

THE MONTHLY TRAILER



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GENDER INEQUALITY

by SERRA AKTAŞ 11D

Gender inequality is the social attitude in which men and women are not treated equally. Aforementioned treatment may arise from differences related to biology, psychology, or cultural norms prevalent in the society. Some of these distinctions are empirically grounded, while others appear to be social constructs. Studies show the different experiences of genders include many domains such as education, life expectancy, personality, interests, family life, careers, and political affiliation.

Current policies at national and international levels lead to inequality between individuals and women are in an even more unequal position concerning forms of inequality. Due to gender inequality, women are in positions that are less healthy, are less educated, less involved in the workforce, and work in jobs that generate less income. The fact that women, who make up half of the world's population, are treated as second-class people, and their low social status, inevitably affects their use of services such as health and education, and their timely use of such services.

There has been an incredible increase in soap and detergent advertisements on television lately. Each brand shows extremely attractive women in front of the dishwasher showing off their red lipsticked lips to praise their brand. Realize that the sexuality of women is being used here, and ask yourself, "Why are there no advertisements for cleaning and kitchen products used by men, or are seldom used as opposed to the women? Do you think men should do no cleaning, or are these chores seen as women's inborn duties? Thus, the mother figure that we have been shown since our infancy is supported by television advertisements. Even in TV series and movies, the boys always sit with the father and the mother is assigned with kitchen chores, even if she is a working mother. Do you think boys can't use their arms to put away the plates? Actually, the answer is very simple.

Modern society is male dominated and it wants kitchen chores to be a woman's duty ,because we live in a patriarchal society.

What is patriarchy ?

Patriarchy is one of the biggest obstacles to the advancement and development of women and people in general. Patriarchy refers to male dominance in both social and private spheres. Because it contains basic principles that lead men to have control. Hence, a system that keeps women as secondary, controlled and emerges. In the modern world, where women must advance on their own merits, patriarchy is an obstacle to the improvement of women in society.

Because patriarchal institutions and some social relations are responsible for women being scorned or perceived as second class. While a patriarchal society gives men an undisputed priority, it also gives women a limited human rights dimension. For this reason, feminists use the concept of patriarchy to describe power relations between men and women, as well as to explain the root causes of women being perceived as inferior.

That being said, the solution lies beneath the problem itself. What is most important is how families raise their children, because it all starts with the different attitudes parents have towards their sons and daughters, and even the smallest things actually have a lot of impact ;the toys they play with, the responsibilities assigned to them,their clothes, the colors chosen for them, the outwardly innocent words used to describe them. These all push society to create a hierarchy between them and leads them to be involved in patriarchy. Therefore, parents should pay attention to these when raising their children and should teach them that they are equal in society and gender is not a qualifier.

GIRL UP

By Nehir ÖZCAN 11A

What is Girl Up?

Girl Up is a girl-centered leadership development initiative, focusing on equality for girls and women in spaces where they are unheard of and under-represented. This programme has already had an impact on 125,000 girls in 130 countries and all 50 U.S. states. The project, which is supported by the United Nations encourages schools and city-based clubs to realize social responsibility projects. This way, young voices become leaders and spokespersons of equality in the subject matters of STEM projects and art. So the initiative points out that young leaders are the heart of our movement working to advance gender justice, to close the gender gap in leadership worldwide, and mobilize their communities to create social change and accelerate opportunities for girls globally.



Modern communities are fighting for critical problems, such as gender inequality. So let's spread the word.

Gender equality refers to the concept of fairness, recognizing that not all individuals start from the same point as far as accessibility and opportunities are concerned. It may involve the conduct of temporary special measures to compensate for historical or systemic bias or discrimination against individuals or groups. It refers to differential treatments that are fair and positively address a bias or disadvantage that comes with gender roles or norms along with differences across certain groups.

To sum up, Girl Up is a community which stands against gender inequality. One of its aims is also to develop the concepts of leadership and solidarity.

WHAT IS PROPAGANDA?

by Beyza Tanalp 11B

We all use the word propaganda in relation to advertising and politics. These are not always used in the right context. Many people confuse propaganda for advertising.

The difference between the two is that propaganda is much louder and more manipulative.

To elaborate;

What propaganda means is basically to promote a particular agenda and to shape other people's thoughts about it by hiding the cons or exalting it. It's used for persuading unbiased people to join the agenda that's being propagandized without letting them know what exactly it is they're endorsing. Even if it can be used in a harmless way, propaganda is still a substandard way of advertising since it counts as a manipulation tactic.

DO WE REALLY NEED PROPAGANDA?

My answer is no. We don't really need it. If what we are trying to promote is actually correct, it wouldn't need any lies to win people over. Still, we must keep in mind that good and honest advertisement does not necessarily equal propaganda.

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF PROPAGANDA?

There are many wrong techniques that are used in making propaganda. Some of them are name-calling, using false statistics, making unrealistic promises and appealing to emotions. All of these can be very dangerous if it reaches the right audience with minds weak enough for the propagandists to shape.

This is just where propaganda starts to get dangerous. If the words being used are strong enough and promote the wrong idea, it can start to control people's behavior and spread wrongful agendas like bigotry and violence. They can even be used to undermine democracy.

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE?

We encounter all kinds of propaganda on a daily basis, so how can we keep ourselves safe from it? If we learn about the propagandizing techniques, we can recognise when they are being used against us and make our own decisions about the matter without anybody being able to alter our thoughts.

