

# CHARTER INK

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Issue I

## The Summer of the Ice Bucket Challenge

by Danny Freitas

People used to have fun attempting to swallow spoonfuls of cinnamon. Now, we're dumping ice on our heads. It's ok though, this one is for charity! The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has become a huge social outbreak, as people from all around the world are participating in it. Wait a second, what is ALS anyway? ALS, or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or even Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurons reach the spinal cord from the brain, then the spinal cord moves the motor neurons to the muscles throughout the body. The progressive degeneration in motor neurons in ALS eventually lead to the death of the neurons. Without the neurons moving through the body, the brain's ability to control the muscles will be lost, immobilizing the patient.

See? You learn something new everyday. The original Ice Bucket Challenge was done by former Boston College baseball player, Pete Frates, who has ALS. He posted the first challenge on Twitter, and then it simply exploded. People all around the world have participated in the challenge. Ever since the challenge has erupted, the ALS

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Check out the Mystery Person on page 7 and submit your guess with your name to the Charter Ink Submissions Folder on Katie's bulletin board

## The Safety of Journalists

by Maryellen Vanderveen

Over seventy journalists have been killed while covering the Syrian conflict since 2011. Statistics collected by the Committee to Protect Journalists indicate that the majority of these journalists were killed in crossfire while covering combat, but in the last month two American journalists have been brutally murdered by the Islamic militant group ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria/the Levant). James Foley of New Hampshire and Steven Sotloff of Florida were both kidnapped by the Sunni Jihadist group while covering the Syrian civil war. Videos of the beheadings of both men were released online with the threat included to kill more innocents should American air strikes in Iraq continue.

Foley was kidnapped on November 22nd, 2012 and was held for nearly two years before the video of his beheading was released on Youtube on August 19th. Unlike past videos from terrorist organizations this video did not show the actual beheading but it did state that the Islamic State was holding another American journalist, Sotloff and that he would also be beheaded if the US did not halt airstrikes.

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## Lower Level Update by Jordan Lussier

As of August 26th at 8:15 AM, summer vacation was over, and everyone had to get back into the school mindset. No more late night bonfires, no more beach days, and no more sleeping until noon. Once the shock wore off, students, teachers, and faculty were busy getting ready for the months ahead. Whether it's writing out lesson plans or learning the name of all the new kindergarteners, there was a whole lot to be done in order to have a successful and productive school year, and the lower levels are getting right to work.

Projects are underway on Level II! From Nora's Poetry Project, to Amy's Farm Project, to June's Gardening Project, the kids are hard at work preparing for this school year. One project that is particularly busy is Velma's Milkweed Project. The project plans to spend their first term raising, observing and releasing monarch butterflies. This will help the students to understand the life cycle of butterflies, and they will certainly have fun doing it!

It looks like Levels I and II are pairing up for the first quarter! Krista's project on Level II is called Kindergarten Mentors. The project focuses on preparing the new kindergarteners for their school career at Charter, by pairing them with a 3rd or 4th grader to show them the ropes. This quarter, the older students teach the kindergarteners about topics like listening and behavioral expectations. In the last quarter of the school year, the project plans to help reinforce the kindergartener's reading and writing skills as well. Kindergarten Mentors is a great way to prepare the kindergarteners for their upcoming years at SSCPS.

New to not only Level IV, but SSCPS in general, is the new 7th grade science teacher Allison DeBellis. Allison enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her family. Despite her childhood dreams of being a fashion designer, Allison has been a teacher for 6 years now. She has only been here for a month, and she has already noticed some significant differences between Charter and previous schools. Having previously taught at Plouffe Academy in Brockton, Allison has noticed that students here at Charter are more responsible and much more involved in their own education and that the teacher commitment here is very strong. She also says that everyone has been very supportive and helpful, and that she looks forward to the years to come. Welcome aboard, Allison!

From projects to field trips to new teachers, the lower levels have certainly been keeping themselves busy. With the end of a fun and relaxing summer comes a new school year and a fresh start. Starting off on the right foot is essential to having a productive year. Hopefully this school year is full of growth and learning throughout not only the lower levels but throughout the school as a whole.

## October Horoscopes

by the Stargazing Seer

The alignment of the Sun and Venus bodes well for you in October. The chance for romance is high due to Venus' influence. You may want to spend a little extra time on your hair on the fifteenth, as it appears a new love interest will be coming into your life. Of course, your charm and award-winning personality will win them over. However, Mercury's quick approach does not bring such good tidings. Expect bad news towards the end of the month, though nothing you will not be able to handle. As the Galilean moons of Jupiter move in harmony, do not be afraid to turn to your friends for help - you will find that they are more in tune with you than originally thought and this revelation may bring your friendship closer.



