

The Weekly Cliff

The Week of December 12th, 2016

Welcome to the Introductory Edition of the Weekly Cliff

Hi fellow Gators! My name is Mr. Strutz and welcome to the first copy of the Weekly Cliff. We are a student run newspaper that meets on Wednesday nights and we are proud of what we do. We can't wait to make improvements to our First Edition.

We plan on sending this once per week and are looking for suggestions to improve our product. Please send any feedback to Rodney.strutz@rusd.org and my staff will take it under consideration. The staff consists of 8th Graders Cassidy T and Tessa M, 6th Grader Norah R, 5th Graders Olivia B and Tori C, and 4th Graders Makayla O and Isaiah G. We cannot wait to hear from you. Please send us your advice questions.

Our first writing will have a student interview, an 8th Grader's perspective on Gifford and an advice column. This is totally written by the staff. Please enjoy!

Feature Piece

Interviewing Quan T (Tem)

By Tessa M

My friend Cassidy T and I interviewed our friend Quan T, or Tem, about life in his home country. Tem was born and raised in an Asian country called Vietnam, and last year, his family moved from Vietnam to here; Racine, Wisconsin. His family was seeking a better life for Tem. We asked Tem about life in Vietnam, and he told us many interesting things. Here are the questions we asked him, and the answers he gave:

The first question we asked him was, "What good experiences does America give you that Vietnam doesn't?" Tem answered, "It's nice here because in America, once you turn 18, you are allowed to move out of your parents house to live on your own; but in Vietnam, you can't move out of your

parent's house until you are married and have a house, you can't even move out to live on a college campus."

The next question we asked was "Why did your family choose to come here to Racine out of all the places in the United States?" Tem said, "People here are friendly, and we like the weather here. Also, my aunt lives here."

Our next question was, "Who are some students who have been helpful to you here?" I remember Tem smiled and said there were so many; but he did name most of them. He said some of them were Luca, Alex, Mauricio, Ozzie, Me, Cassidy, Eva and Natalie.

The fourth question we asked Tem was, "Is there anything in Vietnam that you wish America had?" Tem told us that Most of his family lives in Vietnam, and Vietnam has very beautiful outdoor scenery. He says there is lots of green, lush plants and beautiful waterfalls and bays. There was also good food in Vietnam, food that doesn't get shipped here.

Our fifth question was, "What's one tradition from Vietnam that your family still does in America, and why do you like this tradition?" Tem said that one thing he still does is dinner with his family, and he likes this because everyone sits together around the table and when it's done, his family cleans up together. I think this is a nice tradition, considering most other families don't get to or want to do this.

The we asked him, "Why did your family come to America?" Tem answered, "My family thinks I will be able to become more successful now and in the future, such as I will be able to get a better job and education. Only people who are related to officials can find good jobs in Vietnam. I want to either be a doctor or an engineer, but in Vietnam, it would be hard to get either one of those jobs because I'm not related to a doctor or an engineer."

Our second-to-last question for him was, "What was life in Vietnam like?" He said, "It was good because education in Vietnam was great, but it was bad because there are a lot of very fast drivers who get in accidents, and people who steal cars. After school, I often saw things like this."

Our last question, something I've always wondered, was "How do you feel about the English language? Is it difficult?" He said, "It is usually hard to remember all of the meanings for the different words. It is easier to listen to, read and write english. Speaking english is the hard part."

Cassidy and I really enjoyed interviewing our friend Tem. We learned some pretty cool things about him and his home country. We hope to get to learn more about him soon :)

Advice Column

What should I do if I am getting bullied at school?

Here at Gifford there are lots of things that you can do in this situation. To start off with, let's say that you are being told that they are better than you. Well there are lots of things that you can do. Sometimes the bully is just doing it for attention, so if you just ignore them they will just stop. Then, let's say that you are being physically bullied, like being pushed or even kicked. In this case the best thing to do is talk to an adult. Here at Gifford you don't have to be scared to ask an adult. The teachers, Counselors, and Principals are here to help you. - Anonymous

Do you feel there is too much pressure on you? I'm going to help you out by giving you some pretty good advice. Idea #1 is when you feel a lot of pressure just take a silent but deep breath (breath in through your mouth, out through your nose.) Idea #2 just take a breath and count to ten inside your head. Here's another idea just calmly say something to your teacher like "I feel there is too much pressure on me in class so I was wondering if we could take some time after school, or at lunch with you to study my math, spelling, writing, social studies, or science. Thanks for reading my Weekly Cliff advice and I hope this helps you out in class at home or just anywhere.

What should I do if I'm not doing well in class?

Get an adult to help with whatever you need help with. There should always be a trusted adult helping you with what you need. You can even ask a trusted friend or sibling.

Christmas Program

On Monday December 19th at 5:00 to 5:30pm Kindergarten and Grade 1 will have a concert and at 6:10 to 7:30pm 2nd through 5th Grade will perform a very nice grade concert at Gifford School. Please come to this amazing experience to see your classmates, children, and students. This is a great opportunity to see children break out of their shell and sing their hearts out. In this nice concert the songs that will be sung are Feliz Navidad, Silent Night, Festival of Lights and even more Christmas Carols. Please come and see a beautiful concert and just a side note the kids will be wearing many colorful outfits so you may want to wear some sunglasses! LOL

Opinion

Ella Tella What She Thinks

In my opinion the assigned seats in the lunchroom are lame. They made the seating arrangement so we would listen and be quieter. Also people are naughtier anyway. There used to have numbers

on the tables so we would remember our tables but now they're gone and we have to remember them ourselves. We also had a talent show but it was canceled because we are "too loud". One of the lunch teachers blows a whistle but that makes more noise. There's not even classes near the lunchroom. There's even silent lunch too. When I asked another fourth grader she said "I don't like them because then when you're the last on in line you would sit by someone you don't always get along with." I asked other fourth graders and they feel the same. I also asked my class and everyone feels the same. We are loud either way so why not just let us sit where we want.

Voice of a New Gifford Student

This is my first year at Gifford, and I can tell you that Gifford is awesome. I came from a small private school, John Paul the Second Academy, on Northwestern Avenue. I went to school there from kindergarten to fifth grade. The first time that I came to Gifford I was really nervous because of how much bigger it was than my old school. There are so many hallways and classrooms compared to John Paul where it was only one hallway.

I think that Gifford is going to offer more opportunities for me and everyone else. Here there is Family Consumer Science, Tech Ed, and World language. The classes here are more fun and hands on, where at John Paul they were more of looking in the books and taking notes.

I am very glad that I got to come to school here and have more opportunities. Let's go Gators!