

HALF FARE IS NOT FAIR... *Continued from Page 1*

Metrocards "it's just an excuse for the MTA to take our money."

Seven of the students surveyed say that they have at one point had half-fare Metrocards and they were "angry" about the experience. Rhonda Reid ('09) said "it sucked to have to go get change for the bus."

In a typical school year there are about 180 to 185 days of school (not counting Regents days). For half fare Metrocard students there is also the cost of reaching school on those days. If a student has a half-fare Metrocard and he or she takes the bus twice a day, paying \$1.00 in change both times, five days a week for 27 weeks, that totals to around \$270 a school year. In most cases, students can't afford that on their annual income of \$0.00 unless they have a job.

Kristina Jaku('09) put it plainly saying, "I'm not rich." Katie Adrian ('10) also agreed with Kristina, saying "It would be a lot more convenient," to have full fare Metrocards. When I had a half-fare card I never used it because I never had the change on me to supplement it."

Bridget Dalton('09) said that as an alternative to the half fare Metrocards the HSAS students should just do what other students do and go through the back door of the city buses and hide from the bus driver.

Chinaza Ubozoh('09) a student with a full fare Metrocard felt the old system with some people getting half-fare and others getting full-fare Metrocards should be kept. He stated that students should either continue "walking to school or don't come at all."

With the looming fare increase, students with half-fare Metrocards may soon be paying close to the current full-fare of \$2.00 with their own money.

Hopefully, in the near future, the M.T.A. will realize what our own student body already knows, that the half-fare Metrocards are pointless. Until then, students with half-fare Metrocards should keep searching the couch every morning for loose change. ☞

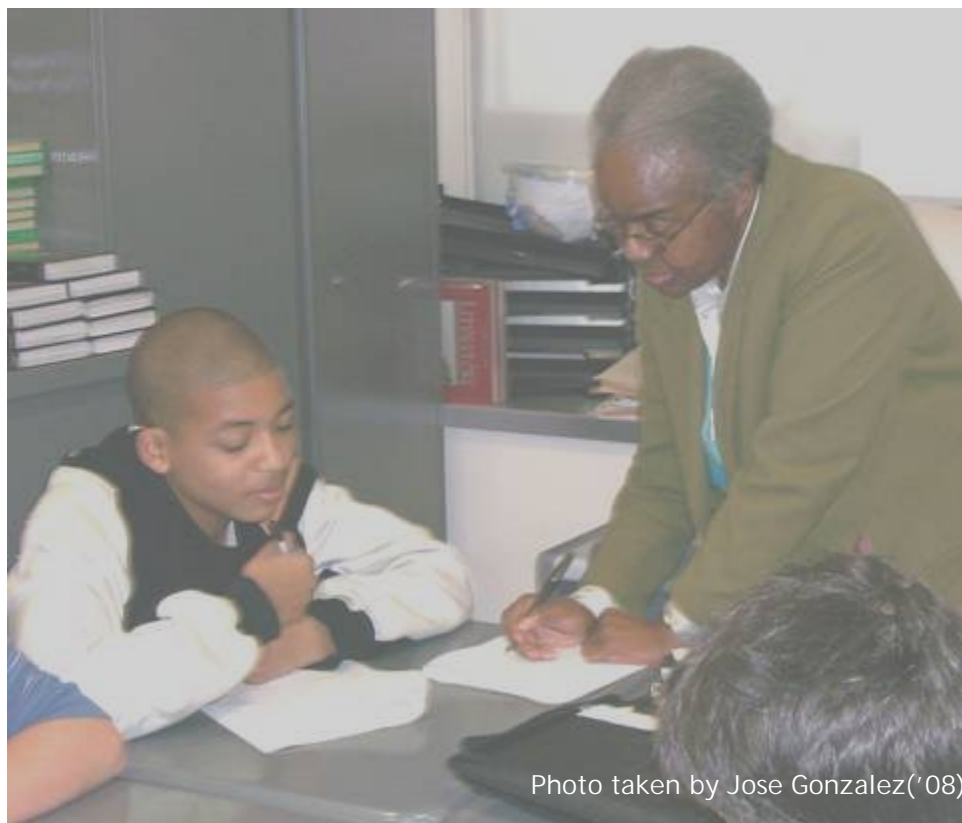


Photo taken by Jose Gonzalez('08)

SUBBING... *Cont'd from p.1)*

Our HSAS faculty also had a few comments. "Being a sub is a hard job, because they have to maintain order without a hammer," noted Mr. Mansdorf. Adding that, "all they could do is write a letter saying who behaved badly."

