

# PROM

Megan Becker

This year's prom was held on Saturday, April 28th with the theme "A Night in Paris." It was hosted by the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center, like usual. The night proved to be a Parisian dream with the immaculate details all around the space, including a cutout of the Arch De Triumph that students walked through to get into the dance. Popular choices for dinner beforehand included Sedona Taphouse, Bravo Cucina Italiana, Fahrenheit 132, Park Lane Tavern, and other hotspots in the area. Many attended after prom at Central Park Funland, which turned out to be a great way to fill the rest of the night with entertainment. The winners of prom king and queen were Dean Aylesworth and Alexis DoBynes. This year's prom was filled with great music, gorgeous dresses, and a lively atmosphere, making it one of Riverbend's best proms ever.



Photos provided by Riverbend students

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# EMPOWERED WOMEN, EMPOWER WOMEN

Chloe Becker

International Women's Day was first founded in 1914 in order to strengthen support for women's suffrage. It has since been held annually on March 8th. Junior, Taylor Jones, said, "I think Women's History Month and International Women's History Day is an example of women's growth over time. In my opinion, the celebration of women has increased because we realize how much we need to support each other through different experiences." Although the holiday has existed for more than 100 years now, its recognition has been growing exponentially in the past few years. Because of factors, such as social media usage and recent harassment that has come to light, both women and men have felt an increasing need to demand for the social, economic, cultural and political equality of women. Ms. Parker, who leads the Empowering Young Women's club at Riverbend said, "I think we are seeing a positive shift in society regarding the wish to end the disparity in gender equality as it relates to women. The Women's March last year was a pivotal moment and the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have also helped to bring some of the issues plaguing women to the fore-

front. Social media has been instrumental in helping to give a voice and a face to these movements and to the holiday." Barbie, the world famous Mattel doll, recently joined in on the celebration of strong women with the release of its "Inspiring Women" Collection. This new group of Barbie dolls are shown in all shapes and sizes and include Olympic gold medalist, Chloe Kim, pioneer Amelia Earhart, who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, Patty Jenkins, the director of Wonder Woman, and several other renowned women. Some aspects of their campaign have faced criticism, regardless of its good intention of providing better role models for young girls. For example, Frida Kahlo, who was a supporter of the Communist movement and rejected capitalism, is featured. Utilizing Kahlo's life accomplishments and recognition as a way to make more money for Mattel seems to contradict her most prominent values. Other critics of the holiday claim that not all women are being appropriately recognized. Transgender women, for example, are not the focal points of media coverage. On March 8th, many urged women in business environments to stay home

from work and take a day for themselves, which contradicts goals of gender equality in the workplace. Free cupcakes and spa treatments were given out by businesses around the country, which many argue trivializes the seriousness of gender issues and the female gender as a whole. Sophomore, Gracelyn Williams, said, "I think the holiday is a positive idea because of all the history of discrimination against women. I don't think there is anything to protest about though. I think we are at a point in our history when women are equal to men." It is important to consider the criticism International Women's Day receives in order to fully honor every woman to their fullest extent. Ideally, the holiday exists to empower women of all shapes, colors, and sexual orientations to live their lives as unapologetic equals, and to fight for the right of all women to do so. Ms. Parker said, "I think it's also important to remember that International Women's Day isn't just for women, it's for all of us! I think Gloria Steinem said it best, 'The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts for all who care about human rights.'"

# NEW HALL PASSES

Hayleigh Pickett

Within the past semester, administration has changed the hallway passes for all students. Previously, every classroom had one pass for all students and now all of the teachers have yellow, paper passes to give to individual students each time they go out of the classroom. Along with the new types of passes, there are also new rules and restrictions. One of these includes one student only being able to use the restroom during that block three times per nine weeks. Principal of Riverbend, Dr. Wright, said, "The new passes have solved issues already having fewer students in the hall during class time." Each teacher is required to use the new passes,

whether they prefer them or not. With these new forms, time becomes an issue for both the student and the teacher. The students has to wait for the teacher to fill out the pass appropriately. These passes are creating less traffic in the hallways but causing more of an interruption during class when teachers have to stop what they are doing to fill out and sign a pass. Alex Correa, junior said, "I prefer the old passes, because it is less of a distraction during class if we are completing an activity." Currently, these passes are going to be used next year, as well as future years because the change in students wandering the hallways has changed immensely. Although it is understandable that these passes have made a difference, it is still time consuming for teachers to fill out each individual pass and

sometimes tiresome. Students have mixed emotions about the passes and some understand why we need the new pass limit, but some are frustrated because they feel like they are now being restricted. Ezra Sims, junior said, "I don't like how my teachers have to stop what they're doing to fill out a pass." Some teachers and students actually prefer these passes, like chemistry teacher, Ms. Catlett, who thinks these passes are necessary because some of our students will be absent less in class, rather than walking the halls when they are bored.

**Hall Pass**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2018 AP EXAM SCHEDULE

	Monday May 7th	Tuesday May 8th	Wednesday May 9th	Thursday May 10th	Friday May 11th
Morning (8:00 a.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Spanish Literature and Culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Seminar</li> <li>• Spanish Literature and Culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Literature and Composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Government and Politics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German Language and Culture</li> <li>• US History</li> </ul>
Afternoon (12:00 p.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art History</li> <li>• Physics 1: Algebra-Based</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese Language and Culture</li> <li>• Physics 2: Algebra-Based</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese language and culture</li> <li>• Environmental Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Science Principles</li> </ul>

	Monday May 13th	Tuesday May 14th	Wednesday May 15th	Thursday May 16th	Friday May 17th
Morning (8:00 a.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Music Theory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculus AB</li> <li>• Calculus BC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language and Composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative Government and Politics</li> <li>• World History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Geography</li> <li>• Microeconomics</li> </ul>
Afternoon (12:00 p.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physics C: Mechanics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Language and Culture</li> <li>• Computer Science A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Italian Language and Culture</li> <li>• Macroeconomics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European History</li> <li>• Latin</li> </ul>
Afternoon (2:00 p.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism</li> </ul>				