

The Carver Times

DECEMBER 18, 2017

HOW FAST CAN YOU RUN?

By: 701 and 702

How fast can you run? Usain Bolt would answer that question in minutes and seconds. As 7th graders, we want to invite you to learn a different answer to that question. In class, we read the book A Long Walk To Water, about a real “lost boy” from South Sudan and a fictional South Sudanese girl. In 2001, close to 2,000 boys came to the US after losing their homes and families because of civil war in Sudan. This book highlighted the role of engineering and innovation to drill sustainable water wells in South Sudan *today*, and to increase girls’ access to education.

Speaking of today, where are the lost boys and girls from South Sudan *today*? We wanted to know more. We invited another young man from South Sudan, Michael Majok Kuch (author of How Fast Can You Run?), to share his story with us. When his village came under attack, he was five. Because his mother taught him to run from

danger, he ran away during the attack. He joined other children, and walked to Ethiopia and then to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. He lives in Juba, South Sudan and works in the office of the president of South Sudan. South Sudan in the world's newest country. He reflected on life in Juba today, where ethnic conflicts are often used by politicians for power. There is no water infrastructure. Water trucks go to the Nile and sell that unfiltered water like take-out pizza delivery trucks sell pizza in Philadelphia.



#StillThinkingAbout Why did more boys get sent to the US in 2001 while women were told "save yourselves?" *Peyton Buie (Watch Michael's answer)*

#StillThinkingAbout How he had to run away from the war in his village and take care of himself on the long walk to Ethiopia at age 5. *Hailey Ivory*

#WhatStuckWithMe Did Michael ever find out his real birthday since when he came to the US, they gave him the random birthday of January 1st? *Sakirul Karim*

#WhatStuckWithMe I'm still thinking about how Michael survived the long walk to Ethiopia and then to Kenya from South Sudan during the civil war. How did he survive? *Mikalah Roberts*

#WhatStuckWithMe When Michael Majok Kuch went back to South Sudan to help people there. *Farhan Alam*

#ApplicationstoEngineeringandScience I thought that engineering was just programming and technology. But engineering can also be building things in order to make people's lives better just like how Salva (the main character in A Long Walk To Water) drills wells now in South Sudan with his organization Water for South Sudan. *Alvin Chen*

#ApplicationstoEngineeringandScience In villages in South Sudan, when you build a well for water, this can lead to building a school. Access to water means that more girls will have access to school. You need to know how to engineer in order to build wells and schools. *Caithlin Ramnarine*

#ApplicationstoEngineeringandScience Because engineers build wells, they could also build hospitals closer to the villages. When hospitals are closer, they could use science to make better medicine that could have a greater affect on the community. *Beatriz Penzo Mendez*

December 18, 2017 Editorial Staff

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INSPIRATIONS @ HSES

What is it? An annual tournament that was created in remembrance of Jonathan Briggs. This tournament is a benefit that brings everyone together to enjoy the sport of basketball. It is not about winning but instead about having a good time and coming together to remember a great compassion student, Jonathan Briggs.

When is it? This event usually takes place in December and usually kicks off the basketball season. Magnet schools that are similar to our school are usually invited to join the tournament. Independence Charter in particular is invited because that is the school that Jonathan Briggs attended prior to coming to E&S.

Where does the money go? The money goes toward the preparations for the event. For example, pre-ordered tee shirts, official staff, and concessions. A portion of the money also goes directly to the Jonathan Briggs Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship includes a chromebook given to the two recipients. How are recipients of the scholarship picked? Two recipients are chosen for the Scholarship; one freshman and one senior. Recipients are chosen according to outstanding academic and athletic success. Recipients also have great moral and character values that, as Mr Pitzner explained, "embodies the ideals of Johnathan Briggs."

By: A'Kirah Harris Watson and Alisha Wellington



Derek Floyd

(Grade 10):

Teammates that play remember him when they play. Memory brings a

sense of community and unity to the team. It makes me want to play better.



Najah Green

(Grade 11): I think that his impact makes people want to do better. A lot of people use

him as motivation in basketball. I joined management in the basketball department. I want to be involved. I use him to push through situations and I think about him in everything I do. He is always in my heart and always will be. He motivated me to keep my grades up. I also think that losing him made me realize how important life is. People should embrace the people that you love and care about.