Mansdorf also added that we should talk to the substitutes; one does not know what interesting jobs they might have had in the past.

Ms. Peterson commented on the subject saying that, "subs who come here like to be here because the students are great. We are lucky to

F. Francis('11) is taught by Ms. Thomas have regular substitutes."

One similarity between all responses from teachers was that they all agreed that it is a hard job to be a sub.

One substitute teacher was available for interviewing as *Common Sense* went to press, Ms. Thomas.

"order without a hammer"

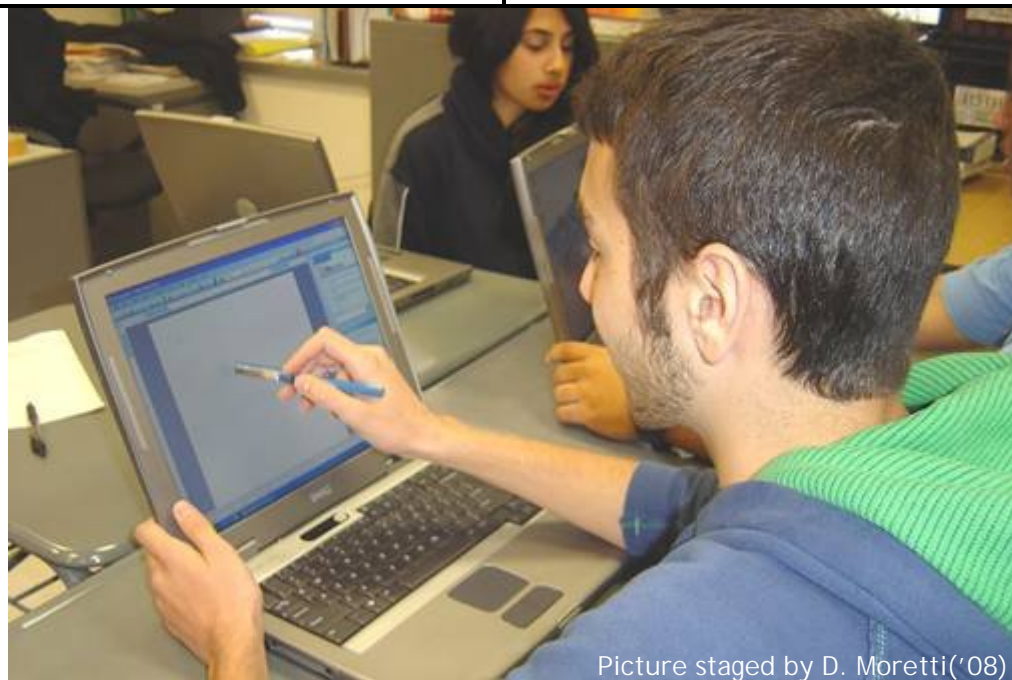
In the past she worked at Temple University in Philadelphia, in the office of Urban Affairs and Community Relations. After this she took a Civil Service Exam and

became employed by The Bd. of Ed. as an Education Officer.

Later, working with auxiliary services for High Schools, she moved between sites in the Bronx to one in the Jamaica Learning Center in Queens.

Last June, the schools within District 79[in which Ms Thomas was currently teaching] were "reorganized",. This is how Ms Thomas ended up in our school.

This proves Mr. Mansdorf's statement to be correct that substitute teachers do indeed have interesting pasts. ☞



Picture staged by D. Moretti('08)
D. Moretti('08) glimpses at the future of learning tools

OTHER THAN TURKEY *By Aleeza Halen('08)*

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner would entail your basic massive 20lb turkey, sweet potatoes with melted marshmallows on top, high rise biscuits, candied yams, cranberry [jelly] sauce, stuffing, mash potatoes, gravy, green bean casseroles, and don't forget the pumpkin pie; but what about the people unaccounted for that eat otherwise?

Alternatives to 'traditional' turkey include but are not restricted to: duck, goose, chicken, pheasants, leg of lamb, spiral ham, cornish game hens, standing rib roast of beef, tofurkey, turducken and turtleini.

When asked if he would enjoy a

traditional turkey dinner , Matthew Berdeguez('11) responded, "turkey makes me sleepy."

