blew up and resulted in gaining millions of views. The video influenced many others people to create the same style of videos using the #deviouslicks. As schools worldwide were getting vandalized, many adults decided this was a problem that needed to be resolved as soon as possible. This has created a big interruption for schools because of how much it has become a distraction for students. This trend has also created mischief at GCHS. Soap dispensers have gone missing throughout the entire school, toilet paper rolls have been stolen, and even paper towel dispensers have been vandalized.

Many of the castle's bathrooms have been targeted. This has affected many students because their privileges have been cut short. Soap was no longer available along with the paper towels, and they were not able to wash their hands with soap or dry their hands with paper towels. This trend was very popular on many of the students' Snapchat stories. Videos were posted daily showing students damaging school bathrooms. As more staff came to the realization of what was going on, more consequences were implied, causing this trend to die down. As this trend cooled down, GCHS returned to normal.



Is the Vaccine Incentive Moral?

Discussing the morality of
the vaccine incentive

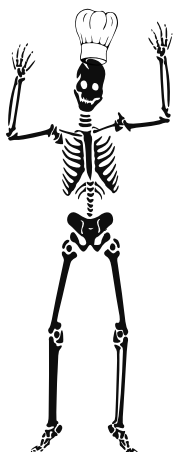
By Sean Rotter

Throughout the history of our nation the U.S government has long provided various incentives and methods of enacting certain policies they feel are best for the common good. For example, the federal government routinely provides incentives for farmers to produce valuable and essential crops. This maintains a necessary balance in the manufacturing process and serves to benefit society with economically and nutritionally valuable resources. No protest is ever given to these incentives and it is usually agreeable that they are necessary and benefit society. Now, I would be ignorant to say that the government incentivising the Covid-19 vaccine is congruent to the government incentivising the production of wheat or steel, but the idea that the government is bribing people to enact their selfish authoritarian views is a stretch to say the least. Our production deficit is now vaccines, not agricultural or industrial resources. Currently, 57.5 percent of the population has been vaccinated, though no specific amount has been released in which we would reach herd immunity, the figure lies around 75-85 percent. With the amount of willing vaccine recipients declining rapidly and that elusive herd immunity so far away, it is perfectly reasonable for the government to provide an incentive to reach the goal. It is what they've done in the past and it is what they do whenever they need production of something to increase. Unless you are a government employee, where it is perfectly reasonable for an employer to set requirements for their employees to abide by, no one is holding a gun to the head of the unvaccinated and forcing them to get the vaccine, it is simply an incentive or a nudge by the government to get across the herd immunity threshold. The other vaccine incentive has been the lotteries that vaccine recipients have been placed into, including a 50,000 dollar scholarship opportunity for vaccinated students in Colorado. In fact, fellow Wildcat, Zerisenay Tsige, was a recipient of the 50,000 dollar scholarship to any college of his choosing, simply for getting the vaccine. This is an example of how the incentives not only encourage vaccination but also have a net positive outcome on the community.



**WE WANT
YOU
TO JOIN
THE NEWSPAPER STAFF!**

**Email Ms. Kautz or
come to room 302 if
you're interested in
being a part of our staff
starting in the Spring
Semester!**



Missing White Woman Syndrome

Amber Hudgins

People of Color make up a disproportionate share of missing persons cases.

Gabby Petito's case has shed light on new and old cases. Gabby was reported missing on September 11th, this was 13 days after her parents received their last text from her. Which they believe to have been her fiancé Brian Laundrie, the main suspect in her case. On September 21st, the Teton County coroner confirmed human remains found in the Bridger-Teton National Forest are those of Petito, according to the FBI. This case swept the nation, attracting attention of many and causing a nationwide manhunt to take place. But why this case? Why this girl?

Daniel Robinson, a 24 year old geologist, has been missing for over four months in Arizona. Robinson's father (David Robinson) had to hire a private investigator in order to make progress in his son's case. The case failed to make it to the media until July 9th when Robinson went missing in late June. While David does sympathize with Gabby Petito's case, he feels it's "hurtful" to see a young white woman's case receive more urgency than his son's, who is black. Robinson is among the black and brown families whose loved ones remain missing and say they have struggled to get fair attention on their cases. Some say they have grown frustrated with watching the search for missing white women like Petito be in the spotlight, while police appear to allow their cases to go cold or classify their loved one as a "runaway."