# Adjusting to SSCPS and the High School

by Anastasia Aniagu

Imagine being a hockey player, traded onto a new and better team. There are new sights, new spaces and most importantly, new faces. First impressions count. Current students have already made theirs and now so have the new students. Like coaches, the teachers in SSCPS's high school will not hesitate to tell you if you are doing something wrong, but they will also guide you if you need any help. With this being the first year for many, some students miss the conversations they had with their old teachers or friends. "I miss having deep conversations with my teachers from level 4," said ninth graders Nenne, David, and Sadiyah.

Although there are things people miss from their old comfort zones, many students new to SSCPS are adapting to the school's unique environment and are enjoying freedom a charter high school provides. "I love how we can eat outside," stated Junior Maddie Hebert, who is new to the school. Certainly when in a new environment, there are new schedules and new teaching methods so there are things to get used to. "I wish the classes were shorter sometimes," said ninth grader, Holly Somerville. Sadiyah Archibald also stated, "I wish teachers would write down notes for us to copy." In short, being a new face in the high school is scary and out of the normal comfort zone, but once people get used to the new skates, they will be playing like a pro.



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Exactly two weeks later, the video of Sotloff's execution was released. The same masked executioner appeared. In a British English accent he says "'I'm back, Obama, and I'm back because of your arrogant foreign policy towards the Islamic State, because of your insistence on continuing your bombings and on Mosul Dam, despite our serious warnings. So just as your missiles continue to strike our people, our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people."

Initially, the public was shocked to see a European evolved with ISIS. The speaker, who has been nicknamed Jihad John, was clearly not from the Middle East. The British Ambassador to the U.S reported that the British government was getting close to identifying him, but no name has yet been released. Jihad John is not the only western foreigner known to be involved with ISIS. At least two Americans have been confirmed to have died while fighting for ISIS overseas and after a sixteen year old French girl was arrested for trying to go to Syria to join them, one has to wonder what ISIS is doing to attract so many Western supporters. On September 10th, President Obama laid out his plan for ISIS (which he referred to as their original name ISIL, for the Levant as opposed to Syria). He explained that since the death of Foley, the US has launched 150 airstrikes into Iraq to protect American personnel but also kill ISIS fighters and destroy weapons. He announced plans for a coalition of countries whose goal would ultimately be to "degrade and destroy ISIL," as well as plans for sustained air strike campaign. President Obama also unveiled a plan to send in 475 servicemen into Iraq. He promised to keep the US out of combat and explained that these servicemen would be going to train Iraqi fighters in going against ISIS, provide weapons/intelligence, and help support the forming of independent communities by the Sunni people. He closed his speech with a thought that had been shared with him by one of the refugees trapped on Mount Sinjar by ISIS fighters: "We owe our American friends our lives. Our children will always remember that there was someone who felt our struggle and made a long journey to protect innocent people." He then went on to explain, "That is the difference we make in the world, and our own safety, our own security, depends upon our doing what it takes to defend this nation and uphold the values that we stand for."



## New Year, New Teachers by Jordan Lussier

With a new school year comes new classes, new friends, and new teachers. By now, it is a well known fact that the school is trying to expand the high school little by little each year. In an effort to expand the Spanish department, two new Spanish teachers have been added to the high school this year, Kevin Burokas and Ryan Gillespie.

Despite his childhood dream of becoming a successful dentist, Kevin Burokas now resides in Room 103, teaching Spanish 4 and 5 here at Charter. Kevin is also a freshman advisor, and runs the Gardening Workshop, which focuses on making the earth a greener (and prettier) place. Prior to working at SSCPS, Kevin worked at Western New England University in Springfield, MA. There are some obvious differences between teaching at a college and teaching in a high school, but Kevin has noticed more of a difference in the determination of students, rather than in the age. He notices that SSCPS students want to learn and succeed. He is also impressed by our desire to give back to the community, and apply the knowledge that SSCPS students acquire in school, back into the outside world. Aside from being a teacher and an aspiring dentist, Kevin is a devout musician. He spends hours upon hours rehearsing and teaching music to kids outside of school. Whether it's in the classroom or on the cello, Kevin clearly has a passion for teaching.

