

SAHS GATE – APRIL 2024

April has many opportunities for GATE students to get involved! As usual, sign-ups for all activities in this newsletter are on the GATE Google classroom or in the GATE room. If you are still interested in earning the GATE “P” for pass on your end of the year report card, there is still time to do so! Talk to a GATE teacher for more information.

Please check out information about **the 6th (and last of 2023-24) Fairchild Challenge, the US Military Experience class, and a few green initiative opportunities.** If any of these opportunities interest you, please sign up on the Google Form. If have further questions, please email us or stop by the GATE room.



Important Dates in April:

Music Department Trip ~ April 19-22

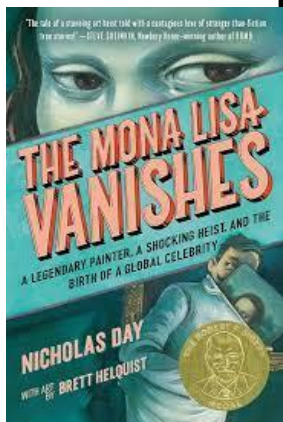
No School ~ April 23

Book Club:

The Mona Lisa Vanishes

By Nicholas Day

*This book is non-fiction Books will be distributed mid-April and the discussion will be in mid-May. **This is the last book club of the year!***



On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, La Joconde, c'est partie! The Mona Lisa, she's gone!

No one knew who was behind the heist. Was it an international gang of thieves? Was it an art-hungry American millionaire? Was it the young Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, who was about to remake the very art of painting?

Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the Mona Lisa, through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the Mona Lisa—the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all.

From Amazon.com

Academic Summer Opportunities



Interested in learning more over the summer?

Check out the GATE webpage for lots of summer camp activities! The page will be updated as opportunities are announced. Pay close attention to deadlines as some are fast approaching! You can find the webpage from the SASD homepage, then departments, GATE, and SAHS GATE.

Current opportunities include ~

- RxPlore Camp @ Pitt – FREE!
- Summer Health Careers Academy on Pitt's campus – for current 9th and 10th graders
- Summer Engineering experience @ CMU – for current 9th and 10th graders
- Simcoach Games summer apprenticeship
- Pitt CyberCamp – FREE!

US Military Experience Class

At this event, students hear, first-hand, the experiences of US Military Veterans. Students will have a chance to ask questions and interact with these speakers. We will be joined by the following: Lee and Arianna Wagner, war on terror and Warren Goss, World War II Veteran (see photo below).

This event is at the Heinz History Center on **Tuesday, April 30th**. We will leave at the beginning of 3rd period and be out of the building the rest of the day. The cost is \$10, and this includes transportation, admission, and a pizza lunch.

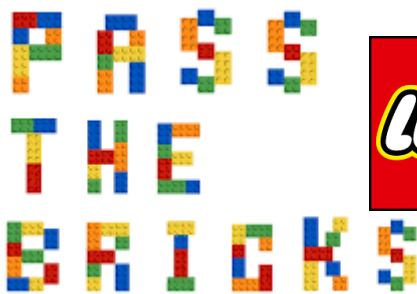


Warren Goss (see left) speaks to the group who participated in April of 2023. Warren Goss survived the D-Day invasion.



In the picture to the left, Mr. Warren Goss received an honorary diploma from Shaler Area HS since he left school at young age to help his family during the depression. He was a Shaler Area student and resident.

Lego Recycling Program



- Bring in any Lego or Duplo Blox to the GATE room. They can be in a set or mixed together.
- Bring any instruction books that you have as well!
- Get involved!
 - Once the bricks are collected, we will wash, sort, and organize the bricks into sets.
 - Help design and build "new" sets.
 - We will distribute (through guidance counselors) at primary schools in the district.



*Donations accepted
April 1st – 15th*

SAHS will act as an "ambassador" for this organization, whose mission is to create a widespread behavior change so that every used LEGO brick is seen as an opportunity to help kids in need.

Visit the Joseph F. Weis, Jr. U.S. Courthouse

You must sign up for this before Spring Break!

Thursday, April 4th (odd day)

9:00am-1:30pm

Lunch stop on McKnight Rd



Students will have the opportunity to meet the Federal Judge Ranjan, observe a sentencing hearing, and hear from a variety of court officials who make the process run smoothly.

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the field law. This is an opportunity to hear about jobs in the courts, not just as an attorney.

Green Initiative Activities for April

Planting Day in the Greenhouse for the Garden of Etna – Postponed due to cold weather before break

Wednesday, April 3rd

Lunch periods

- We will plant squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers as well as various types of basil.
- Seedlings will be transplanted into the raised beds at the garden of Etna when they are ready (late May)



EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

Friday, April 19th

All Day – Come to the GATE room when you have a free period! We will complete a variety of outdoor tasks.

Rain Date: Monday, April 22nd



Fairchild Challenge #6

Pennsylvania Native Plant Poster



Introduction: Embark on a botanical adventure and examine the lush tapestry of Pennsylvania's native flora! In this research challenge, you are tasked with exploring the rich biodiversity of Pennsylvania by delving into the characteristics and significance of **three native plants of your choosing**.

You should choose three distinct native plants found in Pennsylvania, providing detailed insights into the plant's classification, historical relevance, ecological and cultural services, contemporary uses, and potential threats posed by invasive species. It is encouraged that you investigate the cultural and historical connections of these plants to the region, shedding light on their roles in indigenous practices, early settler interactions, or any other relevant historical contexts. Additionally, when it comes to analyzing the current ecological landscape, assess whether these native plants face threats from invasive species, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Challenge: Through this challenge, you will not only deepen your understanding of the local flora but also develop research skills, critical thinking, and an awareness of the ecological challenges faced by native plant species in Pennsylvania. Your research of these three native plants should be displayed on a **large trifold poster board** (we will provide this) and include at least 3 Works Cited. The comprehensive exploration of each plant's past and present significance provides a holistic perspective on the interconnectedness of ecosystems and human societies, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship.

Due: Friday, April 26th

****A Rubric will be provided with specific requirements when you sign up for this project! This can be a team or individual project.**





Greenhouse Update



Are you interested in beginning a home garden? We are here to help you! Below is a list of seeds available in the GATE room (given to us by our friends at Rockledge Garden Club). We will provide the soil and containers for your seedlings as well. Once the plant is established and the weather is conducive for planting, you can take the seedlings home!

Vegetables:

Beans
Beets
Bell Pepper
Brussel Sprouts
Butternut Squash
Cabbage
Cantaloupe
Carrots
Cauliflower
Corn
Cucumber
Eggplant
Kale
Lettuce (various types)
Okra
Onion
Parsnip
Peas (many varieties)
Pumpkins

Radish
Spinach
Squash (summer & winter)
Swiss Chard
Tomato (cherry and others)
Watermelon
Zucchini

Flowers:

Sunflower
More will be purchased soon!

Herbs:

Anise
Arugula
Basil
Chives
Cilantro
Cumin
Dill
Oregano
Parsley
Sage
Summer Savory
Thyme

