It’s hard to believe 8th grade is over. There are so many things to remember and a few things we would all probably like to forget. Many eighth graders have been here since the sixth grade. We can remember feeling small, young, and uneasy entering Landrum Middle School, on the very first day. Whether we want to admit it or not, most of us were really nervous. We could have used some great words of wisdom from exiting eighth graders. We looked up to them because while the hallways looked vast, those eighth graders looked enormous. They looked so confident and comfortable walking the halls and spending time with their friends. What we would have given to be like them.

Three years have passed and we have grown a lot, learned a bit too, but now we are the eighth graders that walk with confidence. We are comfortable here because this has been our domicile for a long time. We have learned what we have learned the hard way. It is definitely time for us to move on to high school.

Because we are the kind of people we are, many of my classmates have given sage advice for those that are willing to listen.

“Life is like a bag of Sour Patch kids. Sour, Sweet, Gone.” Julian

“Sugar Bear...” Jack

“I made the basketball team because I’m tall.” Kelsey

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Nico

“Do what others don’t do today, so, you can do what others can’t do tomorrow.” Jake

“Life’s a roller coaster.” Malia

“If your shoe laces are untied, you may trip.” Maclane

“Homework leads to stress.” Scott

“Do your homework.” Kate

“You can complain because there are thorns on roses or you can be grateful that thorn bushes have roses.” Acacia

“If you’re not first you’re last.” Brody

“Sun burns hurt.” Jared

“You do your best work last minute” Olivia

“Homework is only 10% of your grade.” Finn

“If you don’t do your homework, you get a 0%.” Peter

“Everything will be ok in the end, and if its not, then it isn’t yet the end” Louise

So there it is, the advice that would have kept us from being nervous in our first moments at Landrum. Would it really have made the difference?
Farewell Mrs. Johnson

By: Alyssa Bacchus

Sadly, our beloved principal, Ms. Johnson, will be leaving us, much to our dismay. Ms. Jewel Johnson has been an excellent principal but she’s going on to become a director responsible for hiring teachers in St. John’s County. Landrum’s staff and students will miss her dearly, however, wish her so much luck. Many teachers hope she has a promising career as an A & R director; the following teachers, staff, and students would like to wish Ms. Johnson good luck.

“Wish her well in her endeavors.” Ms. Kee

“Although we’re very happy for you, my students and I are bummed out about your departure.”
Mr. Ryan

“She was really a perfect fit for the school, and were going to miss her. Above all, she is kind to the staff and students.”
Ms. Ousley

“We regret your departure, but you have been fantabulous.” Ms. Dessi

“You’ve been my favorite principal to work for! Thanks for all you’ve done for me and for Landrum.” Ms. DeRemer

“Her positive energy will be deeply missed at Landrum Middle School.” Mr. Hogan

“I wish Ms. Johnson the best of luck in her new job. She will be awesome! I will miss her!” Ms. Paton

“You have the “WOO factor”. You know how to win others over, your smile is infectious, and you will be missed.”
Mrs. Woppel

“Congratulations! We know that we will continue to have the best teachers because of Ms. Johnson.” Mr. Peck

“I will always be grateful for the opportunity that you gave me bringing me here to Landrum, Thank you!” Ms. Pagliughi

“You have changed the world because you have touched our lives. Thanks for making an IMPACT.” Dean Anthony

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By Avani Shandilya

10 Tips: What to do When the Test is Over

Nobody enjoys taking the FSAs or the EOCs every year. Almost all of us have experienced times where there have been 30 minutes or more of just sitting. So, instead of sitting in a chair and staring into space, here are some tips to make the time go by faster.

Tip #1- This first tip won’t be too fun but a great idea to refresh your brain. Instead of reviewing the test right after you finish, wait five minutes and then review. This helps renew the brain so you are your focused self.

Tip #2- Play a musical instrument? Move your fingers and practice your music. Make sure to memorize the songs you plan to play before walking into the test area because sheet music isn’t allowed!

Tip #3- Think of a story or movie ideas. This is a quiet thing that can take a long time. Think up the characters and picture the story in your head.

