



DECEMBER 2025 * VOL. 1

T&P Times



School News • Fashion • Art • World • Sports

WHAT IS T&P EXCITED FOR THIS WINTER SEASON?

BY YOUSEF ALI, JONATHAN TORRES, WILLI TIGRE & MADISON BETANCES

TOP ANSWERS:

1. SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY
2. GOING ON WINTER BREAK
3. TRAVELING
4. CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES
5. EATING FOOD

OTHER ANSWERS:



“WE’RE EXCITED
TO SEE THE
SNOW!”



“SPENDING TIME
WITH FAMILY AND
EATING FOOD”



“I’M EXCITED TO
SPEND
CHRISTMAS WITH
MY 1 YEAR OLD.”



“WATCHING THE
NBA AND NFL ON
CHRISTMAS WITH
FAMILY ”



“I’M EXCITED
FOR PRESENTS!”



“SEEING THE
ROCKETTES AND
HOLIDAY
DECORATIONS !”

THE PERSON BEHIND THE POSITION

GET TO KNOW OUR PRINCIPAL ALVIN SIMPSON BY ADELINA FIALLOS



PERSONAL JOURNEY & WORK LIFE:

Growing up in the suburbs of Saint Catherine in Jamaica, six-year-old Alvin Simpson would leave home at 5:00 AM for school. He recalls it as a “simpler” time period, where someone could escape from school conflicts when they headed back home, whereas now people are

overcrowded within it. Jamaicans, he believes, are resilient, respectful, and supportive people.

Family played a major role in shaping Mr. Simpson. His favorite aunt on his father’s side taught Latin and introduced him to novels and crossword puzzles. He interacts more with his mother’s side of the family since his father’s side lives farther away, and his favorite uncle is from his mother’s side. His father’s side emphasized dedication through education and hard work, while his mother’s side expressed fun and non-academic experiences.

When he was 16 years old, Mr. Simpson began working with his uncle renovating houses. He realized the job was not suited for him and decided to go into retail and tech instead. As he got older, he volunteered at a church during summer school, teaching sign language. At one point, he wanted to become a pediatrician because he never liked seeing kids sick. He went to college at 17 for biomedical studies, coincidentally at the same time his mother went to college for nursing. Eventually, he decided not to pursue medical school. Around this time, a friend encouraged him to try education. While doing so, his passion for education consumed him and ultimately led him to where he is today. Teachers had already impacted his love of learning by modeling values of helping and encouraging others. Once his passion settled on teaching, it never changed.

Mr. Simpson worked at Grace Dodge High School, also in the Bronx, before our former principal, Mr. Hernandez, offered him a position as a assistant principal at High School for Teaching and the Professions. One of his first impressions here was when a female student sat and talked with him for an hour, making him feel that T&P was welcoming and helping him recognize the strong sense of community. He believes teachers should not spend their entire class lecturing but should instead help students discover learning for themselves. His biggest accomplishment was taking over an advanced class and moving it from a 0% pass rate to a 20% pass rate on an exam, as students felt a great sense of pride in their success.

Outside of teaching, Mr. Simpson loves visiting museums, hiking, especially in large parks,

FUNNY STORY:

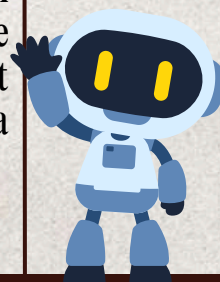


Between the age of eight and nine years old, Mr. Simpson visited his uncle from his mother’s side who had just gotten a rather large dog. As soon as he entered the house, the dog started heading toward him, causing him to run circles around the house in fear until he realized the friendly companion just wanted to play.



***“I’M NOT AS
ROBOTIC AS
PEOPLE MAY
THINK.”***

-ALVIN SIMPSON



and photography. One of his favorite memories is visiting his uncle during the summer to go camping or fishing. These experiences inspired his desire to make the world a better place through the idea of exponential growth, believing that if you do something good for two people and those two people do something good, you are exponentially helping people. He finds the rapid growth of society fascinating, particularly modernization and the development of the way people think, and wishes he could exercise more in the mornings.

Mr. Simpson's biggest supporters are his immediate family, very close friends, and some former students. He has visited over 20 countries, including Russia, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany, Kuwait, Sweden, and Denmark. He hopes to visit Turkey, Japan, China, Egypt, Nigeria, Peru, Costa Rica, Greece, and Ireland. Thanksgiving is one of the only American holidays he truly celebrates, as eating together as a family is a core value for him. A couch and a dinner table are must-haves in his home so he can enjoy quality time with family.

Mr. Simpson knows a quite a few languages like Jamaican Patois, French, and is learning Spanish and Arabic. He learned some Japanese a long time ago but not enough to take it further. Mr. Simpson believes the biggest misconception in society is that people are treated as less than simply because they are different. He is not motivated by others' perceptions of him and remains open to growth.

FUN & RANDOM FACTS:

- Likes dad jokes
- Exercises at 7am by running up and down the flights of campus stairs 3-4 times with Mr. Esposito
- Biology major, but became a math teacher
- Doesn't like talking about himself
- Passionate about space and astronomy
- Believes the best in people until they do otherwise
- Builds computers for fun
- Always has to have pockets since he carries a lot of electronics with him
- Likes music, but prefers country and classical
- Loves reading - read one book per day in high school
- Started as a teacher 25 years ago
- Had a A+ average in high school
- The longest book he read was a Russian novel- "War and Peace" by Tolstoy
- Prefers food to be hot and spicy
- Favorite food is curried goat with rice
- Watches the news, documentaries, and animes with his favorite one being "Bleach"



FAMILY SUPERSTITIONS & SAYINGS:

"Don't talk about death, or it will come for you."

"Don't walk over someone's grave, or that person's soul will haunt you."

"Don't be too proud to ask for help."

"Sometimes you need to step back before you can lead forward."

"If you have to grab a bull from the horn, don't look for the tail."

"Education is the pathway to success."



FAVORITE QUOTES:

"No good deed goes unpunished."

- Don't do things with the expectation of receiving something in return, instead do it because it's the right thing to do.

"Kids don't care what you know until they know that you care."

- Building relationships with students is important for them to learn to the best of their abilities.

ICE OUT OF SCHOOLS

BY JUSTIN CAZARTELLI

American high schools are often described as melting pots, places where students from many backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and feel a sense of belonging. For many students and families, school is more than a building; it is a safe and trusted space. Recently, however, changes in federal immigration policy have created new fears that are affecting school communities across the country.

For many years, a federal policy known as the “sensitive locations” policy discouraged immigration enforcement, specifically Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from taking place in schools, places of worship, and hospitals. While this policy was not a total ban, it sent a clear message: students and families should be able to attend school and access essential services without fear of detention or deportation.

That policy has recently been removed and replaced with vague guidance telling agents to use “common sense.” Without clear rules, many families no longer feel confident that schools will remain protected spaces. As a result, fear and anxiety have increased in immigrant communities, including right here in New York City. This reality also conflicts with a long-standing Supreme Court ruling, *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), which guarantees all children in the United States the right to a free public education regardless of immigration status. When fear prevents students from coming to school, that promise is not being fully upheld.

NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) and the Mayor’s Office have publicly reaffirmed their commitment to protecting students and families. NYCPS does not allow non-local law enforcement agencies, including ICE, to enter school buildings unless they are legally required to do so. In simple terms:

- ICE is not allowed to enter NYC schools just because they want to.
- School staff do not share information about students or families.
- Any request from ICE or another non-local law enforcement agency must be reviewed by legal counsel first.

If a non-local law enforcement officer ever comes to a school:

- They are asked to wait outside the building.
- The school principal is immediately notified.
- No information about students or families is shared.
- Legal experts at NYCPS review any documents before any action is taken.

The most immediate impact of this change is a loss of trust. The sensitive locations policy reassured families that schools were safe. Without it, fear of family separation can follow students and parents into school buildings. Educators across the city have reported increases in student anxiety and absences. Some families are choosing to keep their children home because they are worried about the possibility of ICE activity near schools. When students are afraid to attend class, their learning, mental health, and sense of belonging all suffer. 11th grader Salvador Hernandez strongly agrees. “Because ICE is unpredictable and their actions are seemingly unconstitutional, like they act outside of the law with no repercussions, and knowing that they are running around and willing to snatch up anybody who looks and fits their criteria brings a great sense of worry and unease.” 12th grader Jeremy Yanes also reported feeling anxious. “They can take anyone who even looks Latino, Latina, and they don’t care.”

