

THE JagTown News

February 2015

Announcements:

- The Chess Club will be meeting on Thursdays. All are welcome!
- After school tutoring is available for all refugee students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Make sure you pay your senior dues
- Want to join the Newspaper?? We meet on Tuesdays after school in Room 436S. Reach out to Madame Dodge, Ms. Puntney or any of the staff writers on page

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Teacher of the Month: Ms. Morton

By Ronald Walter

This month, students have elected Ms. Morton as the JagTown Teacher of the Month. Ms. Morton teaches Literature to tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders in room 216E. She has been teaching at Gateway for about fifteen years.

In college, Ms. Morton got a degree in English at Mizzou and then got a degree in education at the University of Missouri—St. Louis shortly after.

During her spare time, she says she loves to read. Her favorite book is *Catcher in the Rye*. Her favorite movies are *Rocky* and *The God Father*.

When asked about her favorite part of teaching,

she says, "I like books so I really get excited when kids like what we read." She also adds, "Reading helps kids make connections to things they thought they couldn't connect with before."



Ms. Morton. Photo courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools

Ms. Morton didn't plan to teach high school at first. Despite initially wanting to teach college students, she says, "People told me

that since I like teens I should teach high school students instead."

She has gained a lot of heartwarming replies for this decision. Taylor Lewis '17 says, "She is an outstanding teacher."

Thomas Madescu '16 says, "She's the bomb diggity."

According to Ayonna Muhammad '16, "She's smart, relates the message, and makes it stick." Beatriz Diaz '15 says, "Even though she isn't my teacher anymore, [I] still manage to use the materials she taught me sophomore and senior year."

Through the nominations and kind words she received, it is clear that Ms. Morton really has impacted the lives of all of her students.

Gateway's Newest Member: Ms. Lofton

By Mikyra Hamilton

As of the 12th of January, Ms. Lofton joined our Gateway family. She will be teaching Geometry and Algebra.

Ms. Lofton comes from an engineering background and plans to bring a fresh new outlook on learning

with her corporate experience and years of mentoring students.

Her time at Gateway has gone very well. Ms. Lofton says, "The team camaraderie in the math department is awesome and has been so welcoming and helpful."

In her free time she loves singing, tutoring, and cooking for "LOTS" of people. She also is a gospel comedy thespian—someone who makes gospel plays. Also she enjoys spending her time watching detective shows like NCIS, CSI, and Numbers.

Poetry Slam Prepares for a Year of Competition

By Jeffrey Richman

National Poetry Month is April, so is it time for some poetry you may ask? Well look no further than Gateway's Poetry Slam Team.

"The Poetry Slam Club was started to teach kids how to communicate better," Ms. Lucero says, "and to have an outlet to their creativity and their emotions and also to help them feel more confident by getting up in front of people



UrbSlam Performance

and getting positive feedback."

This year the club is looking forward to building off of last year's experience.

Lucero says, "They just need to be ready to focus and to work hard. They did good for a bunch of beginners last year." To attract new members, the club brought in professional slam poetry artists from the group

UrbSlam St. Louis to meet with members. One performer said, "A poetry slam is a competition. You actually perform in these competitions. You write your own work and

"A poetry slam is a competition...You write your own work and you perform"
- UrbSlam St. Louis Poetry Performer

you perform." One of the members of Gateway's team, Sirjohn McKinney '16 says "I like the arts and it is small, but a work in process."

The Poetry Slam Club is looking for some more students. To sign up, go to Room 300S or 115E.

Debate Team Sees Early Success

By Erika Banuelos

The Gateway debate team has gotten off to a strong start this year. After multiple tournaments, the team has placed in several events.

In their most recent tournament on Saturday, January 24th, Jamal Burns '17 achieved second place in the Best Speaker category alongside his partner, Hope Ballard '17.

When asked she has benefited from her time on the debate team, Aminata Kamara '17 says, "It

[helps] me with my SATs, reading in class....spelling, punctuation. It also helps me with my motivation because I used to not like to read in front of people, but now I'm kind of getting used to it."

When asked what she did to prepare for debate tournaments, Hope Ballard explains, "To prepare we go over our cases and our files and we read



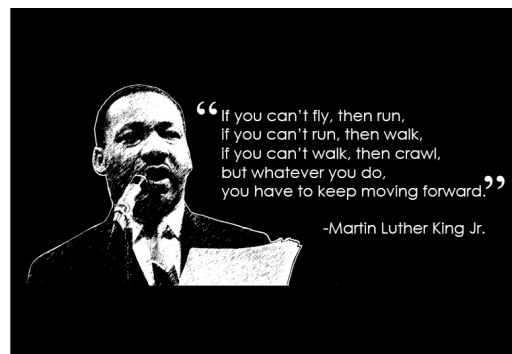
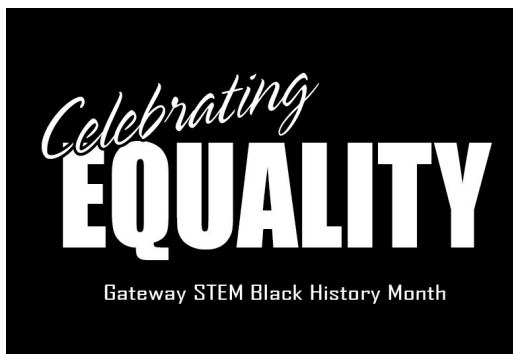
Jamal Burns '17 and Hope Ballard '17

through them, looking at the holes in the case to where the negative team can't rebuttal us causing us to lose the match." Ballard adds, "we read over negative cases to make sure we understand them well enough to rebuttal against others."

