



# The Pershing Post

Logo by Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

"For the students. by the students"

January 2019

## A Look into the Pershing Volleyball Practices

- Written by Adayani Magdaleno (Class 801)

Here's a special sneak peak into the Pershing's volleyball practices with Ms. Broker, their coach and the 8th grade dean.

Once the day ends, the Pershing volleyball girls have several choices on what they should do before practice starts at 2:30pm. They have ten minutes to either: change into appropriate clothing, grab a snack, or go straight to the gym. Once they arrive at the gym, they can partner up and start to practice simple but important skills: such as their bumping, their control in bumping, sets and even spikes.

As soon as Ms. Broker enters the gym, she assigns a girl to start the stretches and all of the teammates stretch

their arms and legs. However, if anyone comes late to practice then all the girls have to do laps for the amount of time that they were late. "Not fun but definitely encourages us to come to practice early or do things quicker," says one of the girls.

Once the girls are done warming up, it's time to really get practice started. A popular drill that is used during volleyball practice is the 3-6-9 drill - also known as control passing. During this drill, two girls bump the ball to each other with a distance of three feet between them, then six feet, then finally nine feet.

The girls then sit on the

floor with a few feet between them and set the ball back and forth to each other. This drill allows them to work on their balance, setting skills and proper formation. Finally, the girls even participate in scrimmages in order to simulate a real volleyball against an opposing team.

Volleyball practice requires a lot of dedication and endurance and our girls volleyball team is definitely a team to look out for. They'll have to start preparing for the staff vs. students volleyball game tournament in the upcoming months!

## Here's My Thoughts: Electives at Pershing

- Written by Anonymous

Having electives this year is very helpful as we can select a class that we possibly didn't have in the past. When it comes to the Spanish elective class, it's only allowed for eighth grade honor students, which I find unfair for students that want to learn the language. As a result, there is a Spanish club that's open for people who are interested in the language. I'm not crazy about the P.E. elective since the seasons affect whether you can go outside to play or stay inside. On the bright side, there are indoor sports clubs that act like a second option for students who weren't accepted in the P.E. elective. The music and art electives are some of the most interesting and lively in the school. The halls are filled with art pieces that students created.

Overall, Pershing's electives have been a great way for students to explore their interests before having to apply for high school. There's some tweaks that need to be made but it's been a great start so far! What took us so long to think of this idea?

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**The Pershing Post wants to hear from you!!!!**

**Go to this link:**

**[bit.ly/PershingSurvey119](http://bit.ly/PershingSurvey119)**

**to vote for the BEST elective at our school!**

## A Day in the Life - Daydreaming in Gym

By: Anonymous

The fear of point deductions is the only thing convincing me to not show up to class late. Right now, they are planning to turn gym classes into co-ed gym. Thinking about this plan has me distracted about the exercises they're trying to make me do! Personally, I hate co-ed gym idea. Being with both genders, has both advantages and disadvantages. I don't think anybody will enjoy co-ed gym but they'll try it out until they make it official by law to change it. I'm sure the teachers aren't too happy about it because they can't do many sports as the rules state no contact sports. The girls will probably hate it because they have to be with the boys and feel like they are weaker than them. Also, if they get the male gym teachers, then they have to do the fitness gram every month. The boys probably will hate it, too, because they can't play contact sports (honestly, we all know I'm talking about basketball). Not to mention, they'll think the girls are weaker than them, too! The only good part about gym class is the fact that as long as you follow the rules, it is a free 100 on your report card. I already don't like gym now because I prefer to eat. If I have to be completely honest, the circuit training isn't that bad, but I'll never admit that in person. Ok, back to reality, love the teachers but still can't stand having to exercise!

## Teachers of the Month - January Edition

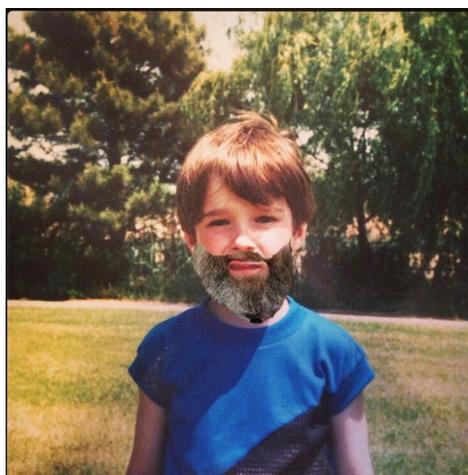
**Mr. Foote - By: Jason Ren (Class 801)**

Mr. Foote is an 8th grade ELA teacher that has been working at Pershing for the last twelve years and has a great sense of humor. (I'm sure everyone in the building already knows this!)

When he was younger, he originally wanted to become a high school algebra teacher but then soon realized that he had to take many hard courses. Then, he changed his mind to become an English teacher partially because he likes reading. He mostly enjoys teaching because being a teacher allows him to interact with the students and really make a difference in their lives. In his opinion, the hardest part about teaching is that teachers have a lot of responsibility (like

trying to teach in the classroom while still doing other mandatory things like preparing for and attending meetings). Overall, though, Mr. Foote enjoys working at Pershing and loves hearing about his past students' successes!

Make sure to say hi to him in the halls - he's hard to miss with his big beard!



**A young Mr. Foote** (always had that full beard!)

**Ms. Pecoraro - By: Han Zhang (Class 801)**

Ms. Pecoraro is a teacher that has been teaching 6th grade math for the past 15 years. Ms. Pecoraro is extremely happy with her job because she has always wanted to work with children. She even used to tutor her neighbors when she was younger!

She decided to teach math because she is fascinated about how there are many different ways to get one answer. What she likes most about teaching is making connections and helping students in and out of the classroom. To add on to the work she does in the classroom, she was part of Pershing's Broadway Jr. team for over 10 years! This has allowed her to form some great relationships with her

students. She also loved to encourage students who do not do well academically to shine either on the stage or as part of the set crew.

Overall, teaching seems to be Ms. Pecoraro's calling and passion - and we hope she stays at Pershing for another 15 years!



**7th Grade Feb 5**  
**Students of the Month:**



**Rebecca Li -  
Class 701**



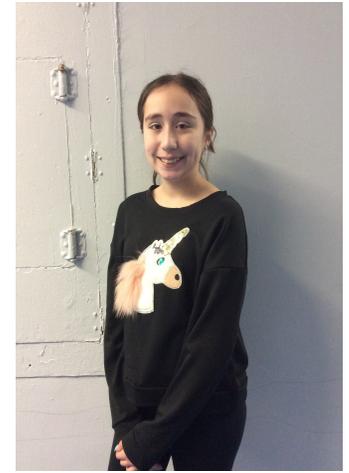
**Shirley Lin -  
Class 702**



**Yu Jie Zheng -  
Class 703**



**Yala Huang -  
Class 709**



**Kailyn Rios -  
Class 703**

Here are our Feb 5 7th graders for this month! These students were nominated by teachers, Mrs. Whiffin and Ms. Delince. These students were chosen because of their tremendous growth throughout this school year and dedication to persist through any challenges they face.

If you see them in the halls, give them a big high five to congratulate them!

**NOTE: Next month's Feb 5 students will be our superb 6th graders so look out for those students in the next article!**

### **New Years Resolutions:**

#### **What are they and what resolutions can students make?**

**By: Amanda Ruan (Class 801)**

New Year's resolutions are common goals that many people attempt to reach as a tradition after New Year's Day. This is a way for people to record their goals for the new year. Many students make resolutions to do well in school but there are many other options as well!

Common resolutions students make are: to stop or cut down on procrastination, get the same amount of sleep each night and find time to enjoy themselves (after they finish all of their school work, of course). To stop procrastinating, you need to have some self control and stay away from things that distract you. To get enough sleep and find time to enjoy yourself, you need to make your health a priority. For instance, only play 2 hours of video games and go to bed 1 hour earlier than normal so you're energized when school starts.

