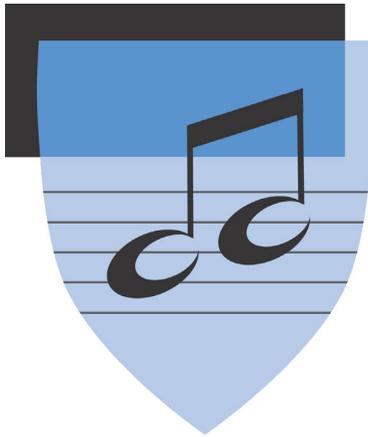


December-2015  
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## The Somewhere Project

By Ariana Jimenez  
and Zoey Arce

Every year, our high ensembles are given outrageous opportunities! This year Stage Choir, & Sweet Out of Lines were given the opportunity to be a part of the Somewhere Project for Carnegie Hall, in the musical West Side Story!

*Continued on Page 2*



## Spirit Week

By Daquan Taylor

The week has finally come where everyone's creativity is shown through many different outfits based on the day's themes. During this week students have shown their school spirit with excitement! Monday was everyone's favorite, Pajama Day,

*Continued on Page 4*



## CUNY Info Session

By Isabel Varela  
and Stephanie Zuniga

On November 9th, seniors had an assembly during 4th period in the auditorium. A representative came to talk about the CUNY life and introduced the way CUNY colleges are, what they have to offer us students, and what's required to get in.

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# The Somewhere Project

*Continued From Page 1*

We believed that it was only appropriate to sit down with a Sweet Out of Lines member. We got the chance to interview the junior, Mirelly Pena, to hear her thoughts about it!

“The first rehearsal was very nice and something that I wouldn’t have expected since we got to work with Broadway stars, and other schools like Wadley High School, and Frank Sinatra. It made me have a preview of what working on Broadway could be like.” Mirelly has had the opportunity to work with Carnegie Hall last year with Stage Choir but there weren’t any scheduled rehearsals, or partnership with any schools, so this is a totally different yet exciting experience! However, all these rehearsals can get tedious and overwhelming, but we always learn to value them at the end. “What did & didn’t you like about the rehearsal?” we asked, to which she jokingly responded “I really liked how the director taught us & how people from Broadway helped us too. I didn’t like how we had to sit on the floor for a long time. My legs were

falling asleep!”. It takes a lot of energy & posture to have to sit on the floor for about 2 or 3 hours singing!

In grand opportunities like these, we are constantly impacted in great ways, because these are really opportunities people have to work hard for! “What really shocked and impacted me was the number of students that are participating in this event, and the talent

of the Broadway actors!” These people are FULL of talent and energy, and they really bring the feel of the show to us. Mirelly said that she really looks forward to tech-week, & the show itself! For more information, ask members of the Stage and Sweet Out of Lines, and be on the look-out for Mirelly’s thoughts throughout this exciting journey!



## December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 ~Winter Concert @ Lovinger Theater 7PM	3 ~Winter Concert @ Lovinger Theater 7PM	4	5 ~SAT Exam
6	7 ~SUNY Rep Info Session - 8th Period	8 ~Blood Drive ~Winter Concert @ Lovinger Theater	9 ~SLT Meeting @5PM	10	11 ~Auditions	12 ~Auditions ~The MET at Celia Cruz
13	14	15 ~Winter Concert @ Lovinger Theater	16 ~NHS Induction Ceremony	17	18	19
20	21	22 ~Journalism Food/Bake Sale	23	24 ~Christmas Eve ~Winter Recess Begins- No School	25 ~Christmas Day- No School	26
27	28 ~Winter Break- No School	29 ~Winter Break- No School	30 ~Winter Break- No School	31 ~New Year's Eve ~Winter Break- No School		



## Coming Full Circle: A Profile of AP Ram

By Simone Hassan Bey

Mr. Ram attended our school years ago when it was originally known as Walton Campus. Today he works at one of the schools in Walton, Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music as our very own assistant principal. Mr. Ram is known for being one of the warmest and most outgoing members of the Celia Cruz staff. He is someone that most students go to whenever they are having a problem at home or at school.