Tip #4- Are you an obsessed Muser? Music continues to become more popular. Think of the song in your head and the emotions. Pretend your hand is your phone and use slight motions so that you don’t make a fool of yourself.

Tip #5- Do your hair! If you’re a girl, this is an easier thing for you. Try doing a French braid or a Dutch braid.

Tip #6- Sleep! This is your only chance during the school day to get your snooze in.

Tip #7- Daydream. This isn’t sleeping, but it’s a nice way to relax after a long test and think about your day.

Tip #8- If you’re a boy, grab your pencil and pretend it’s a skateboard. Use the computer keyboard or your lap as a place to “skate” on.

Tip #9- Get your pencil and try to tap it in between each finger without touching your fingers. See if you can beat your record.

Tip #10- Do you dance? Discretely move your feet around under the table and go over your dances you’re learning. This is a great way to fit in some practice.

So, the next time you’re sitting in a room after a test with nothing to do, try these ten tips and time will fly by!

Study, Test, Stress, Oh My!

By Christina D’Aquila

Around the end of the year, standardized tests are handed out to students. According to edglossary.org, there are standardized tests to measure if a student is ready for the next grade level, see how well teachers are teaching their students, and to see what a student’s characteristics are. However, there are different reactions when someone says “Standardized tests are coming up.”

There are pros to testing, and worklife.columbia.edu says that a couple of pros are that parents can see how their child is doing in school, so they know what their child needs to work on. Another thing that links to the child is how well the teachers are teaching their students. This allows a parent and the school to say, “The teacher is doing well,” or if the score is low, the parent and the school can say “The teacher should be replaced.”

As there are pros to testing, there are cons as well. Worklife.columbia.edu the cons to testing are making the teachers teach to the test and can cause stress. If a teacher “teaches to the test”, that means they only do what the standard says the students should do, maybe without any creativity. The stress can make a student’s performance low. For example, if a student gets anxiety, they may not be able to well as they normally would.

With stress as a con, there was a survey to see if students get stressed for testing. About 70% of the students surveyed, students say they get stress when it’s time to test. 30% say they don’t get stressed. Marley Rogers, a 7th grader, says, “I don’t get stressed because I know I have studied the information enough to be confident about my answers.” Savanna Coker, another 7th grader says, “I get stressed because it’s so hard.”

Another survey asked students to tell how important testing is to them. This was done on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least important, and 5 being the most important. 27% of the students say the test importance is a one, 13% say a two, 7% say a three, 33% say a four, and 20% say a five. One IB (International Baccalaureate) high schooler at Nease says, “There should be a 10 to show the importance of testing.”
Landrum Middle School Journalism class was lucky enough to get inside the Media facilities at The Players Tournament or TPC on Saturday, during the tournament.

We were guided by Al Hernandon, who volunteers at TPC. The class saw how many journalists are there and met several including a journalist from the New York Times.

TPC has become an amazing event to local Ponte Vedra Beach, because the truth is, it’s not just about golf. Clearly put by Chris Reimer, who is leader of TPC’s media, “Being at this tournament is like being at a big social event.” There are lots of things other than golf at this legendary tournament. You can have a Taste of Jax, tasting things like Brucci’s Pizza, and of course, TacoLu.

One other reason to come here is the level of skill. Every single player here has to win at least one tournament to be here. You get a chance to see the best of the best. You can also see famous holes, like the 17th, known as the Island Green.

This event is televised around the world and is also reported 24/7 by 650 journalists. They operate in a large center, where they report stats, withdrawals, and more. Multiple different countries are covering it too.

TPC season is over, with Jason Day taking the title. But we can still talk about TPC, and what makes it important enough for people to want to attend. So, even if you don’t like golf, and you didn’t come this year. There is still next year, so think about it.
Summer Olympics Preview

By Abby Mabe

For the 2016 Olympics there will be 42 different sports. About 10,500 athletes will be participating from 206 countries. Thirty-two competitions will take place at four locations: Barra, Deodoro, Maracanã, and Copacabana. Two new activities in the Rio Olympics are golf and rugby. There will be 7.5 million tickets and about 3.8 million is under $30. Sales have already started. Overall, this is sales and location for Rio Games.

The Olympics will need a surplus of various supplies. This supplies include 25,000 tennis balls, 8,400 shuttlecocks, 315 horses, 11 million medals, 34,000 beds, 72,000 tables, 100,000 chairs, and 60,000 clothes hangers. With the various supplies for each event they will need volunteers, employees and staff. The Olympics will need an estimated 45,000 volunteers, 85,000 outsourced staff, and 6,500 employees. This the supplies and staff needed.

With the Olympics taking place 2016, there are concerns. One the most important of those concerns is the dirty polluted waters. Over decades, development of raw sewage, industrial waste, and litter is in the waters of Rio. The water is so dirty scientist and physicians warn that contact will lead to viral and bacterial infections. This is important because water events will take place - putting the athletes at risk. The ailments can knock an athlete out for days.

Here are some facts about the Summer Olympics. The Olympics will be held between August 5th to 23rd. The opening and closing ceremony will take place in the Maracanã Stadium. This will be the first time South America ever held the Olympics. Up until today, the Summer Olympics have been held 27 times. The slogan for the games is Viva Sua Paixão (Live Your Passion).

Steve Roberts is a Park Ranger for Fort Matanzas and Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. On July 6, 1997 he got his first permanent job as a park ranger at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Before that he worked time in college as a park ranger. He’s been a park ranger for almost 20 years. In 2014, he started working at Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas.

“Because I always wanted to be a park ranger, it still has a huge impact on my life.” He grew up by Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial in Ohio. He spent lots of time listening to the park rangers. Having this job makes Steve very happy because his family is proud of him. He believes the core being a park ranger is more about helping people, and that’s his goal in life at home or school. Which means, being a park ranger is part of who he is.

Just like all public parks, they’ve had incidents from time to time. For instance they’ve had to evacuate the entire park because of suspicious behavior by some visitors. As well as bad incidents they have had some AMAZING incidents. In September the King & Queen of Spain visited the Castillo de San Marcos.

“I hope the Castillo and Fort Matanzas impact teenagers in a lot of ways.” Steve hopes teenagers that these parks are our parks. He hopes that history really comes alive for teenagers who don’t like the history textbook, as a park ranger he says that they create opportunities for teenagers to find their own special places in the parks.

“Being a park ranger is pretty special. Every day, I get to help people I work with help guests learn about our country, and find ways for people to find special meaning in the important stories of our country.” Steve is a person who cares about his surroundings and really loves to help people. He believes he is very lucky to be able to be responsible for some of America’s treasures. He is very thankful for his job and people are very thankful for him.

Park Ranger for a Day!

By Michael Winczner
Talk Less, Smile More: Confidence

By Marley Rogers

Some students may wonder, what really is CONFIDENCE? Confidence is when you appreciate yourself, and who you are, enough to be bold and courageous in front of others, or an audience. Confidence is that voice in your head telling you that you CAN do this, whereas doubt is saying you can’t. “What’s wrong with being confident?” says Demi Lovato herself!

Being confident may seem like a complicated task at first but, rest assured, you will get the hang of it with time! “I always joke about letting the haters motivate you. Everybody has that in their life, people who doubt them or make them feel less than they are. It just takes faith and belief in yourself, and you’ve got to dig deep into that. That has to come from you—nobody’s going to give you that.” said Jennifer Lopez to Glamour magazine. J-Lo has a great perspective on confidence that shouldn’t be taken lightly, after all everyone has beauty in one way or another!

Being confident isn’t just about what’s on the outside, the inside always counts. You have to learn to trust and believe in yourself or you will never achieve the confidence it takes to do great things. “Faith, trust, and pixie dust!” Disney’s movie Peter Pan quotes. Just keep your head up and be bold about yourself and your beliefs, because haters will hate and that’s just part of life.

If you truly want to appear confident, then don’t be afraid to show off your sense of fashion! People will respect you more if you show you aren’t scared of being YOU. But, don’t forget along with looking good, you have to smile. A person with a big smile on their face will look a lot more appealing than someone who only frowns all the time.

In conclusion, to be confident you must be bold, outgoing, brave, and you MUST smile. A smile is the cherry on top of the sundae of confidence.

