



SCROLL

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E-cigarettes cause administration to take action

Camilla Fritzing
Scroll Editor

Over the past couple of months, the administration has received reports of students smoking e-cigarettes (Juul, BO, pen, box mod, etc) in the upper grades of the middle school.

E-cigarettes are devices that heat up liquids inside of them, which are then vaporized and inhaled by the user. These liquids vary, as you can fill them with substances such as nicotine (an extremely addictive drug), THC (compound found in marijuana), or a flavored chemical water blend. They often look like a flash drive or a pen, and can be easily mistaken for something completely ordinary.

These devices are advertised as being “a safer cigarette” but are not beneficial to someone who does it. They are especially bad if that person is in a developmental part of their life like adolescence, according to Jidong Huang, a senior research scientist at UIC. Legally, the age that people are allowed to buy vapes containing nicotine is 18.

In a recent survey by *The Scroll*, 13.5 percent of seventh and eighth graders admitted to trying an e-cigarette at least once; of those, 6.7 percent said they had tried it just once or twice, 3.6 percent said they did it every week, and 3.6 percent said they vaped every day.

“Marketers will often try to make their products more appealing, maybe by saying it’s safer, so that the company can make more money. They don’t really have the best interests of student users,” said Mr. Peter Lutkoski, middle school principal.

Research from NYU medical school suggests that vaping could lead to cancer in your cells, as they tested it out in an experiment with mice. According to seventh and eighth grade health teacher Mr. Reid, since it’s a fairly new technological advancement, it’s early to tell how severe the consequences of long term vaping actually are. However, it is nearly irrefutable that it does indeed cause damage, even if mild. “It’s important to educate younger students on this issue because it could be a problem now and in the future with all of the potential damage it could

cause,” said Mr. Reid.

One of his concerns is that vaping will become a gateway to marijuana or tobacco, which are both proven to

be extremely detrimental to physical and mental wellbeing.

In recognition of this issue, Mr. Lutkoski and High School Principal Mr. Jack Phillips sent out an email on January 9th to parents and students regarding the dangers and possible implications of vaping. Also, the letter was used to inform parents who may be in the dark about the whole concept. The school is trying to address the issue in a way that educates students to make responsible decisions. “It is our responsibility to make sure that students are really clear with what choices they are mak-

See Vaping, page 2

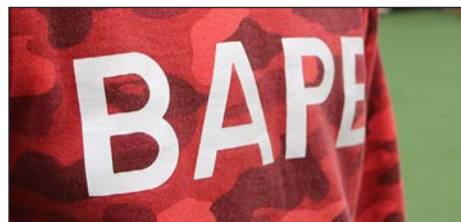


Cartoon by Zainab Adil

INSIDE



Turn to page 5 to read about how the sixth graders wish to have the opportunity to compete in competitive sports.



Turn to pages 10 and 11 to read about “hypebeast” trends in the middle school, and how ASL students are dressing in certain brands.



Turn to page 14 to read about the recently performed middle school musical, *Peter Pan*.



Turn to page 19 to read about the middle school swim team, and the seventh and eighth graders who were asked to join the Junior Varsity team.

Meltdown, Spectre bring uncertainty to security on laptops, other devices

Cameron Spurr
Scroll Editor

The safety of the (school) laptop, tablet or mobile devices that you own are potentially vulnerable to having information stolen from them. These vulnerabilities are and have been found in processors in many of our devices. Recently, two vulnerabilities have been found on intel processors. They are called meltdown and spectre.

When you enter a password or information on your computer, this data goes into a temporary memory pool. These two vulnerabilities Meltdown and Spectre allow programs to potentially steal data or information from that temporary memory which at that time is being processed on a device. The vulnerability Meltdown essentially can read into the temporary memory by melting down the virtual or electronic barriers that protect this memory pool.

This provides insecurity regarding protecting passwords and important information that could end up in the wrong hands. However, no person or program has yet found or claimed a way to take advantage of these vulnerabilities and access personal information.

Additionally, if someone were to attempt to find information on a device, they would need to be physically doing this on that device. As of right now there is no known way to remotely hack into your memory pool

using Meltdown or Spectre.

ASL does take many precautions to ensure the safety of the laptops that students and staff use. For example, they keep a close eye on any and all updates and patches that are rolled out for Mac OS software on the laptops provided to the students and other software used for devices found throughout the school. Before they approve the updates for the students' and teachers' computers, they test the update, back up their systems, and research how the update has been acting so far.

A specific update that apple have introduced is Mac OS 10.13. This update combats the problems and dangers that Meltdown and Spectre bring to Apple computers. However, ASL is not updating the students' laptops to 10.13 until the summer. Mr. Nadjib Aktouf, the director of technology, said that the reason for this is that 10.13 uses a new hard drive format and doesn't support all of the applications that ASL is currently using.