The Die is Cast

by Mehmet Doğu Çiftçi 10D

January 10th, forty-nine years before the birth of Christ and at least seven hundred years after the foundation of Rome. Gaius Julius Caesar, the governor of the region of Gaul, who was declared an enemy of the Roman Senate by *senatus consultum ultimum* (“the final decree”), was in command of the 13th Legion. On the northern bank of the Rubicon, a small river which separated the province of Gaul from the heartland of the Roman Republic, the Legion stood waiting for Caesar’s orders. The order was to cross the Rubicon, march on Rome and defy the authority of the Senate. Romans had a word for a situation of “instant of perilous and excruciating tension”:

Discrimen, they called it. Caesar’s entire life and his achievements, as he looked into the darkness down the river, hung in a chaotic balance. To obey the decision of the Roman Republic’s Senate or to oppose it, or fight it and take the ropes in his own hands. It was a dilemma, an equation that only his words would clarify.

The decision was made. ‘Alea iacta est’, Caesar declared. And the die was cast, for civil war to begin in the Roman Republic. ‘Discrimen’ had another meaning. The dividing line. As much as Rubicon proved to be worthy of this title, so was the decision Caesar made. The dividing line between law and personal ambition, between the Republic and the Empire which rose from the corpse of the Republic that Caesar’s decision would bring to death. And finally, today, between liberty and tyranny.

The history of the Italian peninsula’s history has seen such scenes frequently. From the plots of the Senators to the crossing of the Rubicon, from civil wars to the rise of Augustus as the first Roman Emperor. From the collapse of Rome to the foundation of unified Italy. The region was definitely a grand amphitheatre of political intrigue in its kindest interpretation.

Of course, all legends told and all plots of intrigue in theatre are a source of inspiration. So was the ‘March on Rome’, which has come to be associated not with Caesar’s but with Italian Fascist leader Mussolini’s name.

With the same characteristic of an unpredictable gambler’s passion, although likely with less of a tactical mind, Mussolini presented himself as a new Caesar to the Italian population. He filled the streets with his Black Shirts, the Fascist paramilitary army and managed to take over the state. This show of violence, along with a deceptive play of power, set the foundation of Fascism as not only an ideology but a psychology of violent opposition to democracy, liberty and all the values the revolutions in Europe have sought to bring. Mussolini was not, in the picture of Fascist propaganda, a figure who had simply grasped power, he was a new Caesar. An inspiration for disgustingly arrogant men with disgustingly ambitious aims as proven by his unhindered March on Rome, the state institutions, even the so-called democratic ones, were corrupt and weak. In the eyes of the people, if a man can beat the law, then that man becomes the law.

The inability of the King of Italy and even other European powers to stop a simple and small group of gangsters – literally – marching in the streets of the capital, armed in a frivolous manner, made the once small group become a fake power, one whose shadow fell longer than itself. Those who hold power in any society may be willing to do anything in order to retain power. All slogans for liberty are powerless without a basis. A footing for democracy is only possible when there is the will to fight for it.

In the Italian case, no one stood against Fascist rallies when they called to take over, or when they beat up and imprisoned leading left-wing intellectuals and politicians. The snake was left to live when it could not reach the heights. And when it did, exactly hundred years ago, in October 1922, the ‘powerful’ let the snake rule. They fed it, they allied with it.

And now, a hundred years after the March on Rome and seventy seven years after the defeat of Fascism by Allied forces, the spectre of fascism once again haunts the agenda of European politics. With the victory of Fratelli d’Italia Party in Italy’s recent elections, also the rising nationalism in Eastern Europe, a question has to be asked:

Is the die cast for liberty?

DO THE CONCEPTS OF REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY MEAN THE SAME?

by Ela ARIKAN 11B

The concepts of republic and democracy can be confused with each other in daily use. But do these two concepts really mean the same thing?

In both a republic and a democracy, citizens have the right to participate in government by representation. The people bring to the government those whom they believe will represent them and will protect their rights. The Republic guarantees the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people.

Fundamental rights and freedoms belong to the individual and cannot be violated, transferred or postponed in any way. In other words, even elected leaders cannot engage in practices that would violate fundamental rights and freedoms.

The most basic definition of democracy is that the power to govern belongs to the people. The election of effective political figures of authority, regular elections, free and fair elections, the existence of more than one political party, the opposition’s chance to come to power. The recognition and guarantee of fundamental rights are the main elements of democracy. Therefore, equating democracy with holding elections alone leads to a narrow definition of it.

In the republican system, citizens are representatives to make laws; They elect rulers to enforce the laws. Although the majority is more influential in the administration, inalienable rights and freedoms for everyone are guaranteed by official statutes. This way, arbitrary political practices of the elected can be prevented. For example, in America, senators and representatives are elected legislators, the president is the elected executive, and the constitution is the official statute.

To sum up, republic and democracy are different concepts. While the republic expresses an elected head of state (president), democracy includes criteria such as the election of effective political authorities and the presence of more than one party. In this respect, there is no necessary relationship between republic and democracy.

Transition to Democracy in Different Countries

by Selen İnal 9A

Turkey

After the War of Independence, many years passed with the efforts to move to a democratic government. Many political parties were formed but some were closed because of political, religious and other reasons. The full transition to democracy was in 1946 with the establishment of the Democratic Party – Before this party came to power in 1950, Turkey had been ruled by the same party for many years (Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası), during which there were no other parties.

England

The democratization of the UK was a slow and gradual process. England had been ruled by monarchy for a long time. Social problems that emerged after the Industrial Revolution, called for more government intervention. The Reform Act of 1832 increased voter suffrage from about five percent to seven percent - so commoners such as landowners and farmers could vote. By creating 67 different polling districts it also marked the start of democracy in the UK.

