

# The Phoenix Flier

### The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 758—Friday 24th November 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Stephenson Charity Morning... PE and Games news... Fencing competition

### A message from Mr Sawyer

elcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a window into the life of the Prep School. In the following pages you will find a review of recent pursuits and activities that our pupils have enjoyed. Sports reports, trip write-ups, charity fundraising news and some key events to look forward to in the coming weeks await your eyes! You will also see a number of art related entries in this edition which reflect the quality of the work our pupils produce. Our art room is a place of activity and creativity everyday of the week. Nestled at the top of the old grammar school building, you will always find a purposeful buzz emanating from the room and can expect to be greeted by budding artists engrossed in their work if paying a visit. Schemes of work are carefully blended to link to other curriculum areas and art history is covered by exploring famous artists, from the riotous street artist Banksy through to the impressionist work of Monet and modernists such as Lowry. Art has universal appeal at Yarm Prep and it is accessible to all, as part of the curriculum, through the many lunchtime clubs and the after school art and ceramics club. Seeing the progression of skills through to the end of Year 6 it is clear that having expertise in our teaching has a wonderful impact on our learners. Keep your eyes peeled for our community art project this festive season in the shop windows of Yarm High Street!

The final few weeks of term are fast approaching and there is much planned across the school. Mr Stone has neatly summarised the events and activities in the article entitled *Christmas at the Prep School*. Please take a look and stay informed. We look forward to sharing many of the special events with you in the coming days and weeks.

## Bill Sawyer

# Head's Challenge:

What king can you make if you take the head of a lamb, the middle of a pig, the hind of a buffalo, and the tail of a dragon?

# Photo of the Week:

The weather may have provided a mixed bag this week, but there were still some stunning views!



## Mrs Shepherd's Art Corner







An occasional look at some of the fantastic art work taking place—both in school and at home—and under the tutelage of Mrs Shepherd.

Work this week comes from (clockwise from top-left): Imogen Clark, Roland Morris, Erin Goh, Erin Goh, Erin Goh, Stan Dugdale and Imogen Clark.

Children can share their art with Mrs Shepherd anytime!







## **Holiday School Dates**

Christmas 2023: 18th to 21st December (4 days)

Easter 2024: 2nd to 5th April (4 days)

Summer 2024: 15th July to 2nd August (15

days)



### PE and Games News

### **Under 9 Rugby v Durham**

After another week of rain the U9 boys relocated to Billingham Rugby Club to host our guests from Durham. It was great to see all three matches played in such a positive atmosphere. Wonderful tackling and super support play took centre stage. Well done to all involved.

Mr Underwood

### Under 10 and Under 11 Rugby v Barnard Castle

Last Friday the U10 and U11 Boys travelled to Barnard Castle School, after a long walk to the playing pitches at the top of the hill. We played four very competitive games of rugby. Everyone played with great attitude and determination. The U10 boys have continued to develop their game and are now starting to move the ball well and into space, which created many super tries. Their tackling has also improved and they are starting to become more dominant in defence. The U11 Boys played a fantastic offloading game, scoring many well worked tries. The footwork on show in the muddy conditions was a joy to watch.



Mr Simpson

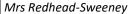
### **Under 10 Hockey v Barnard Castle**

On Friday 17 November, all of the Year 5 girls went on an away fixture to Barnard Castle. We were one of two teams from the girls of Year 5 and we played a 2,3,1 formation with a goal keeper behind the two defenders. The pitch at Barnie was very muddy and almost unplayable, but everyone had a go so the match could take place. It was a challenge to play on so we did well to

cope with conditions. The Barnard Castle children were very nice and welcoming to us. Throughout the match, both teams had a relatively even amount of ball possession. The end result on the pitch my team played on was 3-0 to Yarm.



Year's 4,5 and 6 continue to work hard in PE with basketball the theme this half term. They have worked hard on their dribbling, passing and shooting in recent weeks and have now begun to play some 4v4 games. The Year 3 children continue to show ambition in swimming and with just one session left for this group, they are working on their distances in the pool.













# **Stephenson Charity Morning**

Thursday, 16th November was an especially busy breaktime with Stephenson House raising money for the Hartlepool Baby Bank. Stalls were expertly masterminded by our Year 6 pupils and enjoyed by all. Particularly popular were the Brazilian truffles made by Brian's Mum and the staff guess the baby photograph quiz. Thank you to all involved.