**Word of advice:** Put all distractions aside and finish your current assignments!

### **Having Trouble Studying for Tests?**

#### **Here's FIVE Tips Just for You!**

**By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)**

**Flashcards** (When you review the flash cards, you should make sure to study until you feel confident that you know all of the material.)

**Quizlet** (By creating a study set on Quizlet, you can review the flashcards online and Quizlet has review games to make studying fun!)

**Make a Study Group With Friends** (By doing this, you and your friends can test each other on the things you are studying for.)

**Study Your Old Tests** (Take out all the past tests you've taken and use it as a study guide to help you pass with flying colors.)

**Making a Study Week** (By making time for a week to study, you continue to get better

each day of the week in remembering the things you need to study for.)

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**Traditional New Year's Day Recipe:**

**Iced Melon Moroccan Mint Tea**

**By: Shuhana Uddin (Class 801)**



Here's a recipe for a delicious tea that I enjoy with my family and hope you can enjoy with yours!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of water
- 12 fresh mint leaves
- 4 individual green tea bags
- 1/3 cup of sugar
- 2 1/2 cups diced honeydew melon
- 1 1/2 cups ice cubes
- Additional ice cubes

Procedure:

In a large saucepan, bring water to a boil. Remove from the heat; add mint and tea bags.  
 Cover and steep for 3-5 minutes.  
 Discard mint and tea bags.  
 Stir in the sugar.  
 In a blender, process honeydew until blended.  
 Add 1-1/2 cups ice and tea; process until blended.  
 Serve over additional ice.

Nutrition Facts:

1 cup (8 oz): 81 calories, 0 fat (0 saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 9 mg sodium, 21g carbohydrate (21g sugars, 1g fiber), 0 protein

**Movies You'll Fall in Love With in February**

**By: Alexander Castelan (Class 808)**

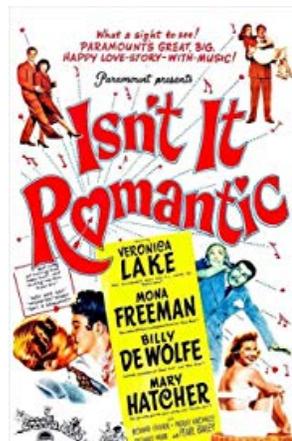
The Lego Movie: The Second Part  
 February 8

The movie takes part five years after the events of the first movie. Emmet and the others are facing LEGO Duplo invaders. They must try and stop them so that Bricksburg will become awesome again.



Isn't it Romantic?  
 February 13

Natalie, a New York architect tries hard to be noticed by her colleagues when suddenly she encounters a mugger and soon finds herself in a romantic comedy with her as the leading lady.



Alita: Battle Angel  
 February 14

Alita, an abandoned cyborg is taken by a cyber doctor who erases all her memories. She tries to live in her new life as everything seems new to her.



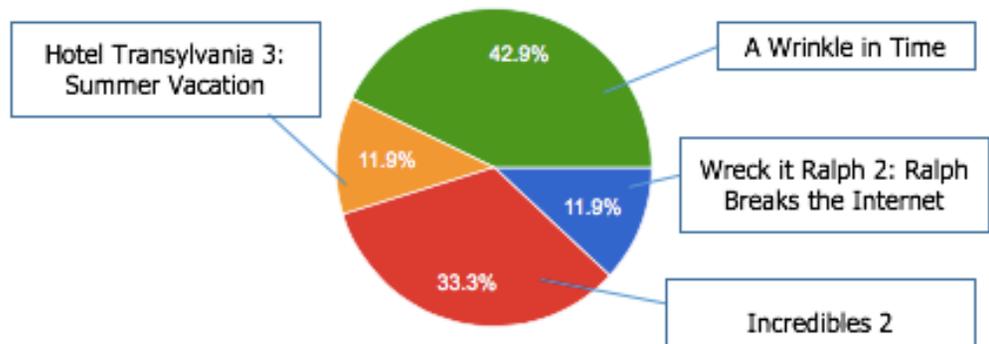
How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World  
 February 22

The movie is about Hiccup and his dragon, Toothless, discovering their destinies. Hiccup and Toothless must journey together to the hidden world in order to protect the things they treasure most.