Mr. Ram describes his experience as a student at Walton Campus as “a little fish in a big pond.” There weren’t as many opportunities to get a one on one experience with a teacher, he also dealt with a lot of peer pressure in school however it helped him to make good choices throughout his high

school career and for the rest of his life. Since

Walton has broken up into smaller schools, he believes it has helped tremendously with academics, more than doubled our graduation rate, and helped build stronger safety and security system. Though he had a good experience at Walton Campus, he states that the change was necessary and beneficial for everyone. His college experience was very interesting.

Mr. Ram originally went to school for nursing, however switched majors and became the business manager at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music when we first opened in 2003. He became really interested in helping the students especially with their academic, social as well as emotional well-being. He became the guidance counselor for a few years, encouraging students to



learn from the mistakes of others so that they don’t have to experience certain situations for themselves, he states: “That’s how I grew, I learned from others so I was able not to avoid potentially dangerous situations.” Soon after he was promoted and became one of our assistant principals.

He has become high enough in rank to help make decisions that affect the students however, is still close enough to be able to speak with and have relationships with the students that

he had as a counselor. Which for him, is the most important part. He is proud of the school and grateful that the school has lasted for as long as it has. To the teachers, Mr. Ram asks you to try looking at a student beyond the classroom. This will make you a better person, professional, and as a parent by learning from the student. You can start doing that by attending our winter concerts which begin on Wednesday, December 2nd.



## Norwegian Sensations 1B1

By Gregory Staine-Pyne

Norwegian Orchestra 1B1 is back !!! The orchestra from Norway came to visit the states once again for their two performances of the Holberg suite by Evarad Grieg which won them the Norwegian Emmy for recording. What makes 1B1 so special is their ability to play classical music in a modern style of performance by taking to the stage without sheet music. While it is

most common for orchestras to have their musical parts at beck and call, 1B1 is all about communication and memorization of the music during their practices before they go on stage. Sarah and Hanna are violinists from the orchestra that have made many trips to Celia Cruz to participate in recent orchestra practices in room B96, where Mr. West’s three music ensembles meet everyday to practice their music.

On Tuesday, November 17th, the pair made another visit to the school, and during the practice, they and gave a statement to journalist Gregory stating “playing in 1B1 we play from memory on stage and stand as well so we must memorize and give it our all”

1B1 will be returning in the spring and hosting multiple shows at the National Sawdust theatre.





## Spirit Week at Celia Cruz

*Continued From Page 1*  
where students were dressed in comfort. Tuesday was twin day, also a fan favorite, where we all were seeing double. Next came the interesting Gender-Bender day, where girls dressed up as guys and guys dressed up as girls. Following Thursday

came the famous TBT- Throw-back Thursday where students took their outfits from the past. There were outfits from the 20's, 50's 70's and even students showcasing how much they changed from the past. Finally came Friday where everyone dressed as their favorite celeb-

rity. Spirit week is an exciting time where school pride is high and there's nothing but fun in the air! It all leads up to the annual school Pep Rally on Wednesday November 25. Keep your school spirits high!



## New Teacher Profile- Mr. Blanco

By Mirelly Pena

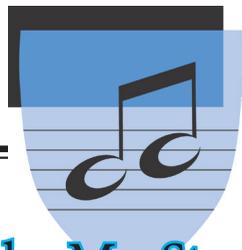
**A**s you're walking through the hallways you may have noticed new faces. If so one of them goes by the name of Mr. Blanco. Mr. Blanco is a history teacher who teachers at Celia Cruz he grew up in Washington Heights and went to Lehman college for four years and is currently in city college getting his masters degree. Mr. Blanco has been a teacher for two years and looks forward to

another great year as a teacher. According to Mr. Blanco his experience at Celia Cruz has been really good so far since hes getting to know the students more and more each day. His biggest obstacle so far has been that its his first year teaching at a high school and plans on overcoming that obstacle by learning each day and with the support of the school. His current goal as a teacher is for his students to become better readers and writers and to pre-

pare them for college because "It's never early to start thinking about college." Therefore his favorite part about working in the school would be doing what he loves which is teaching history and the benefits of Celia Cruz being a small school.

Besides work and teaching he loves watching sports and his favorite basketball team is the Los Angeles Lakers and grew up in Washington Heights and comes from a Dominican background.