This is what an ICE agent looks like:



typically wears plain clothes and face masks

vests can say “police” even though they are not police officers

**sometimes immigration officers will wear badges or vests that also say “ICE,” “HSI,” “CBP” or “Federal Agent”

A graphic from Borderless that outlines what an ICE agent looks like. Note not all law enforcement are ICE.



T&P’s Dream Squad, a group of educators, administrators and students, are organizing Know Your Rights workshops in January to support families.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

• **NO ABRA LA PUERTA** si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.

• **NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA** de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho a guardar silencio.

• **NO FIRME NADA** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.

• Si usted está fuera de su casa, pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.

• **ENTRÉGUELE ESTA TARJETA EL AGENTE.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

Red cards are pocket sized cards that explain individuals’ constitutional rights.

IF ICE SHOWS UP, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

If immigration (ICE) comes to your door or stops you in the streets, you have rights!

1. DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

ICE does not have the right to enter your home without a valid warrant signed by a judge.



ICE will not always identify themselves as ICE. If there is a knock at your door and they say "Police" it could very well be ICE. ICE will often say they are police to gain access to homes. If at any point they try to enter, or do enter, continue to say

"I DO NOT CONSENT".

If they insist they have a warrant ask them to slip it under the door.



Don't run and most importantly do not lie about your name, age, immigration status, etc.

Anything you say or do can be used against you.



If ICE questions you, under the 5th Amendment, you have the right to remain silent and to not incriminate yourself.

2. REMAIN CALM



If you are detained, ask for an immigration attorney immediately. Although immigration does not provide attorneys, once you ask for an attorney they should no longer question you.

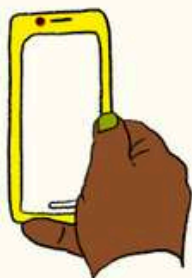
3. DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING



Ask to have documents translated. If you do not speak English ask for an interpreter.

Have an attorney look over any documents that ICE gives you.

4. RECORD



If you witness someone being detained by ICE, **you have the right to record as long as you do not interfere with the arrest.**

Pictures, videos, and any information you can gather, can help verify an immigration raid and also help someone's immigration case.

5. MAKE A FAMILY PLAN



If you have children, identify a caretaker.



Make sure your family is prepared if ICE arrives at your home. Have all your personal documents and finances secure.



Make sure you have at least one number memorized in case of an emergency.

maketheroadny.org



If ICE stops you on the street, you have rights!



1. ICE can only arrest you if they have probable cause that you are in the U.S. without lawful status or are deportable



If ICE approaches you on the street and says your name, before you say anything else, ask **"am I free to go?"**. If ICE says yes but still tries to ask you questions, clearly state: **"I don't want to answer your questions"** and slowly walk away.

If ICE says you are not free to leave, remember that you have the right to remain silent and not answer any questions about your nationality or immigration status. Clearly state: **"I want to exercise my right to remain silent"** and then say **"I would like to speak to an immigration attorney."** **Remember to remain calm, do not attempt to resist arrest, and most importantly do not give false information to ICE.**



2. Do not give ICE any foreign nationality identity documents unless ICE presents a warrant signed by a judge (this is very rare).

You are not required to present your identification to immigration officials. However if you do decide to show identification, it is best to show identification that does not state your immigration status or country of origin, such as a New York City Identification Card (NYCID) or a New York Driver's License. **If ICE demands your passport or national ID card, you do not have to provide it unless ICE has a judicial warrant.** If possible, it is best not to carry foreign nationality documents on you.



3. Do not consent to searches.

The 4th Amendment of the Constitution protects you against unreasonable searches and seizures. Sometimes, ICE tries to get around this rule by asking for your consent to search you or your belongings. **Remember: if ICE asks for your permission to search or starts searching you without asking, you have the right to say "I do not consent to this search."**



4. You have the right to record.

If you are accompanied by someone, ask them to safely record the incident. Make sure that the person recording maintains a safe distance, does not interfere with the arrest, keeps the camera steady and does not talk while recording in order to get clear audio. Do not edit the original copy of the video. If it is not safe to record, make sure to take detailed notes.



5. Plan ahead.

If you are at risk of being stopped by ICE, it is important to create a plan for yourself and your loved ones in advance. Memorize the number of a contact (partner, friend, relative) that you can call in case of an emergency. If you have an immigration attorney, memorize their number. Have a list ready of your medications, allergies, and other important details that your emergency contact can have access to in case you are arrested.

