The Halfway Mark: Semester Two

ELENA HOAN, 11 junior

It’s that time of the year again. The time when a titter of excitement (or in some cases, dread) fills the air and everyone’s energy levels are suddenly peaked. The time when the old course packs are disposed of and talks of the end of the school year begin. Yes, the start of semester two brings high spirits to some and ominous doom for others. Whichever category you fall under, these three simple steps to take for the launch of the new semester will be sure to start you off on the right foot.

1. CLEAN OUT YOUR LOCKER: Although it might seem pointless to those who keep their lockers meticulously organized throughout the year, this simple step will definitely freshen up your personal cubbyhole. Whether it’s finding that red pen you thought you had lost or that assignment that was due weeks ago, such miscellaneous things have been accumulating since September and your locker is in dire need of a clear-up. And please, throw out that sandwich that has been rotting in the corner for who knows how long. Trust me, you’ll be doing everyone a favor.

2. REORGANIZE YOUR BOOKS: It is clear that some students don’t have a structured method of organizing their binders and folders, so now would be the perfect time to start. Take some time to separate the course packs and notes you don’t need and those that are crucial for your futures. It also may be a smart move to finally return those library books you signed out three months ago (remember, the fines add up the longer you wait). This way, you’ll be able to save some cash in your back pocket for that upcoming dance.

3. KEEP YOUR FOCUS!: I know it’s not easy (more like mind-numbingly difficult) to keep your concentration on your studies, but we’ve made it this far already! Semester two marks that half-way point until the much desired summer vacation, so try to keep this in mind when assignments start piling up and the various test dates are set. Slowly but surely, the sun will make its appearance soon enough and our thoughts will inevitably stray to the beaches and those lazy afternoons where we beautiful do nothing. Don’t worry, those moments will be here before we know it! Work your tail off for the next five months and the lemonade that you’ll be sipping by the Caribbean will be that much sweeter.

These three steps will allow the next half of your school year to begin on a good note. For some, this means a new chapter in their lives. For others, another semester is all they worry about. Regardless, semester two will certainly bring many more memories and experiences for everyone.

Semi In, Semi Out

JACKY TUNG, 11 junior

On February 18th, hundreds of Trudeau students gathered at Premiere Ballroom for semi formal: a night of loud music, fist pumping, jumping and dancing. Students either dazzled their peers with their fancy dresses or suited up for the occasion.

Vegas was the central theme for this year’s event, with a large martini glass showcased on each table. At the corner of the dance floor, a free photo booth was set, creating many memories on the four frame strip.

A quick dinner was served, with a meat entrée and a delicious dessert, and before you know it, everyone was whisked to the dance floor. After being tired from fast dancing, slow dancing perfectly wrapped up a delightful evening. The night ended with everyone’s ears ringing and backs sweating, but nonetheless, smiles were seen all around.

It was later reported that many students experienced symptoms of Help-I-Don’t-Usually-Move-This-Much Syndrome and suffered from sore muscles and extreme laziness for several days after the event.

If you missed out on semi this year, don’t fret, it’ll be back next year, for sure. Get your ticket next time round; you wouldn’t want to miss a thing now, would you?
**For A Good Cause**

**DORIS HUANG, 12 senior**

On January 7th, the event “War of the Bands” was held by the students from Ms. Butler’s global out reach to raise awareness about child soldiers in Africa. The event happened in the cafeteria during periods three and four. It started with a short video, then a few performances, and ended with a fun, interactive balloon popping game.

“War Child Canada is an organization that helps reconnect child soldiers to their families and helps them deal with psychological damage. As well, they provide education for them,” says Josienne Wong, the leader of this event.

Shortly after, a video was played displaying images of child soldiers with facts and information. “I thought that it was a cool idea and I liked what they did to try and help these child soldiers,” commented Jasmine Chu in grade 9.

As for the entertainment, students volunteered to perform. “I felt like I was helping the cause, even though I was just singing. I think it was a fun way to spread awareness to the school,” says Nancy Tsui, grade 12.

Overall, the event was a huge accomplishment. Raising over $200, the money will be donated towards programs to stop child soldiers.

According to Stephanie Li, one of the group members, “It was a little hectic, but we were able to put out the fires quickly. It went better than I had hoped.”