## Teacher of the Month- Mr. Stern

By Kaitlyn Castro  
and Jailani Tirado

In only his second year teaching in this school, Mr. Stern has won your votes for November's teacher of the month.

Mr. Stern is a musician himself and when asked "Why did you choose this school to work in?" Mr. Stern replied with, "I felt an immediate connection when I learned that all of the students were musicians." He was excited to have the opportunity to combine his two passions of physics and music. Mr. Stern told us that he decided to become a teacher in his senior year of high school.

Being a student in high school not too long ago, he knows how to connect with his students to teach and help them. His advice to high school students now is "There's plenty of time to goof around and do what you want after college but now is the time to be a full time student."

He attended Binghamton University for his bachelor's degree in physics and Hofst-



ra University for his master's degree in science education. "College was one of the best experiences of my life. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn what I wanted to learn about, meet people from all around the world, go on exciting trips, and not have to pay for laundry."

We asked if he had any advice for the students that will soon be graduates and going off to college and his response was "Go away for college! Take your school work seriously. Seriously! Get involved in something

that you're passionate about. Learn to love and be confident in the person that you are." Of course this doesn't mean that you shouldn't scratch off the colleges that are close but he feels that going out and being independent can get you ready for life when you don't depend on some so much.

Mr. Stern would like for everyone to remember this quote, "When you focus on problems, you will have more problems. When you focus on opportunities, you will have more progress."



## Celia Cruz Pep Rally

By Ariana Jimenez

After weeks of rehearsals, and adrenaline, Pep-Rally took place last week in gym 1! We were full of school spirit and excited to see what our classmates had in store! What better way to end the week with a pep-rally into thanksgiving break!

The pep-rally was most centered around the different cultures within our school, & also

acknowledging Celia Cruz, the queen of salsa. The dance groups performed hip-hop and soca, while the musicians performed some of Celia Cruz's songs! We felt that it would be appropriate to honor the legend that she is because this is her school! Her famous hits "Guantanamera," "Quimbara," "La Vida es un Carnaval," & "La Negra Tiene Tumbao" were performed and were well-recognized by the crowd! "Hello"

by Adele was performed beautifully by Angely Rabsatt, the junior, to also throw in "Today's Hits" & not just spanish songs. To top off the entire pep-rally, Stephanie Zuniga gave her girlfriend a promise ring, and the entire pep-rally ended with some good music and dancing, into thanksgiving break! It was the perfect way to head into thanksgiving break!





## Breaking Down Bullying

By Eunice Martinez  
and Danira Zaccaro

**B**ullying and anti bullying is a strong and sensitive topic, especially in high school, where there is a “contest culture” that leads to rumors and gossip.

Interviewing students in Celia Cruz was quite an experience, especially looking at the way people think. Most of the people interviewed confessed that they had talked about someone negatively at some point. Some people had talked about someone to hurt them, some think it might affect them, and yet, some just have a kind heart and think about other’s feelings. However, when the people who were being interviewed were being talked about, most didn’t think much about it. They didn’t care. Interestingly enough, when they find out that they are being talked about, they feel very empowered. They see the negativity as acknowledgement and sometimes jealousy. Some use social media as an outlet to talk about one another empowered and confident in doing so be-

cause it is not face to face. Talking about someone and being aware of the emotional impact that it brings is one of the things that was thought about throughout people’s interview, yet some people are unsympathetic of the impact because they believe only you have control over yourself. (Mind over matter.) Thoughts on how people can remain open minded about people’s circumstances is to keep your comments positive or to yourself. The majority of people thought that talking about people in high school

will always remain. One person had explained that people will always talk about someone and that it’s a positive to keep it that way because if people were to keep things to themselves then there would be more tension and anger within them, which to the person it means more physical altercations and fights. Some resolutions that might help the high school environment include speaking to each other without judgment. Get to know one another and stay positive. Good luck.



## Music Buzz: Jason Clotter

*Continued From Page 14*

Soon enough, the young musician received the news that he was accepted into the program. In May of the following year, he also auditioned for Manhattan School of Music Pre-College. Along with those two exciting commitments, he also had the opportunity to perform in the All City Jazz Honors Band, Europe (2015), Nashville, “Dizzy’s” (jazz club) and will be heading to Cuba in 2016!

