

silverchips

A public forum for student expression since 1937
Montgomery Blair High School

April 3, 2019

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

VOL. 81 NO. 5

CHANGING CLIMATE

Back-to-back protests

By Itamar Fiorino and Victoria Xin
STAFF WRITERS

Students from the D.C. Metropolitan area took to Pennsylvania Ave. on both March 14 and 15 to support tightened restrictions on gun purchases and increased climate awareness, respectively. The demonstrations, both organized by students, were motivated by concrete policy aspirations and an intent to foster national attention towards their causes.

March for gun control

Travelling from Blair to the Capitol, Blazers first joined students from other participating schools in front of the White House to commemorate the lives lost at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting through 17 minutes of silence.

Students from over 25 high schools in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area came together to protest.

Altogether, the Blair procession totaled to approximately 200 members.

Protesters, escorted by Metropolitan police, then marched down Pennsylvania Ave. towards the Capitol building. After arriving, students gathered around a podium set up for a variety of speakers,



YEKATERINA VAKHROMEVA

POLICY CHANGE, NOT CLIMATE CHANGE With a large and colorful banner depicting the potential perils of climate change, high schoolers from across the country gather in front of the Capitol to be heard by lawmakers.

see **PROTESTS** page A2

8,500 teachers rally for funding

By Sarah Schiffgens
STAFF WRITER

An estimated 8,500 Maryland teachers, parents, and students descended upon the streets of Annapolis on the evening of March 11 to rally for an additional \$3.8 billion in funding for Maryland public schools for the next ten years. Chants of “Education is a right!” and “We want justice for our children!” rang through a sea of red shirts as teacher unions from across the state marched in support of Senate Bill 1030, The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The bill calls for \$1 billion in additional funding in Maryland Public Schools for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and was originally introduced to the General Assembly on March 4.

The March For Our Schools

see **UNDERFUNDING** page A3



AVERY BROOKS

RALLYING THE TROOPS Maryland teachers ring bells and champion signs calling for action on the streets of Annapolis.

Not your average competition

By Uma Gupta
STAFF WRITER

The Regeneron Science Talent Search, previously known as the Intel Science Talent Search, is lauded by its hosts as the nation’s most prestigious science and mathematics competition. Talent search alumni have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, and even pioneer the use of CRISPR for gene editing. On Jan. 23, 40 out of 2,000 applicants nationwide were selected to become finalists in the competition and receive \$25,000 each.

Although the top ten winners were selected on March 12, those searching for talent need look no further than Blair, where three of this year’s Regeneron finalists can be found working hard to improve the future of science and math-

ematics.

For seniors Daniel Schaffer, Grace Cai, and Kevin Qian, the initial shock and joy of being selected as finalists was followed by a “scrupulous” week-long judging process in Washington D.C. Alongside peers from across the nation, Schaffer, Qian, and Cai had to respond to judge questionings, speak at panels, and attend a formal gala as part of Regeneron’s intense selection process.

Although still recovering from the frenzied week of meeting congressmen and talking to the press, the three seniors were easily able to explain their vastly complex projects to the less STEM-savvy listener.

Kevin Qian

Qian, who started his project in January of 2018, described his research as “an intersection of math and physics.”

Qian developed a method of utilizing quantum phenomena in order to achieve more accurate measurements of electric or magnetic fields.

“Imagine you had to measure the sum of two magnetic fields

see **REGENERON** page D4

insidechips

Bolivia y Venezuela
Una opinión acerca de los gobiernos de Bolivia y Venezuela
SHASHI ARNOLD
C2

Different Careers
The unique jobs teachers had before Blair
COURTESY OF KEVIN MOOSE
D3

Actor Q&A
Behind the scenes of being an acting profession
SEOYOUNG JOO
E2

Movie marathon
Senior editors binge-watch movies well past twilight
SEOYOUNG JOO
E1

Silver Chips Print
 @silver_chips
 @silver.chips
 Silver Chips Print