**Strut for Hunger**

**VIVIAN LUONG, 11 junior**

The annual STRUT fashion show is finally coming your way! On May 26, the STRUT team will be holding a fashion show, showcasing talented students from our school to perform on stage.

STRUT has teamed up with CHF (Canadians Hunger Foundation), a non-profitable organization, to spread awareness about unfortunate rural communities in developing countries. This event aims to help people in those countries, so they can have the chance to attain sustainable livelihoods. By creating this event, students from Trudeau can have the ability to help another person like them across the country, right where they live.

The STRUT fashion show event is a great way to spread this awareness while also being entertained. Trudeau students will walk down the catwalk, as well as sing, dance, and reveal their hidden talents. Amazing designs and artwork will be surrounding the cafeteria, reminding you about the event.

Everybody will be there, so come support this amazing cause and witness this event change and develop Trudeau’s perspective about the world!

**Staying In Tune With the Arts**

**RYAN PENG, 11 junior**

The Art Department and the Music Department are both very excited for the up coming February. First of all, we would like to welcome Ms. Montanaro back to the Art Department!

The Art Council members have decided to host a school wide photography contest in early March. Participants are required to sign up during the first week of March at the table in front of the cafeteria during their lunch. They will get the entire month to think of ideas and take pictures, and will be asked to submit their work at the end of the month.

The top 10 finalists will be decided by the Art Council with the assistance of the art teachers, and their work will be presented in the annual Art Show in mid-April. The best photographer will receive a gift card as an award!

The music department is going to have a really busy month in February! First, they would like to proudly present “A Celebration of Winds” on February 11th, which is an after school concert featuring their grade 9 Concert Band, grade 10 Symphonic Winds, and grade 11 and 12 Wind Symphony. It is a get together event for all of the instrumental students to show the progress they have made in the past few months of school. On the very next day, the grade 10 band will be attending The Junior Greater Toronto Invitational Festival hosted at York University.

On February 16th, both the grade 9 and 10 band will be attending the Ontario Band Association Festival. On February 18th, the senior band will be going to the Ontario band Association Festival, and they will be attending the Greater Toronto Invitational festival in early March. The entire Music Department has been working very hard throughout the year. Why not wish them the best of luck for their performances in the festivals?
Countdown to the Royal Wedding

Domina Chi, 10 sophomore

After 8 years of courting, Prince William of Wales, the second in line to the throne, is set to wed long-time girlfriend, Kate Middleton, on April 29th at Westminster Abbey in London.

The streets of Britain are rejoicing as anticipation builds for the approach of the Royal Wedding.

The Royal Couple will return to Buckingham Palace after the ceremony takes place at 11 a.m. In addition, the Queen will hold a wedding reception for the couple and 600 guests. Following that, a private dinner dance will be held for close family and friends, hosted by the Prince of Wales.

It will be the grandest royal wedding since William’s parents, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, married in 1981. The occasion has been declared a Royal Bank Holiday. Streets all over Britain will be closed for neighbourhood parties.

Prince Harry has been chosen to be his brother’s best man and Pippa Middleton, Kate’s sister, will be the princess-to-be’s maid of honour at Britain’s Royal Wedding.

Over 1,000 invitations have been issued and guests include family and friends of the Royal Couple as well as people who the Prince has met on official business or encountered through his charity work. Representatives from foreign Royal Families, Government, Parliament, the Commonwealth and the Armed Forces are also invited to attend. Last but not least, 100 members of the public are invited to the wedding via a random draw ‘Willy Wonka style’.

Both, 28, got engaged while on vacation in Kenya last year.

William proposed to Middleton with the famous sapphire engagement ring, previously worn by William’s mother, the late Princess Diana.

“We were out there with friends, so I really didn’t expect it at all,” Middleton said in an interview with Britain’s ITV News. “It was a total shock when it came. Very excited!”

The two met at St. Andrews University in Scotland where their romance flourished from a friendship of more than a year. They then moved in together as roommates in their second year and became closer.

“It blossomed from then on,” William said. “We had lots of fun... same interests. She has a really naughty sense of humour.”

