



Newsletter

Seniors complete final CAP Presentations

Quarter 2



Jordan Delgado shares her CAP Senior Presentation

On December 7th and 8th, CAP 12th graders got a chance to showcase their culminating senior presentations to teachers and peers in the CAP

community. After weeks of preparation in CAP Senior Seminar (taught by Mr. Grossman and Ms. Russell), students presented 12–15 minute projects that touched on both personal achievements and skills gained throughout each student's three and a half years in CAP.

During the course of two school days, students from all grades of CAP joined together to watch over 70 seniors present. From baseball to mountain climbing, seniors touched on a number of impressive hobbies and interests in their culminating presentations. Similar to previous years, each presentation was graded by a team of two CAP teachers who were given a rubric designed to evaluate all aspects of the oral and visual display, including delivery, graphics, and written content. Overall, the project was a huge success with over 97% of the senior class passing the assignment on their first try.

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9th Grade

Freshmen experience the 1920s in the Savoy Ballroom Interdisciplinary



Students kick-start their second interdisciplinary

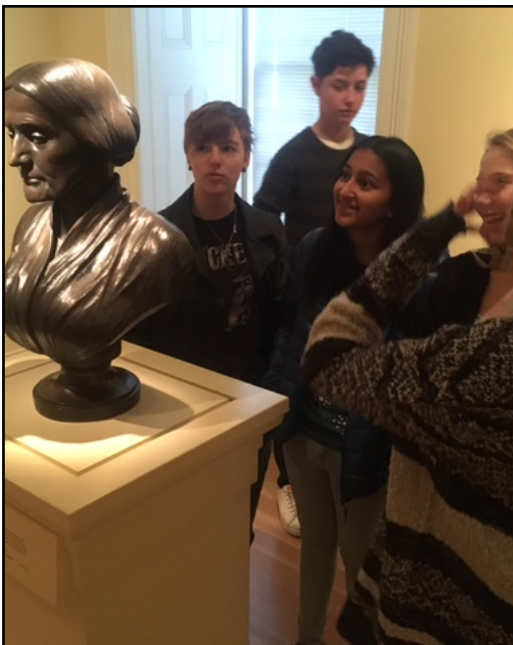
From December 11th to December 15th, CAP Freshmen enjoyed their second CAP

Interdisciplinary Project, diving into the issues and art of the 1920s. Mr. Grossman's U.S. History section

researched and analyzed significant events during the decade and crafted creative radio shows covering their topics. Dr. Simel's English rotation researched influential places and figures that existed during the period's Harlem Renaissance and proceeded to create travel brochures of Upper Manhattan as well as act out famous characters from the era.

Mr. Bustillos' photography rotation used Photoshop to create comic book-style stories of events from the 1920s, while Mrs. Jeral's theater group explored the artistic elements of the era with performances of lively scenes, songs and dances from the Harlem Renaissance and European Theater of the Absurd. At the end of the week, students showcased their projects in an elegant, Savoy Ballroom-themed celebration with food, music, and lively entertainment!

Ninth Graders visit the Smithsonian art



CAP Freshman observing art

On December 1st, 9th graders left Blair and traveled to D.C. to visit the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum. During the trip, students were tasked with learning about the importance of art as an agent of social change agent and a vehicle for preserving tradition throughout history.

Students arrived after 5th period and proceeded to spend the rest of the school day scouring the museums for influential and meaningful works of art. The field trip offered a variety of valuable lessons covering all four CAP 9 subjects and allowed the freshmen to learn outside of a traditional classroom environment.