To stay safe online and on devices, Mr. Aktouf recommends keeping up to date on all updates and patches that become available for any of your personal devices. For iOS software on Apple mobile devices, iOS 11.2 has been released with defenses against Meltdown in particular. Mr. Aktouf also recommends to be aware and thoughtful when using your devices, when signing up for a new program, and using the internet.

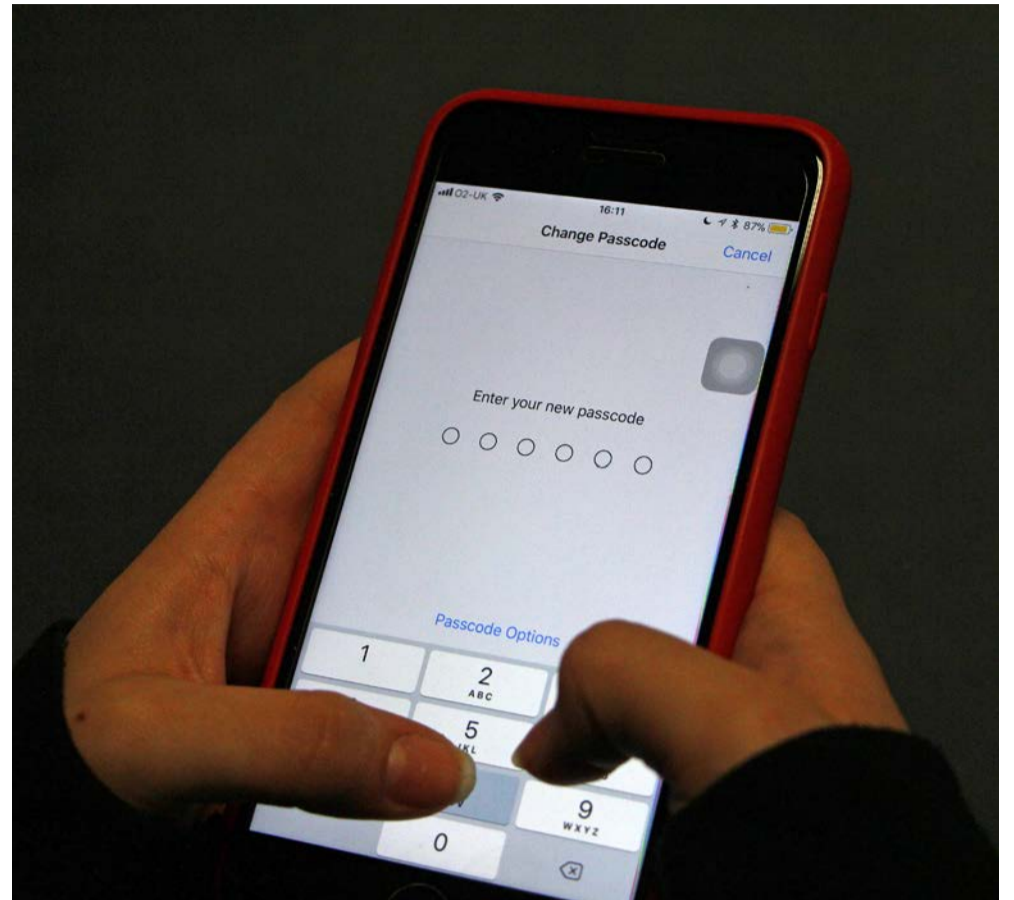


Photo by Sofia Michaelides

When students enter a new passcode into their phone, this passcode is stored in a temporary memory pool. This pool is on an intel processor in many modern devices. The vulnerabilities Meltdown and Spectre potentially allow other programs or people to read into this memory pool and ultimately seeing all data that is in that memory pool.

Annual sixth grade field trip to British Museum further educates students

Saiorse Burlingame
Staff Writer

In sixth grade humanities, students are currently learning about argument writing for the English aspect and ancient Rome for the social studies aspect. The British Museum trip this year was a way of combining the two, and took place on January 18.

The students began the day with a lecture about the differences between Roman Britain and ancient (pre-Roman) Britain. Each student got a packet of activities so that they could take notes as they listened to the lecture.

After lunch, all students went to rooms 69 and 70 (artifact rooms) and used this time to fill out the packets with notes about what part of ancient Roman society the artifacts they observed connected to. Then, students began to work on writing arguments based on articles and interviews with teachers and peers. The subject was about whether or not it's reasonable that so many global artifacts reside in the British Museum instead of their origin.

"The British Museum has done an excellent job caring for so many treasures from around the world, but they should also be open to a discussion about one day returning them to their rightful owners," said sixth grade humanities teacher Mrs. Jessica Mazzenga.

Next, they went to take more notes on priceless artifacts and the differences between their uses today and in ancient Rome. "The idea that when you're studying something you can go and live it as much as possible is a great experience," said Mrs. Mazzenga.