Best Buddies Garden

By Emma Muhaimeen

You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep spring from coming”- Pablo Neruda. It’s spring! The weather is warming up, the colors are changing and so much more. Did you know Landrum had a garden? We certainly do, an amazing program, Best Buddies, plants and tend the garden.

The purpose of the Best Buddies garden is to “learn, get outdoors, and just have fun” according to Ms.Baer, a student teacher. Ms.Baer also says “I love going out to the garden with the kids, it ties into science and it’s also a great way for the students to have fun.” Ms.Baer claims that her favorite part of the garden is in the end, the plants are used for cooking, and also each student gets to take a plant home.

Best Buddies has been doing the garden for several years now. Herbs, tomato plants, and many different plants are grown every year. The Best Buddies garden at Landrum Middle School is funded by Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation who gives out a grant.

A student at Best Buddies in 7th grade, Carter Pruett says the garden is one of his favorite things to do. Carter does lots of the planting and he takes care of the garden too. Carter also says “I love gardening, I used to volunteer at a greenhouse for over a year.” He also claims next year, in the garden he would like to have Palms Trees and Mangrove trees grown.

7th grade buddy, Jasmine Burch-Varilla claims she doesn’t have much involvement in the garden, but says “I love watching the buddies enjoy, it makes me happy to see them having fun outdoors.” Despite minimal involvement with the garden, Jasmine feels that the garden is a brilliant activity for the students to add to all the fun in Best Buddies.
**Hover Board Hype**

By Elliot Kantor

October 21, 2015. The day Marty McFly arrives in the future. Or really, the past. October 21, 2015 marks the day that McFly and Dr. Emmet Brown arrive in the idealistic future of Jaws 19, flying cars, self lacing shoes, and hoverboards. This future may not be the present. Just yet at least. However, we still do have something to compensate for the whole “hoverboard” thing, and that is the self balancing two wheeled scooter that can be known as the “Swagway.”

Soon after the release of self balancing segways, like the Swagway, there has been a lot of hype about the future of this kind of transportation. However, there have also been some new laws made about this mode of transportation. For example, California passed a law requiring that riders of “hoverboards” be 16 to ride in public, must wear a helmet, and can only ride on streets if the speed limit is 35 or below.

These toys can come at a price ranging from around $100 to upwards of $500, depending on the model. After their release, the hoverboard became one of the number one gifts for the Christmas season, and everyone was buying one. Little did they know of the sheer danger of riding such a mode of transport, for the batteries have been known to catch on fire and explode, and just the whole idea of riding an electronic self-balancing toy with no handlebars. One case of this was a teenager in Chesapeake, Virginia who was riding his $300 hoverboard on the street. Eventually it just started to spew black smoke, and he got off and carried it into his backyard. Then, it started to catch on fire and there was smoke and metal being sprayed everywhere. He was, luckily, not injured at all, after he and his friend sprayed the fire with a garden hose and a fire extinguisher.

Now, as we continue to innovate our technology world, better and better models can be made. One of which, which is featured in a Lexus commercial, is an actual hoverboard that really hovers! It utilizes a magnetic field in a specially designed track which is hidden under concrete on a custom “skate park” set. Also, with the help of a ton of liquid nitrogen, which incase you didn’t know, is insanely cold, the board was able to float and someone was even able to ride it! This is a similar kind of technology as the kind that is used by maglev trains that float on magnets, and even the Hendo Hoverboard, which is probably the closest anyone has ever gotten to a truly freestanding hoverboard. The same kind of principles are thought to be used in the future in buildings where there is a great risk of earthquakes. Once there is information that an earthquake is coming, powerful generators turn on and while the building stays where it is, the floor drops a bit so that the people inside wouldn’t even know there was an earthquake!

As we continue our research on magnetic energy and how to truly skate over water like McFly, we are learning more about how our world works, and just how to have a blast. While I personally do not recommend a hoverboard, they are one of the top grossing toys for last year and possibly for years to come. We might end up waiting quite a while for things like missions to Mars and floating buildings, but in the meantime, enjoy your handlebar-free Segways and limited planet travel.

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**Summer Fun**

By Abby Warnock & Hailey Millon

Summer time is the best time to cool off and do lots of fun water activities. As Ponte Vedra residents, we are lucky enough to be surrounded by water. If you haven’t explored all of the awesome water activities yet, try the out this upcoming summer!