How many people in HSAS actually decide to give up that nice juicy turkey for turkey meat alternatives? Local vegetarians, Samantha Epstein ('08) and Utak West('08), are eating *tofurkey* this Thanksgiving (made from a blend of wheat gluten and organic tofu).

Vlad Barbu('10) eats *turducken* because he "gets the best meat with each bite."

Thanksgiving should not be about stuffing your face. The holiday is about your willingness to bear family for the two day gathering. ☞

FUTURE...

(Continued from page 1)

device with mass storage, a screen, Wi-Fi, and a stylus with smart-board capabilities?

"The technology is already out there" responded Mr. Thoman to this concept of an electronic alternative to the book bag. He added that "the technology becomes more and more inexpensive" as the years pass.

Mr. Thoman believes it would be possible to make this product in a way that has no frills and is inexpensive enough to provide for students that are slightly more affluent. In doing so, there would no longer be a need for pens, pencils,

"it's a good idea"

notebooks, paper, or textbooks all at once for the students.

This *T book* (patent pending) would allow for storage of all of your notes that you write with the stylus, any textbook or literature book you need in data form, as well handouts that could be sent to you wirelessly.

Could it revolutionize school supplies?

The *T book* would also tremendously help the environment by reducing the amount of trees cut down and the paper that is used.

Faculty members Mr. Thoman and Mr. Iurato agree that the idea "is plausible," and that overall it

may even be a great idea.

Matt Joseph('10) believes that the idea would be "very expensive, but possible" and that, "it would help with a lot of back problems that the students have."

Both Peter Nauffts('11) and Walt Bonne('11) think that the *T Book* is a good and plausible idea; however Peter added that for now it would work best at "a small school like ours with private funding," adding that "kids wouldn't be carrying huge binders anymore," and that the technology "will get cheaper."

Walt also added that "it would be easier to do work on the bus."

"We already are moving in that direction," stated Mr. Thoman, adding that the helpfulness of this technology "goes beyond the money saved."

Peter Cipriano('08) states that, "the idea is a triple knockout: 1)its a guaranteed moneymaker for its investors, 2)it will in assist the fight to save our environment, and 3)it will finally put the American student on the cutting edge."

David Myers('08) "kinda likes the feel of paper in my hands," adding that any new technology "will probably break a lot and maintenance will be a huge pain."

Naomi Weisz('10) does believe that "it is a good idea" but thinks that "it would take a lot of time to get it together." ☞

NOW HEAR THIS... *Continued from page 1*

grade saving time because people hear only what applies to them. Mr. Weiss likes this part especially, noting that, "a lot of announcements are bulleted specifically" for certain students and grades.

This new method is highly controversial, with many opposing views towards it. Anjelina Wills('08) shared with Common Sense that, "if someone other than Olivieri did it, then it would be fine." Tiffany Sabal('09) believes that the, "loud speaker is annoying."

Are the announcements even being read? Which method do people generally prefer?

When it comes to whether or not the announcements are being read the results of a recent *Common Sense* survey results reveal that they are read almost as much as they are not read.

Michael Block('10) believes that one advantage of the paper-based system is that "the teacher gets to choose when he or she reads the announcements." In other words, if a teacher did in fact want to skip over the announcements, they could.

Kiran Chapman('11) believes, "a lot of the teachers get so immersed in what they're doing that they wait until the last second [to read the announcements]."

Mr. Weiss's solution: "should your teacher forget, remind them."

Good advice Mr. Weiss!

A recent *Common Sense* survey of a portion of the student body found that for the most part 52 % of people were listening to the announcements 100 % of the time, while 36% occasionally wouldn't listen all of the time, and 12% never listened.

However, Ms. Harris who feels especially passionate about the topic, says, "[what] always fascinates me about announcements is that no one listens. As a person who writes a lot of announcements, I don't understand the mystery of why people don't listen." She recalls that she has "people in my office and they keep talking [while the announcements are being read]," adding, "I've done it too."

When it comes to relaying info as a guidance counselor, Ms. Harris concludes that she, "never relies on a single form."

Other methods to consider are: Pod cast/video announcements, mass e-mails, better student use of the school's website, and posters in the hallways.

While the pod cast idea and the in person ideas were not included in a student survey, the rest were and the vocal PA and paper methods won out over the others, with the vocal PA announcements being in the lead.