The Royal Wedding is not far away and it continues to excite the romantic spirit in people from around the world. It will be a spectacular event in Britain’s royal history.

The couple will live in North Wales, where Prince William will continue to serve with the Royal Air Force after the wedding.

Goodbye Mubarak!
Um...So Now What?

TIFFANY NG, 11 junior

After an estimated three hundred deaths and thousands injured, the 18-day “March of Millions” has led to the resignation of 30-year-ruling Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

The people of Egypt have demanded the “fall of the regime” of dictatorship, and the right to elect the nation’s own leader. However, with the leave of Mubarak comes the question: where is the democratic parliamentary force now?

The protest is believed to have sparked after men in its neighbouring country, Tunisia, set themselves on fire in an act of desperation and rebellion. One of a dozen cases include 26-year old vegetable-seller Mohamed Bouazizi, who was making $5 per day to support his entire family and committed suicide when he had his cart confiscated by local authorities. These deaths are one of the causes for the mass riots through out the Middle-East as citizens explain that they have been facing poverty, government corruption and oppression, inflation, and high unemployment rates.

Originally led by students and labour groups on January 25 in Tahrir Square, an intended peaceful protest turned violent after clashes with the police force. The government attempted to contain information of political unrest by shutting down Facebook, Twitter, cell phone and Internet services. Nonetheless, the protest continued to grow to a point where Mubarak, on February 11, decided to step down as president, pass his power onto the Armed Forces Supreme Council, and quit the country.

The inspiring revolution has weakened neighbouring dictators and autocrats, including countries such as Jordan, where King Abdullah is pursuing political reform. Its influence is spreading through-out the Middle-East. Citizens are demanding greater parliament legitimacy but there seems to be something missing: strong central authorities/political parties. One must also note that eastern-style democracy is not close to western-style democracy—or the fact that with Egypt’s upcoming democratic election, the spot is now open to religious fundamentalists, including the Muslim Brotherhood: a growing Islamic totalitarian political movement that has every intention to run this August 2011. Therefore, it is imperative to ask: what turn will Egypt take now: one for the better, or one for the worse?
The Libyan Unrest

SUSAN CHAU, 11 junior

Libya, located in North Africa, a nation boasting large oil reserves, has been under the control by the regime of Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, when he assumed authority in 1969. Lately, in February 2011, there has been unrest moving across numerous cities in the country. The unrest was initiated by antigovernment opponents in Benghazi; they organized and promoted protests, and quickly diffused to Tripoli, the capital of Libya. Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi has delivered a level of violence that has never been seen in other mutinies. However, the rebels were able to acquire a large share of the armed forces and were able to seize half of the eastern portion of the nation.

In March 2011, the military forces led by Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi had initiated aggression and acquired control in many locations of the nation, including eastern and western fronts, cities of Zawiya, Ras Lanuf, and Tripoli. His regime also widened its assaults on rebels and battled against rebel troops in Zawiya, additionally they have attacked peaceful protesters in the capital of Tripoli. There have been battles in town of Brega, where rebels have repelled and attacked by the government’s armed forces. The colonel had to strengthen his control over petroleum assets in eastern portion of the nation as rebels have seized control. The military has been dropping bombs over oil refineries and air attacks in Ras Lanuf, causing rebels to retreat.

These events have occurred as a result of the uprising that spread to the capital, Tripoli on February 16th, 2011. On this date, individuals armed with gasoline bombs and rocks congregated in front of a government office in Benghazi. The crowd was requesting the release of a human rights advocate. Agitators used social networking websites to get the world’s attention and called out to demand Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi to be removed from office. Hundreds to thousands of protesters gathered in the city’s main square and feuded with the officers. In Zentan, many protesters walked on the streets and started fires at police stations.

Major Earthquake Violently Shakes Christchurch, New Zealand

EVELYN SHEN, 11 junior

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand’s second largest city, on Tuesday, February 22, at 12:51 p.m., leaving about 166 people dead and with an expected final toll of more than 200.

The earthquake was part of an aftershock sequence from the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that occurred last year in September. Authorities say that even though last year’s earthquake was more powerful, the damage caused by the recent earthquake was far worse since its epicentre was 10km southeast of the city and it struck at a shallow depth of 3km.