Paddle boarding is gaining more and more popularity each day. You can paddle around on flat water, such as springs, rivers, and lakes, or you can surf the waves on the ocean! Paddle boarding is a great way to observe some of Florida’s natural wildlife. You can see manatees, dolphins, sea turtles, and much more while paddling!

Another classic way to enjoy the water is to jump in and swim! One way to do this is snorkeling. Snorkeling is a great way to catch a glimpse of amazing Florida marine life. This includes sharks, sting rays, turtles, and much more. If you travel down to the Florida Keys, you can find crystal clear water, and thousands of colorful fish.

Surfing is a great way to enjoy the beach. Many of Ponte Vedra’s residents love surfing! You can see a bunch of people out shredding the waves. For some people who don’t like to Surf there are many other fun activities you can enjoy! Kayaking is another great activity. One of the many great places to kayak is right in our backyard: the Guana Reserve. The reserve is an excellent place to see a variety of birds, alligators, and other swamp and marsh animals. You can also kayak with manatees in Crystal River, Florida. The manatees will swim peacefully right by the side of your kayak! Don’t be afraid of their size though, they are loving, gentle giants!

While you enjoy your great summer, make sure to take part in many amazing water activities. They are a great way to escape the heat, get some exercise, and enjoy the time with friends and family. We are privileged to live in Florida and we should really take advantage of these great opportunities!
Frozen In Epcot!?

By Sydney Vitti

Epcot is about to get an eternal winter! This summer, the Disney Park Epcot in Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando will receive a new ride in Norway. This ride will take the place of the original Viking ride, and will become an entirely Frozen themed ride. Guests of all ages can enjoy this ride, which will be coming to Walt Disney World this summer. Epcot just got a whole lot cooler.

The Frozen ride will be called “Frozen Ever After,” and will be in the Norway exhibit at EPCOT. EPCOT is a theme park that features a world showcase. Each country has things that are from that area. For example, Germany has a Biergarten, which is a traditional German restaurant. Each “cast member” is from the country that is being showcased. The cast members even dress in traditional clothing from the country. In Norway, some cast members even wear Viking costumes.

Frozen has captured the hearts (frozen or not) of every Disney loving person. Frozen is about teaching people that all you really need is love. Whether it’s from your family, friends, girlfriend, or boyfriend, everyone needs a little love in their life. This ride will be a way to enjoy the love with your family or friends. So grab a ticket and hit Epcot, because “for the first time in forever,” it will freeze in July!

Mamba Out!

By Kevin Butler

After being in the league for 20 years, Kobe Bryant announced retirement early this season. The rest of the season, he gave it his all to give one last chance of enjoyment for the “mamba” fans around the world. Kobe is the only player to score 40+ points on every team in the league.

Kobe currently has 5 rings, 2 scoring titles, 1 season mvp, and 2 finals mvp. His career averages are: 25 ppg, 5.2 rebounds, 4.7 assists.

His most memorable moment was when he scored 81 points against the Toronto Raptors. After two quarters the Los Angeles Lakers were losing 49-63. When all of the sudden, Kobe exploded for 27 points in the 3rd. He then dropped 28 in the fourth quarter to secure the Laker victory. This game is most comparable to Wilt Chamberlain’s 100 point game.

Kobe Bryant’s peak is in different spots of his career based on opinion. Fellow student, Oscar Scherick, added, “2008 was his peak, because he won season MVP and then won in the finals the year after.” In my opinion Kobe’s peak was definitely 2013, the year he tore his ACL. I know it sounds weird because he tore his ACL, but his game was finally evolving, he was passing more, getting his teammates involved. 2013 was his year. When asked about why he liked Kobe, Oscar responded, “I’m from Los Angeles, and I’ve always liked the Lakers and Kobe is the greatest Laker.”

Georgie Sanders said, “He revolutionized the game of basketball.” Sanders added, “He plays hard every game, Kobe is most certainly one of the greats. Whether you love or hate his game, all you can really do is respect it.”

