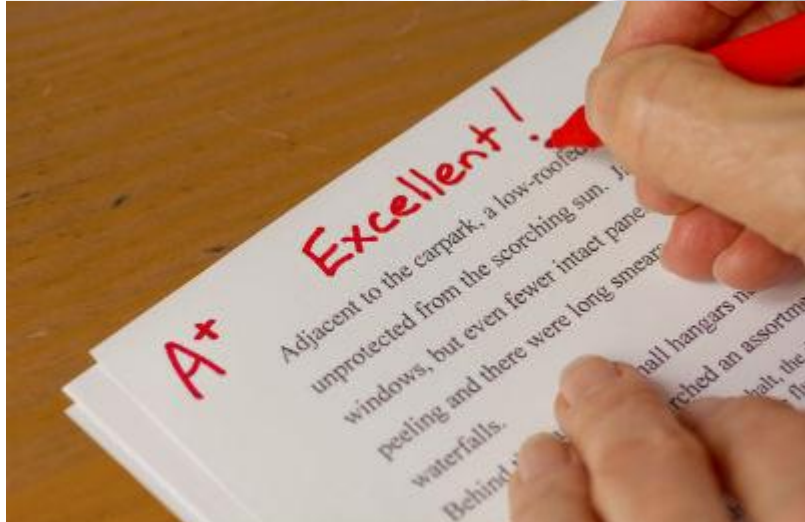


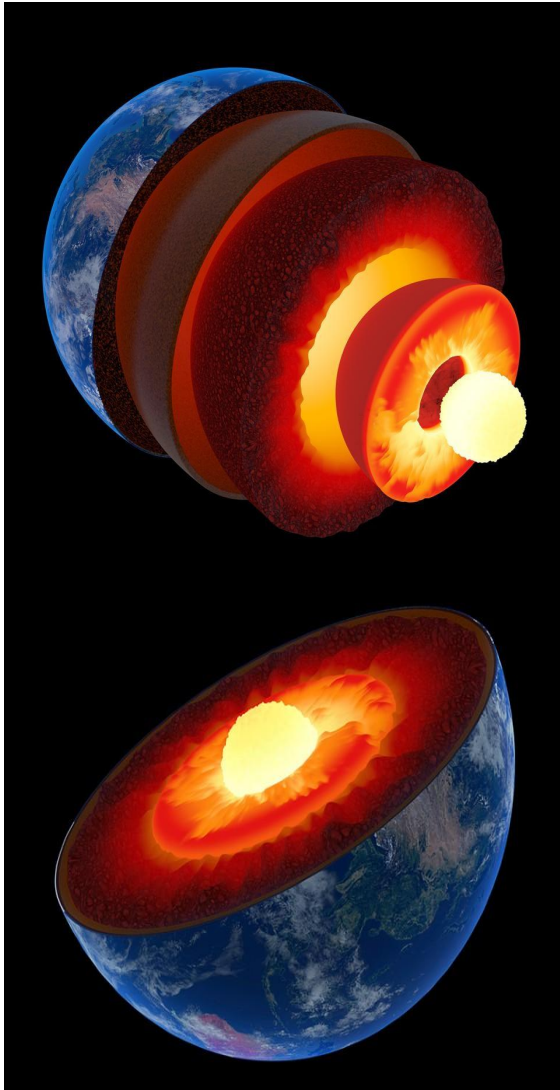
The Heights Headlines

Reaching New Heights!

Homework: Yay or Nay?



Homework, an endless debate. Should students spend their free time doing worksheets? Some schools don't assign their students homework. Finland, (the country most noted for its education system) doesn't assign their students homework. According to thelogicalindian.com, "There is no homework or surprise test given to students in Finland. Teachers believe that the time wasted on assignments can be used to perform hobbies, art, sports, or cooking. This can teach life lessons and have a therapeutic stress-relieving effect on children." But some people disagree with that statement. Studies show that homework can actually help master some academic skills. According to bu.edu (Boston University), "We do know that beginning in late middle school, and continuing through high school, there is a strong and positive correlation between homework completion and academic success." Homework can also be very helpful to kids that learn better with more work, but the kids that find their work too easy are not happy. As Maayan T. states, "Good for some people, but bad for others." Studies show that almost 100% of the kids that do their homework end up succeeding and getting straight A's all year, but not even 89% of kids that go to schools with homework complete it. Stanford University found that over half of students see homework as their primary source of stress. As Dax C. says, "We should have homework, but not too much." Andrew R. explained that "It depends on the main topic. If it is important, you should do it." We think it's safe to say that most kids feel as though some topics aren't needed for homework, and others feel we should receive homework, but not a lot. Homework can be good or bad depending on the student, but sometimes it helps refresh the subject.



Earth's Core Changing

Have you heard? The earth's core may have changed rotation! But no need to worry, this event only happens every 7 decades and is pretty harmless. Every 35 years, our earth's core comes to a pause, then a couple of years later, the core begins to completely change course and starts spinning in the opposite direction. The most recent pause was in 2009 and has been rotating the other way and we just found out. According to nature.com, "This study shows that inner-core rotation varies over multidecadal timescales and has slowed to near-halt in recent years. This temporal variation in inner-core rotation appears to be coupled to processes we observe at the Earth's surface, including the length of day and magnetic field variation." We will continue to observe this strange phenomenon as it spins.

Weather

Have you wondered why it was raining so much at the beginning of the month? Climate change has been causing heavier rains. According to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), "As warmer temperatures cause more water to evaporate from the land and oceans, changes in the size and frequency of heavy precipitation events may, in turn, affect the size and frequency of river flooding." Climate change means more rain and higher seas, which means tons of flooded homes. This also happens because of low pressure in the upper levels of the atmosphere. This has been directing clouds and moisture to the Northern California Coastline.



Friday the 13th: The Unluckiest Day of The Year?

Friday the 13th happened this past month. It is known as the unluckiest day, and only happens once or twice a year. But we wonder, why is it unlucky? According to folklore historian Donald Dossey, the unlucky nature of the number "13" originated from a Norse myth about 12 gods having a dinner party. The trickster god Loki, who was not invited, arrived as the 13th guest. Suddenly, Loki threw a mistletoe-tipped arrow at Balder, the son of the chief god, and he died. The whole world never saw Balder again. 13 was then considered an unlucky number. Friday was considered an unlucky day by most people at that time, so the combination of Friday and the 13th scared people and they deemed it the unluckiest day of the year. Even though most people think that having Friday the 13th happens is rare, it can actually happen up to 3 times a year! Some people have a fear of Friday the 13th called Paraskevidekatriaphobia, which originated from the ancient Greek words for Friday and 13, with a phobia at the end of the word to indicate fear. People get so scared by Friday the 13th, to the point where there are three horror movies about it.



Happy Lunar New Year!

Happy Lunar New Year! The Lunar New Year is the most important social event and economic holiday for billions of people around the world! The holiday is tied to the lunar-solar Chinese calendar and was originally observed as a time to honor household and heavenly deities and ancestors. According to lammuseum.edu, "The Chinese New Year has a history of about 3,500 years. Its exact beginning date is not recorded, but some people believe that the Chinese New Year originated in the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC) when people held sacrificial ceremonies in honor of gods and ancestors at the beginning or the end of each year." This year is the year of the rabbit! What is your Chinese zodiac sign?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? Dr. Martin Luther King was an African American civil rights activist from Georgia. Dr. Martin Luther King was born on January 15, 1929, and died on April 4, 1968. If he were alive today, he would be 93 years old. He attended Morehouse College at 15 years old. He was arrested 19 times for the color of his skin. In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and sent to jail, because he and others were protesting the treatment of African Americans in Birmingham, Alabama. A court had ordered that King could not hold protests in Birmingham. Birmingham in 1963 was a hard place for African Americans to live in. He was known for his contributions to the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. His most notable work was his "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered in 1963, in which he spoke of his dream of the United States that is void of segregation and racism. King also advocated for nonviolent methods of protest, and he organized and staged countless marches. Why do we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day? To commemorate the life and work of Dr. King, who was a Baptist minister and prominent leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. People are encouraged to use the day to "reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change."



Lunar New Year Puzzle!



Across

- 2. They have four stomachs
- 5. Their sense of smell is at least 40x better than humans
- 6. A cousin of the mouse
- 8. Known for their manes and long tails
- 10. They smell with their tongues
- 11. Is known for being fast and small
- 12. Is known for breathing fire

Down

- 1. Is known for getting muddy
- 3. Largest cat in the world
- 4. Is known for running and leaping through trees with ease
- 6. This animal wakes you up in the morning
- 7. There are 365 days in this
- 9. Known for their ability to plow fields

Sudoku

	9						4	
				7		6	2	
3		2			5	7		
		4	7	3	9			2
	8						6	
2			6	4	8	9		
		9	3			8		4
	7	3		8				
	1						3	

Poll



How often do you do Taco Tuesday? Take this poll to submit your answer. Scan with phone or computer.

Letter from the Editor



Hello, and thank you for continuing to read the Heights Headlines! We appreciate your feedback from last month's edition and every month we will try to use that feedback to make the next edition even better! A shout-out to our new teacher, Ms. Javelosa, for giving us the time and resources to do this. And also a big thanks to the team, for managing to prepare the newspaper on top of their other work. And last but not least, a thank you to our readers, for supporting us. See you in February!

Lyla P.
Editor-in-Chief

The people that made it work

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