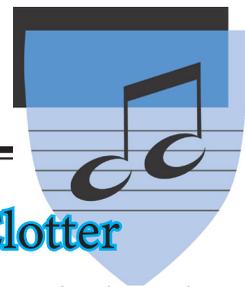
When asked how it feels to play bass, Jason says it’s a really good feeling and that the

bass has now become “an extension” of him. He adds that he can freely express himself. It feels even greater for him to know that a sophomore musician looks up to him because it pushes him to do what he loves. Jason mentions a friend that expresses the bass by saying, “The left hand is for what you know and the right hand is your identity.” When putting the two together with the bass, you suddenly realize more of “who you are and who you want to become.”

Music has obviously been

inspiring to Jason but there are certain musical inspirations that definitely mean a lot to him specifically in the jazz category. Ray Brown is seen to be very unique, Jason also adds that he has a “great bounce” to his music. Another person that stands out to Jason is Sam Jones, whose “harmonies come out like water” and lastly Ron Carter who he personally thinks has the best harmonies and makes his “bass ring” all throughout his playing. Jason looks up to these three men because of their passion and great efforts in playing. Jason is reaching for the stars to become the best he can be. For people who have a passion for musics like him and many others to do something they love in their life, Jason would like to tell them to never give up but “be dedicated”. He says that “if you deny everything, you won’t make it,” hard work will get you to great places and Jason is an example of how you can get anywhere in life when you never give up. Best of luck to Jason!





## Music Buzz: Jason Clotter

By Jailani Tirado

On November 19th, Jason Clotter, one of our most active Bass players, played at the Lovinger Theater in Lehman College along with three others in a Jazz Quartet, but that's only one of the many events he's played at. The young musician has been playing bass outside of school for over a year and mainly focuses on expressing the beauty of Jazz music. He has played at various locations even out of New York and constantly proves that passion, practice, and hope takes you to the places you strive to be at the most.

The Jason Clotter Quartet was established by Mr. Allan Molnar, who has made it possible for them to be able to perform at Lehman College. Jason had mentioned that there was not a lot of rehearsal time and they were only able to rehearse twice before the day of the show. Though there were days where some were preoccupied with other commitments, they all pulled through to the end and ended their show on a high note.



Jason has been playing various instruments since he was a young child. In the 4th grade, he played the Keyboard, in the 5th grade Congas, in the 6th-8th grades the Drums and Electric Bass and since his freshman year of high school, he has played the Upright Bass, now that's impressive! Though at the time, Jason's musical path was unclear, teachers motivated him more to play bass and eventually made a "huge

impact" on his life. Jason's interest in playing bass and jazz music has progressed and his playing has as well. This opened up many opportunities for him. Jason stated that by May of his sophomore year, he saw that his skills had become more advanced which led him to audition for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra.

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## Managing Stress and Balancing Success

By Zoey Arce

Most of the time, students attending school have several other priorities in their life. Many of us tend to take on outside activities from jobs to rehearsals, performances to tutoring, all while attempting to be on top of the projects and homework we're assigned in school. These things together, although they may be enjoyable and beneficial to us separate from each other, tend to add a large amount of stress on teens.

You probably can't delete all of the stress from your life, but you can get better at managing your stress.

It is important to learn how to manage your stress because often times, people who are constantly overwhelmed become irritable, short-tempered, and are unable to concentrate on certain tasks. Stress also has a huge affect on your health when it comes down to sleeping patterns and even appearance. When your lifestyle becomes unhealthy it tends to make things even worse.

However, don't give up now! There is still hope for you. It is



not impossible to manage your stress regardless of how busy your schedule is. Here are some tips to help you manage stress.

1. Identify the source.

It is very important to realize what in your life is causing so much stress. You can never fix a problem if you don't know what the main source is. After you find out what thing or things are causing too much stress for you, limit these activities to as little as possible. For some, the only things we really have access to limit may include work, clubs, organizations, and relationship

commitments.

2. Talk it out.

It is very unhealthy to hold in emotions as this can result in you having to handle certain situations that simply can't be handled alone. It is crucial that before you reach your breaking point, you let go of all the stress that's been building up inside by verbally speaking about it to allow healing of your mind and your emotions. This tip helps with the state of your mental health as well as your physical well being.