Image courtesy of thatsenuff.com
Ecuador, Japan, You Can Help

By: Julian Goodall

As many of you know, two major natural disaster occurred in Ecuador and Japan on Saturday, April 16. Thousands of people around the world are helping, whether it’s physically helping sort through the rubble, or if it’s donating money and supplies. If anyone wants to help and don’t know how to or where to go, I can help. Japan, who had a very bad natural disaster in 2010 when a tsunami hit and took many hundreds of lives. And now that another disaster has occurred, they need YOUR help. In Ecuador, children are eating flour mixed with water. They have nothing more, and that is the only thing keeping them alive. They would be so grateful to get just a bite of the things we take for granted everyday of our lives. So it’s time that we butt in and do something. Nobody deserves this, and they need help.

This is some of the aftermath in Ecuador. About how long do you think it will take to clean all this up? Months? Years? With our help, I’d say we can decrease that time by a lot. By giving much needed supplies such as food, water, tools, machinery, and much more.

As you can see, the devastation is huge. Below I will list websites that will take donations;

• Redcross.com
• unrefugees.org
• care.org

You have the information, it’s up to you, it’s your choice.

Improving Landrum

An Editorial by Marley Rogers

We all know how hard custodians, teachers, and other staff work to keep Landrum in glory. But, what do students think could be improved?

“Our lunches should be higher quality food.” says Emma Muhaimeen, a seventh grader at Landrum. Emma thinks that lunches should be higher quality because she thinks students work harder after a better meal. “I want to sit where I want at lunch; I deserve to talk to my friends more often.” says another seventh grader, Savanna Coker. Most of the students would agree; who prefers strangers over their friends?

“All lockers should be in the hallways. I don’t want people and teachers to stare at me when I get my stuff out.” Alyssa Bacchus, an eighth grader, says. “Some teachers give out too much work.” Hailey Millon, another eighth grade student says. Students sure do have social lives, after all!

“Hallway traffic is bad.” says a sixth grader named Lucas Karasulu. This is a problem because some students tend to rough house in the hallways; which causes problems for other students. “Dress code is too strict. I want to wear leggings!” Bella Lingemfelser and Sarah Molloy agree. They stand for the majority of girl students when saying that!

Alice B. Landrum Middle School is already a great educational place, but students have managed to find subjects to improve. Hopefully, in our future, Landrum will meet these goals, and find itself on the top.
Sharks Everywhere!

By Jared Matthews

The sharks are out and have started migrating south. Several beaches along Florida’s East coast have seen huge groups of sharks. These groups come in just a couple to a thousand sharks, and these sharks are not far from shore. For example, dozens of sharks were spotted migrating in the waters Deerfield Beach. Parts of the beach were shut down for part of the day until the sharks were completely gone. These sharks were a mix of blacktip and spinner sharks. Luckily these sharks weren’t huge, they ranged from 4 feet to 5 and a half feet.

Why do sharks migrate?

Sharks migrate because of temperature and seasonal changes, reproduction, and food sources. One very significant factor affecting shark migration is temperature and seasonal change. As the seasons change the sharks like to go to where their preferred water temperature is, and most sharks are cold blooded, which is why they do that. Sharks, like many other animals migrate to find a mate and give birth. One shark that migrates to breeding grounds is the sandbar shark. The sandbar shark is found in large numbers off the east coast of Florida in the spring. Another primary reason for the shark’s migration is food source. The movement of smaller bait fish cause the sharks to go into pursuit. These fish have almost the same migrating patterns as sharks, and sharks need the food to live.

Cautions to take:

♦ Swim close to shore
♦ If you go surfing keep your eyes open for sharks
♦ If you see a shark head to shore and immediately tell a lifeguard
♦ Don’t make too much splash when you are in the water because sharks are attracted to that.
♦ Remember the sharks are out and they are everywhere so be careful when you are out in the water, but still enjoy the beach.

Earth Day Everyday

By Sophia Darabi

Earth Day is all about saving and planting trees. According to Earthday.org “In 1970, the year of our first Earth Day, the movement gave voice to an emerging consciousness channeling human energy toward environmental issues.” With more than 50,000 people in 196 different countries, they plan to plant seven billion trees around the world. When they first started they only had 20 million Americans and about 20 years Earth Day went global and about 200 million people in 141 countries all around the world joined the help.