Mrs Arrol

Well done to everyone who took part in Stephenson's charity morning. All together you raised an incredible £502.68!













### Christmas at the Prep School

This is an updated copy of the email that was sent out to parents last week. All changes from that email are in red.

As always, the last few weeks of term are busy! We want to make sure you are kept fully abreast of what is happening, so please find a breakdown of events, requests and other key information below.

### **Tuesday 21st November**

Last Table Tennis after school club session of the term.

### Friday 24th November

**Ticket booking for the Prep Carol Service closes**. Details regarding this were released this week (and can also be found in the *Phoenix Flier*).

#### Saturday 25th November

The YPSSC are very excited to host our annual Christmas Ball on from 7pm - midnight. Tickets can be purchased via Classlist.

### **Monday 27th November**

**Our Christmas Mission to support the CAUSE Foundation begins at school.** Representatives from the charity will be coming in for assembly to help launch the mission. We are asking for support for the most vulnerable in our area by collecting items for hampers, which will be organised on a class-by-class basis. Collection points will be located in each form room, and are open until Monday 11th December. Further details will be shared in due course.

Last Year 3 swimming session of the term.

Last Monday after school chess club of the term today.

### **Tuesday 28th November**

Year 3 will be hosting St Peter's for some hockey and rugby training workshops.

Last Tuesday after school clubs of the term for Years 3-6.

### Wednesday 29th November

Last Wednesday after school chess club of the term today.

### Friday 1st December

Under 10 Rugby v DCSF at Green Lane and Under 10 Hockey v St Peters at school. Both start at 2pm.

**Under 11 Hockey v St Peters**, taking place away (2pm start). Children return at 4.30pm approx.

Under 11 Rugby triangular fixture with GSAL (away; 2pm start, 5pm return).

#### Monday 4th December

Reports will be released to parents at 4pm via the parent portal. Details to follow.

The Christmas Post Box will open. It will be placed outside Mr Year 3 children will all stay behind after school for tea and Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to write full names and forms on envelopes to avoid any confusion.

Last Monday carousel activities sessions of the term.

The Spring Term activities booking form will be open for your children to select their activities.

All clubs and activities finish this week.

#### **Tuesday 5th December**

All children in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service.

5.30pm - Prep School Carol Service in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Please refer to the email sent out regarding ticketing of this event. We look forward to inviting you all to the Carol Service, which promises to be a wonderful occasion to get into the festive spirit! Following the performance, children are to be collected from the Senior School Sports Hall and you are all invited to join us for festive refreshments.

### Wednesday 6th December

Last lesson 6 activities sessions of the term.

Last riding and golf sessions of the term today.

### **Thursday 7th December**

Nicola Carrick from Teesside Hospice will be coming in to that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as launch our Reindeer Run, supported by the YPSSC, which much as possible to the rightful owners. takes place on Friday 15th December (details below).

### Friday 8th December

We will be collecting for The Mustard Seed Project.

Mrs Dunkley's dance groups will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45-10.10am in the Prep Hall.

The Spring Term activities booking form will close at 9am.

All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.

Under 11 Hockey and Under 11 Rugby v Dame Allan's, taking place at school and Green Lane respectively from 2pm.

#### **Monday 11th December**

Prep School Library Books - Please can all Prep library books School Christmas lunch! be returned today. This will allow us to organise all of our library stock in preparation for the exciting transition to our new library space. Please can children bring a reading book in from home this week to read in school.

2pm - Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home in Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Last donations for our Christmas Mission today.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at

3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

#### **Tuesday 12th December**

preparation for their Christmas Show.

5.30pm - Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall. All Year 3 families are invited to attend. The performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

#### Wednesday 13th December

House General Knowledge Quiz will take place during the

**2pm – Some choristers** will be singing carols to the residents of Middleton Retirement Village. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Please send any lost property into school that does not belong to your child today.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

#### **Thursday 14th December**

Lost Property assembly will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items

Last day for entries into Sodexo's Christmas Gingerbread **Competition** to be handed in as judging takes place today!

We will be beginning our annual 'Carols on the Gate' during PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at morning drop-offs from today. Please come along and join in! 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

### Friday 15th December

All school bags and kit bags to go home today please.

Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice.

During the school day, the children will enjoy their own carol service at Yarm Church.

Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice. Antlers are included. We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found here.