Mr. Scott

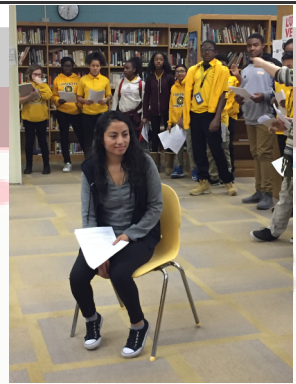
Pitzner : I think Johnathan Briggs lives on in our school community through the basketball showcase and

memorial scholarship. We give out these awards to the top seniors and freshman. We give them out based on the students' character, not their success. These awards really speak volumes about John and what he really stood for. He impacted everyone in positive way just because of the kid he was and regardless of whether people really knew him or not. One thing that I think is really great is that student volunteer their time at the Briggs Memorial Showcase. The amount of people that signed up is what amazed me. These students sacrificed their time not for the incentives, but because they knew that it was the right thing to do.



DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES

In 2016, 59,692 children traveling alone were apprehended in the desert along our southern border. One of them was Liliana Velázquez. On December 12, 2017, she came to Carver for a conversation about her journey and her life today, as a college student at Montgomery County Community College.



Nahla Bush: Imagine you are nine years old and you live in a small, one room house with a dirt floor and no electricity, along with nine other people. You are taken out of school after your first year to cook, clean, and watch your younger brothers and sisters. You collect firewood. You watch your families' animals. If you don't finish all the tasks that you are given in one day, you are beaten and cut by your mom. Meanwhile, you're dodging men and rape on a daily basis. Your dad is an alcoholic and your parents physically fight each other everyday. Your house is full of hurt and melancholy. You're so depressed that you can't do anything, and you're just ready to give up! A girl in Guatemala named Liliana was living through this everyday. Liliana was suffering and she couldn't take it anymore, so she decided to leave Guatemala and set out on her journey to the United States. She wrote a book called Dreams and Nightmares to share her story. Liliana says on page 67, "I told myself, I have to leave fear behind. I have to follow my path, forward. I'm ready for anything. If I die, fine. If I live, thanks to God."

Xing Lin: There was a lot of violence in Liliana's day to day living. Liliana said "Guatemala is one of the most dangerous countries in the world, where many women died because of violence." A little girl who lives in a family filled with poverty also has to go through violence because of it. Her own mother, "threw some scissors at my head and I bled all over." (P 47) Even worse, her mother also said, "girls weren't worth much, because we were going off to get married at a young age and she couldn't depend on us for money." (P 49) This factored into Liliana not trusting her own mother but not actually hating her. Violence wasn't only a problem in Liliana's family or Guatemala either. Did you know that in the world, more than 150,000,000 girls go through sexual violence in a year? Would you stay with your family that keeps telling you that you have no worth?

Beatriz Penzo Mendez: Sometimes kids can accomplish great achievements and goals, that are incredible for a very young person to accomplish on their own. Just like Liliana Velázquez, who at 14 and with a bag full of disadvantages (a limited education and gender based domestic violence), but also filled with courage, went on a journey full of risks, so she could run away from violence and abuse in her native country of Guatemala to find a better life and a hopeful future. The story of her suffering and despair, told in her book Dreams and Nightmares, really caught my attention. I would like to recommend this book to all English classes, and make sure that all students in this school are aware that there are children sitting next to them who are just like Liliana and who need to be helped, not discriminated or bullied by their classmates. Liliana's journey included experiences of the violence she suffered, her struggles coming to America and adapting to a new education system, and the courage she had throughout her ordeals. You may think school is hard, but imagine how hard it was for Liliana, who barely had an education.

Hasir Henry: As a student at Carver, my perspective is that we should talk about what's going on in places like Guatemala. What people don't realize is that some people like Liliana have traveled from terrible, poverty filled places. One thing that could really make a difference for students like Liliana are safe groups for people from other countries to meet and share their stories. Liliana found one of the places in Philadelphia, The Open Door, *La Puerta Abierta*. I also think that we (and the U.S as a whole) could try to provide more resources to people in places like Guatemala because if we did then maybe people like Liliana wouldn't have to deal with as much poverty or violence. Though Liliana had to deal with the realities of immigration, love, and having hope, she was still able to achieve her goals because of people at places like *La Puerta Abierta* that helped her throughout her journey. Maybe we (the students of Carver) could help make more clubs like *La Puerta Abierta* help immigrants like Liliana. Some immigrants don't have the resources to help themselves and their families but we do. If anyone help make a difference, we can. So why don't we?



