



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

Turning cigarettes into roads

Recently in Bratislava, the capitol city of Slovakia, the waste management firm OLO announced a new plan for 2024: to begin collecting discarded cigarette butts at public events, and using them to make asphalt for roads. Central Slovakia is already home to the first road to be made out of discarded cigarette butts, made by recycling center EcoButt, but this new initiative would expand this scheme to the capitol. Cigarette butts are a difficult type of waste; for context, a cigarette butt is the part of a cigarette left unused, and on average worldwide, only a third of them end up properly disposed of, be that in waste or recycling bins. Due to their small size and lightweight nature, they are an easy object to litter with, and are in fact the most common form of plastic pollution globally.

Littering cigarette butts can have negative impacts on the environment such as poisoning ecosystems with toxins such as nicotine, lead and arsenic. This scheme will improve this issue in Slovakia, as a designated and purposeful recycling scheme is more likely to be remembered than general disposal, and will not only prevent the poisoning of ecosystems, but will help create a useful structure with reduced costs and impacts. Hopefully this useful scheme to reduce the littering of a micro plastic will catch on in other parts of the world as well!

Health News

Freddie Kingham

First Neuralink brain chip installed

The company Neuralink has claimed that the first of their innovative brain chips has been successfully installed in a human being. Their mission is to connect a brain to a computer to help treat conditions inhibiting mobility and speech. Announced via X (formerly Twitter), the achievement is not without controversy, Neuralink has been responsible in the past for one and a half thousand animal deaths during the preclinical trial phase. Subjects included sheep, pigs and apes. Despite some questionable ethical practices, the FDA chose to allow the company to test the device on humans as it was deemed to be following their animal testing regulations. This allowed the company a six year deep research programme on human patients. CEO Elon Musk stated in the announcement that those with the chip installed will eventually be able to control their device by thought-stimulated electrical impulses.

The focus still remains on providing better quality of life to those with neurological conditions beyond what current, non-cerebral technology can offer.

National News

Aurora Griffiths

Keeping safe and warm in winter

The winter season is reaching the peak, and many people are at a loss for what to do in order to keep out of the harsh cold. The cost of living crisis may seem to be coming to an end, but sadly, this is not entirely true. Many people are still suffering from the impacts of inflation. It seems, potentially as a result of global warming, that the colder seasons get worse and worse every year. However, there are many secret solutions and hacks to get you through the winter months.

Smart-meters allow you to check how much energy and water your household has used over the past hour, day, or week. This could be a great help with saving energy. The biggest expenditure during this cost of living crisis is easily energy bills, so saving energy is the way to go for a lot of people affected by this. Ways to save energy include: having shorter showers, turning off any excessive lights (especially for rooms not in use) and limiting electronic device usage.

Additionally, many vulnerable and low-income households will be eligible for financial government support, such as the winter fuel payment. It is always worth checking to see if you qualify!

Aviation News

Gregor Wallace

Air Safety in the modern day

Recently, a Japan Air Lines (JAL) flight crashed into an earthquake support plane whilst landing at Tokyo Haneda Airport. Miraculously, all 379 people onboard the JAL A350 survived and evacuated within two minutes. However, the same could not be said for the Coastguard Dash-8 it collided with. Five out of six people in the aircraft died and the resulting fire burned throughout the night.

Additionally, an Alaskan Air Lines flight door plug tore off from the 737 Max 9's fuselage, shortly after takeoff. Nobody was killed but if someone was sitting in the window seat they likely would have fallen to their death.

In 2022, in Dallas, Texas, a P-63 Kingcobra collided with a B-17 Flying Fortress in an airshow. Both aircraft were destroyed mid-air at low altitude, but all 6 crew died as a result. The B-17 had 5 crew, and the P-63 had one.

This may all seem extremely bleak and worrying but did you know that air travel when flying commercially is actually the safest form of transport? This is because all pilots undertake rigorous training and all planes are equipped with a vast array of safety protocols and systems, so your likelihood of getting into an air crash or even an emergency landing is next to nothing.

Literary News

Isaac Eccles

World Book Day: the Importance of Reading.