**Poll Results:**

**What was your favorite movie of 2018?**



## All You Need to Know About New Years Day

By: Chi Ling Jiang (Class 810)

### When did New Year's Day traditions begin?

New Year's Day is celebrated on the first day of January. New Year's was not always celebrated on the first day of January, though. According to the Ancient Roman calendar, it used to follow the lunar cycle and the new year began in March.

### Where is the first place to celebrate New Year's Day?

The first places to celebrate New Year's Day are Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati. Parts of Kiribati were the first places to welcome the new year while American Samoa and Baker Island in the United States are among the last.

### What do people eat on New Year's Day?

On New Year's Day, people eat peas or beans that symbolize coins or wealth. You can choose traditional black eyed peas, lentils or beans to make a dish seasoned with pork, ham or sausage.

### What do people do on New Year's Day?

On New Year's Day, people celebrate by dancing, eating, watching the ball drop and lighting fireworks to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. Lastly, people make New Year's resolutions to set goals for the coming year. See our article on New Year's resolutions to learn more!

## Get Hit By Cupid -

### What Does Each Rose Color Represent?

By: Wenting Lin , Ziyang Chen , Jingwen Weng (Class 810)

红玫瑰是爱情与浪漫的传统象征，也是一种说“我爱你”的方式。红玫瑰也代表了美丽和完美。

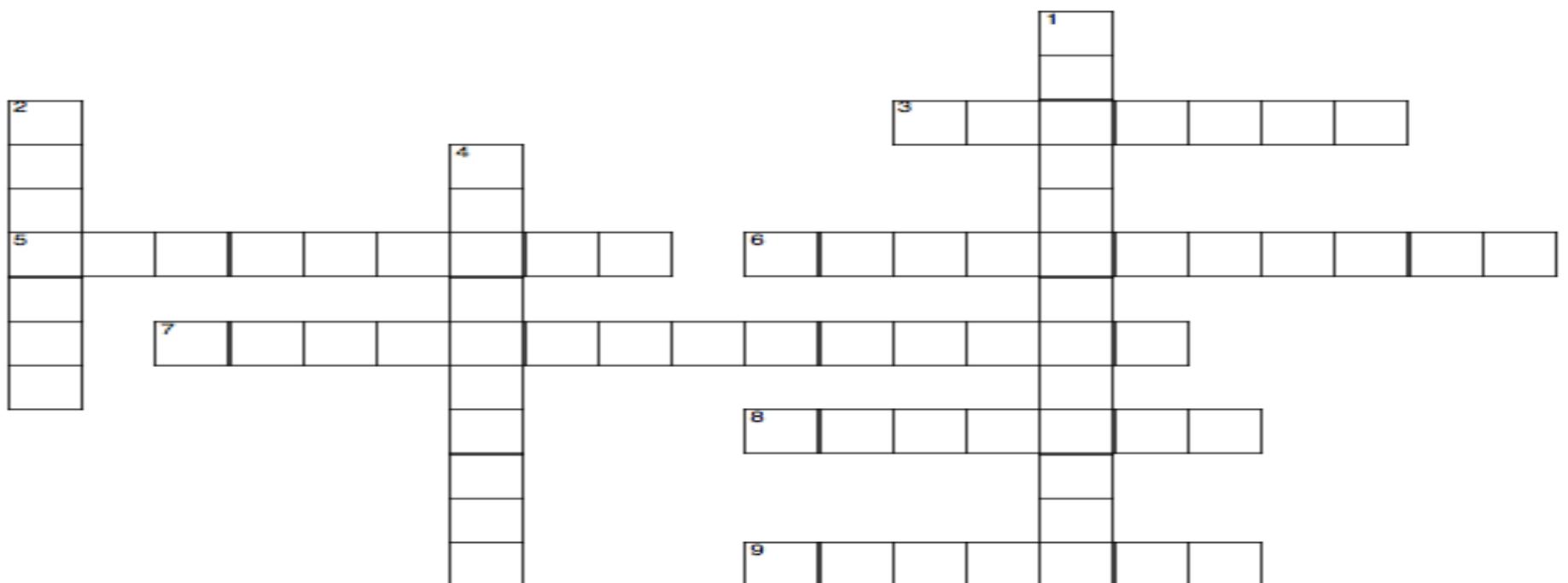
粉红色的玫瑰象征着快乐，优雅和钦佩。

黄玫瑰创造温暖的感觉，提供给人快乐感。给予黄玫瑰可以告诉别人他们带给了你的快乐和你所分享的友谊。

白玫瑰，纯粹的色彩，代表纯真，纯洁和魅力。白玫瑰传统上用于婚礼，可以代表新的开端。我们相信白玫瑰也能表达怀念和清白。

橙色玫瑰唤起能量，可以表明热情，欲望和兴奋。赠送橙色玫瑰可以象征您充满激情的浪漫，并分享您与亲人关系的兴奋。

## Chinese New Year



**ACROSS**

- 3 A celebration
- 5 A food that has meat in it
- 6 Put money in it and give it away
- 7 12 animals
- 8 Long claws, long body, and shows lucky
- 9 Lights but in a red case

**DOWN**

- 1 A cookie telling about a fortune
- 2 A soup base food
- 4 A fruit that's similar to oranges



- Crossword and artwork by Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

Everyone around the world spends time with their loved ones. In some countries, on February 14th, Valentine's Day is a special time where people have fun and appreciate their partner. However, most people don't know where the holiday originated from. Throughout time, the day has changed in many forms and some traditions have been kept and used worldwide.