Ryan Gillespie, teaches Spanish 2 and 3 here at SSCPS. He grew up in Billerica, MA with his parents and younger brother, and proudly recognizes that his hometown is responsible for the patriotic tune, "Yankee Doodle". Before working here, Ryan worked at EC Boston, a language school that hosts students from all around the world, usually from Saudi Arabia and Korea. Ryan was one of the teachers who helped the students to improve their English. Some could say that Ryan

and his colleagues were the doorway to starting the student's life here in the United States. Having this experience under his belt, it makes perfect sense that he took over the World Heritage Workshop. He mentions that the schedule has been difficult to get used to, and he often finds himself late to his own class. Excluding the tardiness, Ryan somewhat enjoys our "hectic" schedule because it keeps him on his toes. Aside from teaching, Ryan spends his time socializing as well as learning how to play piano, and can usually be found in the lobby practicing his new skills. Even without a classroom to call his own, Ryan still manages to be an effective and enthusiastic teacher.

Kevin y Ryan son profesores entusiasmados y fantasticos. They have already made a significant impression on those who have had the privilege of meeting them so far this year. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated here at SSCPS. Ryan and Kevin, welcome to the Charter Family!

## October FYIs by Kevin McGuinness

- October is national chili, pizza, and cookie month!!!!
- October 5, 1947 - The first presidential telecast address from the White House was made by Harry S. Truman.
- October 12, 1492 - Christopher Columbus landed in America.
- The month "October" is not mentioned in any of Shakespeare's plays
- Sputnik, the first Soviet Union satellite, was launched on October 4th, 1957
- The first transcontinental telegraph was sent on October 21th, 1861



## Back to School Picnic by Cassie Collins

On Saturday, September 13th, the South Shore Charter Public School held their Back to School Picnic. There was music, games, and prizes for everyone to enjoy. It was a great opportunity for previous SSCPS families to reconnect after the summer break with old friends and welcome new friends.

Many families brought treats and snacks to share with everyone at the picnic. The student board was selling pizza and water for everyone. Those who were not intrigued by the snacks could get a frozen treat because the All American Ice Cream Truck visited the school and was a big hit for everyone. People were nibbling on everything from cupcakes to ice cream "Spongebobs" and even watermelon, and there was even a line at the cotton candy machine. Picnic blankets covered the hill and everyone was conversing and having a good time. While eating their dinner they could enjoy the live music put on by the Music Workshop.

For many students the picnic was a way to foster community spirit and have an opportunity to meet with new friends outside of the school setting. Other students volunteered, working the games and activities. Some students with an eye for the arts were helping at the face painting table, painting butterflies, panda bears and everything in between. Everyone was getting in the spirit from little children to even some of the parents. Those who wanted something a little more permanent than face paint could also get a temporary tattoo. Many games were available to play at the picnic that were fun for all ages. Ring toss was a big hit, among many other games. Everyone who attended the picnic had a great time with everything available to them for fun and laughter. The South Shore Charter Public School's Back to School Picnic was an excitable time for everyone.



Ice Bucket - continued from page 1

Association has raised over 100 million dollars! In the same time span last year, they raised around 2.7 million dollars.

The Ice Bucket Challenge has stretched across the world in a matter of weeks. Some of the most famous people in the world have participated. Though Barack Obama refused, former president George W. Bush gladly participated. LeBron James, the FIBA Men's USA Basketball Team, Michael Jordan, David Ortiz, and the New England Patriots team (including Robert Kraft and Bill Belichick) are just a few among all the athletes that have done the challenge. As well as actors and singers, for example, Justin Timberlake, Jimmy Fallon and the Roots, Lady Gaga, and even Bill Gates have done the challenge.

Now for the real fun. It is time for some faculty to participate in the challenge. I would like to nominate Mr. Small, Joe Kay, Ryan Gillespie, Angie Pepin, and any seniors in the National Honors Society to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. You must either donate 100 dollars, or participate. We must have video proof. The National Honors Society must do it as a group. I would be more than happy to participate with you. Good luck.

# September Commemoratives by Cat Dwyer

The month of September is a seemingly uneventful month. We may commemorate the beginning of the school year, or set aside a few moments to greet peers with a quick, “Happy fall!”, but there still exist those unspoken holidays that we may pass over.

