

Local High school Artists Strut Their Stuff



(photo from mansfieldartcenter.org)

Leah

The Mansfield Art Center is once again hosting the Annual Regional High School Exhibition. This exhibition features the raw talent of young high school artists and encourages students who aspire to explore the field of art. The exhibit will begin on March 18 and last until April 16. The show will be open to the public on any day from 3-5pm. By visiting this showcase, you will experience the wonders of young art and imagination, and indulge the amazing pieces created by students.

Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.



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Culture

The Culturally Explosive City That Exploded: Russia's Hermitage Art and Culture Museum

Leah

Russia was supposedly attacked by a terrorist group based on a recent bombing to the local metro in St. Petersburg. There were allegedly two bombs, one of which was able to be deactivated before going off. The first explosion killed at least 10, and injured around 43 people. Despite this horrific event, St. Petersburg is a fascinating, cultured, and historically rich city.



(St. Petersburg, Russia)

St. Petersburg is widely known for its role as the birth place of the famous Romanov mystery, but there is more to this Royal city than a mere conspiracy theory. One of St. Petersburg's most well-known art museums is The State Hermitage Museum. This art and culture museum is one of the largest and oldest museums in the world. The museum was first founded in 1754 by Catherine the Great but wasn't open to the public until 1852. The Hermitage Museum is a complex composing of six buildings, five of which are named the Hermitage Theatre, Old Hermitage, New Hermitage, Small Hermitage, and the Winter Palace.



(The Hermitage Museum)

The Hermitage Museum obtains one of the largest collections of paintings in the world. One of the more popular paintings owned by the Hermitage Museum is the "Benois Madonna". This painting, also known as "Madonna and Child", is an early painting by Leonardo da Vinci himself. At first the artwork didn't belong to the museum. A wealthy family in Russia was the one to sell it to a museum in London. The people of Russia wanted the painting so much that they raised money to bring the painting back to Russia and into the Hermitage Museum.



("Benois Madonna")

Evidently, St. Petersburg is one of the most intriguing cities in the world. The Hermitage Museum isn't the only cultural aspects of St. Petersburg but definitely one of the most notable.



[Five minute online tour](#)

Culture

The Mini World of Chile

Leah



Chile is a South American country located along the western coast of the continent. Chile is a narrow strip that runs along the Pacific Ocean. Geographically, the country is quite diverse in comparison to other countries around the world. Chile consists of coast line, mountain ranges, rich forests, volcanoes, desert, tundra, and various islands. As a whole, the small country of Chile makes up its own little world.



Chile's coastal line expands 2,670 mi across the western half of South America. Throughout Chile's surrounding waters are numerous islands that are territory of Chile, such as the Pacific islands of Juan Fernández, Salas y Gómez, Desventuradas, and the famous Easter Island. Easter Island is well known for its statues created by the Rapa Nui people called Moai.



(coastal line of Chile)

Despite being surrounded by water, Chile also contains the Atacama Desert. The Atacama Desert is said to resemble the planet Mars, and has even been used by filmmakers as a set to play the role of Mars for movies. Scientists are known to use the Atacama Desert as a sort of lab rat when conducting experiments regarding the possibility of life on Mars and various other climatic theories of the planet.

The Atacama Desert, however, is not the only hot attraction in Chile. The Parinacota volcano is located on the border be



(Atacama Desert)

tween Chile and Bolivia. This volcano supposedly had one of the most impactful eruptions about 8,000 years ago that led to the creation of the Chungará Lake. However, the Parinacota volcano is only one of about 105 volcanos in Chile (90 of which are active). Recently there was an eruption of one of Chile's Volcanos in April of 2015. The volcano named Calbuco erupted twice in a matter of 24 hours for the first time in over 40 years. No wonder—Chile is located in of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

(image from one of the Calbuco's eruptions)



Also located along the Ring of Fire are the Andes Mountains. The Andes Mountains are located on the eastern edge of the country. It is the longest continental mountain range in the world. The range itself is about 4,300 mi long and stretches through seven South American countries.

(some of the Andes Mountains in Chile)

Due to the various geographical landmarks, Chile consists of a wide range of climates—from the dry hotness of the desert, to the humid islands, to the frigid tundra-like climate in the south. With the abundance of variety seen throughout the country, there is no denying the beauty and wonder of this mini world.