World book day began in 1995 on April 3rd and was marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The hope of the day was to allow children to discover the joy of reading. Many people lose interest in reading, despite its importance, after it is no longer as enforced or encouraged. This is very disappointing as there are many educational and mental benefits to reading such as vocabulary expansion, stress reduction, improved memory, better focus and stronger lateral thinking. The benefits of course will vary dependent on the type and style of book: for example, a non fiction book like an atlas or encyclopedia will improve knowledge, but a fictional story will improve imagination and creativity. World book day this year will take place on the 7th of march and the one pound book tokens will be given out by schools across the world. Many books will have a reduced price on world book day so often you can find a good book for free. So, on the 7th of March, remember to take advantage of these benefits!

Music Review

Poppy Willoughby-Crow

Miracle Musical

Miracle Musical is a group formed by former Tally Hall member, Joe Hawley, and his wife. One of their most popular songs is called 'Labyrinth', a mix of J-pop, Indie and Folk genres, all playing a part to make this song what it is. Every song has its own individual style, with recurring themes throughout. Some are sung in different languages, such as 'Black rainbows' being sung in Hawaiian and English. Their most popular album is 'Hawaii: part II', which consists of songs like 'Dream sweet in sea major', 'Murders', 'The mind electric' and 'Isle unto thyself'. All songs keep a single theme, but show it in different ways. Joe Hawley also wrote 'Turn the lights off' and 'Ruler of everything', plus some more songs for the band Tally Hall.

Speaking of Tally Hall, this is where Joe Hawley got his start in music. He wrote songs, performed them, and was the rhythm guitarist for them too. After the band went on hiatus after their Good and Evil tour, he began making music, with the 'Joe Hawley Joe Hawley' album, which features other artists such as Rob Cantor, Zubin Sedhgi, Andrew Horowitz, Ross Federman, Bora Karaca and a few others. Before that, he released 'Hawaii: part II'.

And that, is the history of Miracle Musical. They are an amazing group to listen to when you want to relax. With a twist, some songs can turn upbeat in an instant, the go back to being calm. Would definitely recommend to anybody who likes Tally Hall!

Technology News

Elliot Richardson Bushell

Cybertrucks

There has been a plethora of record breaking cars in recent times, with the most expensive car auction ever in 2022, when a 1955 Mercedes Benz was sold for \$135 million (roughly £115 million), and the fastest recorded speed on an official car only last year when the Koenigssegg Jesko Absolut reached an unbelievable 330 mph. Even though these may be the more impressive records, the car that has shocked the world most is the new tesla Cybertruck for its design unlike any other.

The unique vehicle is made of a bulletproof steel alloy and has a very square-like shape to it. Tests have shown that it is easily as capable as most trucks and vans in terms of strength, power and durability, but it can also travel faster than a Porsche 911 while towing another Porsche. Currently the truck is only available in North America but soon it will be available to the rest of the world. It costs roughly £66,000 for the dual motor but a whopping £82,000 for the tri-motor Cyberbeast version.

The Tesla website labels it a triangular design using flat panel sheets made of stainless steel. The first mention of the Cybertruck was in 2012 when Elon Musk revealed his vision of the future of vehicles to the world. It wasn't until 2019 that the concept physically constructed, giving the public a look at the vehicle. Many mocked the unconventional design and wondered if this truly could be the future of transportation, four years later, it has arrived.

Book Review

Esme Machin

Demon Slayer- Kimetsu No Yaiba: The library's most borrowed series in module 1

What is it about?

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba is a Japanese manga and animated series set in Taisho-Era Japan, following the story of young Tanjiro Kamado – a young boy who sells charcoal for a living. All seems well and normal until one day he comes home to find his family slaughtered and his little sister turned into a demon! Soon after, he encounters a mysterious man who informs him of an organization that protects everyone from the demons, slaying them – the Demon Slayer Corps. Tanjiro then sets out on a journey, one to cure his little sister and seek out the demon that killed his family – Muzan Kibutsuji. This series is amazing, with great character development, art, emotion, and an ever-unpredictable plot.

Where can I find it?

The school library has the full series available for all year groups and it is also available in most local libraries and book retailers. If you are looking to watch the anime adaptation, you can find it on Netflix and Crunchyroll. There is also a video game which follows the plot up to the second series of the show as well, called Demon Slayer: The Hinokami Chronicles. In this game you are able to play online with other players- all across the globe.

Overall I would highly recommend this series to anyone looking for a captivating and interesting series!