Gaylord Nelson was an American politician from Wisconsin who served as a United States Senator and governor. Nelson was the official founder of Earth Day. According to nelsonearthday.com it says that “For the first time, the Earth Day stage gathered together the diverse constituents of the modern environmental movement: youthful idealists, liberal Democrats, middle-class women, scientists, professionals, and representatives of conservation groups, labor unions, and churches.” Addressing the Earth Day 1970 Nelson said “Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human being and all living creatures.”

At first it was hard to spread the word about Earth Day, but today it is easier because of the internet. This made it so people all over the world to join the campaign. People took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. They began to notice that most of the things wrong in our environment are due to the U.S. oil spills, pollution, and many more. I asked two students here at Landrum if they thought Earth Day was important and why and they said “Yes, because it raises awareness for our planet in its current condition.” Hailey Millon said “Earth Day is important because it helps make more homes for animals and also saves animals.” In conclusion everyone around the world should join in on cleaning help making the Earth a better place for the community because that is what Earth Day is all about.
Must Have Summer Gadgets!

By Technology Reporter Elliot Kantor

Summer is approaching fast, and the tech world is changing. It’s time to count down the top gadgets that you should have for this summer.

6. The Indoor Flameless Marshmallow Roaster

From Hammacher Schlemmer is a $70, flameless marshmallow roaster, as the name suggests. Since 1848, this company has been offering what is known as some of the coolest items on the market, and this is one of them! Now, with the electric, flameless roaster, you can make delicious s’mores at home – indoors or outdoors! Imagine having a pool party and after a long day, you come inside to enjoy the nice air conditioned shelter of the home, but still the joy of delicious s’mores! Not only that, but this device also has a tray that is divided to keep all of your ingredients close at hand and organized.

5. Gopro Hero 4 Black Edition

In the summertime when the weather is hot, You can stretch right up and touch the sky When the weather’s fine

You can use your new Gopro and take 4K photos and videos of everything! Gopro, a company that introduced a revolutionary new HD Hero camera in 2009 has since then been changing the camera industry by making more durable and versatile high-quality cameras than ever before. Now, with the Gopro Hero 4, for a price of $500, you can take your photos and videos literally everywhere, with assorted mounts and capability to go underwater, in snow, mud, or sand. Enjoy your summer with 4K 30 fps videos to remember your summer forever.

4. The Sol Republic Punk

The Sol Republic Punk is a water-resistant wireless speaker. In the summer, you could be spending your time at the beach, the pool, or inside obsessing about wireless speakers. For any of those activities, the $50 rugged wireless speaker is the gadget for you! However, if you are looking for a speaker with better sound, a larger physical size, and better sound quality, the Sol Republic Deck can be purchased for a slightly heftier price tag.

3. iPhone SE

Apple’s newest phone is called the iPhone SE, SE meaning “Small Edition.” Incase you have not heard about it, the iPhone SE looks almost identical to the iPhone 5s, however, it has the internal specs of the iPhone 6s or 6s Plus. It features new things such as live photos, 4K video, 12 megapixel iSight camera, and Touch ID, to name a few. It has a lesser price than the iPhone 6s, but has almost identical features, despite it’s 4 inch diagonal screen size. That makes the phone the “most powerful 4 inch phone ever” and a great choice for those of you who are due for a new iPhone, or even a first.

2. The FitBit Blaze

One of the fitness tracker, FitBit’s, newest models, the FitBit Blaze is one of the best looking FitBits at the moment. It has new features like a color touchscreen display, an entirely new operating system, and the ability to accessorize your bands. It also includes some of everyone’s favorite features like text and call alerts and automatic sleep tracking. What puts this fitness tracker ahead of the others is that it is compatible with both iPhones and Androids, as every other FitBit is. Also, to add to that, the device comes at a price of $200 from the website, which makes it a cheaper, and better in most ways, tracker for any phone.

1. The Coolest Cooler

The Coolest Cooler really is the coolest cooler! To explain, it’s a cooler, but ramped up to have a mother load of features. There’s a built in blender, a cutting board/ divider for the inside of the cooler, an LED light, a secret phone/keys compartment, removable speakers, a phone charger, and many more! However, you get what you pay for with this one, with the price coming in at $500. Don’t let that poop your party, though because with it you get lots of features that will make your beach day the best one yet.