France

The transition to democracy in France began in 1789 with the revolution and it took many years to establish a stable democratic system. The French Revolution overthrew the absolute monarchy in France and forced the churches to reform. This was a long and difficult process. The reasons behind the revolution were hunger, social inequalities, economic crisis, the effect of Enlightenment.

Spain

Spain's transition to democracy begins with the ending of the dictatorship of Francisco Franco and ends with the transition to liberal democratic rule. The transition began when Franco died in 1975, the process started. Many historians think that the process ended with the Constitution adopted in 1978, but there are other historians who think that the end was the failed coup attempt of Antonio Tejero on February 23, 1981; or on 28 October 1982, when The Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) won the elections.

First Known Democracy: Athens Democracy

Athens Democracy (Classical Democracy) was the type of democracy practiced in ancient Greek city-states. It is the first attempt at direct democracy known. But, everyone living in Athens didn't have the right to vote. Citizens did not elect representatives, but they voted on laws and tax enforcement. Only Athenian men had the right to participate and vote.

Democracy is bad for anxiety

by Nehir Yirci 11D

We learn in history and philosophy classes that democracy was born in Greece because of its appropriate environment. And what was that? High levels of contentment, good economy, interactions with the outer world and other factors. I think if we also had those things in our lives, politics would seem attractive to many more millions. But for now, it feels more of a burden to me.

Don't get me wrong, it's nice to have a chance to say something and to be able to change the course of governmental policy, the format is very nice and clear. My problem is with humans.

Humans add infinite choices to the concept of responsibility and I wish I could just vote for a person or a party. It's much more than that.

Humans scare me. And I know they scare others via collective experiences. I remember before July 15th, everyone was open or obvious about their political stances for a while, as families we could discuss whether we supported this or that party, stories of previous political problems could be discussed among people from different sides with no problem because it had been a long time since the previous chaos has toned down. Then came the first big political event of my life. In 2016, I saw for the first time that politics wasn't just what people discussed at boring dinners.

Mouths were being shut, voices were being raised and the subjects of conversations were rapidly changing. Assumptions were being made more than ever but this time silently and people were becoming polarized from each other. I did not care what the fuss was about, but I cared about its effects. And those who were gaining a say in governing were causing immense stress for everyone.

In any form of government and structural power dynamics from the smallest to the biggest unit of human communities, there will always be such forms of stress, because no system can fix the psychological pressure needed to care for others, but we can say that living through that kind of a stress is getting harder to handle and one needs to be stronger as the population grows. More political attitudes emerge and more people need care, thus this collective state of responsibility weighs heavier. Human is the worst enemy of their own kind, and I think humanity would become perfect if we just took him out of the equation..

Objection!! by Zeynep ÜNSAL 11D

Anyone who had been active on the internet has probably heard of the “Objection!” memes that are going on through social media. Well, even though I watched most of the comedy videos about it, I was never really interested to look up what it was or where it came from until I got my Nintendo 3DS. Some sellers on the internet are nice enough to send free games with the device since they won't be able to play the game once the device is sold. Since my 3DS was second hand, the game Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney - Dual Destinies came free with the 3DS. I couldn't say no to a free game so I decided to give it a chance and play it. Did I really enjoy it? I'm not going to lie, not really; but it was good enough to catch my interest to check out its original trilogy.

Ace Attorney is a visual novel game series developed by Capcom(Released in 2001). The story is written by Shu Takumi. In the game we play as defense attorneys (Like Phoenix Wright), defending our clients in different scenarios. The gameplay is divided into two parts; investigations and courtroom trials. The investigation parts occur outside of the courtroom and we as the protagonist, search for evidence in the crime scene and interview the witnesses. During the courtroom part we cross-examine witnesses, present our arguments with evidence and make decisions that will affect the verdict. The case usually goes on for a maximum three days at the end of which the judge decides on the verdict, based on evidence that we presented.

The first three games (The trilogy) takes around 50 to 70 hours to finish and each game is broken down to episodes with their own individual trials. Even though the game's genre is considered adventure, I would say it's pretty much a comedy since the animation style of the expressions and the weird dialogues gives you a good laugh from time to time.

Even though Ace Attorney is about law and order, it's not a very accurate portrayal of what goes on in real life trials. Still if you like crime-based content you can check out Ace Attorney series along with its anime or manga. The games are available on literally every platform but sadly they're not free. If you're willing to pay the price and play the game I recommend starting with the first game of the main trilogy; Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney.

NEW ERA IN POLITICS AND PROPAGANDA

by Eylül Sangu 11A

Propaganda, the main purpose of which is to realize a desired action or thought change in target audiences, appears as a phenomenon that is directly affected by communication tools and methods. In this context, the use of social media, which has emerged as a result of the development observed in internet technologies and in parallel with internet use, has seriously changed the communication habits of individuals. Therefore, this change has brought about a change in political propaganda makers and their methods with it. Today, although social media shows itself especially in the context of social movements, it is also used as a political propaganda tool to a considerable extent.

The use of the internet, social media, and especially, the use of social media as a communication tool is increasing rapidly day by day, in the world as well as in Turkey. With this increase, users are carrying many activities they perform with classical communication tools to social media.

In this process, political propaganda is carried to the social media field by both propaganda makers and the target audiences. Both national policy makers and local politicians are increasingly appearing on social media, trying to convey their policies, goals, promises and actions to target audiences via the internet. For instance, the “Occupy Wall Street” movement of 2011, which started in The United States and had an impact in many parts of the world for a long time, and the “Indignados” movements, which started in Spain and mobilized the masses in many European countries in 2011-2012, were organized through social media and had global effects in a short time.