Some people believe that the origin of Valentine's Day was to celebrate an anniversary of Saint Valentine's death. Other people believe that on Valentine's Day, the Christian Church decided that there would be a Valentine's feast at their church. It was an attempt to Christianize the celebration of Lupercalia, which is a holiday that voids evil

## The Origin of Valentine's Day

By: Jessica Qiu and Janine Liu (Class 804)



spirits and make the cities pure again.

Many contributions throughout history presented the Valentine's Day that we know today. There are many different versions of Valentine's Day, but one of the

most famous has it that Saint Valentine, while in prison, fell in love with the daughter of the jailer. Marriage for soldiers was banned at his time because the ruler believed marriage made soldiers weak. It is said that he sent her a love letter and

signed, "from your Valentine", which turned into a popular saying till this day.

The most popular gift on Valentine's Day is flowers. Flowers represent love and compassion, which is the reason why lovers express their feelings in this way. Chocolate is also a popular gift given on Valentine's Day. It is believed that the exchanging of chocolates is how couples declared their love for each other in the past. Gifts from the past had a very different meaning from what it is today. Valentine's Day can be an interesting and fun holiday even if you don't have a partner and the history that is buried behind the date should be appreciated.

## A Valentine's Day Riddle - Written by Pershing Students

By: Angela Chen (820), Janine Liu and Jessica Qiu (Class 804)

On February 14th, four couples wanted to celebrate Valentine's Day together at a restaurant. The waitress, however, loses the list for the reservation table and wants to figure out the tables before any of the couples arrive. Can you help the waitress figure out the seating order before she gets fired?



Artwork by Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

The name of the 4 wives are Taylor, Nessa, Rachael, and Mary.  
The names of the 4 husbands are Bob, Jesse, Douglass, and Anthony.  
The tables are placed from left to right and spell out: L,O,V,E.

She also knows the different amount of years they have been married: 30 years, 15 years, 10 years, and 5 years.