Smithsonian American Art Museum

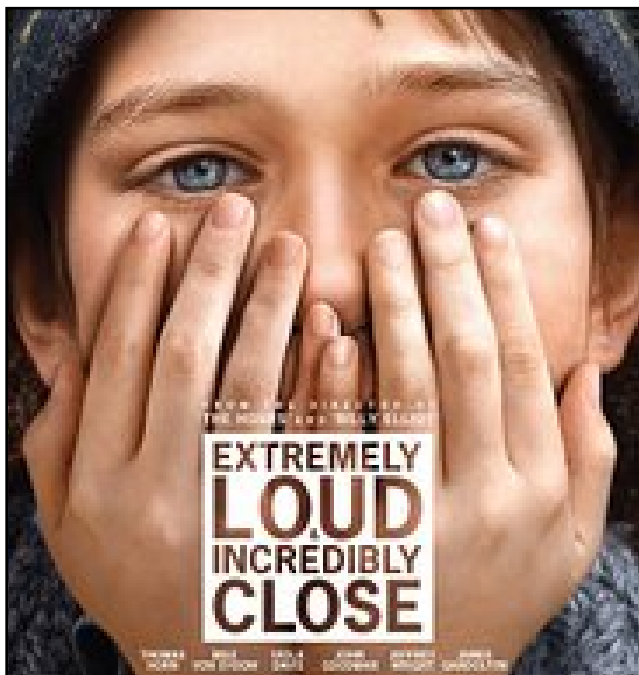
10th Grade

Sophomores debate policy topics

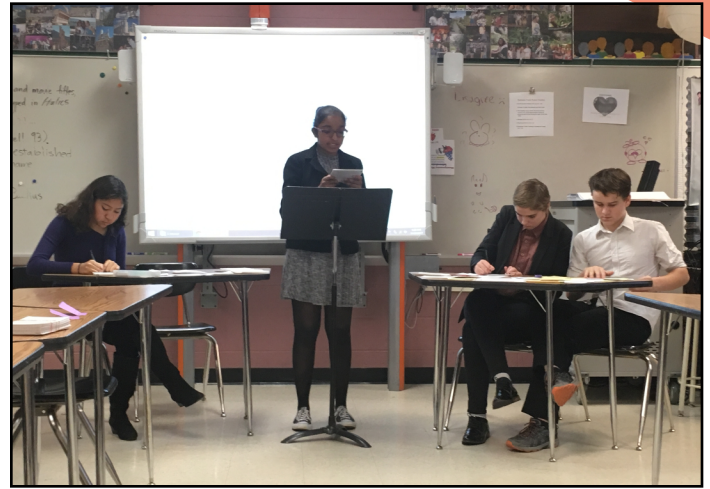
At the beginning of the second quarter, CAP sophomores participated in their second large interdisciplinary project – CAP Debates. For this project, students chose to argue the affirmative or negative side of a proposition, with topics ranging from social media regulation and raising the national minimum wage to gender quotas in elections and the use of unmanned drones in Amazon deliveries. The debates aimed to strengthen students' public speaking and persuasion skills. Students were able to both develop positions on key public policy issues and hone their ability to communicate them effectively.

ELAIC Project

After reading the novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, by Jonathan Safran Foer, 10th grade students were tasked with creating a multimedia presentation designed to reveal personal connections to the book and help students develop a specific voice. Being a very open ended project, students were able to personalize the content and make it their own, with topics covering everything from the loss of a mother to a humorous connection between the main character's mind and a student's own ADHD. Students appreciated the personal touches of each project and enjoyed watching the work of their peers



Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close movie poster



Sophomore Shifra Dayak takes the stand during CAP debates

AP Reporter visits Blair



Associated Press reporter Michael Biesecker talks to 10th graders

On December 7th, CAP sophomores received a visit from Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Biesecker. Biesecker shared his experiences covering environmental issues with the students, including his recent coverage of flooded superfund sites in and around

post-Harvey Houston. Biesecker provided insight into the life of a professional journalist and into how he and his colleagues handle the ever-growing challenges and demands of their field. The CAP Sophomores were glad to learn about professional journalism.

11th Grade

CAP students participate in Interracial Dialogue

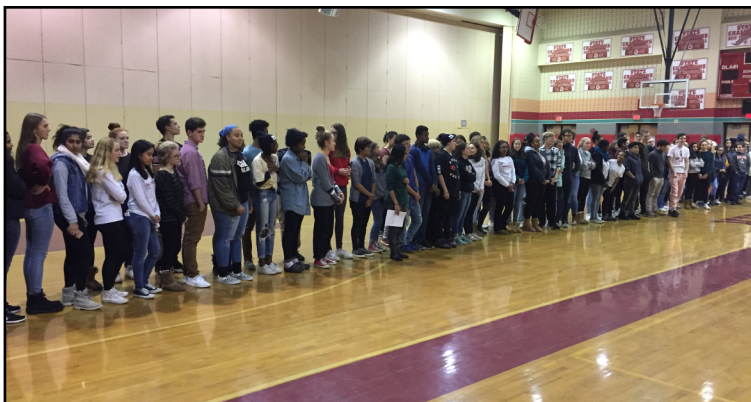


Students discuss social events in a small groups during the Interracial Dialogue

CAP students attended Blair's yearly "Interracial Dialogue", a discussion based event run by Blair's resident activist group "OneBlair".