The “Occupy Wall Street” movement, which began in America but gathered supporters in many parts of the world in a short time, is a very important example in terms of both its initiation and the effective use of social media during the movement. The fact that a large majority of people, who had no communication with each other before, was organized only through social media and led the movement from the beginning to the end, shows how important the function of social media as a political propaganda tool can be. In our country too, we can see many cases where social media is used as a propaganda tool.

Also, an important point in the use of social media as a political propaganda tool is the intensity of use by active participants in the political system today. Now, almost all political parties and politicians have active accounts on social media and they manage all their political programs through these accounts. In fact, a significant part of the public relations activities of political parties are carried out over these portals. Political parties always announce their daily activity programs, political ideas, and conflicts with rival parties to their voters, or in current words, to their followers through these accounts.

As a result, since making politics and propaganda on social media provides direct communication, it may be possible to relay ideas to more people and to make them feel close to these thoughts. Therefore, social media seems to be essential for both propaganda purposes and politics.

However, controversial topics on social media on which everyone may have different opinions such as politics can carry a risk of misunderstanding, which makes it necessary that we act with caution.

Exploration of an unknown land: France, through the visit of “Book Fair of Brive” Nehir Yirci 11D

We gathered sixteen explorers to inspect the scripts of a land far far away some time ago. We would learn more about their language, their culturally praised storytellers and try to blend into their activities to learn what the French were up to.

We started to make preparations by gathering twice a week in our school library, bringing our personal devices to do research since the computer labs were usually taken, and it was a nice experience, being surrounded by books, while researching about them. While trying to maintain the silence in the library, we still managed to form weak bonds of friendships that would blossom into week-long companionships once we flew to our destination.

The day of flight was special, because it was the birthday of not one but two of our friends. They got plenty of birthday wishes throughout the day, because we were awake for almost 24 hours of it! During that time, starting from 2 am in the morning, we were in various airports: in Ankara, Istanbul and Toulouse. Then we tried to fit tightly into a small bus with our enormous bags and I need to give credit to the nice gentlemen of our group that helped us transport the bags whenever needed. In the bus, the very kind driver decided to give us a simulation of hell itself I suppose, because there was a non-stop beeping sound on the bus.

We arrived at our first destination: Brive-la-Gaillarde and were set free of the hellish torture on the bus around lunchtime and toured the city with a preciously cute family that would guide us each and every day of our stay. A couple and their two children: a girl our age who provided us with her friendship which was so special, and her little brother that enlightened our days with his drawings. After we unpacked, we ate our first meal in a cute restaurant and tasted a weird beverage the French occasionally consumed: Oasis. It was basically a cool kind of fruit juice.

On the following days, we went to 'la foire de livre Brive', the actual reason for our arrival, and purchased books and comics for our school library, with the bonus of interviews with various authors and illustrators. Entry was free, unlike the one in Ankara where you have to pay 5 liras to get in, at least for us. I can't be sure if it was free for everyone because we always got in from the 'invitees' entrance, which made me feel a little fancy, not going to lie. Again unlike the one here, they didn't make discounts on books for the occasion of the fair which I did find weird. And if I say there were hundreds of authors present, I wouldn't be lying, because every book that was being sold there had their writers sit behind the table ready to sign it for you. That was how every book we bought for school also had special dedication to our library. Friday morning was really calm so we toured the two Fair installations, realizing too late they were twenty minutes away from each other... some even got lost on the way...

The later days were impossibly crowded at the fair. Brive has a population of 47k and I swear all of them were at the fair at the same time. Thankfully, we didn't spend that much time in that crowd because almost all of us were sick, we would've definitely started an epidemic there. Instead, we participated in poem activities, watched spectacles prepared by the students of the conservatory and listened to an interview with a member of the French Academy.

Then we went to Toulouse, the capital of university life in France. By size, it was comparable to Bursa as they are both the 4th most populated cities of their respective countries and by function, it was the equivalent of Eskişehir, both of them being 'student cities'. We stayed in a youth hostel in rooms of four to six, the Wifi password was silent after 10pm and I can surely say that we failed that task successfully, by having the best time of our lives every night. Though the fatigue always caught us not so late and we found ourselves asleep very early. In Toulouse, we did two visits: one to University of Capitol 1, one of the three universities there, and one of the space sites where we watched a simulation in the planetarium and saw models of many space instruments, ships, devices and even functioning Mars rovers!

After another birthday, much more shopping, watching our friend beat everyone at chess, another one lose a coat and cause mayhem, more irresponsible shopping and tasting meals from fancy restaurants in Capitolium, it was finally time to return to our home country.

While examining this strange land and society, we had magically formed another society among ourselves with complex hierarchical systems, traditions, a creole language that is a mixture of Turkish adolescent communicative forms and French sayings, and systematic disagreements that one could name as political fights. All of these occurred among sixteen high schoolers. Through a sociological and anthropological sense, I found both the French civilisation and the new society we had over there highly amusing and interesting. Cheers to another school trip into the unknown.

WEEK OF CONFUSION by Ekin Akman 11A



Those endless 5 days that we all feel dreaded two times each term, when our days and nights whirl, when we dip into answers at every exam exit, and as most of us call “the week hell” : exam week. The only focus of every one of us all year round. It is the one we feel like it determines our destiny. The exam week is really very difficult for us. Especially when taking 2 or 3 exams a day. Personally, if or when one exam goes badly, the obligation to focus on the next day’s exams makes me feel mature but worn out.

Even though the week has really discomforting effects for some of us due to the aforementioned bad aspects, the result is very nice and comforting for most. For those who have worked hard have experienced the joy of getting good results for their labor, the end of the week is quite a relief. Of course, low grades make us sad, but they also help us understand that we usually need to make more effort for the next exam. In short, exam week is a week of self-control and self-awareness. In the end, it makes us notice that being evaluated is only a reflection of where you stand.