### Hints:

The couple that has a total of 4 S letters in their names have been married for the longest.  
Anthony and Rachael have been married 15 years less than Jesse and his wife.  
Nessa, who has been married the longest, sits at table O, which is 2 tables away from where her brother Douglass sits.

Taylor who has been married for 5 years, doesn't sit at table E.  
Mary who sits at the outer tables has been married for 10 years.  
The couple who has reserved table L have been married for 15 years.

(Answer is on page 9)



## Article 13: The Meme Censoring Machine

### #SAVEYOURINTERNET

By: Walin Wasee (703)

Have you ever watched a Youtube video? Enjoyed a meme? Do you own a Facebook or Twitter account? Have you posted an image or gif on one of these sites? If you said yes to any one of these questions then you have a lot to worry about with this new article. Nearly everything the internet stands for will be demolished with this new European Union article and many things will be at stake. Facebook states that Article 13 is, "A threat to an open and free internet" and as stated by the CEO of Youtube, "A threat to creators livelihoods".

So what is it? The European Union Copyright in the Digital Single Market is trying to place more responsibility on websites like Youtube (where many user-generated content is formed to copyrighted material that is not shared online). In the past, users would get in trouble for using copyrighted material and the person that owns the copyright would be responsible for taking the material down.

However, the problem lies deeper than just who is responsible for taking the material down. For one, Article 13 will be harmful to users because it limits what you can share on the internet, even when it is legal. Any and all complaint mechanisms will easily be bypassed if the blocking is done under conditions of violation rather than a specific copyright claim. If platforms themselves become responsible for taking down content, they will randomly remove content based on broad terms. If this happens, content creators will see their work blocked and the platforms won't survive under these rules. On the other hand, it will affect competition more than anything because only sites with more money will be able to survive the restrictions that Article 13 imposes because of how much money they would lose. Overall, Article 13 seems great on paper but the consumer, users and content creators will be the ones to suffer.

## An Introduction to the Astrology Zodiac Signs

By: Eric Lin (801)

### Aquarius: Jan 20 to Feb 18

Your element is Air. Your symbol is the Water-bearer. Your ruling planet is Saturn. You are Dreamy, Independent, and Intelligent.

### Pisces: Feb 19 to Mar 19

Your element is Water. Your symbol are two fishes. Your ruling planet is Neptune. You are Sensitive, Creative, and Compassionate.

### Aries: March 20 to April 20

Your element is Fire. Your symbol is a Ram. Your ruling planet is Mars. You are Energetic, Independent, and Adventurous.

### Taurus: April 21 to May 20

Your element is Earth. Your symbol is a Bull. Your ruling planet is Venus. You are Mature, Dependable, and Faithful.

### Gemini: May 21 to June 20

Your element is Air. Your symbol is two twins. Your ruling planet is Mercury. You are Versatile, Generous, and Playful.

### Cancer: June 21 to July 22

Your element is Water. Your symbol is a crab. Your ruling planet is the Moon. You are Traditional, Family-oriented, and Protective.

### Leo: July 23 to Aug 22

Your element is Fire. Your symbol is a lion. Your ruling planet is the Sun. You are a Leader, Warm, and Loving.

### Virgo: Aug 23 to Sept 22

Your element is Earth. Your symbol is a Maiden. Your ruling planet is Mercury. You are Productive, Dependable and Loyal.

### Libra: Sept 23 to Oct 22

Your element is Air. Your symbol is a Scale. Your ruling planet is Venus. You are a Nature's person, Easy-going, and Charming.

### Scorpio: Oct 23 to Nov 21

Your element is Water. Your symbol is a Scorpion. Your ruling planet is Pluto. You are a Driven person, Determined, and Passionate

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 to Dec 21

Your element is Fire. Your symbol is a Archer. Your ruling planet is Jupiter. You are Optimistic, Spontaneous, and Playful

### Capricorn: Dec 22 to Jan 19

Your element is Earth. Your symbol is a Sea goat. Your ruling planet is Saturn. You are Patient, Responsible, and Strategic.