Over the course of a week, students were challenged to acknowledge and tackle conversations about a number of societal issues including but not limited to, white privilege, race-based discrimination, and more. Not only did attendees participate in provocative discussions,

but the group heard from Aja Taylor—the Advocacy Director for Bread for the City. At least one CAP teacher (CAP Research Teacher Mr. Shindel) required his students to take part in the school's eye-opening dialogue. According to CAP Junior Will Donaldson, "OneBlair's Interracial Dialogue this year was thought-provoking, inspiring, and invigorating."

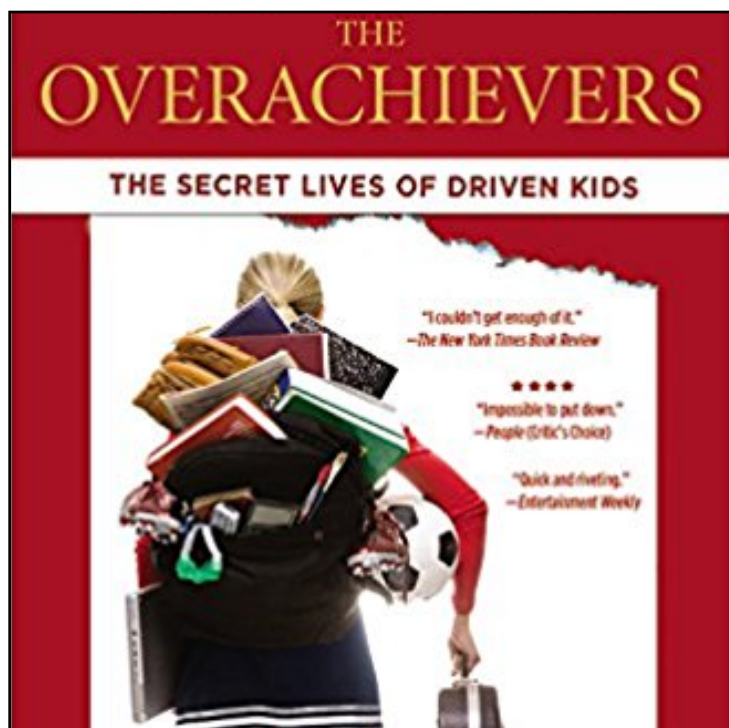


Interracial Dialogue participants line up for an activity

The Overachievers

Throughout second quarter, CAP Juniors tackled the themes of education and success in their AP Language classes. Students read Alexandra Robbins's *The Overachievers*, watched a TedTalk, and viewed two documentaries – *Waiting for Superman* and *The Race to Nowhere* – about the American educational

system. Students dove into tough questions like "To what extent do our schools serve the goals of true education?" as well as "What is the true meaning of success?" Beyond addressing the concrete messages of each work, students also analyzed the rhetorical techniques and strategies used to convey them.



Book cover for "The Overachievers"

Writing Women in the World

During second quarter, CAP juniors were challenged to analyze multiple time periods and civilizations in order to form a thesis about how religious doctrine and practices have affected the role of women in Europe and Southwest Asia between 600 c. e. And 1400 c. e..

Using background knowledge and 7 multi-format documents, students were able to piece together comprehensive essays evaluating the question and reflecting on a crucial part of the AP World History curriculum. Overall, the assignment was both successful and fulfilling for the 11th grade students.

12th Grade

Career Week challenges Seniors

As CAP seniors neared the end of their three-and-a-half year CAP experience, they closed out their semester in Senior Seminar with the first ever CAP Career Week. Students identified internships and entry level positions they might hypothetically apply for and constructed resumes and cover letters for them. With the help of

CAP parents, the seniors then interviewed for their selected position and received concrete feedback on their qualification and job hunting skills. According to Senior Seminar teacher Mr. Grossman, “the week was a success and this year's juniors can expect to participate in the 2nd annual Career Week next year.”



Senior Marley Majette participates in a career interview

Student Spotlight

ABBY LANDESMAN

Abby Landesman, a CAP senior, is the proud founder and co-president of Blair's Girl Up Club. A “by girls, for girls” campaign of the United Nations, Girl Up works to reduce the barriers that prevent girls around the world from getting an education. As a middle schooler, Landesman was introduced to Girl Up when searching for her Mitz project for her Bat Mitzvah. She loved how Girl Up combines feminism and education and so she held an event which successfully raised money for the campaign. When Landesman was a sophomore at Blair, she started her very own Girl Up chapter along with senior Suraya Mohamud. The club focuses on three main actions —fundraising, advocacy, and awareness —all driving toward addressing the fundamental challenges of expanding girls’ access to education. “Education is a privilege but it should be a right” Landesman says, “that’s why we do what we do.”



Abby Landesman and fellow club members at the Girl Up Advocacy Boot Camp