Teacher Interview



By Sawda Sarah and Emese Bata
Interview with Dr. Amit Basu, Biology teacher at Carver E&S

Name: Dr. A. Basu

Years at Carver: >16

Education: Drexel University

Hidden talents: Bugging Students (His own words)

Emese Bata: What was the inspiration for you to become a teacher?

Dr. Basu: I like teaching, actually. I like very few things in my life, and one of them is teaching.

Sawda Sarah: If you could be anything other than a teacher and a scientist what would you be?

Dr. Basu: An artist

Emese Bata: How would you relax after a week of teaching?

Dr. Basu: Teaching is actually really relaxing for me, I enjoy it a lot. I tense up when I'm not teaching. And mostly I love my students. Except her *Points at Simone* she troubles me a lot.

Sawda Sarah: If you could go back in time what is the one thing you would change in your life?

Dr. Basu: I would probably spend more time with my parents, I did take care of them but it was through others, the circumstances didn't allow me to be with them and that is something I wish I could go back and change

Emese Bata: What is the most important thing that you feel that you can teach to your students?

Dr. Basu: Basically how to grow up. Life can get really hard sometimes, I've seen things that are unspeakable so I want my students to be ready for the future.

Sawda Sarah: If you could meet anyone you wanted to meet (alive or deceased) who would it be?

Dr. Basu: There are a couple of people I would want to meet. Linus Pauling for sure, he was a famous chemist and educator. I would also like to meet all my pen pals, we had a very close relationship through letters but I never got to meet them in real life so meeting them would be great.

Emese Bata: If you could change one thing in your past, what would you change?

Dr. Basu: To have more money. If I would have had money I would have been able to stay with my parents longer, but I couldn't because of the circumstances. I did take care of them but it was through other people, I wish I'd spent more time with them.

Emese Bata: If you were stranded on a deserted island what 3 things would you bring with yourself?

Dr. Basu: My wits and obviously water and food.

Sawda Sarah: Lastly we finish this interview and you step outside the school and find a lottery ticket that ends up winning \$10 million. What would you do?

Dr. Basu: I've been a member of UNICEF for a long time and I like donating money to them. I also want to volunteer for them after I retire so I would probably give the money to UNICEF to help better other people's lives.

2020 Is Coming: Political Opinion By: Agung Putra Sweet (Blue) Home Alabama?

On December 12, 2017 Alabama had a special election to replace a senate seat that was once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Since Alabama is a blood red state with a history of violence and oppression, anyone would have assumed that any Republican could easily win that state. But this election was different.

With anti-Trump feelings on the rise, and a weak candidate that was chosen by the alt-right Bannon crew, Alabamians were at crossroads. Should they vote for an alleged sexual predator or a liberal democrat that prosecuted the Birmingham Bombing case? For Americans with a moral conscience, the choice seemed obvious. Don't choose the candidate with a defined history of being ousted twice from the courts and having unwanted relationships with teenage girls.

Fortunately, Alabamians made a historic decision, sending shockwaves to the country by electing the very first Democrat in a quarter century. This proved that not all Alabamians are chained to their Confederate past.

The downside to it is how narrow the vote was. Doug Jones won by a margin of one percent. This is horrible because of the weakness of the Republican candidate. To be fair, though, with low voter enthusiasm in Alabama, it's not surprise that Democrats had not won since 1992.

Democrats have neglected the forgotten communities that are dedicated to their party's base, specifically African American communities. The African American electorate in Alabama showed their dedication by showing up in the polls despite facing voter suppression. Therefore a huge shoutout and kudos to African Americans. In particular, votes from 97% of African American women voters clinched the victory for Doug Jones, the Democrat.

We can only hope that Alabamians will be more energized in voting in each election from now on, and hopefully in favor of Jones' reelection in 2020.