I believe those who can mediate their way through the week are the most successful. That is to say, it is very wrong not to care about the exam week at all, but it is also very harmful to beat yourself up for it. Those who study for exams, who take into account of their psychological and physical health, who efficiently and avoid overindulgence, in my opinion, achieve success. Even if they do not always have the best grades on the report card. Exams are really important, but sometimes we need to remind ourselves that they don't define us.

When it comes to examinations, there is a frequently misunderstood conception. The fact that a pupil receives a higher grade than another does not mean that s/he is better than the one who receives a lower grade. Unfortunately, some people who worry about exams more than needed really have to cope with the effects of anxiety for a long time. This is nothing but wearing ourselves out. We can liken these exam weeks to episodes of a series, small stories that are very important to understand the whole Show, which do not matter that much compared to the final episode where everything finds an explanation.

That is to say, don't worry about exams, but don't forget to study for them!

AND GOAL!!!**By Ela ARIKAN 11B**

As you know, a football tournament was in place in our school last month. This league system started with the idea of the student council president, Bora Işıktan, who took place on the football field on Wednesday and Friday during lunch break and watched the games with great enthusiasm and excitement by the spectators.

In my interview with Hasancan Tanrıöver, the valuable player of Hamsigücü, he revealed some general information about the matches and the championship and expressed his thoughts.

Q: What can you tell us about the matches and the championship?

A: Six captains who were determined by draw make up their own teams on the condition that they select two people from each level of classes. This 8-week league, which will last until January, takes place on the football field on Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. Wins are counted as three points, draws are counted as one point, and not playing the game is counted as -1 point.

Q: Do you think this tournament is useful for students?

A: In my opinion, it is a very beneficial and useful idea for development in sports and the interaction between the classes. If I speak from my own perspective, it is very important and is an honor for me to be a part of this championship.

Q: What if we asked you to summarize your attitude / point of view as a team in the tournament?

We do not even feel rivalry with many of those mentioned. We did not walk the same road; we did not pass the same roads. We do not have similar successes. Moreover, our ranks are different.

Q: Would you like to add anything?

I would like to thank the fans and their support, the P.E. teachers and president Bora for his meticulousness. Their support is very important to us.

SPECTATORS' VIEWS

Of course, the opinions of the audience are as important as the players' thoughts and comments. We asked a few questions to get the general opinion of the spectators about the championship;

Q: Is there a team you support?

A: No, I'm just watching for the pleasure of it. (Orkun Aydınçılar 11A)

A: I'm a fan of Hamsi Gücü team which is Hasancan's team. (Tuna Emre Şimşek 11A)

A: I'm a fan of Hamsi Gücü . (Neslihan Duru Turhan 11B)

Q:Do you think this soccer contest idea is useful/effective for students?

A:It is a very good opportunity for the students to have fun and have a friendly competition among themselves. (Orkun Aydıncılar 11A)

A:I think it is a system that should have come a long time ago. Our school president Bora came up with this very useful idea. I am very satisfied with the tournament system. (Tuna Emre Şimşek 11A)

A:I think it doesn't contribute much to the students because I don't think it's educational, still the students have fun. (Neslihan Duru Turhan 11B)

Q: Do you enjoy watching the matches?

A:As spectators we enjoy the championship. (Orkun Aydıncılar 11A)

A:It is great fun to watch the matches; it adds a different color to the lunch breaks. (Tuna Emre Şimşek 11A)

A:It's so fun, I got very nervous watching it because it was very exciting to watch my friends' performance in the match. Of course, watching the game is more exciting and fun as a supporter of a team. (Neslihan Duru Turhan 11B)

And finally, in our interview with our school president, Bora Işıktan, who has come up with the idea of the tournament;

Q:Where did you get the idea for this championship?

A.In my opinion, football events are occasions that all Turkish young people want to have in their school. I have embraced this idea like a snowball that has grown little by little for 4-5 years. I always had it in my mind, but I never had the chance to make it come true. After I was elected school president , I was very enthusiastic about these matters, such as projects, tournaments, etc. It is not difficult to understand that the school embraces this idea with open arms, every game is watched by a minimum of 60 people.

Q:Will the tournament concept apply to other sports?

A:I will try for basketball-volleyball in school, but of course it will be a little more difficult since there is not as much activity as in football.

The Importance of November 10th: What does the youth think about it? **by Orkun Aydincilar 11A**

November 10th is a significant and irreplaceable part of Turkish History as it is the commemoration of Ataturk's death, who was the leader behind the Turkish Revolution. The memorialization of his passing away is a great way to remember the core, patriotic values and principles he had that empowers the Turkish nation to this day. By remembering him, we affirm that we never forget his ideas and his principles.

We asked students of Ankara Ozel Tevfik Fikret Okullari about their thoughts on the importance of these yearly commemorations, what these commemorations represent in today's cultural domain and what could possibly happen if we forget what he represents. Here are the responses they provided:

Janbek Karadas: "Ataturk is a leader that should be remembered every year. If we don't resurface his reforms and his revolutions, his intellect, the value he gives to science and sports, we would be disrespecting him and his efforts that created this country. He is most definitely worthy of being remembered every year, for he is a mentor and an idol to the brilliant Turkish youth. We are the future heirs to his moral values."