Anybody who is interested in debate should contact Ms. Lucero or Ms. Smith.

Black History Month Shirts are on sale

now in the JagTown Store!



Wrestling Team Dominates the League

By Mouhamed Ndiaye

Already halfway through their season, the Gateway Wrestling team has been performing tremendously well and is showing promise for the remaining of this year. Led by Coach Melvin Walls, The Jaguars have accumulated a record of seven wins and a single unfortunate loss as a team this school year.

Made up of about 20 players, the wrestling team has been working hard ever since the season started in November. Their season record is merely a result of 3-hour daily practices and though wrestling is an

individual sport, their determination to win every match as a team is only matched by their unity.

“It’s fun to work with a good group of dedicated wrestlers,” says Coach Walls. “These kids put in hard work and perform



Gateway wrestling team '14-'15. Courtesy of Coach

their best,” he adds. So far the team has wrestled in 3 tournaments including The Chaminda Tournament, in which they came out fifty place. The Jaguars were also able to come out in 5th place in the PHL Tournament and 2nd place in the Af-ton tournament. As they prepare for the SLPS District Tournament, they need the whole school’s support. Hopefully this year Gateway will be the home to a new shiny trophy.

Boy’s Basketball Off to a Slow Start

By Mouhamed Ndiaye

Despite high expectations coming into the season, the Gateway Jaguars Varsity Basketball team has struggled to dominate the league. The team’s season record of 3-12 is a combination of misfortunes and unlucky stumbles on the court, but not the team’s approach or dedication to the sport as a whole. The Jaguars are the only team in the

school who currently practice more than 5 days a week. Newly instated head coach, Mr. Cleveland, says the team always seizes the opportunity to use the gymnasium for a practice session, typically lasting between 2 to 4 hours. Otherwise the team is often found lifting weights and shaping up in the training area below the gym. Though the Jaguars have not seen the success they

wanted thus far this season, their progress is noticeable in their recent performance in the Normandy and Parkway Tournaments.

In the past, the Jaguars have been very prominent and dominant in St. Louis basketball and as the end of the season nears, the team hopes that there is still enough time to turn their season around.

Girl’s Basketball Builds on Previous Success

By Jerrica Jones

After a strong start of the season, the girl’s varsity basketball team has come back from some difficult losses and is looking forward to working together as a team and finishing the season strong.



Gateway vs. McKinley

their way to many victories.

However, the team’s winning streak came to an end with a 20 point loss. After this defeat, Frye says he was focused on “getting [his] players back in the gym and getting ready for a comeback.” Frye adds, “This has been a great season so far.”

With Coach Frye pushing the girls just as he was pushed as an athlete, the girls have worked

Former team member, Xavierana Bold ’15 says, “I’m proud of my

teammates. They have shown me that they can win without me there with them.”

Many girls have stepped up to lead the team including Chrishana Miller ’16. Averaging twelve points a game, Miller has continued to improve throughout the year.

Despite its ups and downs, the team is stayed dedicated to the sport that brought them together. “Basketball means the world to me,” says Miller.

February 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Girls Basketball @ Metro 6:00 PM JV Girls Basketball @ Metro 4:30PM Boys Basketball @ Lift for Life Academy Charter @ 6:45	Varsity Wrestling Roosevelt vs. Gateway @ Gateway @ 4:30pm	Boys Basketball Metro vs. Gateway @ Gateway @ 6pm	3rd Quarter Progress Reports	ACT Testing
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Varsity Girls Basketball @ Hazelwood East @ 5:30pm JV Girls Varsity @ HA	University of Central Missouri (UCM) Rep. visit @ 9:30am (all grades)	FAFSA Frenzy @ 5:30 (Library)	Special Administrative Board Meeting @ 6:00 PM Girls Basketball @ Vashon @ 6pm	NO SCHOOL-Professional Dev. Boys Basketball @ Vashon @ 6pm	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day	JV Boys Basketball @ Confluence @ 4:30pm	Girls Basketball Roosevelt vs. Gateway @ Gateway @ 6pm	Boys Basketball Roosevelt vs. Gateway @ Gateway @ 6pm	STLCC Short Term Training Program Workshop Time (Seniors Only) (TBD)	University of Central Missouri (UCM) Bus Tour
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	SE Missouri State Univ. (SEMO) Rep. Visit @ 9am (all grades) Truman State Univ. Rep. Visit @11am (all grades)	SIUC Campus Tour (Juniors/Seniors Only)(TBD)				

An Insight into College Admissions

By Trina Quach

A college application consists of your high school transcript, ACT score, a list of extra-curricular activities, and an essay. Many students are very anxious when they are applying to colleges. What could they include in their application to convince the admission committee to say yes?