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## Managing Stress and Balancing Success

*Continued From Page 7*

3. Take time out.

It is crucial for you to realize when enough is enough. It is nearly impossible to constantly have things to do everyday and actually complete them without wearing yourself out. Realize the amount of work you can complete in a day without feeling too drained. After you figure that out evenly divide all of your outside priorities from school and spread them out throughout the whole week along with your school priorities first. Never forget that school comes before all outside activities you partake in. Don't forget that you also need time for yourself. Give yourself a day to block the rest of the world out and heal your mind and physical body. If you feel like you need a long time break from certain activities it is okay to push them aside for a few days or weeks in order to get your main priorities, like school and your home life, together.

4. Set limits.

Although this is similar to the last bullet it is important for you to understand that you control your life. It is okay to say "no" if



you are committed to too many activities. You have the control over your life and if you can make this transition to benefit and help yourself, it can really keep you from losing your mind.

5. Try exhaling.

Often times when people are anxious or going through a stressful situation, they tend to take shallow short breaths and unconsciously hold them in. This type of breathing makes the situation worse as it tenses up your physical state of mind and body.

When going through something and experiencing these situations, take deep breaths and exhale slowly. It will help greatly.

Stress is something that everyone goes through. It is up to you to decide how you will let it affect your life. Be smart and learn just how to manage that stress that you deal with. Your health and lifestyle matter greatly and are what you make of it. Never give up on yourself and never make it worse.



## Where Are They Now: Brandon and Julian Zamora

*Continued From Page 12*

After being asked what inspires Brandon to continue music with his band he responds "Honestly it's how we feel towards each other and our love for music, plus the bigger venues we play and the bigger the crowd becomes." This life of a high school graduate pursuing their dream in a rock band comes with many obstacles. Money being the biggest obstacle, Brandon explains "MONEY!!!! The amount of money that is being spent in this band is crazy. Ten thousand here, another 5 thousand there. This album that we are finishing up without being mastered is coming up on eight thousand dollars. Money is a really big issue, but we work hard at our city jobs and make the money to support the family and the band."

Brandon Zamora may not have had the best grades or the best test scores but he graduated with big dreams and determination. "My passion is being in music and no matter what I will push myself and my brother to become successful."

When asked where he sees himself in ten years Zamora replied, "In a big tour bus with my band partying and getting

ready to headline a big music festival with my loved ones and my family with me by my side."





## Where Are They Now? Brandon and Julian Zamora

By Joshua Reguillo

**B**assist Brandon Zamora graduated from Celia Cruz High School of Music in the year of 2015. While playing both classical and latin jazz music in the school's ensembles, Brandon did outside of school Performances with his rock band Brand of Julez. The Rock band consists of him and his brother Jules along with 2 other members from out of state. With their father as manager of the band, Brand of Julez was Given many opportunities to perform in more and bigger venues around the city and the states. With Brandon now being a high school graduate, he explains the freedom of being an independent adult feels great but it comes with a lot of responsibilities. Working hard at his new job trying to make as much money as possible to support himself and help out family became a huge responsibility in itself. Brandon also explains how he learned a lot from High school and how it helps him today to be on his own person. "I use a lot of basic math at my



job and I continue to do a ton of reading to help keep my vocabulary up." He also explains how Celia Cruz helped him have better communication with the outside world, "They did help me in the social environment which is something I am thankful for."

Even though he decided to take the year off and not attend his first year in college, Brandon was determined to pursue his dream in the music industry. The band was together for about 2 and a half years and have grown rapidly

in this time. "We took a whole year really crafting ourselves into the band we are today." The band started off playing in small venues around the city then quickly started playing some bigger venues with some well known musicians. They went from headlining New York's Webster Hall to opening for Ace Frehley's band in New Jersey's Starland Ballroom. Ace Frehley is a former member of the famous rock band Kiss.

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## School Leadership Team

By Simone Hassan Bey

**T**he first meeting for the School Leadership Team (SLT) for the 2015-2016 school year took place on November 4th. The meeting was attended by parents, teachers, school aids, students, and school administrators. During the meeting, SLT members reviewed the results of the 2014-2015 NYC School Survey report. The major concerns gathered from the school report are lack of student motivation, parent involvement and student behavior.