Eren Guler: "Especially in these times, remembering Ataturk, the founder of our republic and the leader of our nation has become more important than ever due to the popularization of "Dark Humor" on social media, which is a type of humor that makes fun of the values of our Nation and the values of Ataturk. There are numerous posts which devalue the importance of Ataturk by making fun of him. These posts also attempt to make us forget the values and principles of Ataturk. We, as the Turkish nation, must remember him every year on November 10th with stronger emotions than ever to oppose this attempt to make us forget him. These days, What really matters is that we keep alive the principles of Ataturk by remembering him and by resisting the ones who are trying to make us forget his importance and his value to our nation as a symbol."

Ela Arıkan: "Remembering Ataturk every year is crucial for our nation due to the fact that his commemoration helps us not to forget the principles he had, not to forget the reforms he made that resulted in the creation of our country. These commemorations also help us teach the younger generations about Ataturk and his principles. These younger generations will affirm the continuation of his legacy, which also guarantees the continuation of our country."

From the answers provided by the students, it is clear that the Turkish Youth has a clear and uniform understanding on why November 10th is a very important day for the protection and continuation of the Turkish nation.

Are You Ready for Goosebumps?

by Mina Mercan Akçora 11B

Halloween is a favorite day for children and adults in many parts of the world. It is one of the most important events of autumn and the month of October. Kids and teens go out for Trick or Treat, parties are held, and horror movie marathons are held among family and friends. It is a very good day for some relaxation and fun among the duties and responsibilities of everyday life. But if you live in a society where such activities are not done and are unknown, you may find yourself reading a thriller at home, just like me. But not a simple novel. A Goosebumps novel, the horror-thriller children's fiction that has sold millions of copies worldwide. But what makes this book series so famous? Who is the author of each unique book? Let's see.

First of all, as we have seen in many children's book series, Goosebumps novels appear with independent stories in each book, except for certain sequels. In this series, which has 62 books in total, the books are generally in the range of 100-200 pages and are divided into chapters themselves. Each book deals with a different supernatural subject and this is conveyed to us from the first-person narrative by the main character. It doesn't sound special when you say it like that, but the author, R.L. Stein's narrative writing language and creativity make the series very enjoyable to read. When it comes to themes; I can mention one that teaches people to fly, a monster sponge living in the kitchen, and a camera that takes pictures of the future as just a few. In addition, as the popularity of Goosebumps has grown, it has been adapted into different series and movies over the years.

The author of the series, R.L. Stein is 79 years old and he has more than 100 published works, including his books published under different pseudonyms. The majority of these works are children's books, but he has also works written for adults and young people. Stein, who had a passion for writing since he was a child, first published a youth magazine inspired by the comics he used to read, and then continued his career with humorous children's stories. His most popular work, Goosebumps's first book, "*Welcome to Dead House*", was published in 1992.

To sum up, I think reading a children's book that will make us feel that spirit and have a pleasant time, even after halloween, can be a good opportunity to practice a foreign language. Since none of R.L. Stein's books have been translated into Turkish, it can be very educational to read them in their original language. In addition, since this book is aimed for children, it is quite comprehensive in terms of grammatical structures and expressions. So, are you ready to read a novel that will give you goosebumps?

TURKISH ALPHABET REFORM WEEK

By Eylül Sangu 11A

The week of November 1-7 is the week of the Turkish Alphabet Reform. Why do you think there is such a week to commemorate? Why is this reform so valuable?

The Turkish Alphabet Reform was proclaimed by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the early years of the Turkish Republic. So what exactly is this revolution? The Turkish Alphabet Revolution is the process of establishing the law on the "adoption and application of the new Turkish letters" on November 1st 1928 in The Turkish Parliament and the development and adoption of the New Turkish Alphabet. The law entered into force by being published in the "Official Gazette" on the 3rd of November, 1928. With the adoption of this law, usage of the Arabic Alphabet came to an end. Instead, the Turkish alphabet based on Latin script began to be used.

Shortly before the revolution took place, there were many different opinions in Turkey on changing the alphabet. Some thought that the Arabic alphabet should continue to be used because it was an alphabet integrated with Islam. Some others argued that they could make the Arabic alphabet more compatible with Turkish by making minor changes on it, while still others saw using the Latin alphabet as the only solution. As a result of the reform, when the new Turkish alphabet based on the Latin alphabet which is much more suitable for the structure of the Turkish language replaced the Arabic alphabet, it not only provided the opportunity to read and write easily, but also increased literacy and paved the way for it to become widespread. In fact, the most important aspect of the Alphabet Reform is that it formed the basic structure of the Cultural Revolution that was about to begin, and that it allowed the improvement of Turkish culture.

Therefore, if we can visualize the conditions of the period, we can understand Atatürk and consider his purpose in realizing the Alphabet Reform. In summary, Turkish could not be easily written and read with Arabic letters. It could not be written as it was spoken, it could not be read as it was written. The facilitation and dissemination of reading and writing, thus laying the groundwork for the realization of modern education and learning, was only possible with the Alphabet Reform. Isn't it right for such an important revolution to have a commemorative week?

DAY: NOVEMBER 11th by Almıla Dora Koyuncu 10A

World War I was a big military conflict in Europe between 1914–18. Joining France and Great Britain, the US fought on the Allied side against the German, Ottoman and Austria–Hungary empires. The Allied countries signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany at Compiègne, France, at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, bringing the war, now known as World War I to a close. And as a result, the cease-fire became effective at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. You can see why the number 11 would be an important part of remembering the end of the war.

Thereafter World War I, November 11 started to be called Armistice Day, Remembrance Day or Veterans Day. Another meaning of this date is ; November 11th is the 315th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 50 days remain until the end of the year.