Several buildings, such as the Pyne Gould building, the Canterbury Television headquarters, and the ChristChurch Cathedral’s spire, practically collapsed. Cars and buses were shattered by falling debris, and many who were trapped inside cars were crushed. In addition, the earthquake cut the city’s power, leaving most of the city without electricity and water.

Constant aftershocks of magnitude 5.0 and greater, along with cold and wet conditions, made the rescue and recovery missions difficult to carry out. However, frantic rescuers persevered and tried to find more survivors despite the challenging conditions.

Rescue teams, which included teams sent by China, Australia, Singapore, UK, USA, Japan, and Taiwan, are still searching for survivors. Relief centers and emergency clinics were set up all over the city.

Furthermore, it was estimated that the earthquake will cost New Zealand approximately NZ$15 billion, which is around US$11 billion.

This event is considered, as Prime Minister John Key stated on the fateful day the earthquake struck, as being New Zealand’s “darkest day.”

Entertainment

It’s Our Turn to Test the Teachers

ANONYMOUS

1. WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PET PEEVE?
MS. YAM: Inconsiderate people.
MR. KRAEMER: Having conversations with people who continually check/reply to texts.
MME. D’ANGELO: When people chew loudly and/or talk while eating!! ARG!!!!

2. WHAT IS THE STUPIDEST THING YOU’VE DONE IN LIFE?
MR. KRAEMER: This experience has been embedded within my subconscious.
MME. D’ANGELO: Questioning or giving up something when the challenge seemed insurmountable. You’re a better person for pushing through the stuff!

3. WHAT WAS YOUR SOCIAL STATUS IN HIGH SCHOOL?
MS. YAM: Social butterfly.
MR. KRAEMER: I played a lot of sports (cross country running/track/soccer/soccer and hockey)
MME. D’ANGELO: QUEEN! Just kidding—I didn’t and still don’t like labels or being stuck in one “group”. I tried to be part of athletics...not much more than bench warmer for vball, did swimming and snowboarding. I found academics to be really important so I put 10% into all school work that I did. I like participating in class a lot! I liked branching out to get involved in other clubs (prom, yearbook, leadership) to see what my real passions were and to meet new people. I think it’s the best way to really see all the positive aspects of your 4 years in HS!

4. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
MS. YAM: “We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep.” (Shakespeare’s The Tempest)
MR. KRAEMER: BALANCE
MME. D’ANGELO: If I revealed that here...what would there be left to discuss in philosophy? Are we just brains in a vat? If a tree falls in a forest with no one around to hear...does it make a sound? Is all the hatred towards Justin Bieber just jealousy?

5. WILL YOUR TESTS HELP STUDENTS IN THE LONG RUN?
MS. YAM: When a student figures it out, will he/she tell me so that I can answer the question?
MR. KRAEMER: No, we as teachers believe in putting students through as much unnecessary and meaningless material as possible and then administering tests which do not count for marks.... I mean yes, it will help students in the future.
MME. D’ANGELO: No, they are complete nonsense. Um...out! My tests create super-genius people.
True story. My tests are kind of a big deal P.S. read the question again carefully. People who have survived my super-tests would have caught the “oops” in it—even though it’s in another language!

Primetime Comedies

A Sure Way to Have A Laugh

ILHAM ABDO, n junior

Tired of those drama filled, action packed TV shows? Looking for some hysterical, light hearted TV? Well, look no further, here are the best comedies during primetime.

THE OFFICE: If you want to have a good laugh, “The Office” is the number one choice. This Emmy winning television show is sure to keep you wanting for more. “The Office” is a documentary style comedy that follows Michael the regional manager of a paper company, and his staff. Michael, who thinks he is the coolest boss, and his know-it-all sidekick, Dwight, try to convince their colleagues to be a part of their ongoing adventures.

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER: “How I Met Your Mother” is another great choice. This comedy is about Ted and how he fell in love. He recalls the hilarious events with his friends: his best friend Marshall and his wife Lily, womanizer Barney, and Robin. Watching Ted and his friends is a great way to spend an evening if you want a good laugh.

