

Maturity (or lack thereof)

Although maturity levels vary greatly between individuals, it is a well-known fact that young people naturally behave differently than those of a wiser age, for many understandable reasons. They were brought up by different parents in different households, in alternating societies during diverse times in history.

Yet, keeping this in mind, it seems peculiar that a group of people with very small age gaps separating them would contrast each other so obviously in their perceptions of maturity. However, despite the illogicalness of this, it can clearly be seen right here amongst the grades at PHS. I doubt all of you are aware of what I am about to point out to you, but I am sure most of you will agree with my observations and commentary.

Underclassmen:

You have recently taken a leap towards adulthood and many of you now believe this place in the ranks of the school system requires you to act more "mature" or even to pretend to be older than your actual age. To some degree, this can be an excellent step, but it can also be detrimental. You might feel pressured to meet high standards set by your parents and/or peers, be they positive or negative....BUT if you have forgotten or have been told otherwise, I feel it is my responsibility to alert you of something. You are only 14-16 years old; you are still children, so feel free to act like it once

and a while! I am in no way encouraging violence or offensive stupidity here, but I am simply saying that sometimes it is way too much fun to be a kid to want to grow up so fast, because you're just missing out. Watch cartoons, climb a tree, find some sidewalk chalk, play with play dough-whatever makes you happy. Stop feeling like you have something to prove! You don't have to give up such joyous activities no matter how old you are, let alone so early in your lives. P.S. When you call your "elders" immature for having a grand time doing childish things, they know it's usually just because you secretly want to join in and they pity you and laugh at your expense.

Upperclassmen:

Most of you know the drill. You have stopped trying to impress the rest of the student body with your appearance on a daily basis (bringing back the sweatshirts and/or sweats and sneaker or moccasin fashion statement). You have stopped trying to hide your childish preferences, admitting to re-watching Disney movies for the millionth time, having stuffed animal friends and playing frequent games like good old tag and 'keep away.' Thankfully, as a whole, everyone in this category has stopped being or has become far less judgmental, at least in respect to maturity. Underclassman, I realize this makes being oneself much easier, but I

Frankly
Frankie



guarantee it is worth striving to find and be who you are in any atmosphere, even if it is difficult at times because of the truly immature children who make others miserable. These are the people that the term is really meant for, the ones who are rude and obnoxious without cause or who are phony and lie from insecurity or ignorance. Upperclassmen tend to know and accept the unique quirks of one another, and they find, more often than not, that they share them. Take note younglings, this is a much more fulfilling way to live. I am not advising anyone

to become "lazy" or giving leeway to shirk responsibilities (like many of the seniors with incurable senioritis, to them, I know how difficult it is to focus now, but it's not summer yet and denial is no place to be before college!), but occasionally de-stressing and learning to be a little more laid back is a good thing. Basically, all I want you to get out of this is that there is nothing wrong with clinging on to your childhood. Everyone ought to enjoy it as long as they can and the eighteenth year on up does by no means signify the end of juvenile fun.

Rekindling the world of books, one story at a time

by Victoria Smith

Amazon Kindle was software created and is sold by Amazon.com. It is an electronic book reader, displaying e-books and other digital media. There are three devices known as "Kindle," "Kindle 2" and "Kindle DX," which can be used with Windows, the iPhone, Blackberry and a Mac version that is currently in development.

The first version was released in November of 2007 for \$399, but the prices vary now as more and more versions and improvements are being made.

Kindle utilizes electronic ink technology in an attempt to imitate the sensation of reading black text on white paper, using less electricity and making the experience more like reading an ordinary book, including a page turning simulation. Kindle is also convenient because a computer is not required for usage; one simply needs the program to access the online books. It is an ideal accessory if reading is a major hobby for someone who travels often, as they would not have to consider where and when to purchase reading material or have to worry about the weight

of carrying several books at a time.

In May of 2009, Amazon had 275,000 books available in the Kindle system, and the amount of books and Kindles being

sold is increasing rapidly. Amazon is selling out astoundingly fast after each new batch is released and they plan to expand, offering Kindle in other devices



photo by Victoria Smith

Soon, Amazon's Kindle may not only be replacing all the books in the library, but the old familiar feelings associated with reading a real book.

through Apple and other companies. Even Google plans to soon delve into the fast-growing electronic book market.

The ambience of a quaint, peaceful library with its colorful shelves filled with books and sanctuaries of desks, tables and cushioned chairs, the smell of decaying paper, the touch of a rough cover, the feel of thin yellowing sheets and the satisfying braking of spines are all slowly diminishing in people's memories. Many grieve and fondly remember the refuges and comforting sensations associated with reading from the past. However, the world is changing whether people are emotionally ready for it or not. The glare of artificial light and the feel of cold rectangular metal are foreseeable in the future. All must prepare for the new technological revolution; good or bad, progress is definitely being made.

Senior Megan Fisher said, "I will miss books! It would be really weird not to have them around, but I guess Kindle is good for people that cannot see as well because then they could adjust the font size of the text."

Senior Katie Plamenco said, "I love books and I love to read but having Kindle makes reading so much more convenient and the word is just too much fun to say for it not to be amazing!"

Student Spotlight: Kaitlyn Weaver

by Aaron Spikol

While full time Parkland students play at being grown up, participating in events and clubs like Model UN, Future Business Leaders of America and the Parkland *Trumpet*, one Parkland student is already way ahead on the path to successful adulthood. Kaitlyn Weaver, a Parkland senior, is one of LCTI's and Parkland's most involved and decorated students, earning a variety of awards and positions through her combination of intelligence, dedication, hard work and a winning personality.

Weaver, who holds three jobs including one as a dental assistant through the LCTI co-op program, is one of the most talented students in the country in her field of dental

technology. Last year, Weaver placed third at the state level Skills USA competition, enabling her to attend nationals, where she placed twelfth. This year she again hopes to qualify for nationals and will be competing soon at the state level of competition.

In addition to the time constraints of real work and school work, Kaitlyn Weaver also finds time to hold the position of Western Region Vice President of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). HOSA is a student organization dedicated to assisting students in preparing for health care related careers. Weaver won the position through a popular vote after being involved with the Pennsylvania chapter of HOSA for some time. Her responsibilities include attending various Pennsylvania HOSA

events, visiting the other technical schools throughout the state whom she represents and attending state level meetings of the HOSA chapter.

On top of all of this, Kaitlyn Weaver was also recently appointed to the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, becoming the youngest member on the board by nearly a decade. On the board, she will help graduating LCTI students find jobs. In congratulations for her new position, Mr. Lessel and Dr. Donahue visited her lab at LCTI in addition to her getting to eat dinner with the school board.

Kaitlyn Weaver wears her scrubs in LCTI's Dental Technology Program.



photo by Aaron Spikol