

## NEWS

# NOTEWORTHY

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## CALLING THE SHOTS



In recent months, a resurgence of measles has occurred in 15 states. This disease, once thought to be eradicated, has reappeared due to the popularity of the anti-vaccination movement.

Although anti-vaccination seems to be a new movement, since the beginning there have been factions of individuals who disagree with vaccinations for religious, ethical and health reasons. The first traces of the movement began in France in 1763 after an Italian doctor did not properly quarantine those injected with smallpox, leading to an outbreak of the disease. However, the popularity of the anti-vaxx movement has grown in the past few decades due to health concerns from parents.

In 1905, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Massachusetts law which legislated that states have the right to protect civilians from infectious diseases. This virtually gave states the right to require vaccinations, resulting in uproar from the anti-vaxx community.

"I just don't want to inject myself with a disease," an unvaccinated anonymous student said.

Some parents are hesitant to vaccinate their children due to concerns that vaccines could cause

them to develop autism, despite numerous studies that have largely disproven this theory.

In March, SBISD officials notified the community of several known cases of pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, and some believe that this is due to parents not vaccinating their children.

"I think choosing to forgo vaccinating your kids puts them and others in danger," junior Caroline Latta said.

## FULL SCANDAL



At least 30 wealthy parents and their children are under fire after federal law enforcement officials discovered they were part of a college admissions cheating scam. Celebrity parents have been indicted for bribery and the falsification of test results. *Full House* star Lori Loughlin paid \$500,000 to have her daughters recruited to the University of Southern California's crew team, even though neither had ever rowed before.

"I'm not surprised," senior Jack McAdams said. "I have always heard stories of people's parents donating money to schools to help their kids have a better chance to get into college."

*Desperate Housewives* star Felicity Huffman paid \$15,000 to admissions consultant William Singer to take college exams for her eldest daughter.

"It's completely unfair," senior Ellie Antstenis said. "We have all worked so hard and put in countless hours of extracurriculars. For these kids to get into better schools just because they have wealth and notoriety is a slap in the face."



## TECHNO GIRLS

Seniors Aidan Shine and Eliza Khan and junior Grace Lee received the Houston Affiliate NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. This prestigious award is given to women and girls that demonstrate aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing. Companies who sponsor this award include tech giants Google and Microsoft.

"As a young woman who plans to pursue a career in technology, I was very much encouraged by [the] recognition, and it gave me confidence for my continued endeavors in this field," Lee said.

The overall goal of this award is to increase the participation of women in technology-based fields.

"I think it's wonderful how technology can help young students like me do whatever we want to do and change the world one small step at a time," Khan said.

Karen North, the Houston Affiliate Coordinator for NCWIT and an MHS alum, believes that this award brings a positive impact.

"This gives our winners the opportunity to network with girls across the United States who have the same passion, from improving air quality to advancing boundaries of what computing can do," North said. "Our community depends on computing for every economic area. These girls make the future better. I went to MHS and live in Spring Branch, so connecting with these girls makes my heart happy."