MODERN FAMILY: One word to describe “Modern Family”? Hilarious! This uproarious “mockumentary”, follows the lives of three differently structured families. The show explores the lives of Phil and Claire, with their three kids, Haley, Alex, and Luke. Claire’s father, Jay and his gorgeous wife Gloria and her son, Manny. And a gay couple, Mitchell and his partner Cameron, along with their adopted daughter, Lily.

THE BIG BANG THEORY: Want to revive your inner nerd? Well, watching “The Big Bang Theory” is one way to do it and it doesn’t even involve a textbook! This sitcom is about two physicists, Sheldon and Leonard, who meet a beautiful woman, Penny, and realize that they have no idea how to live outside of the lab. With their friends Wolowitz and Koothrappali, they have many entertaining misadventures. They also aren’t afraid to throw in a few science jokes!

So, if you’re home on a weekend, (and you’ve finished your homework) be sure to check your TV listings and watch these comedies.
Cinema Hall of Fame

FLORA DONG, 11 junior

In the previous year of 2010, we have had countless new movie releases to wrap up the first decade of the 21st century. As we step into the new year of 2011, here is a recap of all the movies you have enjoyed for the past year.

INCEPTION: Starring Leonardo DiCaprio from world-renowned “Titanic”, in collaboration with the iconic teen actress of “Juno”, Ellen Page, this unlikely duo comes together in a mystifying science fiction film. In this dizzying, 148 minute sci-fi thriller, the audience explores the complexity of the human subconscious, the power of modern technology, and the will to free an imprisoned past. Bringing in a completely new and unique view of the human mind, it is doubtful that anyone will forget Cobb and his most challenging act of “inception”. Successfully redefining the idea of reality, “Inception” is a must-see digital masterpiece of 2010!

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS (PART I): Sold out before the actual release date, “Harry Potter” has grown up with us since as far back as elementary school and is attached to pieces of our childhood—right next to the ABCs or the first Halloween dressing up as “wizards”. Does anyone still remember counting down the hours for that one special midnight? Or the school P.A. that thoughtfully played the “Harry Potter” theme song as a friendly reminder? Don’t let go of that excitement just yet because the huge anticipation continues onto this summer. The last of the series, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II”, is set to be released in Don July 15th. Hold onto yourselves (and those tickets)!

TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE: With the different teams created for this film - Team Edward, Team Jacob, Anti-Team Bella, Anti-Twilight, it is no wonder Twilight has been enlisted as most controversial of 2010. Since the first release of “Twilight” in 2009, the saga has been both applauded and bashed. Despite Bella’s painful choice between Edward and Jacob, the difficulty of selecting between Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner is also equally comparable. Needless to say, “Eclipse” is crowned to be the most debated upon, with either compliments or insults. Albeit Twilight saga’s plotline (or as some call “Bella’s whining”), this year, fans will continue to anticipate the release of “Breaking Dawn” (Yikes)!

TANGLED: After the release of “Tangled” in 3D, it is incontrovertible that the Rapunzel parody became the crowned cartoon of the year 2010. Although everyone is familiar with the fairytale with the long-haired princess, “Tangled” takes the dull storyline and increases it in dimension (literally) in an exhilarating 100 minutes. With the original plot altered, “Tangled” has allowed Rapunzel to glow as the liveliest character as she ventures off into a quest to save herself. If you missed “Tangled” in the previous year, snatch a DVD now and be astonished to expect the extraordinary from the classic.

Books into Movies

ILHAM ABDO, 11 junior

Many award winning books are turned into movies. Top selling series, such as Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings, are not only amazing books, but they also happen to be great movies. Although these books and movies are very famous and successful, there are many other great books that have been turned into movies. Many of these books are targeted towards young adults that aim to be just as successful as previous books turned into movies.

IT’S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY: Not getting the grades, the girl or life he wants has left Craig depressed and suicidal. After almost killing himself, he is checked into a psychiatric ward in a hospital. Being in the hospital, Craig learns the importance of life and slowly begins to recover. The movie, released in 2010, stars Keir Gilchrist, along with Zack Galifianakis, Emma Roberts, Zoe Kravitz and Lauren Graham.

FLIPPED: Julie has liked Bryce since he moved into the house across the street from her. While Julie likes Bryce, he finds her annoying. As they pass through junior high, they come to important realizations caused by events in both of their lives. Eventually, the story becomes flipped; as Bryce begins to like Julie, while she ignores him.