EMERGENCY
CONTACT



MEDS



LAWYER'S
NUMBER



COLLEGE AT T&P

WHAT COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES AT T&P BY SEBASTIAN CABRERA, NIQUE MACK, & MARIELY RODRIGUEZ

This year T&P partnered with Hunter College to pilot the Youth Educator Program. Select 10th and 11th Grade students apply to the 2-year program where they took one Hunter course per semester and graduate with 12 to 15 credits and their paraprofessional or teacher's aide certification. Students successfully completed their first semester and are presenting their original research on topics like immigration, totalitarianism, and sexual harassment to the larger Hunter community.

11th grade student, Bianca Palada shared, "Hunter is an amazing opportunity. It is a chance to experience what college is like while strengthening my writing and research skills. I just finished writing a 10-page action research paper on immigration inequality where I had to identify sources and interview people about their experiences immigrating to the U.S. This semester has been quite challenging because it was something new and I had to risk it all to make it. I had to challenge myself to pass my class."



PARSONS SCHOLARS

Congratulations to 10th graders Tyshaun Johnson and Roselin Guzman who were accepted to the Parsons Scholars program, a precollege program for art related careers at Parsons School of Design. The program is 2.5 years during which time students explore different media including graphic design, sculpture, etc. Roselin feels very excited. "I will get to refine my art skills and explore the city!"

Tyshaun and Roselin were accepted after a very strenuous interview process in which they had to submit an arts portfolio and participate in two interviews with the admissions officers.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

A committee built by a representative of every part of the school that discusses the past, present, and future of the school!

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Staff
- CBO
- Students
- Parents

BE ON THE
LOOKOUT FOR
AN EVENT FOR
THE 26TH OF
JANUARY!!!

SCHOOL CLUBS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL CLUBS

BY JEFFREY GOMEZ

STUDENT UNION

- A club that focuses on hearing out student needs and addressing them to faculty members.
- Meetings are held on Mondays in room 332.
- Activities are discussing important matters that affect the student body.
- No requirements to join the club.

SUSTAINABILITY CLUB

- A club that focuses on planting a garden and working on ways to recycle to be earth-friendly.
- Soil testing on Thursdays and meetings on Monday in room 327.
- Activities include planting during the spring time.
- No requirements to join the club.

BOOK CLUB

- A club that focuses on hearing out student needs and addressing them to faculty members.
- Meetings are held on Mondays in room 332.
- Activities are discussing important matters that affect the student body.
- No requirements to join the club.

GIRL TALK

- A club that focuses on giving young women a safe space to express themselves.
- Meetings are held on Thursday in room 318.
- Activities include donations, and volunteering for the community.
- Girls Only

NEWSPAPER CLUB

- A club that focuses on spreading insightful information to the school community.
- Meetings are held on Tuesdays in room 332.
- Activities include discussing what is most important for students to know, and advising students on what is going on.
- No requirements to join the club.

YEARBOOK

- A club that focuses on designing and developing the year book.
- Meetings are held on Wednesdays in room 315.
- Activities include discussing what looks best on the yearbook, editing, writing, and taking photos of events.
- No requirements to join the club.



FITNESS CLUB

- A club that focuses on physical fitness and wellness.
- Meetings are Mondays through Thursdays from 2:40pm to 4:00pm in the weight room.
- Activities are cardio and weight training.
- No requirements to join the club

CHESS CLUB

- A club that focuses on learning chess and different strategies.
- Meetings are held Fridays from 2:30 to 3:30pm in room 302.
- Activities include playing chess, learning different techniques and strategies, and playing against fellow club members.
- No requirements to join the club.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

- A club that focuses on its foundations which are scholarship, achievement, service and character.
- Meetings every other Friday in room 320
- Club is very selective
- Activities include assisting school events such as parent teacher conferences, bake sales, donations/charity and tutoring

PEER GROUP CONNECTION

- A club that focuses on its mentorship of the freshmen.
- Instead of meetings, outreaches are done every Wednesday in which mentors teach valuable lessons to their mentees
- Club is very selective
- Activities include 2, 3-day retreats and outreach sessions

STUDENT COUNCIL

- A club that focuses on school events and being a role model to the student body.
- Meetings are held every Wednesday in room 302.
- Club is selective
- Activities include assisting school events, toy drives, bake sales and organizing school events.

