

# The 56th Street Journal

Veritas Preparatory Academy's Monthly Student Newspaper Volume 1, Issue 4  
February 2018

## Academic Field Day: Charlemagne Wins!



### Teacher of the Month: Mr. Joshua Rognstad By: Jamie Greene

Mr. Joshua Rognstad, who teaches 11th and 12th grade economics as well as 10th grade humane letters, has been inspiring students to uncover the nature of humans not only in the marketplace but everywhere.

When asked which subject he preferred to teach, despite initially refusing, he answered "junior economics, seniors know why."

That response embodies Mr. Rognstad's entire teaching style, a combination of fun and joking with traditional learning, and is part of what makes him our teacher of the month.

Outside of teaching, he enjoys being an  
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### Girls Basketball Profile: Madeline Young By: Lauren Bruner

With an outstanding academic record and a part time job, it is hard to imagine junior Madeline Young also attends daily basketball practices and weekly games; but somehow she manages to do exactly that.

Young has been playing for the Veritas Basketball team as a post since 7th grade, committing herself to hours of countless practices and games. With the position of a post, Young is right under the basket and is responsible for rebounding the ball.

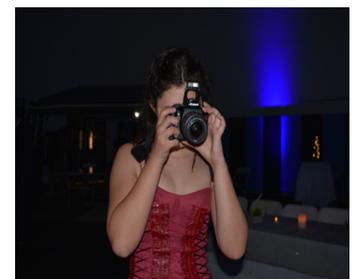
The work required to achieve success in this complex game is itself a weighty undertaking, but Young also  
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### Valhalla Winter Formal

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uncle and writing, specifically stories for his nieces and nephew.

He says he was motivated to become a teacher in order to “inculcate the values of what is true, good, and beautiful in young minds.”

It is this passion for education of the soul and mind along with his relationships with students, that he finds to be both the most challenging and rewarding aspects of teaching.

Specifically, he revealed that “finding the line between discipline and training students to be studious without crushing their souls” is what he finds most challenging. As to what he loves most about teaching, Mr. Rognstad simply said: “it’s home.”

**Books on your nightstand right now:** *Philokalia*, *Pride and Prejudice* -Jane Austen, *Congress of Vienna*  
**Profession besides your own would you most like to attempt:** interest free banker  
**Have dinner with anyone living or dead:** Dostoevsky  
**Favorite word:** entrepreneur  
**Least favorite word:** fair

**Favorite quote:** “When a man’s ways please the Lord he makes even his enemies be at peace with him” - Proverb 16:7

“Forget about truth and beauty, let’s focus on money” - Mr. Rognstad



*Pictures submitted by Lilly Golich and Nina Sarmiento*

**Girls' Basketball Profile** continued from page 1

balances her commitment to the sport along with her homework and other extracurricular activities.

Young loves playing the sport and recommends the sport to anyone who enjoys intense competition while still having a close team atmosphere. Young says her favorite parts of basketball are not only the fierce competition and aggressive spirit of the game, but also sharing the spotlight with her fellow teammates. She describes the team as a family, always cheering each other on and motivating one another to achieve excellence on the court.

Not only has years of demanding practice improved her skills on the court, but she says it has also built up her confidence off the court. Young says having to be vocal and assertive during competition have been skills that translate to presenting her ideas in a similar manner in Humane Letters and other classes.

In the future, Young hopes to be able to step up to the daunting task of filling the role of the team's talented seniors who will be leaving in the upcoming year.

**Boys' Basketball Profile: Zach Jackson**

By: Katie O'Connor

As one of the captains of the Varsity Boy's Basketball Team, sophomore Zach Jackson is an exemplary Veritas athlete. He works hard on the basketball court and in the classroom, balancing the challenging Veritas curriculum with practices and games.

The Veritas Prep Varsity Boy's Basketball Team is full of players ready to work hard and face challenging opponents. The team is unique because of the close relationships between the players.

"The best part about playing not just basketball, but every sport at Veritas, is that you get to be close with all of the players on the team," says Jackson. "There really isn't a single player that isn't friends with another player on the team. This even goes for the seniors all the way down to the freshmen. Overall, we are closer

than I think most basketball teams are."

The team has improved this season, and the amount of talented young players on the team has Zach looking forward to continued improvement in the next few seasons. The addition of the younger players will bring increased enthusiasm for the basketball program at Veritas.