This issue has gone on for years prompting people of color to take the matters into their own hands - they hold rallies, launch independent probes, and seek help from community advocates and lawmakers to get their cases in the public eye. Some experts say the nation faces "Missing White Woman Syndrome," which is defined by the heavier media attention white women and girls receive when they go missing compared to anyone outside of those demographics, according to a study published by the Northwestern University School of Law in 2016. The study points out that missing black people are less likely to garner media attention at the outset than other groups, and when they do make the news they receive a lower intensity of coverage. Zach Sommers, a criminologist and author of the Northwestern study, states that bias and systemic racism plays a role in Missing White Woman Syndrome -- a term coined by the late TV news Anchor Gwen Ifill. "As a culture we are readily willing to accept stories about white folks as victims as something we should care about," he said.

"When we see a white person who has gone missing, we say that could be my daughter, neighbor or cousin or friend... and they identify with that person and are more likely to read the story than we would if it were a person of color." And while the cases of missing White women are given more focus and urgency, people of color are

disappearing at disproportionate rates. According to 2020 FBI data, black people make up 35% of missing persons reports but only 13% of the US population. White people, meanwhile, make up 54% of missing persons reports and 76% of the US population.

Other families say they are also angered by how police have handled their cases. Some have gained more attention in light of Petito's case. Jelani Day, a 25-year-old graduate student at Illinois State University, whose mother said he aspired to become a speech pathologist, was reported missing on August 25 in Bloomington, Illinois. He was found a month later, the cause of death remains unknown. His mother, Carmen Bolden Day, has spoken out in recent days, pleading for answers and more help finding Day. "The Bloomington Police Department, I have been in frequent contact with them," Day told HLN. "However, there has been no urgency. There has not been the drive to find Jelani."

Toni Jacobs said her daughter Keeshae Jacobs has been missing since Sept. 26, 2016 when she left the family's apartment in Richmond, Virginia. Jacobs said Keeshae, now 26, said she was going to spend the night with a friend but never returned home the next day. Jacobs stated the police initially tried to say Keeshae was ignoring her mother's calls and unlikely to be missing, taking them 14 months to suspect "foul play" in her disappearance. Jacobs said it's unfair that Keeshae, who was only a year younger than Gabby Petito when she vanished, did not receive the same intense search effort and publicity as Petito.

"My heart goes out to everybody that's missing, I don't want any parent to go through what I've gone through," Jacobs told CNN. "But at the same time, it does frustrate me because Keeshae didn't get that attention. What made the FBI think her case was more important than Keeshae's?"

The years-long disparity prompted Derrica Wilson to launch Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. in 2008 to help raise awareness for missing people of color. Wilson, a former law enforcement officer, expresses that too often police label missing people of color, including children, as runaways or try to suggest they were involved in criminal activity. And with most police agencies allocating minimal resources to missing persons units, people of color are more likely to fall through the cracks, Wilson said. Some of those same families have sought national and local news coverage to no avail, she said. Wilson said her organization is hoping to combat the issue — which she insists is the result of systemic racism — by sharing and promoting the stories of black and brown families with missing loved ones through the media.

What we see is that when people of color go missing, they are much more likely to be identified as runaways and then they don't receive the same level of law enforcement engagement. They also won't receive Amber alerts as a runaway. So there are many things in our system failing these families of young men and women of color.

Four Corners



L.E. Silvernail is a prominent leader among other students. People would describe her as hardworking and a very sweet girl and is at the top of her junior class. Something you might not know about her is that she makes her own earrings. She also has an ETSY shop for them.

Student of the Month



Connor Skinner is a sophomore. He is very kind to others. He is in the arts magnet program doing dance, and he got into the gifted and talented program. Something interesting about him is that he is writing his own book.

Artist of the Month



Xavier Simon is a senior and the captain of the Color Guard and has worked hard to get there. People describe him as fun to be around, because he's happy 90% of the time. Xavier is on the road to "earning a letter in marching band and color guard this year.

Athlete of the Month



Ms. Nance is a brilliant teacher and loves teaching her classes. She feels accomplished when her students tell her their resume landed them their first job! Something very interesting about her is that she lived on a sailboat for over 4 years with her family and home-schooled her children while traveling the world.

Teacher of the Month