MY BROTHERS KEEPER

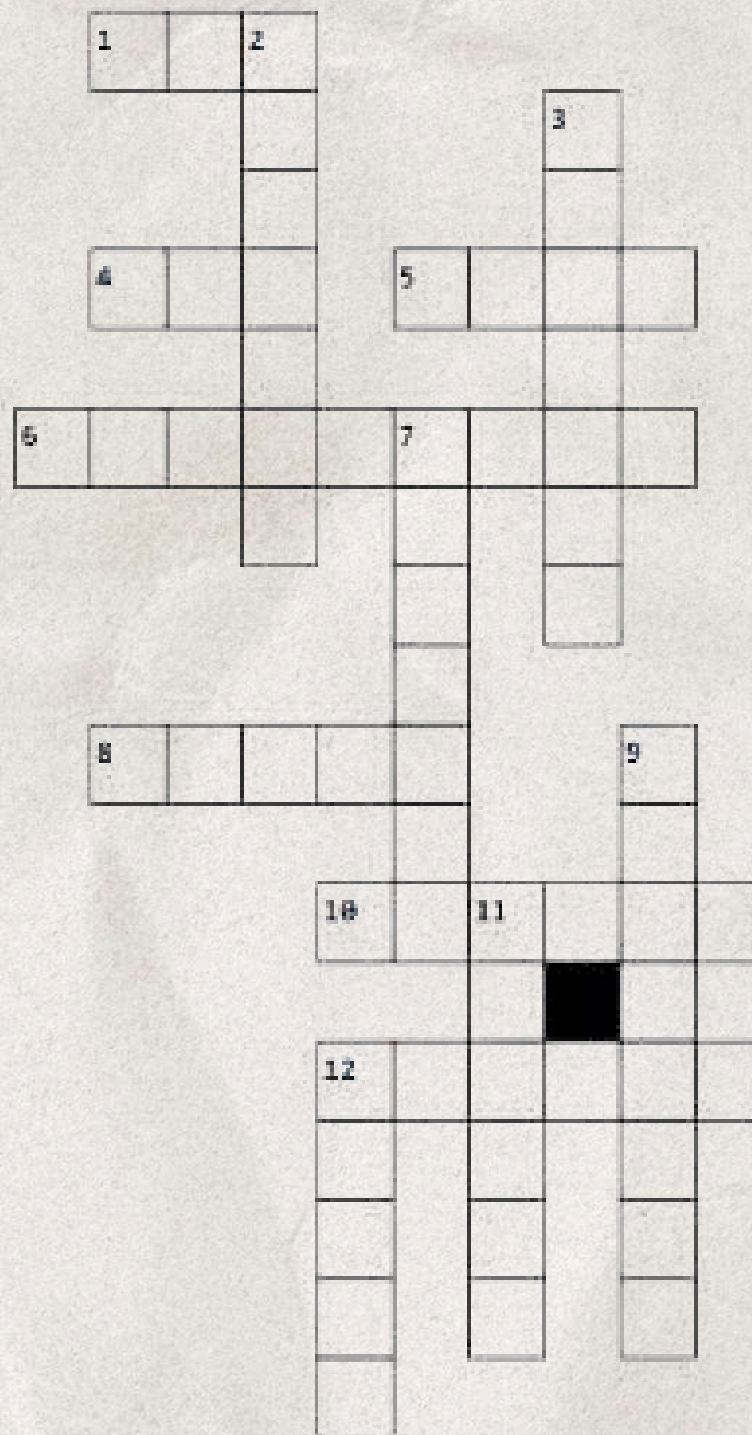
- A club that focuses on teaching young adults the aspects of manhood.
- Meetings are held every other Friday or Thursday in room 319.
- Activities involve giving back to the community, bonding over shared interests and learning aspects of manhood
- No requirements to join the club

SCIENCE CLUB

- A club that focus on researching scientific topics
- Meetings are held every other Friday in room 327 or 378
- Activities being involved in the science expo/art fair, researching and creating science projects, and learning about environmental and human impacts
- Club is selective

T&P Times

By Nate Arce



Across

1. Honors
4. What I Need
5. What animal is our mascot?
6. What you have just read?
8. Coach
10. Who do you go to for working papers?
12. An English Teacher that looks like Santa Claus

Down

2. Foreign language taught in this school
3. After you graduate high school
7. Give me your phones!
9. Where are my mats?
11. Senior president
12. Ms. Nanay calls her students

WINNER OF THE DOOR WRAPPING CONTEST!!

302's The Winner!!!



Congratulations!!!