Images courtesy of bing.com
Imagine leaving to another world without leaving your living room. The Oculus Rift is the device of the future that can bring people to the world of chaos or peace. The Oculus Rift is a virtual reality (VR) headset that is connected to a high powered desktop or laptop. With this device, video games will enter the next generation of E-Sports (competitive gaming) and gaming.

To have an Oculus work for your desktop or laptop, there are some pretty high requirements. For your graphics card, you should have a GeForce GTX 970, an AMD Radeon R9 290, or anything above. For a CPU (Central Processing Unit), you should have an Intel Core i5 4590 or anything of higher power. With RAM (Random Access Memory), you will want 8GB or higher. When it comes to video ports, get an HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface) 1.3. With USB (Universal Serial Bus), it must have 2 USB 3.0 ports. Finally, you should have a Windows 7 SP1 or any newer tech update.

If you do not want to custom build the laptop or desktop for the Oculus, you can always order a desktop with the Oculus. The Oculus website offers four excellent desktop makers that have made desktop(s) that will meet all the requirements. DELL, ASUS, Falcon Northwest, and Alienware are all feature desktops to buy. With DELL, they offer the XPS 8900 Special Edition desktop starting at 1199.99. Alienware has the Area-51 Gaming Desktop for 2549.99. ASUS offers the G11CD Oculus Ready priced at 1499.00 and the G11CD Oculus Ready with a price of 1449.00. Falcon Northwest has the Tiki and configure starting price at 2699.99 and the Talon with a configure starting price at 3099.00. All of these can come in the Oculus Bundles.

The Oculus Rift is 599.99, and seems to be worth the money if you want a cool, high resolution gaming experience like no other. Some fun games that anyone can play with it are: Minecraft, Lucky’s Tale, 7 days to die, Day Z Standalone, Eve: Valkyrie, Live for Speed, and many more thrilling games. Other ways to improve the Oculus experience is: Oculus Remote, Xbox One controller, VR dedicated sensor, VR designed headphones, and the Oculus Touch. These will all come with the Oculus except the Touch.

It will take quite a while between ordering and arrival because it is such a high demand gaming device. Many reviewers are amazed by how realistic the Oculus Rift is. This device brings a whole different level of excitement to gaming. Orders are piling up, order soon!
Adventurer Bucket List

By Emilee Fleshner & Leah Adams

If you need help writing your bucket list, here is a list of things to do before you die.

Travel:
Traveling to different places in the world is a great way for learning different cultures, and you might be able to squeeze in a little shopping as well. Places like Maui, Hawaii, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, even and Miami, Florida have beaches like no other. If you’re more into adventure, Cape Town in South Africa has safaris, you can climb mountains, and you might see a few animals just driving to a restaurant! If you like the city scene, New York City, San Francisco, California, and Las Vegas, California are cool places to visit.

Go On a Road Trip:
In the summer time, a road trip with your closest friends is a must. The endless eye spy, license plate games, and singing so loud your throat hurts.

See the Northern Lights:
Talk about a light show, the aurora borealis (northern lights) are “a vivid demonstration of the Earth’s magnetic field interacting with charged particles from the sun.” It’s kind of like a rainbow in some sort, but in a circular motion, and is not caused by rain.

Shark Cage Diving:
This would be a once in a lifetime experience to submerge yourself with one of the most feared predators… a Great White Shark! Don’t worry as long as you are inside a cage you are safe because professionals specialize in making the cage to be a good distance away from the sharks so you can’t harm them and they can’t harm you.

Ride in a Hot-Air Balloon:
To be able to see the world from up high would be spectacular. Take your closest friends and go up, up and away!

Cliff Diving:
This is a highly dangerous, extreme sport. For thrill seekers, this is the activity for you. This sport is not a laughing matter, you have to calculate everything precisely right depth or you might be facing some major injuries. These places are available to you if you get outdoors and explore the world and all it has to offer!

Image courtesy of thesportsbank.net
Universal 8th Grade Trip