Our school's college adviser, Mr. Gilliam, recommends that students focus on their essays and set aside time to brainstorm what they want to write. After doing this, students

should have a teacher proofread it. Mr. Gilliam also suggests that underclassmen focus on doing well in their classes. GPA and standardized test scores will be a huge deciding factor for their admissibility.

Challenging yourself academically is one of the ways to win an acceptance letter. Advanced courses will not only benefit you when applying to colleges, but it will also prepare you for college classes.

Looking past academics, college admission officers are looking for well-rounded students. How you

spend your time after school, on the weekends, and during your summer can help you build your resume. So next time when you are thinking "My grades and ACT score do not define me," remember that there is always a different route.

That being said, meeting your department's standard is crucial if you want to be directly admitted to the program you wish to enter. Beyond considering what the admission committees are looking for, applicants should make sure to find schools that will be a great fit for them.



Seniors Begin Internships in Various Fields

By Fatima al-Hanoosh

One major advantage Gateway has over other public high schools is just that - its major programs. Students get the opportunity to choose a major during their junior and senior years. This gives them experiences unlike those of any other high school student.

During their senior year, Gateway students intern at places related to their major. This gives them hands-on experiences. Smilia Mujakic '15, an EMT major, says, "It gives me real world experiences. It's preparing me for my job because I want to [be an EMT] as a career."



Jya Taylor '15 at her internship for pre-vet at the Aquarium

Gateway offers a wide array of majors, many of which offer internships. For example, in the EMT program, Mr. Riddle says he

has two students at St. Mary's Hospital, one student at St. Claire's Hospital, two at Cardinal Glennon's Hospital, and four at A-MED Ambulance.

Each internship provides students with a unique experience. At an A-MED internship, Mujakic says, "We wait for a call...once we get that call; I take major vital signs like blood pressure and pulse then I hook a monitor up to [the patient]."

The method the teachers use to grade is different than what students typically see in school. Since the seniors aren't doing any assignments for a grade, the students earn their grades based on their actions. The teacher checks to

see if the students show up at their internship, arrive on time, and accomplish all of their responsibilities at their job site.

The internship benefits the students both in high school and in their future careers. Mujakic says,

"It gives me real world experience. It's preparing me for my job because I want to do this for a career"
Smilia Mujakic '15

"The learning experience is better than sitting behind a desk. You learn better."

In addition, students are sometimes offered jobs by the place where they intern. Mr. Riddle says, "Students are always told to apply for jobs. I had one student last year who got hired on the ambulance a week before graduation." He also mentions another one of his students became the St. Louis Fire department's youngest member when he was hired at 18 years old.

Letter From the Editors

The JagTown News was created as a voice for students at Gateway STEM High School. In 2014, there were a lot of significant events that had an impact on our generation. Not only did these events affect our generation, but they also affected our school. The JagTown News is a place where people can express themselves through poetry, art, photography, news stories, and anything that helps get your voice out in the world. We want to make a difference at Gateway. The JagTown News will be the first step in building a stronger and more unified school community.

Congratulations to Dr. Bender, who was named a Peabody Energy Leader in Education for the 2014-2015 year! Thank you Dr. Bender for all that you do for our school!

Staff Writers
 Trina Quach '15
 Adriana Thomas '15
 Sirjohn Mckinney '16
 Jeffrey Richman '16
 Ronald Walter '16
 Fatima Al-Hanoosh '17
 Hope Ballard '17
 Erika Banuelos '17
 Jerrica Jones '17
 Aminata Kamara '17
 Derricka Simms '17
 Linda Tran '17
 Mouhamed Ndiaye '18

Black History Facts

- In 1849, Dred Scott filed his lawsuit to gain freedom in St. Louis.
- Although the state ruled in his favor, an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court resulted in an 1857 ruling against the decision. The court ruled Slaves weren't citizens, which this lead to the Missouri Compromise
- Sumner High School, was the first high school for African-American students west of the Mississippi River.



Drawing of Sumner High school in 1875

Black History Month Word Search Game

Find the words pertaining to African-American history and the civil rights movement.

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

ABOLITIONIST
 AFRICA
 BOYCOTT
 BUS
 CARVER
 CIVILWAR
 EQUALITY
 FREEDOM
 INTEGRATION
 JIMCROW
 JUSTICE
 KWANZAA
 MARCH
 NAACP
 NORTH
 OPPRESSION
 PROTEST
 RIGHTS
 SEGREGATION
 SHARECROPPER
 SLAVERY
 SOUTH
 SUFFRAGE
 TUBMAN
 VOTE