The movie, 2010, stars Callan McAuliffe and Madeline Carroll.

DERBY GIRL: Bliss is a small town rebellious girl. Her mother is always pushing her into competing in beauty pageants, which she hates. However, when Bliss discovers a female roller derby team, she finds her escape. Bliss joins the team, without her parents knowing, and enters the world of tattooed women, boy bands and unfortunate events.

The movie, titled “Whip It”, was released in 2009 and stars Ellen Page, Drew Barrymore, Alia Shawkat, Kristen Wiig, Juliette Lewis and Jimmy Fallon.
**Advice Column**

**Tips on Teenhood**

**Part-Time Jobs**

**ELENA HOAN, 11 junior**

Let’s face it: teenagers love money. We’re not greedy, but we do hold a strong love for these green strips of paper. As we get older, suddenly words like ‘independence’ start getting thrown around and we are permanently cut off from the Bank of Mom and Dad. No money means no more movies, no more shopping trips, and, basically, no more fun. So we turn to the next quickest way that will get us the greens: a part-time job.

Getting your first job is seen as one of the many rites of passage to achieve during our time in high school. Getting started can be quite difficult, so here are some tips on how to step into the workplace for the first time.

**START LOOKING NOW.** When summer comes, you do not want to be caught in the mob of teenagers looking to be employed. Looking for a job now will give you a wider range of open job positions to apply to and you have a higher chance of being hired. It also doesn’t hurt to be able to put on your resume that you started work during your school year. It’ll show how you can manage your time well and juggle different responsibilities at once, which is a big plus for universities, colleges and apprenticeships.

**DON’T BE PICKY.** Since we are looking for our first jobs, it stands to reason that we have no prior experience that most establishments look for. This can be frustrating, but there are companies out there that are willing to take a chance on us and give us the experience to start with, even if the majority of those companies are fast food conglomerates. So don’t be stingy and turn down a position because of the uniform you’re forced to wear, be grateful that they considered you at all!

**APPLY WHEREVER YOU CAN.** Print off multiple copies of your resume and start handing them out. Whether it is at the mall, a plaza, or even community centre, physically going out and handing out your credentials is all part of the experience of getting your first job. Even if you’re only able to land a volunteer gig, it can potentially be promoted into a paid position.

**TRY, TRY AGAIN!** Many of us will probably be shot down after our first interview. But don’t fret. Even if you don’t land your dream job at first, who’s to say you won’t find a better one somewhere else? Job hunting is a grueling and exasperating task for both teens and adults so don’t feel like you’re never going to get a job. Keep your chin up and keep trying.

**DON’T BE PICKY.** Since we are looking for our first jobs, it stands to reason that we have no prior experience that most establishments look for. This can be frustrating, but there are companies out there that are willing to take a chance on us and give us the experience to start with, even if the majority of those companies are fast food conglomerates. So don’t be stingy and turn down a position because of the uniform you’re forced to wear, be grateful that they considered you at all!

Yes, being a teenager is hard enough without having the added stress of finding your first job as well. But it’ll definitely benefit you in the long run when you find yourself able to afford that shirt you’ve been eyeing for months or be able to finally pay for your tuition fee for university. Either way, getting a job is part of what being a teenager is. So get out there and start looking. You’ll find yourself with a fatter wallet in no time.

**Parents: ‘Don’t Take Them For Granted’**

**SHERRY CHEN, 11 junior**

One’s perspective and thinking can change greatly over time. In a matter of seconds, you may realize something that you have never realized before; in a matter of minutes, you might discover something that will hold great value to you; and in a matter of years, you can identify your true values. A lot has happened to me in a couple of years that changed my views on certain subjects. One of them is the boundless appreciation for my parents. Three years ago at this exact date and time, I might not have even thought about their tireless efforts and unconditional love for me. As I said before: time changes people.

Last summer vacation, I went back to my home-country, China. For the first three weeks I lived with a family friend who had a son. At first I looked up to him; not only had he been accepted into a good university, his personality seemed decent as well. Oh how wrong I was. Those three weeks were all it took for me to realize how insensitive and ungrateful he was towards his parents. A combination of a snappy attitude and an annoyed aura always radiated from him when we were near his parents. And trust me, it doesn’t feel very comfortable when you are in the middle of a little family dispute.