London is a city filled with huge museums and many national relics, but the British Museum has artifacts from all around the world, and in one trip you can pass through thousands of years and hundreds of different cultures.

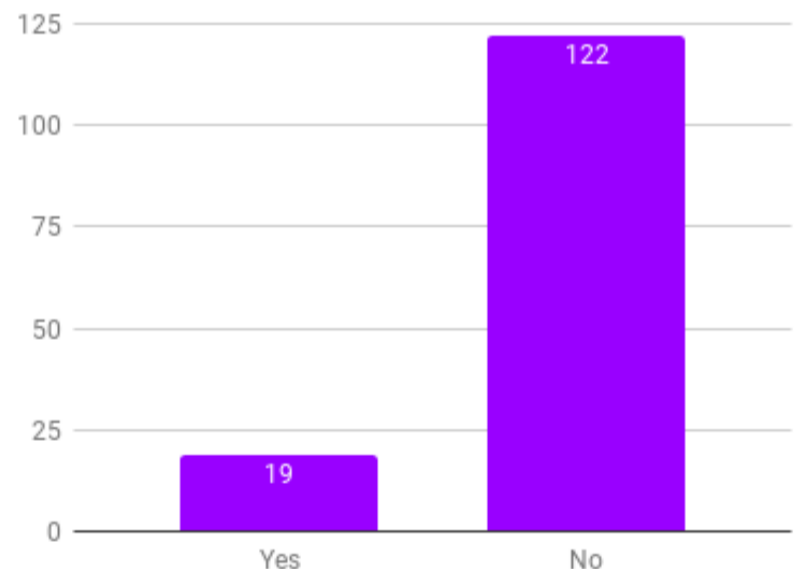
Vaping from page 1

ing," said Mr. Lutkoski.

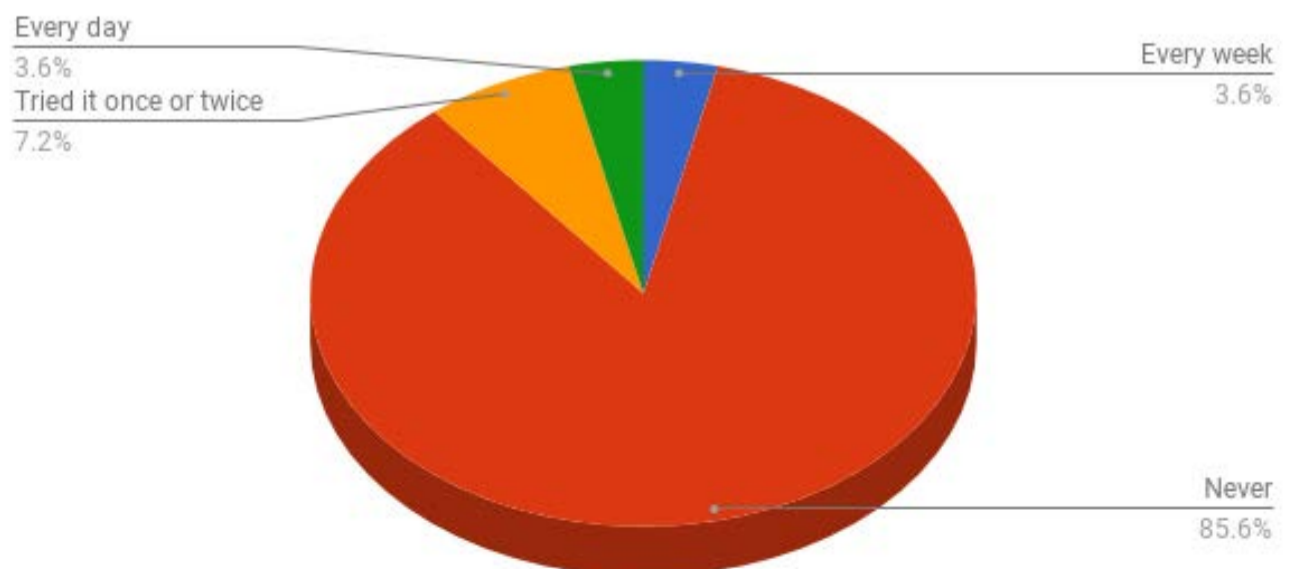
Recently in eighth grade health classes, teachers have been designating a lesson to talk about vaping and its risks and what advice they may have on the matter.

While health class focuses on encouraging student to make healthy choices, there is also the threat of disciplinary consequence. If caught using an e-cigarette on campus or off campus during a school sponsored activity, there would be strict follow up.

As this issue progresses, schools in America as well as ASL will continue to work hard to ensure students know what kind of choices they are making before they end up potentially harming their body.



This bar graph shows how many students in the seventh and eighth grade vape.



Although the majority of seventh and eighth grade students said that they have never vaped, 13.5 percent said that they tried it at least once