Culture

Vans Art Competition

For the first time in Lexington High School history, the Lex art department is competing in a nationwide competition for Vans shoes. The competition has 3,000 schools participating from around the country. The winning school will receive \$50,000 for its art department. Each school will be given a pair of Vans shoes of one of four styles: high top, slip on, old school, and authentic. Art students from each participating school will then have to choose a style to work with and develop a unique and innovative piece of art. The Lexington art teachers hand chose students to work on the shoes including, Lauren, Abby, Jakob, Chase, Jacob, Olivia, Jonathan, Kayla, Corey, Lindsey, and Jessica. The students had four themes to choose from to base their shoes off of: music, local flavor, action sports, and art. The participating students decided to work together and create an art themed shoe inspired by the famous surrealist painter Salvador Dalí. The students plan on having the shoe appear to be melting off the side of a table with its laces coming out of the shoe along with shreds of fabric to create Dalí's face, which will be painted onto the shoe.



"OFF THE WALL"

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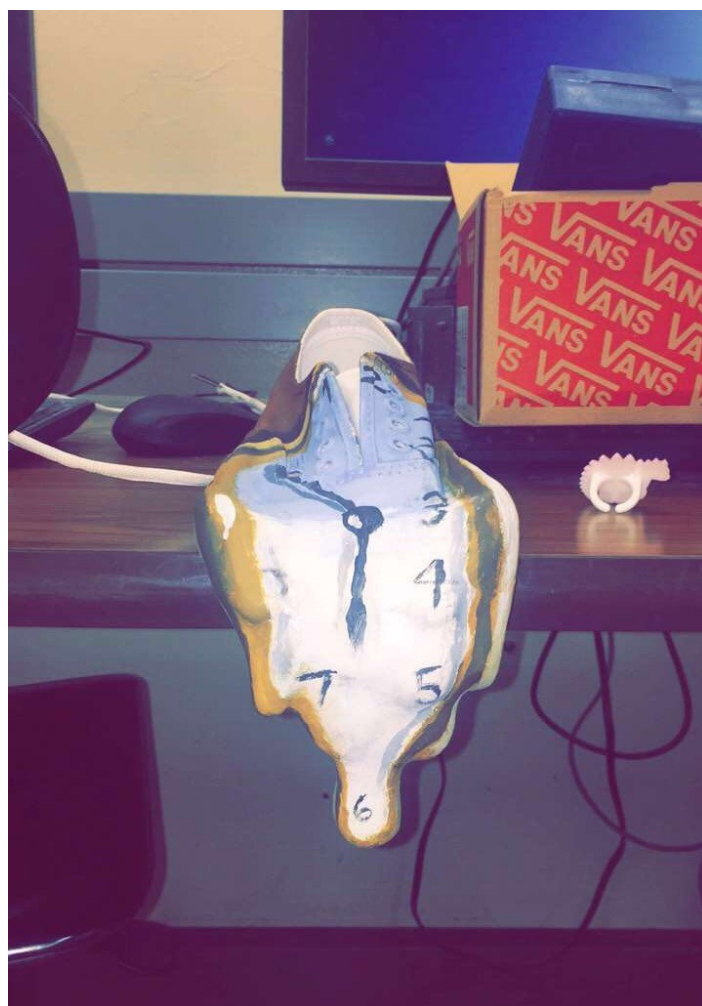
(Salvador Dalí)



(One of Dalí's most famous paintings, "The Persistence of Memory")

In order to pull this off, the students must cut and tear parts of the shoes, which has proven to be more difficult than initially expected. One student explained, "I never realized how nice quality Vans were until I started ripping them apart".

Although the process involves some deconstruction, the end result will come together to create a stunning piece of artwork. The shoes must be finished and sent in by April 10th. The 3,000 shoes will then be judged, and the top five schools will be invited to Los Angeles, California and have a chance to win \$50,000.