An unspoken commemoration is the fact that September is National Suicide Awareness Month. Suicide is the 10th most common cause of death in the United States alone, and is preventable if the individual with these urges seeks help. However, it’s an issue that’s often misinterpreted by the media today. A common excuse used by many media outlets is that the person, who has ended their life by their own hands, is a coward. That being said, suicide is not a cowardly act, but more like the escape from whatever harshness has been faced in their life. Make sure to pay attention to your friends and peers, and notice the signs of a suicidal individual: buzzwords like, “you’d be better off without me”, “life is too hard”, and, “no one cares about me” are the most common, but also be aware of a sudden disinterest in hobbies, fatigue, and a withdrawal from family and friends.

On a lighter note, September is also recognized as the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. This celebration began in 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson began observing the holiday through September, and was expanded upon in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, who extended the holiday from September and into October.

Approximately 16% of the United States is made up of Hispanic peoples, who have invented revolutionary items, such as contraceptive pills, the yo-yo, and even the ballpoint pen. Their ideas and customs have come into the United States, and brought celebrations which we know and love to this very day, like Cinco de Mayo and Dia de Los Muertos, so a month of recognition is the least we could give them!



Also in September was the Senior Class' Trip to Camp Burgess



## DIY: Dry Erase Board by Cassie Collins

School is back in and we're all looking for a way to express ourselves, and what better way than to personalize your locker? One thing you can do to add that little something to your locker is add a dry erase board to remember things, such as "Do homework during FIT block". We all may not be able to get one from the store, and even if you do, it wouldn't have that special touch to it.

Now you can make your own dry erase board by simply following these steps. First you are going to need a few things. You will want to get one inexpensive picture frame. The frame can be any size so long as it will fit inside your locker comfortably. Next you are going to also need four self-adhesive magnets to help you stick your board in your locker. Also you will want to get one piece of cardstock, any color or style as long as it will fit in the frame. Lastly, and this is optional, you will need a screwdriver to take off the stand of the frame.

Once you choose that extra special frame that will fit in your locker, you can get to work. If you chose to take off the back of the frame, you will follow this instruction first. Take the frame and turn it over, pick up your screw driver and start taking out the screws from the stand of the frame. When they are all off you should be able to take off the stand easily.

Now you can begin to specialize your frame, take your cards stock, and if needed cut to fit into the frame. Take off the back of the frame and slide in the cardstock, as if it were a picture. Take the back and put it back on, make sure it's on securely. Next take you self-adhesive magnets and place on on each corner of the frame, adhesive side down.

Congratulations! Now all you have to do is place it in your locker, where you think it fits nicely and you are ready. Choose your favorite colors for dry erase markers and start writing whatever you need to remember. Enjoy your new dry erase board!



## Mystery Person

by Holly Somerville

**When is your birthday?**

June 30th, 2014

**If you were to choose a career for when you are older, what would you choose?**

A dermatologist

**What is your lucky number?**

3

**What is your favorite quote?**

"Maktub. If you are really a part of my dream, you will come back one day"

**What is the best class you have this year?**

Spanish, with Maria

**What is your favorite movie?**

Matilda

**What is the best gift you have ever gotten?**

Life

**What is your favorite memory from when you were little?**

Watching Dragon Tales

**Who is your role model?**

My Mom

**If you were stuck on a deserted island with one person and one object, who/what would they be and why?**

Dora the Explorer because she has everything and a knife to chop coconuts.



# Featured Workshop by Anastasia Aniagu

Vegetables. “Blah” is the word that comes into every little kid’s mind. Being part of Kevin’s workshop wipes all that fear away. The gardening project has joined forces with June’s project, in Level I, to make a salsa out of the vegetables grown by the two groups of students. Teacher Kevin states, “No one has done a gardening project before and they needed someone to run a gardening project in the high school, so they picked me.” Well, its a good thing because all of the students in the project are enjoying it. Both Juniors, Nick Nelson and Matt Johnson stated, “I love being part of the gardening project.”

The students enjoy working outside while obtaining skills from what they are doing. “Being in the workshop helps the students learn creativity and patience” said Kevin, “These are skills that translate to discipline or anything you’re working with.”

To top it all off, the tools that they need are right outside the back door of SSCPS. “Having vegetables on the property is a big help and an on-hand thing,” Kevin

said. Not only does Kevin *teach* gardening, he loves doing gardening on his own time.

The project leaves the students wanting to know more about gardening. “I want to be able to know more about gardening so that way I can use my new knowledge for next year,” states Junior, Shannon Barry.

The gardening project is a fun way to learn about the vegetables and crops outside. Since its a new thing for the high school, its a great way for the students and teacher to learn new things not just by themselves but together.



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