Also known as Poppy Day, due to the symbol of the remembrance poppy, is a day observed in western states. You will often see poppies at this time of year on people's clothes, in shops, schools and laying at memorials in towns and villages. During World War One the farms, fields and land in France and Belgium that was fought on was destroyed by battle. All signs of life had been virtually wiped out. But one of the first plants to reappear on the battlefields after fighting ended were red poppies. So since then, the poppy became a symbol of the suffering and sacrifice made by the brave soldiers that fought in such a terrifying place and that is why they are still used today, when we remember them.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919, two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main memorial ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street.

The tradition of Remembrance Day evolved out of Armistice Day. The initial Armistice Day began at Buckingham Palace, with the king hosting a banquet honoring the French president. Later, during World War II, many countries changed the name of the holiday. The U.S. chose Veterans Day.

Remembrance Day in Canada, known as 'Jour du Souvenir,' remains a statutory holiday in six of the 10 provinces. The Armistice Day Act, which was held throughout the 1920s, declared that Canada's Thanksgiving would also be observed on Armistice Day — the Monday of the week in which November 11 falls. The US government, in 1931, officially changed the date to November 11. The name was also changed to Remembrance Day.

Movie Review: The Green Mile

By Simla Kalaç 11C

—
"Please boss, don't put that thing in my face. Don't leave me in the dark. I am afraid of the dark."

- John Coffey-

The Green Mile is a 1999 American drama film. It is directed and written by Frank Darabont. The movie is based on the famous American science fiction writer Stephen King's novel of the same name. The release date is March 17th , 2000. The leading actor is Michael Clarke.



The movie with a stunning plot begins with the arrival of a gigantic black man in prison for raping and killing two little white girls. Contrary to his frightening appearance, John Coffey has a very subtle and complex inner world. He has some supernatural powers. A dialogue begins between Coffey and Paul Edgecomb when the head guard of the prison where the death row inmates are housed, asks him if he is really

guilty. Events begin to rise when Paul, who is ill due to some urological problems, gets better through the powers of John Coffey.

Thanks to his supernatural power, Coffey is able to continue his life by releasing the diseases he absorbs through his mouth. Paul's thoughts about Coffey begin to change completely as he realizes this power. Thanks to this power, Coffey creates miracles and Paul thinks that this miracle should be kept alive. This close friendship between the guard and John Coffey is the most impressive part of this movie. Especially when the guard brings and gives John Coffey a piece of cornbread made by his wife.

Stephen King's novel takes its source from a true story that took place in the USA in the 1950s. It begins with the claim that John Coofey, a 14-year-old black boy, killed two white girls and was sentenced to 60 years.

John Coffey in the movie shouldn't have been killed, he died because he couldn't prove that he was innocent, and he was still a child, he had never harmed any living thing, he was a healer who took their pain away, and he suddenly found himself on the verge of death.

His last words were

Boss, don't put that thing in my face, don't leave me in the dark, I'm afraid of the dark...

THE 10th NOVEMBER CEREMONY AT OUR SCHOOL

By Elif KÜLAH 9B

10th of November... A day that means a lot to us. The day that the world's greatest leader closed his eyes 84 years ago. As students of the Tevfik Fikret Schools, we follow in the footsteps of our great leader and we thankfully commemorate him every year.

This year's ceremony started with our school band playing the song "Yiğidim Aslanım". As always, the audience were emotional. I interviewed our band leader, Levent Akkılıç, about our band's performance and the ceremony. He said:

"On the 84th year of our Ancestor's commemoration, we thought about which piece we could include in the repertoire. We chose "Yiğidim Aslanım" because of its lyrics. We chose to work with the high school students because we wanted the performance to be perfect and our time was limited. After a week of practice, we played this song at the ceremony on November 10th. It was a very important ceremony for our band so we tried to make it good. With the playing of drums because we wanted to give the ambiance and emotion of the soldiers who carried Atatürk's coffin. We can say that we achieved our goal by the looks of the audience."

Then, we watched the performance of our 12th grade students. It was really successful.

Here comes the interviews with our friends who took part in the performance:

Our 12th grade student Mehmet Can Kiper said "The special feature of this 10th November is that the text of this play is written by the students. Also, the preparation phase and presentation were very exciting. There was also a responsibility that this gave us. It was very important for us to prepare a beautiful ceremony in a school which tries to keep national feelings alive, and to get positive feedback from both students and teachers. And the result made us happy."

Our 12th grade student Pelin Alan said "Can Kiper and I co-prepared the ceremony. As planned, the students the acting students actually made the ceremony beautiful. We wrote the scenario. We had help from our history and literature teachers to reflect the realism of the period. Then we decided on music and visuals. Can and I have both been interested in drama for years, so we preferred to do most of it without using electronic devices. This limited us a little. We wanted to perform live for the audience.

I feel deeply in debt for everything that Atatürk provided for his country and people. Art has such a big role reflecting this. We wanted to represent that period directly with all those feelings, and it became a completely different ceremony. And we worked hard. We went to practice in the afternoon classes for up to two weeks. In truth, I'm very happy and I think we managed to give the true emotions. I was so excited while I was playing and my excitement was totally real. I will never forget the day. Our teachers helped us a lot and it was great."

Our music teacher Burcu Erşen said :

"For this year's 10th of November ceremony, we started preparing months ago with our high school choir students. The song "Mustafa'm" was one of the most beautiful songs written for our ancestor and our students loved it too. We wanted to sing "İzmir'in Kavakları" and "Yemen Türküsü" because they were songs that Atatürk loved. We wanted to finish with "Şanlı Atatürk" who explained the meaning and importance of the day and the lyrics touched everyone. We are very happy and proud to have performed the ceremony in a way that was worthy of our school.

