DIALOGUE, con't from 14

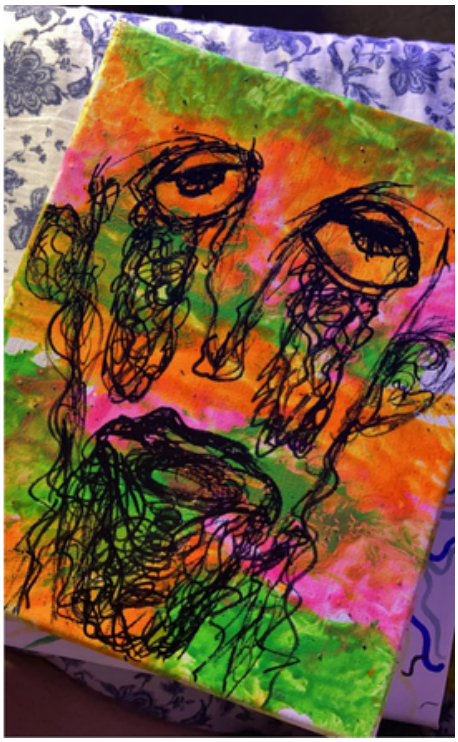
"Oh! That is great!" Derrick's heart just shattered into a million pieces as he wanted to express his love for her."You know, what I wanted to say doesn't actually matter anymore. I realized that it isn't even that important anymore. So, who is this new person you met??

"He and I met during one of the first football games. It came as a surprise as I wasn't even looking for anyone or anything. I knew being with someone would be a distraction but I figured if I'm going to change then why not now while I'm in college?"

"Yeah, you're right! You know, I'm happy for you! Like you said, you never really were a dating person and didn't care about it till now."

Derrick wasn't happy; he was actually crying inside that Michelle found someone else while away. He felt as if he ultimately lost her and couldn't get her back.

Michelle left Derrick's parents house.She felt as if their conversation went great and that Derrick took the news well. For Derrick, he wasn't sure how to react - whether he felt good about what he heard or that he was devastated about the news.



Jaded

Kirstin Salinas '22

How you made me feel
by Bryanna Fuentes '23

I ask myself why
You hurt me the way you did?
As I scream and cry

Do you ever think
About all our memories?
Now we are strangers

I'll be here when you
Need to talk and try again.
Then be left again

Sunflower
Alison Rogers '28

Daily Routine
Michelle Alvarado
Faculty

Haiku
by Trinity Gres '23

Wanting to lie down
Almost closing my eyes shut
Just to stay awake

Driving and living
Going fast and slowing down
Stopping for safety

Running and hitting
Thirsty and wanting to stop
Keeping myself sane

Hidden

by Miranda Perez '22

As days go by, Fay's heart shrinks. In Fay's world, if you can't find love by your 18th birthday your heart shrinks to nothing and you die.

Fay is going to turn 18 in one month. She has very little time left and she knows it. Fay is stressed out and doesn't know what else to do. She has done everything to find love; Fay has changed her appearance, acted differently, and dressed for others. Things she thought she had to do to attract love her way. It seemed like everyone around her had already found what she desires the most.

Everyone was going to start a new chapter of his or her life with someone new. Unlike Fay, at this point she had given up on finding love. Fay thought her heart would be fine until her boyfriend of three years, Arlo, shattered her heart two months before her 18th birthday. Arlo's eyes fell on someone else. His love faded for Fay but grew for a girl named Torya, Fay's sister… Fay was disturb by this messy situation; her ex-boyfriend and her sister were now dating and their hearts were safe.

With the one month Fay had left she decided to stop this whole journey of finding love and find herself. The last month would only be about Fay, something she never really thought about. Fay experienced what it was like to live for herself and not for someone else. She fell in love with the feeling. Fay was no longer worried about finding love in order to save her heart. All it ever did for her was waste so much time that she could have spent on herself. Fay loved this new version of herself, a part of her that had been hidden for so long.

As time went on, one month turned into two weeks into five days until one day was left. Fay spent her last day like usual, nothing changed. Even though she knew she would die in 24 hours, she was okay with it. Fay went to bed that night satisfied with the person she became in such a short amount of time. She felt a sense of completeness.