## Syrian Civil War: March 15, 2011 - The Day the World Changed Forever

By: Yu Chen Lin (804)

### What happened?

For 40 years, the Assad family and a handful of elites rules Syria as a secular state. They ran Syria's only political party, the Baath Party, and are members of a Muslim group called the "Alawites", part of the Shia minority in this majority Sunni country. In 1963, the regime imposed what became a permanent state of emergency. This allowed the secret police, the "Mukhabarat", to detain anybody at anytime without charge. Long before the war, jails were filled with political prisoners and countless Syrians were taken, tortured, and disappeared. By early 2011, Arab Spring demonstrations were erupting in and around the Middle East. In March of that year, some teenagers in Daraa were arrested and tortured for spray painting an anti-Bashar al Assad slogan on a wall of their school. Unarmed demonstrators demanded the boys' release, but Assad's forces responded violently. Word spread and within days, people began organizing local committees to coordinate protests across the country. They demanded an end to the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners, and an end to economic inequality. Assad blamed the unrest on criminal gangs of foreign conspirators, saying, "Terrorists are loose on the streets", but he did eventually make some changes. He fired his cabinet and the governor of Daraa and appointed new ones. The Baath Party also allowed new parties to run in parliamentary elections, on the condition that his party handpick the candidates. And finally, Assad declared an end to the state of emergency, but the

next day, he replaced it with a new even stricter set of laws against protesting.

### The turning point

A turning point came when thousands gathered in Homs on the city's main square, under its clock tower. They vowed to stay all night and set up tents, much like other protests of the Arab uprising in the region. At dawn on April 18, security forces stormed the square, killing dozens. That was the tipping point, Homs became known as the "capital of the revolution". A series of unarmed protests for reform started to become a fight to end the regime. Pro Assad militias called Shabiha started to get traction, in response peaceful demonstrations now became violent. Some soldiers, refused to fire on protesters and left their units in the Syrian Arab Army (SAA), then joined the local self-defense militias to form what is now known as the Free Syrian Army (FSA). Hundreds of different troops sprung up, each acting individually to protect its area from Assad's forces. As the FSA grew, Assad's forces retreated from some areas. For the first time in generations, Syrians elected their own leaders. They coordinated with civil society and activists in exile and formed the National Coalition of Revolutionary and Opposition Forces known as the "ETILAF". They intended to form a temporary government when the regime was removed, which they expected would be soon. By February 2012 almost 8,000 people were killed, as the violence spread. Syria's neighbors reacted, The Arab League proposed a de-escalation plan to calm things

down. Assad agreed, and allowed a team of observers into Syria. They reported seeing tanks on the streets of major cities and no slowing of the violence. They voted to bring an end to recognising Assad as a leader, instead granting Syria's seat in the Arab League to the ETILAF. Assad's forces were weak, nearly half of the 220,000 strong Syrian Army had defected and joined the rebellion along with top officials. Even the Prime Minister, Riyad Hijab defected, but Assad insisted he would not step down.

### New Forces

The opposition was emboldened by support from several countries who formed the Friends of Syria coalition. They backed the ETILAF, and gave them light weapons but without heavy artillery and anti-aircraft weapons, they were still outmatched. On Assad's side, Iran sent weapons and soldiers to rescue the Assad regime from collapse. Iran, a Shia-majority country, also supported fighters from the Lebanese group Hezbollah, who entered Syria at Assad's invitation to help his forces put down the uprising. The brewing war was also starting to attract foreign fighters and militias. Assad incorporated Alawite militias into a paramilitary force called a Natural Defence Force, run by Iran's top general. On the other side, despite political and cultural differences within the FSA, at the outset the opposition was united in fighting for the same cause: to replace Assad's regime with a democratic state for all Syrians. But that didn't last. The FSA began to fracture, taking the advantage of the power of vacuum, members of Al Qaeda began pouring into

