

# NOTES FROM THE LC

February/March 2017  
Read, Imagine, Discover and Learn!

## What are you reading? Black History Month and Women in History Month

### Black History Month

- Passenger on the Pearl
- We've Got a Job: the 1963 Birmingham Children's March
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
- Courage Has No Color: the True Story of America's First Black Paratroopers
- Sugar Changed the World
- Hidden Figures

### Women's History Month

- Wheels of Change
- The Great Silence
- A Life of Gwendolyn Brooks
- Dust Bowl Girls
- Grace Hopper: the First Woman to Program the First Computer in the US



Did you vote in the March Madness Book Tournament? The Book of the Year for 2017 was **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**.

## Research Across the Curriculum

During the third quarter, the **Theology I** students visited the Learning Commons to learn about different search strategies to assist them in their online research. Thank you to Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Gabriel for collaborating with me on this project.

In conjunction with their Writing Across the Curriculum assignment to research and write about one of the kings or prophets of Israel, the students began their research process by creating a list of appropriate search terms and keywords. To refine their search results, the students used limiters like Boolean logic, wild cards and search operators (e.g., site:.edu) while typing in different combinations of their keywords into three search engines (Google Scholar, RefSeek and Sweet Search). Additionally, they practiced using the Gale Databases by searching for articles in the *Religion and Philosophy Collection*. The students completed a Search Strategy Organizer and answered four reflection questions to help them analyze their search results. As always, they were required to include a properly formatted Works Cited page.

I hope the Class of 2020 will continue to use these helpful search strategies for future research projects.

Read the latest issue of [The TIE!](#)



February/March 2017

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[Pinterest](#) and [Instagram!!](#)

## What are you reading?

### Black History Month and Women's History Month

During February and March, we promoted reading for pleasure in the Learning Commons. We created engaging **Black History Month** and **Women's History Month** displays, showcasing selected titles that celebrate remarkable African Americans and daring women who made a mark on history. The displays also included pamphlets from historical sites, quotes from famous women and photos. The LC shared some of these highlighted titles on Instagram as well.



## What's Happening in the Book Clubs?

In March, the students in the Book Club read Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. We met on March 28 to talk about Adams, his quirky sense of humor and his popular novel in which Arthur Dent is rescued from Earth by his friend Ford Prefect just minutes before the planet explodes. After his narrow escape, Arthur travels through space with Ford and a bunch of odd characters, having one hilarious adventure after another. We watched the trailer for the 2005 film and learned a bit about Adams' background. We were impressed by the fact that he wrote several episodes of *Dr. Who*. In April, we will have a free choice meeting and hold our annual Book Trailer film festival.

On March 2 (World Book Day), the SJP Parents' Book Club met in Café 48 to talk about *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman. Our readers had mixed reactions to this off-beat novel about a young girl who deals with her grief after her beloved Granny dies, by retreating into a magical fantasy world her grandmother shared with her in bedtime stories. However, we had a lively discussion and agreed that we might read other books by this author. At our next meeting on April 27, we will talk about the best-seller, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

Please become a member of the SJP reading community. All are welcome!



## After School in the LC

The Learning Commons hosted an afternoon of board games on March 16. Enthusiastically supporting the event, Mr. Kearns brought in a bunch of games from home to supplement the options offered by the LC. The students had a good time playing Chess, Quarto, Checkers, and Scrabble. One of the students even brought up the idea of starting a board games club after school.



## Reading Non-Fiction with the ESL Students

In February, Ms. Beach's ESL class completed their non-fiction project by submitting written book reviews and giving book talks to their classmates. The students read and reviewed an interesting selection of non-fiction titles presenting on various topics including handwriting analysis, the life of Marilyn Monroe, human trafficking and basketball.

The majority of the students enjoyed the book they chose and would recommend it to the class.



## Multicultural Day in the LC

The Learning Commons was delighted to host our students from Greece and Peru on Multicultural Day. They shared their traditions, history and culture with wonderful pride and enthusiasm. Each room offered some delicious food too!

Bianca, Sophia, Emily and Sophia welcomed their classmates to Greece.



Jonathan, Ben, Theresa, Dante and Ricky showcased the culture of Peru.