Students understand that completing your homework and school work is very important. Your actions now will have an impact on your college applications. Many students despise the thought of attending a community college. However, if you are not putting in the work to attend a four-year college that could happen. Your future depends on your actions, you shouldn't need any more motivation than that. Regarding student behavior, students and teachers need to practice a method of speaking called code switching. Code switching,

is a way in which the speaker alternates the way they approach another person based on the type of relationship they have with that person. For an example, the way one speaks to their friends should not be the way one address a teacher, parent, school aid, or a student who you are not familiar with. As the school year has begun, different leadership teams have come together to host events involving students and parents. Take the intuitive to

speak to parents about the events the school is hosting. If there is an event or action you would to see take place, make your voices heard. The next SLT meeting will be on December 9th. Please make sure to attend and give your opinions and possible solutions to help better the school for ourselves and the future generations of Celia Cruz.





## CUNY Information Session

*Continued From Page 1*

Becoming a senior can be overwhelming, you have a lot of responsibilities and things to learn for yourself. This is the year that you'll be off to college by yourself without any help. This is the year where you are considered an adult for all intents and purposes.

Sometimes you can't handle everything at once and you can't always find the information you're looking for online OR aren't aware of certain application programs that help you pay for some of your book and offer you perks like metro cards. The CUNY rep was there to answer any questions students had about any CUNY school they wanted to know about and to inform us on things we might have not known. It's important for us seniors to know these things because we wouldn't want to apply to any college not knowing what they have to offer. Once she informed the students about colleges, you could see their faces lighting up with joy because this was it. It clicked for many students that this was the start of the next step in life for many



of them. It goes from applying to colleges, looking for scholarships, trying to get different programs to help you go to college and get a degree; such as financial aid, ASAP, EOP etc. Sometimes, there are new programs we need to be aware of and Ms. Chapelle, the CUNY representative, was there to help. College information is so important. There are so many mistakes you can make in applications, one mistake can ruin your chances of getting to the college you want and this is why the CUNY rep was there. She was there to inform us on how to be safe while applying to certain programs and making sure we choose the right college for ourselves.

When picking a college, you have to make sure that it's the right one, which means that you have to visit the colleges you're thinking about and make sure that you're comfortable with them. Don't just go to the college because your friend is there, you have to go there because it's what YOU want.

So remember, as a senior; be aware of your choices, ask as many questions as you can think of, and make sure that you do your homework on the colleges you've chosen. Things like this are what you need to be a part of in your senior year. This is the most important year and you have to put your mind to it and focus.



## Job Hunters At Celia Cruz

By Nashe Francis

**Y**oung adults these days want to become more independent. We tend to ask parents for money everyday and 9 out of 10 times, we realize IT'S ANNOYING. Kids our age are looking for jobs but the process is very stressful, however, here are some tips to make the process faster and more effective.

Make sure you have working papers (employment certificate) if you are ages 14-17. If you're 18, having working papers isn't necessary because you are an adult and can legally work if you choose to do so. Another tip is to have your resume and references! A resume is a brief summary of your work and/or volunteer experiences, education, school activities, and recognitions. Your resume must have at least two references with addresses and phone numbers. A reference is an adult who knows you well and has a good opinion of you. A Reference can be a friend, a teacher, a guidance counselor, a neighbor, etc. A reference should not be a member of your family.

Most jobs require for you to

apply online. Some require their application to be handed to them in person. Every job is different. The summer job has been considered the right way to start for American teenagers, For example; Kids Bay. To make your research a little easier, they have made a list of companies and industries that are teen friendly and are ready to hire, available on careerbuilder.com. Fast food restaurants are also hiring. McDonald's is hiring on Kingsbridge, ages 16 and up. Movie Theaters are also hiring. They're

looking for teens to run concession stands, act as ushers and sell tickets. These gigs have the potential to turn into a steady job have flexible working hours.

Amusement Parks!!! They hire every year, they have over 300 positions for applicants 16 and older. They often hire workers as young as 14 that have opportunities at smaller or privately owned parks. For those who are interested in fashion, Hollister hires teens ages 17 and older. But you **MUST** apply online for all of them!