Those three weeks were all it took for me to realize how thankful we should be of our parents. Mom may be extremely annoying and nag all the time, but that’s because she loves you and means well.

Dad may be devastatingly infuriating and lecture you about grades, but that’s because he cares and wants a good future for you.

We are very fortunate to live in a country that is developed and even more privileged to live in a well-off and safe district; and this is all to the hard work of your parents and their ultimate desire to create the best life they can for you. So next time you open your mouth to counter-swear at them or roll your annoyed eyes, think of all they have done for you. Remember, moms and dads won’t be there forever, so don’t take them for granted!
Horoscopes

The Month of Choices

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
It will be a competitive month for Aquarians where your free thinking ideals may clash with others. Remember to stick with your ideals may clash with others. Know that your actions are dictated by yourself alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20)
This month, you may feel that you are the targets of much hate and negativity. Just go and have fun with your life, and know that you are loved. There is someone out there willing to help, all you have to do is be brave enough to take it.

ARIES (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
You are on the verge of discovery and success. Follow your intuition and remember to keep your temper in check and remain patient.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)
This month, arguments, disputes, and conflict will resolve in your favor. However, keep in mind that every decision has a consequence. The choices you make now will have a huge impact on your future, so choose wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20)
There are many issues surrounding you right now and you are ready to jump into action and fight. Just remember to stick with your choices and trust yourself, don’t jump from one place to another.

CANCER (June 21 – July 22)
This month you might begin to feel lonely and isolated. Understand however, that change is necessary in life. Meet new people and establish new friendships, then when the time comes, you’ll be back to your old self in no time.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
As a Leo, you often find yourself in leadership positions; however it’s important not to neglect the others in your life who are trying to help. Believe in your abilities as well as that of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)
This month, you are extremely future oriented. Learn to be moderate and patient, find a balance between the different facets of life, and do not let fear guide your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)
This month, you may be experiencing sleep problems and stress. Although it may seem as if there are many problems in your life right now, many of them will be resolved over time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)
Keep in mind that certain projects and activities are best taken slowly. If you rush them, all may end in disaster. It is best to back off and let events take its natural course.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)
This is a month of new beginnings for you. Remove things that are no longer positive in your life, despite the comfort they may have given in the past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)
You value traditions and customs and doing things by the rules. However, be more open to new things and new ideas and you will enjoy this month immensely.

Friend or Foe?

“MOONFIRE”

Dear Moonfire,

What do you think makes a good friend? I have begun wondering if my friends are truly as close to me as I thought they were. We seem to be growing farther apart, more distant, there isn’t an intimacy anymore, what should I do?

Sincerely,

Doubting and Confused

Dear Doubting and Confused,

In times like this, it often depends on the situation; the most important thing right now is to not jump to conclusions. Have you or your friends perhaps been bombarded with homework. This may result in a distance between you due to the lack of interaction. If this is the case, try and find a time to get together with your friends to simply hang out. The intimacy between friends only exist when they know each other well; if you are no longer aware of each other’s experiences, then the close relationships will naturally drift apart.

Inquire if there is something wrong, and help if you can. Try and tell them that you feel they are drifting away, and your feelings towards it. Remember, sometimes the easiest way to resolve an issue is to come right out and confront it. Understand that being a good friend isn’t just about have fun and enjoying each other’s company, it’s also about supporting each other in times of both good, and bad.

If the above scenarios do not seem to fit your current situation, then perhaps you should consider that it may be time to move on. Often times, especially during our younger days, we do not truly understand ourselves. It is a time of exploration, where we try on different identities and attempt to figure out the one that best reflects who we are deep down. As we mature and become better acquainted with our personalities, we may find that we no longer fit in with the group of people we hang out with.

During times like these, it is important to have confidence in yourself. If you no longer feel at ease with a group, then the easiest solution is to simply leave. This doesn’t mean that you must now sever all interaction with your past friends; it just means that you are ready for change in your life for new friends.

With love and blessings,

Moonfire

Page 8 of 8