24th of November: Teacher's Day By Selen İnal 9A

24 November 1928, is the day when Atatürk was given the title of "head teacher" and since 1981, 24 November is celebrated as Teacher's Day in Turkey.

Teachers play an important role in the lives of their students. They inspire and educate future generations. They are role models for their students and encourage them to achieve great things in their lives.

They not only teach us how to write, speak or do math but they also help us advance our social skills and encourage us to pursue our interests. They help us mature our talents and discover our passions.

Their knowledge and experience give us a better understanding of the world around us and prepare us for the challenges that life will bring. Moreover, teachers provide the support and advice that we need so that we can make the right choices and fulfill our dreams. With their help and guidance, we can overcome obstacles and achieve our dreams.

For all these reasons, we must honor and respect our teachers.

Happy Teacher's Day to all.

I asked 15 students why they like their favorite teacher. Here are the results;

- They explain the lesson in an easy-to-understand and fun way;
- They provide extra assistance after class and help us whenever we struggle;
- They don't let the attention slip off and are always making sure we understand;
- They make students feel that they're improving and encourage them to work harder;
- They're understanding and supportive;
- They make the lesson interactive;
- They make students feel valued and respected.

The answers were anonymous, so I would like to thank all the teachers who work hard everyday and encourage their students to be successful and happy individuals.

HALLOWEEN

By Beyza Tanalp 11B

What is halloween?

Halloween is a traditional holiday celebrated on the 31st of October. Every year, preparations for the popular holiday begin as the date gets closer. Kids and adults all dress up in spooky costumes at night and knock on the doors of the houses in their neighborhood asking for candy. It's a fun occasion to dress up in costumes without anybody thinking it's weird. But why do we do this? Why did we start this tradition and where does it come from?

Where does it originate from?

The origin of Halloween dates back to 2000 years ago when the Celts (who lived in the area that is now The United Kingdom and northern France) held the festival of Samhain. They believed that during the time of Halloween, the barrier between our physical world and the spiritual world would be blurred and interactions between the two worlds would occur. During the festival, they lit big bonfires to make sacrifices to the spirits and they wore costumes to disguise themselves and to ward off the souls they encountered by making them think that they were like them. They also believed that the Celtic priests would be closer to the spirits than and therefore they would make much more accurate predictions about the future. By the 9th century, Christianity had spread into Celtic lands where it merged together with some of the Celtic rituals. In the year 1000, the church attempted to replace the festival with something more church-centric and declared the 2nd of November All Souls' Day or All Saints' Day. It would be a day to honor the dead. Its celebration wasn't all that different to Samhain. They would light big bonfires and dress up as celestial beings like angels, devils and saints. All Saints' Day was also called All-Hallows. And the night before, which was the original night of the Celtic festival, was called All-Hallows Eve, from which the name Halloween derived.

Why candy?

It's great to learn about the origin of the tradition but a question that may still be stuck in your head is why we give children candy on Halloween. The answer is actually quite simple. Candy sales were doing good when it was time for holidays like Christmas and Easter but the candy industry needed a way to improve their fall sales.

At the same time, parents were in need of an organized event to keep their children out of trouble during the night of Halloween, which is how they came up with 'trick or treating', where children would go around the neighborhood knocking on doors asking 'trick or treat?' to get treats in return. This way, the candy industry had a good income during fall and the children were being kept safe, so the game and candy found their way in.

Who can celebrate Halloween?

Even if it's not a part of their religion, most countries still celebrate Halloween as they find that it's a fun holiday and a great source of income for companies. Even if it's not very popular, it's also celebrated in some areas in Turkey by certain groups of people as well. So if you ever want to participate, you should give it a try.

Happy Halloween!

THE IGNORED WORLD OF INDIE GAMES

by Zeynep Ünsal 11D

The independent game industry has strongly grown over the past 10 to 20 years. Even though in the beginning there weren't many competitive indie game developers, lately this part of the game industry has become a danger to bigger companies like Riot Games, Epic Games, Electronic Arts and similar companies. This being said, while bigger companies start getting old, small developers now have a chance to show their full potential alongside the rapidly becoming accessible development systems.

While the Technologies of game making become easier to access, it also creates an opportunity for newer and original ideas. For example, we really do see many similarities in story games based on like Resident Evil, The Evil Within or Outlast like series. Even though the stories are different from one another, these types of games create the same energy in the person who plays it with its mechanics. The grayish atmosphere with a 3D style. Similar monsters chasing you around while you try to shoot them in the middle of their face or the similar characters and character functions in the games like League of Legends and Valorant.

Yes these types of games have their own big fanbase but personally i think that everyone should give a chance to indie games. Not just because the creators deserve more attention but to actually explore newer stories and mechanics that come in all types of shapes and colors.

In popular games we usually see a setting contrary to indie games. In indie games there are visual novel styled click and point games, 2D games, cozy pixel games like Stardew Valley or many original content like in the game Superliminal where all your perspective is distorted by optic illusions in even very well made horror games like P.T and Amnesia.

In conclusion, even if you're not a big fan of underrated game media they are still worth a look since the variety in the indie game community is insane and topic-wise inclusive. You can literally find anything you want and at least in one game that suits your own style and aesthetic view.

Game Suggestion of The Month: The Red Strings Club

The Red Strings Club is an adventure game, set in a cyberpunk atmosphere. In the game we see many different gameplay styles through playing from different characters' perspectives. The game mainly revolves around the problematic if eternal obedience system is the key to a happy life and what makes us actually us by making us experience different character dilemmas.

The game lasts around 4 to 5 hours and is easy to play since it's a story based game and it's available on steam for a reasonable price.