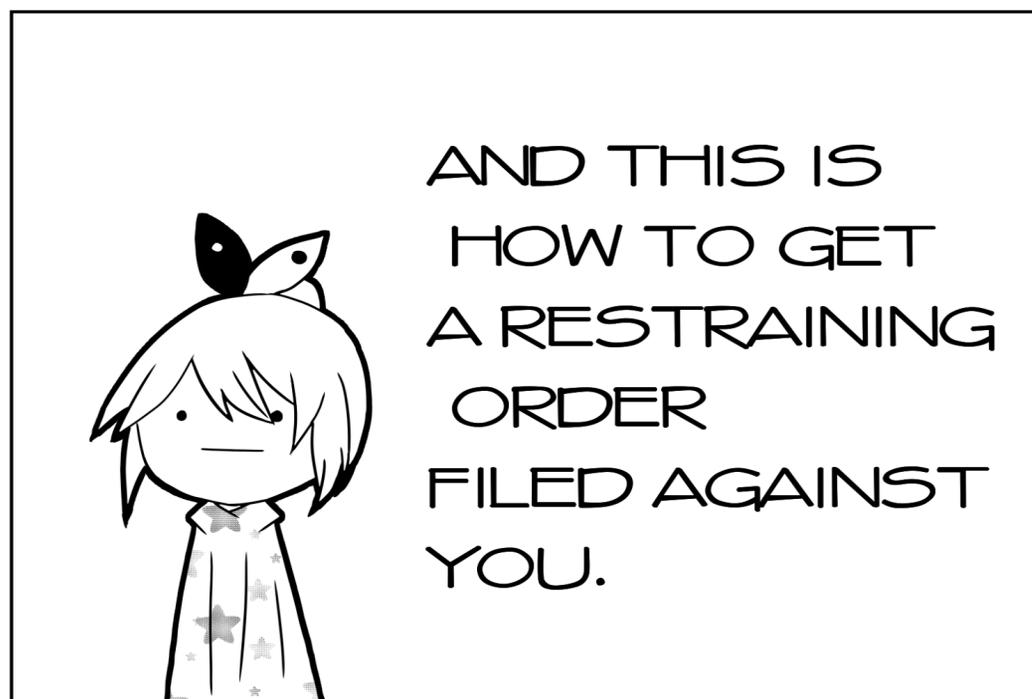
Syria calling themselves Jabhat al Nusra. Separately, another party to the war had appeared in the north of the country, the YPG militia, looking to carve out an autonomous region in Syria and in neighboring Iraq. The YPG is the Syrian branch of the PKK a designated terrorist group by the US, EU, and Turkey. By the end of 2012 they were entrenched in the north and not in confrontation with the regime. At this point, four groups were competing for power in Syria, Assad's forces, the FSA, Al Qaeda groups and the YPG.

### America's Reactions

Russia's military interventions weakened the FSA, allowing the regime, the YPG and Daesh to strengthen. Turkey reacted to this new threat. It entered northern Syria together with the FSA to clear out Daesh and YPG from its borders. When the regime bombed Khan Shaykhun with chemical weapons, President Trump ordered the first US strike against the regime, targeting the base where the chemical attack was launched. The 4 forces finally turned the tide against Daesh and were driving them out of the cities and towns. In Syria, the US backed SDF and defeated Daesh in Raqqa. Within a month, Daesh was a spent force in urban areas of Syria. In early 2018, Turkey again entered Syria, this time targeting the YPG in Afrin. This time, Assad, not the US, came to the YPG's defense.

### So, where are we now?

- Over 500,00 Syrians killed
- 10 million Syrians Displaced
- Assad regained control of most important cities in Syria



Artwork by Enni Jiang (Class 804)

♥  
**HAPPY VALENTINE'S!!!**

Answer for riddle on page 6:

<u>Table L</u>	<u>Table O</u>	<u>Table V</u>	<u>Table E</u>
15 years	30 year	5 years	10 years
Anthony	Jesse	Bob	Douglass
Rachael	Nesse	Taylor	Mary