"For next season, I'm excited to see how the younger players on the team are able to improve, since there are quite a few of them," says Jackson. "The way they are able to play now shows how much potential we have as a team."

Zach Jackson enjoys the opportunities for improvement that the Veritas Varsity Basketball Team provides. He worked hard to become the lead scorer and rebounder on the team this year. He has scored a total of 159 points this season and helped lead the team as one of its captains.

In addition to playing basketball, Zach looks forward to joining the Veritas Varsity baseball team in the spring. He says that he thinks it will be a great experience for him and he is excited to see how the season turns out. One of the reasons Zach is especially glad to be at Veritas is that it provides lots of opportunities for everyone to get the practice and playing time to improve at any sport that they might enjoy.

**Thoughts on Project Week**

By: Olivia Pitcl

Over the past few years, many Veritas students had undertaken the refreshing task of project week, a sort of learning exploit taking place over the last week of winter break before the normal school routine begins.

Whether it consisted of building a miniature castle, constructing a diorama, or rehearsing a science fair presentation, the labor always managed to provide an excitement on the first day of return, and even the long

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**Thoughts on Project Week** continued from page 3

hours and sheer frustration gave students a reason to re-engage.

However, this year the students had become the guinea pigs of a new, school-wide project: the reading and discussion of a book, nominally Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Though this project certainly did not require as much time spent as the other projects, the unprecedented event attracted both confusion and commendation over the previous custom.

In transitioning from the end of the week to the first few minutes of school, many were intrigued by the agenda of the half day.

Right after attendance, the experiment began with a brief assembly, where everyone was bottlenecked through the two entry points into the gym. There, they sat quietly and listened to the opening words of Headmaster Dean, who succinctly introduced the spirit of the project and concluded with a hint to visit the story of Bacchus and Philemon before dismissing all back to their assigned classrooms.

After a discussion and an enlightening performance from the faculty, students were set to try their own hand at acting, which could not hold a candle to that of the teachers. In fact, most student representations fell to timidity and vulnerability, with only a few exceptions.

Nevertheless, as reinforced by the closing assembly, the students still attained a new unity in the process of this new method.

Specifically, having taken place over all grades, the project allowed the students to formally discuss among the grade levels, though separated by high school and middle school. Through this opportunity, the upper-classmen could more directly demonstrate the impressive strides that come with maturing through the curriculum, yet even more impressive was the way the younger grades rose to the challenge, engaging with the text towards a common pursuit, thus adding value to the same experience.

Though a few of the old projects will be missed, a few grades continue the tradition, and have only changed the due dates, such as that of the sixth grade science fair and the eleventh grade Rube Goldberg projects. Ultimately, whichever tradition survives or not, Veritas has much to gain from a project at the beginning of the semester, for the change in routine mixed with a school-wide event sets the most difficult quarter off with ease and excitement.

**Creative Corner: Student Poetry****Villanelle**

My heart right here does long for this goodbye  
Then, all I wanted was your time of day  
I used to want you so, I cannot lie.

Your time of day, your night, your bright blue sky  
Our laughs, our love, our bed right where we lay  
My heart right here does long for this goodbye.

I gave you all my time to want to try  
To make the days we have feel more okay,  
I used to want you so, I cannot lie.

Consumed in lows, you used to be my high,  
The color in this earth has turned to grey,  
My heart right here does long for this goodbye.

Tonight I sit in silence, still, and cry,  
I know what's right and that I cannot stay,  
I used to want you so, I cannot lie.

But now when you are here I can't comply  
Right now, I need to have my time away,  
My heart right here does long for this goodbye  
I used to want you so, I cannot lie.

### Academic Field Day Photo Gallery



House Charlemagne takes the cup by winning the tie against Da Vinci with a Senior tarp race



Academic Field Day Gallery continued from page 5



*Pictures submitted by Nina Sarmiento*



Enjoys this Valentine's Day themed word search and heart coloring page to cut out and give to someone special on February 14th!

C U U U V A L E N T I N E S J  
 F U A H U E Q J J X N Q R K P  
 U T P H R Q Z P S W E E T C Q  
 X J W I J A U H A A W M A R V  
 Q I F R D R C D E O C X J B L  
 Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L  
 S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C  
 S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H  
 Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U  
 G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G  
 I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S  
 F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J  
 T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B  
 A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H  
 A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F

- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine