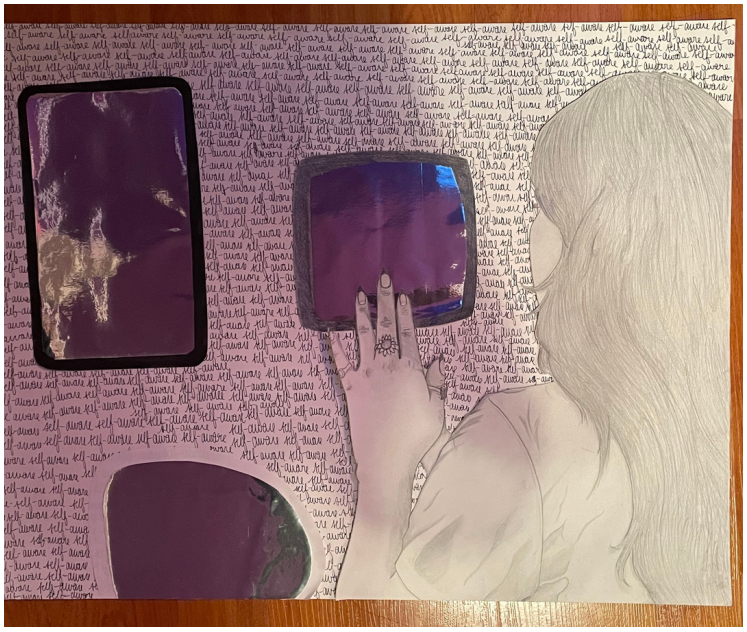
[con't 16]

Hidden
[con't from page 17]

Fay was suddenly awakened by a bright light. She couldn’t really picture where she was or what was going on. All she could hear was mumbling. She slowly realized that it was people's voices cheering. Fay finally opened her eyes and saw her mom with a cake, lit with candles that read HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY. Her whole family was in her room cheering and congratulating her on this new chapter of her life.

But Fay was confused - why she was alive and not dead? She blew out her candles and got out of bed. She headed down the hallway to the front door and stepped outside.

When Fay looked around everything seemed to be normal. As she walked further she noticed a card on her mailbox. She went straight for it, grabbed it and opened it. As she took the card out of the envelope the cover was blank but had a light pink color to it. Fay flipped it around and in red writing it read “ Happy 18th birthday!!! You found love within yourself which sadly no one ever thought of. The World never specified what type of love would save the heart. You found a different type of love that is meaningful and hard to conquer. Congrats on opening your eyes to seeing yourself. - TW ”



Untitled
Alexia Casanova'23

Living Desert

Kaitlyn Nadeau '23

One Last Time

Maria-Salomé Gonzalez ‘22

John, Beck, and Aaron were deep in conversation after their soccer game last Friday. They discussed the epic goal that was made of an assist by Aaron. John said to Aaron, as Beck observed the conversation, “That goal was crazy! Thanks for that assist.”

“No problem, but did you happen to look at who was up in the stands watching our game?”

“I didn’t. Who was it?”

“Take a guess,” said Aaron.

“Was it Sydney? Or Violet?”

“No, guess again.”

“Come on, man! I have no idea! Who was it?”

“Your mom, John! Turn around”

John turned and was elated to see his mom standing right in front of him. She had been stationed in Iraq, not scheduled to make the trip home till a few weeks later. John immediately grabbed her and swung her around as if he was a kid who just won the ultimate prize at the claw machine. John’s mom spoke in a kind yet firm voice, reminding him, “I promised you I wouldn’t miss your last game.”

Stormy Weather
by Kaitlyn Nadeau '23

Book Review: *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson

by Adira Benner Causay, '26

The book *Forge* is the second book in the *Seeds of America Trilogy* written by Laurie Halse Anderson. Most of *Forge* takes place in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, between October 1777 and May 1778. Like the first book, *Chains*, this book also takes place during the American Revolution. However, *Forge* is told through the perspective of Isabel's friend, Curzon, as he fights for America's freedom while also struggling to keep his own.

The story starts with Curzon; we discover that Isabel has recently left him to find Ruth. Curzon's now running from his dishonest previous owner, from whom he stole spoons and shoe buckles to compensate for being unfairly cheated out of his pay. As he's walking in a ravine, Curzon finds himself caught in the crossfire between American and British soldiers. On a stroke of luck, he manages to save a boy from a British soldier. Out of gratitude and admiration, the boy, Ebenezer, then offers Curzon a chance at a new life fighting for America. After a dreaded encounter with his ex-owner, Curzon is forced to enlist to prove himself against the claims of theft thrown at him.

Eben and Curzon quickly become friends. However, as new alliances are formed, Curzon finds himself once again caught in the crossfire while he's still trying to grapple with his feelings for Isabel. While old acquaintances arise, temperatures drop, and a heart-wrenching loss shakes them all. Will they be able to survive? Nevertheless, the ever-present question still looms over them: will the friendship Curzon has forged be strong enough to break the bonds of slavery?

Strangely, I actually liked this book more than the first book, *Chains*. This entire series is very educational and historically accurate, which is great whether you're reading for fun or to learn more about enslaved peoples during the American Revolution. The alternate perspective of *Forge* provided a fresh viewpoint and I think that creates a very well-rounded and detailed story universe. I also noticed parallelism in some of the significant events of *Forge* and *Chains*. For example, in *Chains*, Isabel retaliates against Madam (where she is hit over the head with a picture frame) and is subsequently tried and thrown into jail. After that,she plans to run away and eventually escapes with Curzon after freeing him, which marks the ending of the book. In *Forge*, Curzon also attacks Bellingham, earning him the retribution of a day in the guardhouse. He's hit over the head with a cudgel after his trial, and he later runs away with Isabel after freeing her at the end of the book. Another key similarity is that in *Forge*, Bellingham calls Curzon's outburst 'impudence' (Halse Anderson 162) and in *Chains*, Isabel gets an 'I' branded on her cheek for 'insolence' (Halse Anderson 117). These two adjectives

[con't page 23]

Chains

Adira Benner Causay, '26

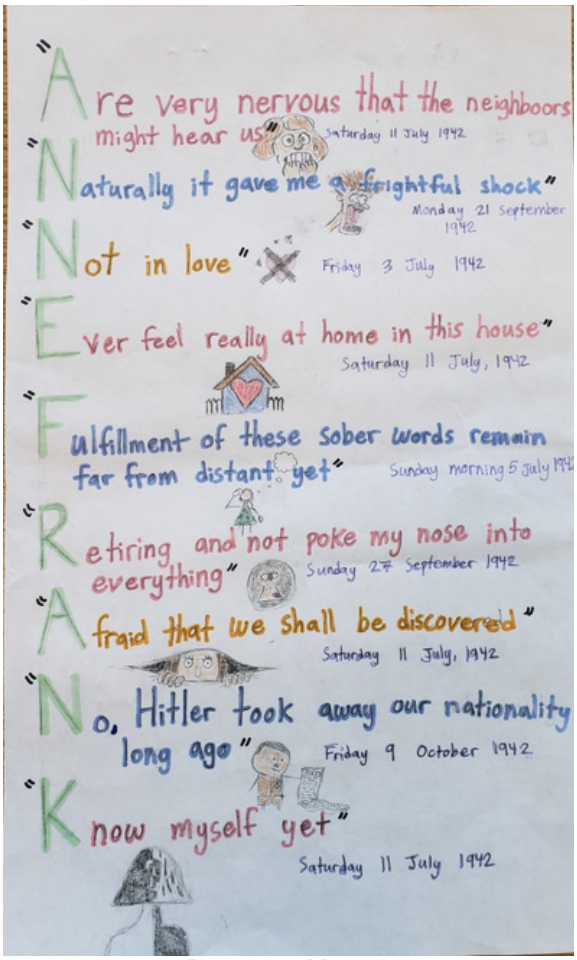
are actually synonyms for each other, which I found to be another interesting correspondence that only further ties the book themes together. I also liked that the moral of the story is about friendship, since that's an important topic no matter what age or time period you're in.

Out of 5, I would rate this book a 5! *Forge* still maintained the colloquial speech and other characteristics that made it relevant to the intended time period. This plotline had just as much emotional turbulence for the reader, but it contributed to aligning the mindset of the audience to the perspective of the main character. The story managed to stay unpredictable, although it still carried over those key events from *Chains*. My favorite passage from *Forge* is when Curzon told Isabel that he loved her. The excerpt is included here:

> 'Those are your parents!' A smile broke across Isabel's face.
> 'That is a good story. But what does it mean, what your mother said?'
> 'It means, 'You are my heart.'
> I leaned forward, took her hands in mine, and whispered into her ear.
> 'You have always been my heart, Country.' Before I could kiss her,
> Isabel kissed me." (Halse Anderson 244)

I absolutely love their relationship, and it's an understatement to say that I was ecstatic reading this. The element of romance in this book only adds to the already amazing storyline. Anderson manages to make situations and tropes that I've already read interesting again, which I think is due to the fact she phrases them in a way that provides a new perspective. Overall, *Forge* is an amazing novel and I would definitely recommend it to anyone, regardless of what genre they usually read, because I personally believe that this book appeals to everyone.

Eyes
Kierstin Salinas '22



Drew Ovalles '28

Out There
By Tatyana Ramon

oh to live out there
in the vast velvety sky
with the sun and stars

in the midnight sky
the planets sparkle so bright
miles and miles apart

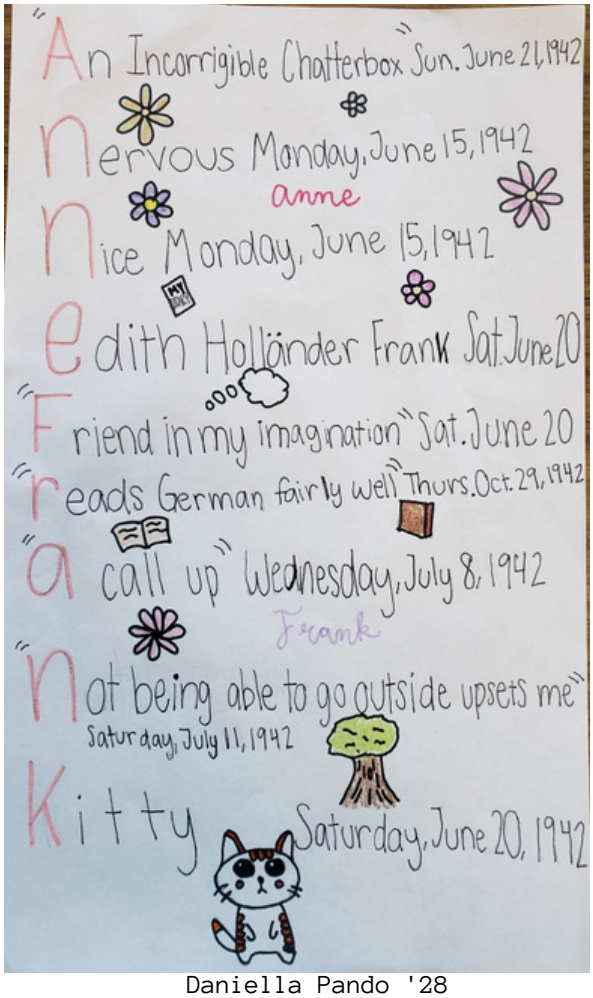
moonlight in my eyes
comets beam across the sky
stardust everywhere

Poems
By Kierstin Salinas '22

Storm
Electric, vital
a great deal of energy
flashes of lightning

Nature
Powerful, vital
Beautiful in the light
And in the dark

Skate
In the Alley way
Past all hours in the night
Rolling and rolling



Daniella Pando '28

Dialogue
Tatyana Ramos '22

Violet had been dreaming of going somewhere awesome all her life. She wanted to travel the world with her best friend so they could experience different places together. Her dream died once her best friend moved across the country to Ireland. Now she was left to travel the world by herself. “C’mon Violet!” Her friend shouted over facetime. “It’s not like you’ll never be able to travel the world. You could still do it by yourself.” Violet rolled her eyes.

“Easy for you to say Laura. You got to travel the world… without me. I’ve always wanted to go with you.” Violet felt both sad and angry. Sad because her dreams were ruined, and angry because her best friend has gotten to see so many parts of the world with someone else that wasn’t her.

“That's not my fault Violet and you know that.” Laura said firmly.

"You're right. It's not your fault; it’s Brad's.” Laura looked at her in disbelief. “You follow him wherever he goes.”

“How was I supposed to leave him? He asked me to move over here with him. Why would I not come?”

“Because I know he wouldn’t do the same for you.” A sigh left Violet's lips.

“Oh get over yourself, Violet. Brad would do anything and everything for me! You’re just jealous I’m finally in a healthy relationship,” Laura shouted.

“I don’t think 'healthy' was the right word you were looking for.” Violet replied quickly. “I mean seriously, Laura, remember how I told him we wanted to go to Paris and we had finally saved up enough money to go, and then he booked a trip for the two of you the same weekend we wanted to go to Paris?” Laura stayed quiet. “Or how you got offered an amazing job opportunity in New York, but you didn't go because he wouldn’t do a long distance relationship with you? Or –” Laura cut her off.

“I don’t have time for this, Violet. I’ll call you tomorrow when you aren’t mad at the whole world for how your life has ended up, and stop bringing Brad into everything he did nothing –”

This time Violet cut her off. “Actually, I’d prefer if you didn’t call me tomorrow. I’m gonna be,” Violet stopped for a second as she thought of a brilliant idea. “Uh… busy.”

“But Vi –” She hung up the phone before Laura could say anything else. Violet turned her phone off and laid back in bed letting a couple tears roll down her cheek. Then she booked the next flight to Italy. If she was gonna be sad, she might as well be sad somewhere in Italy.

Tatyana Ramon '23

All The Stars

Tatyana Ramon '22

Life in Nature

Kendall Cooper '25

Before I had a cell phone…

An interactive poem – check off each point that is your experience, too!
By Ms. Alvarez and members of the PCS community who entered room 203

Before I had a cell phone…

☐ I watched movies on the I-Pod
☐ I had to read a book to write a report
☐ I understood and practiced Integrity
☐ I would pretend my dad's cell phone was mine
☐ I played with my Barbie Playhouse
☐ I had to get my pictures developed to see them
☐ I didn't care about beauty standards
☐ I went to the library
☐ I knew that I had friends
☐ I wouldn't compare myself to others
☐ I knew how to read a map
☐ I would climb trees all day
☐ I used an I-Pad
☐ I read books all day instead of talking to people
☐ I was forced to go outside
☐ I used to be innocent
☐ I did not have a care in the world
☐ I used to be in love
☐ I wasn't insecure
☐ I had more hobbies
☐ I lived for myself
☐ I was uneducated to the world
☐ I did not have my own music tastes
☐ I never questioned my self-worth
☐ I never cared what people thought about me
☐ I knew how to mail a letter
☐ I knew rules applied to me
☐ I was happy
☐ I knew time was on my side

The cell phone – is it a

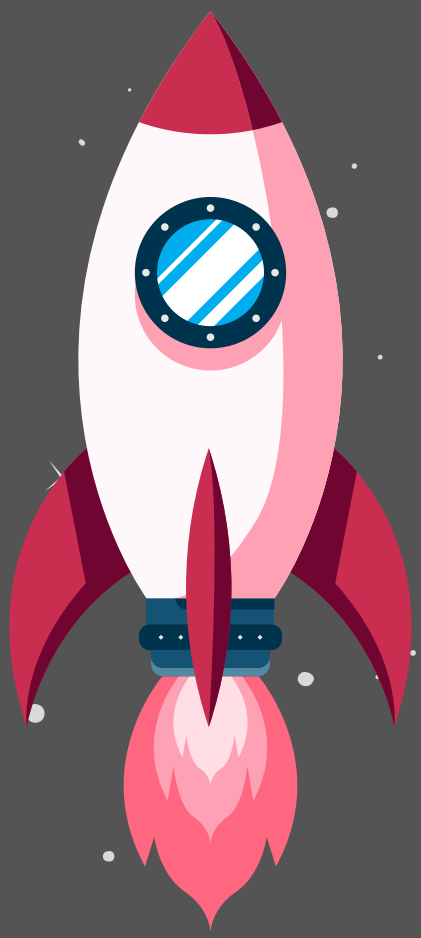
☐ Positive
☐ Negative

influence in life?

We have devoted our lives to this tiny machine without fully recognizing its effect on us.

PROVIDENCE

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GRADES 6-12



The Plaid Skirt **is a publication of the Media Consortium class at Providence Catholic School. Thanks to the students, faculty, and staff for their contributions to this visual arts and literary collection.**

A commitment to Catholic education by the Sisters of Divine Providence since 1951