Life

A Note from a Teacher

The penultimate grading period is complete and we are in the middle of a multitude of tests. You have been asked to take freshman and sophomore English tests, the ACT, and post tests for many other subjects. You have yet to take State tests in Social Studies, Science and Math, and then you still have finals. Don't forget homework, quizzes, projects, and tests every week in the regular routine of being a high school student. This is no doubt a lot of work, and extra-curricular commitments and part-time jobs haven't been mentioned. This note isn't a reminder of the work load you are asked to tackle. This note is a thank you. I have been teaching for many years and I have never been more proud to be a part of Lexington than I am now. This is due to the way the students handle their work with maturity and class. You are smart enough to know that most of these tests are given by the State to measure the teachers and yet you study and become stressed just to make sure Lexington is still the place to be. Many students jokingly refer to the school district's policy as "Lexcellence" (excuse the spelling I have only heard the word), but excellence is no joke. It is a reflection of you and all the students that have walked the halls at Lexington. Not all of the policies may make sense from time to time, but they are created to give you an opportunity to accomplish many things after you graduate. So I want to thank you for taking on the challenges of Lexington and making it even better. We have such a gifted group of students; it sometimes is a bit overwhelming. From Abby's nationally recognized artwork to the amazing performers of Grease, everyone is doing so well. Lexcellence isn't just about upper classmen; every grade level has had great success in athletics, music, the arts and the performing arts. I have been inspired by your accomplishments and it makes me want to do more for you. We still have six weeks to add to the list of accomplishments and I am excited to see what they may be. If things get a little overwhelming for you just check out this video. It always makes me laugh: <https://youtu.be/vQhqikWnQCU>



Sadie's Spring Fling

On Friday, March 24th, Lexington Student Council hosted a Spring Fling/Sadie Hawkins dance in the old gym. The event was held from 8 – 10 p.m. and was two dollars for a ticket or students were able to bring a canned good for the school's food drive in lieu of a ticket. The dance was for a good cause and allowed the students to have some fun on a Friday night. A Sadie's Hawkins dance is semi-formal where the girls ask the guys to change up the tradition of guys asking girls to Prom or Homecoming.

Student Council planned the dance to offer another opportunity to put on a dance for all grade levels. A lot of students complain about the school not having fun dances to put on besides Homecoming or Prom, but when it's put on, nobody shows interest. Student Council offered this fun opportunity to help keep students out of trouble and having fun with their peers.

The dance was a huge success with over a hundred students present! The night was danced away and smiles were on everyone's face. Thank you to all who attended.

Life

Minute with a Minuteman

Macy

Sarah is new to high school this year and is a member of the Lexington Swim and Dive Team. When asked what she has learned most in high school, she replied, "I think one thing I've definitely learned is who my real friends are. It's so cliché, but it's so true!" Sarah states her favorite part about swimming was the feeling of dropping time. "It's indescribable," she says. She added, "When it's time for swim season, the team is like a big family. That's also my favorite thing." We asked her who her biggest influence was and she told us upperclassman Allie was definitely an important leader for her. Her goals for next year are to score big at districts!

Next, interviewed is Mason. He is very athletic as a big part of the wrestling team. He tells us, "Wrestling season was great for me this year. I set goals at the beginning of the year and achieved them by the end. I look forward to setting the bar even higher next year." His goals for next year are to podium at state and have at least 35 wins. It wasn't just a great season for him; he talked about how great his team is, too! "The team was such an important aspect to me. Getting to know all the guys and learn from the upperclassmen was a great experience," he says. Mason is also a member of Student Council. When asked what influenced him to join Student Council, he replied, "I wanted to have a say in events and fundraisers for the school. I love doing it for a good cause."

Lauren is an avid art student and is interested in different types of art. "My aunt Deborah was an amazing artist and she lived in Canada so I wasn't able to see her often. Whenever she came to town she would always teach me how to draw and paint. She died a few years ago, but I still feel like I have a connection with her through that," she said. Lauren is also interested in photography. She tells, "I developed that interest on my own and I started to learn more about it." Lauren is a member of the Lexington Girls Golf team. After being asked about the team and she remarks, "Last golf season was the best yet, I really improved and made new friends. The team has always been my family and just like family, we fight, but we always make up eventually. Hopefully next season is even better." Her goals for next year are to have fun, and to go to State with the team.

Harrison offered some great advice to those remaining in high school for the upcoming years. "Do stuff that you like to do, no matter what your friends say or think. Whether it be joining a certain club, talking to certain people or starting a new hobby. Spend your time doing things that you love, not what others think are cool," Harry said. Harry describes his four years of high school as "A series of late night crams, many naps, and finishing homework the period before it's due. Also, some 2k here and there with friends." Harry plans to major in sports business/sports administration. He's undecided where he will be attending college, but he has opportunities in California, Texas, and Tennessee. His dream job is to work in the front office of a professional sports team one day.