Mr. Wong, who is in charge of the school website, feels that online



Photo taken by A. Halen('09). J. Ruiz('08) anticipates his Thanksgiving meal

Announcements would be a "good idea as long as they're done with enough time. I don't want to get something Monday morning for a Tuesday event." He added that, "the website is only one of the things I do at the school."

So are you missing Peter Cipriano and the constant roar of the loud speaker? Mr. Elinson is.

"I think that he (Cipriano) brought personality to the announcements," commented Mr. Elinson. Adding that, "Peter's read of the daily announcements added nicely to our school's character."

Ms. Harris also misses the announcements from students, saying that they were, "cute, entertaining, and funny." When asked whether or not he missed

doing the announcements, Cipriano exclaimed, "yes." He said that he felt the new system was "not dynamic like I was. I attempted to [get my position back] last year, but was rebuked."

Mr. Olivieri has a soft spot in his heart for his former job. "Once in a while I wouldn't mind making comments that might make people laugh. In the beginning I did miss [the announcements]."

If the loud speaker announcements did come back, who would make them? Dr. Benmosssa felt that the position "should be given to a student who is responsible, doesn't come to school late." He specifically said, not Peter Cipriano. ☞



Photo taken by Joshua Gardner('09)

V. Gonzalez('09), S. Brooks('09) and M. Maria('09) hope that Thanksgiving dinner will differ from their daily dining experience.

KEEPING TRADITION *By Joshua Gardner('09)*

Thanksgiving is a traditional holiday that has been celebrated for years. According to History.com the first Thanksgiving goes back to the year 1621 between the Plymouth colonials and the Wampanoag Indians in Plymouth, Massachusetts. However over time many of the original Thanksgiving traditions have been modified and altered as society has changed.

On Thanksgiving people do many different things ranging from eating a large feast to watching Sunday Night Football.

DeAndra Norman('08) states, "I usually go to a family member or friend's house and we all bring something to that person/family's house. We stay there all day and

play games, watch TV and talk."

When asked why she does this, DeAndra replied, "because it's a time to spend with my family and catch up on their lives. It's also one of the only holidays where you have an excuse to eat a lot and just enjoy yourself and give thanks for what you have and how fortunate you are."

"Thanksgiving traditions seem to be passed on from generation to generation."

Brandon Nguyen('11) stated that on Thanksgiving "my family and I normally just get a big table ready, cook a nice turkey and eat." When asked why he does this he simply

TRYP-ING...

Cont'd from Turkey page

the culprit but the prostean fact that olfaction brings about memory and thus effects behavior.

The big turkey dinner evokes staying up late for the first time and traveling long distances to see relatives. Those relatives are even fatiguing. The sandwich evokes carefree summer days and that filling snack in between the fun.

All that said, the science on tryptophan is mixed. Our own Dr. Holmes says that, "tryptophan turns into serotonin which leads to a sense of relaxation and well being."

National Geographic and the American Institute of Science agree with our resident medical faculty member. They add that tryptophan only works on an empty stomach and that other foods such as beef, cheese and peanut butter are also high in tryptophan.

So turkey, then, is nothing special in its tryptophan content, and even if it were it would not matter.

Tryptophan only works on an empty stomach, and no one has an empty stomach on Thanksgiving.

All of the festivities are fatiguing, and then there is the olfaction mentioned above, but the turkey, unfairly gets the blame. ☞

said "we do it because it's Thanksgiving."

Although for many people, such as DeAndra and Brandon, Thanksgiving consists of a traditional dinner and family interaction, there are many other ways people celebrate the holiday.

Carl Gayle('08) said, "on Thanksgiving I eat a lot of food, but the best part about it is Sunday night football." For people such as Carl, Thanksgiving can just be a time to relax and watch T.V.

Other people turn Thanksgiving into a social event. Thanksgiving can be a time to go out and hang with close friends or to spend the day with people you haven't seen in a long time.

Why are there so many different thanksgiving traditions? Elizabeth

Bailey('10) believes that, "there are so many different traditions because people stick with what they have done in the past; based on how people have been raised to celebrate thanksgiving, that's what they stick to."

Elizabeth Bailey concluded, "Thanksgiving traditions seem to be passed on from generation to generation."

Thanksgiving has no set boundaries on what you can and cannot do. Thanksgiving is one of the few days out of the year in which people all over the nation are united. Even if we are united by something as small as eating dinner together or watching a football game, there is a sense of peace and love amongst friends and family.

☞