

PROS/CONS BLOCK SCHEDULE

BY Michael Onuoha

The block schedule is a mixed topic for both teachers and students, but they both say that it is confusing.

From the students' points of view, homework can be a little easier to handle, seeing as the earliest it is due is two days away, but it can also be harder to remember. Also having to remember which set of spirals to carry that day can be confusing.

From the teacher's perspective, having two sets of classes that can easily get off track and be far apart can be confusing.

And on Mondays, both students and teachers have virtually no time and the class is over.

If you ask me, I think that the block schedule has its good and bad sides. It is easier that the soonest something is do is two days away so if I forget my homework one day, I can do it the next day. Also since the classes are longer I get more things done in one day instead of leaving off that day and having to pick up the next day, but the really hard thing is when my teacher assigns something that is due two weeks from that day and some time through that period I forget about it. With the eight period days I could get a daily reminder to insure I don't forget but without seeing my teacher the day before it is a little hard to keep track with. So it could really go either way.

So if you talk to both sides, teachers and students will say different things: a lot of mixed opinions about this year's block schedule.

BOOK REVIEW: The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme: The Floating Island

BY June Bendich

The Lost Chronicles of Ven Polypheme is a fantasy series about a Nain boy from a ship-making family (scandalous for the Nain) of fifty which equals about thirteen in his years who is (he becomes in the first book) a reporter of "The hard hammered truth" for the King.

So basically, he finds everything of any interest in the world, records it, and tells about it to the King. The first book, which this review is for, begins when he is test-driving his family's newest ship with its owners before they set it out to sea, when a hoard of Fire Pirates try to loot it. Ven ends up causing the whole thing to explode. After that, a sweet, wonderful exploration of a little bit of this newly-(to us)-know world filled with merrows, ghosts, dif-



photo by S. Brennan

For fantasy-lovers, June recommends THE LOST JOURNALS series, as well as the ERAGON trilogy (left), THE SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL ferent races, and a floating island. Brett Helquist (A Series of Unfortunate Events) and a wonderful writing style! Though not noted by any critiques, according to the covers of the book, I really adored it and I daresay you will as well.

It has the originality of The Edge Chronicles, with the illustration of

MOVIE REVIEW: The Help

BY: Juliana Cohen



Last weekend I was able to see the movie "The Help". All in all it was a great film. Great cast, great acting, great story line. I laughed, I cried, and I have only one regret: I didn't read the book. After praise and praise of this movie from just about everyone I know, I already had high expectations of this film just walking into the theatre. Let's just say those expectations were met.

During the 1960's in Jackson, Mississippi, our protagonist, Skeeter, played by Emma Stone, earns a job as a journalist, but her job turns into much more when she tries to write a

book from the perspective of the African-American maids, or "the help".

With so many memorable scenes, I don't know where to start! "The Help" is filled with surprises, and many funny moments. It has a perfect mix of drama and comedy. Not one movie has moved me like this one. It really shows how far we've come from the 1960's. It helped me realize that no matter what race, what religion, what job: no one can take away your freedom.

If I had to choose anything wrong with the film, it would be the sad moments. I'm not a fan of sad films, never was and never will be. But when mixed in with such joyous and happy scenes, it was definitely something I could get over. I highly recommend buying it on DVD. Seeing it once isn't enough!

MOVIE REVIEW: Footloose!

BY Katy Capps



Katy says, "Footloose moves to live with his aunt and uncle with his still a good idea!"

The new take of the classic Footloose hit theaters across America on October 14 this year, and danced it way into people's hearts. The original Footloose is about a boy named Ren McCormack who moves to live with his mom in a small town called Beaumont. Beaumont is like every small town with the exception of a few strange laws. The main one being no dancing! The laws were made after the Reverend Shaw Moore loses his son in a tragic car accident along with four other high school students on the way home from a dance. Ren challenges the laws and falls in love with the reverend's daughter Ariel.

The songs from Footloose instantly became classics in 1984 and the new Footloose keeps most of them with a modern

twist. Like the original movie the songs varied in style but in the new version the songs vary from county to hip-hop. In the new movie the classic song "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler was slowed down and is used to show Ren's sadness unlike in the original when it was used to motivate. Some new songs were added into this classic film like "Walking Blues" by Ceelo Green, featuring Kenny Wayne Shepard. If you thought that Kenny Warmold (Ren in 2011 version) would break out and start singing and dancing, you were wrong: he only dances. Some of the lines and the basic idea follow through into the new movie. With of course the classic line of "LET'S DANCE!!!!" Though a few changes happened in the storyline like Ren's mom dies from leukemia. Unlike the original Footloose were Ren moves to Beaumont because his mom gets a job there. Also the tracker race from 1984 was changed into a rough and tumble school bus race between Ren and Ariel's bad racecar driver boyfriend who is 5 or so years older.

Overall, there was love, an exploding school bus, and lots of dancing. In general Footloose will always make people want to get up and dance!

YOU VS. THE CLOCK

BY Payton Reid

Most middle school students struggle with time management.

We all have things to do we would gladly put before school-such as sports, TV or gaming, hanging out eighth friends, or just doing nothing. But that's what hurts our grades.

I know everyone is tired of the phrase "time management". But between being the school mascot, being active in MMS Choir, playing on the

school basketball team, running for student council vice president, and having homework each day, I can honestly tell you organization and managing your time really help.

Nobody likes late nights, or trying to cram all the information you need to know for a test into one bus ride on your way to school. So, try guessing how long each thing will take. Make sure you get what needs to be done BEFORE you take a nap or watch a movie. Take little breaks for a snack, facebook, or a TV show, so you don't get too frustrated. If you get everything done, you'll probably feel less stressed, and it really shows results on report cards.

You might be surprised by how good it feels to go sleep with no worries!



photo by S. Brennan

Payton recommends time management as a way to successfully balance school, sports, and social life.