At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is NOT available on this day.

Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected from school at 3.45pm.

Mr Stone

### **Music Lessons**

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, <u>please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you</u>.

### **Christmas Art Competition**

# Christmas Art Competition

Design and create a TURKEY using the style of your favourite famous artist!

Here is an example...







Your entry can be created using any medium the more original the better. It can be
sculpture, collage, painting... anything goes!

Deadline: Monday 4th December 2023
Please bring entries to Mrs Shepherd

### **Fencing**

Amelia Cheesman and Freddie Bonner did brilliantly well last weekend in the annual Wetherby Fencing competition. Freddie finished 7th in his group and Amelia finished 5th in her group.

Freddie was in the Under 10s boys foil and won three of his fights and then his first direct elimination fight (which, in his first competition, was pretty impressive). He finished 7th overall.

Amelia was in the U12s girls foil and was in really tough group against girls who had been fencing for considerably longer, and all of whom had participated in previous competitions. She had a tough start but when settled she too got three victories. She finished 5th overall which, again, was really impressive being in her first competition.

All in all, a really positive day and they we're great ambassadors for the school. Well done to both Freddie and

Amelia!

Mr Trevithick

### **Tempest Special Offer**

\*\*\*Special Christmas offer: £5.00 off a Print in a tube (available until the 1st December)\*\*\*

This is a reminder that your whole school group photograph taken earlier in the year is still available to view and order via the Tempest Ordering website. A weblink is supplied below which will take you directly to your photograph and allow you to browse the products available and place an order should you wish.

#### https://htmp.st/160361-370WSG

If your order is intended as a Christmas gift, we recommend placing your order before 1st December to give the best chance of receiving your photograph/s back in time.

### **Gingerbread Competition**



### **Anti-Bullying Week**

We spent some time last week in assemblies and classes looking at the topic of bullying, something we do regularly but more so each year during the national Anti-Bullying Week campaign. Two key areas we explored this year were 'banter' and 'being an upstander'.

We looked at what banter is ("the playful and friendly

exchange of teasing remarks") and how this can be a feature of all friendships. We then moved on to explore when these remarks are <u>not</u> banter. The children agreed that it is not banter if:

- Someone's asked it to stop and it hasn't
- You would be upset if someone said it to you
- It's hurtful
- You're not friends
- The target isn't laughing
- It focuses on someone's insecurities.

Finally we devised a plan of what to do if banter goes too far:

- Ask them to stop
- Make a noise!
  - Let the person know they have gone to far
  - Check in with the person who is receiving banter
  - Speak to a trusted adult about it
  - Show kindness.

Mr Stone

### Coming Up at the PAA

# Whitney Queen of the Night

Thursday 11th April, 7.30pm

Experience the ultimate

tribute to the remarkable musical repertoire of Whitney Houston in an electrifying production that honours her timeless songs with sensational vocalists and a full live band.

MANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBOOK OME MOVENT IN TIME I'M EVERY WOMAN, I WILL ALWAYS LOVE S all my love, how will I know, million dollar bill, the greatest love of all and mann

Prepare to be blown away by an extraordinary journey through three decades of all-time hits such as I Wanna Dance With Somebody, One Moment In Time, I'm Every Woman, I Will Always Love You, My Love Is Your Love, So Emotional, Run To You, Saving All My Love, How Will I Know, Million Dollar Bill, The Greatest Love Of All, and many more.

#### **Go Your Own Way**

Friday 19th April, 7.30pm

Go Your Own Way is a brand new spellbinding show featuring the music from the legendary



multiple Grammy Award Winning Fleetwood Mac.

Their rock 'n' roll legacy is beautifully performed by a highly talented and acclaimed ensemble of musicians who will take audiences on a powerful journey through their incredible song

book. With hits including "Dreams", "Don't Stop", "Everywhere", "Rhiannon", "Gold Dust Woman", "Little Lies", "Big Love" and many more.

# Chaka - The Music of Chaka Khan

# Friday 3rd May, 7.30pm

An exhilarating music show celebrating one



of the world's most gifted music icons and multi-Grammy award winner, Chaka Khan.

Honouring the fabulous legendary singer and songwriter who has captivated audiences and inspired generations of singers for over five decades with her funk, soul, pop and dance hits, Chaka – The Music of Chaka Khan is the ultimate musical tribute celebrating an icon.

### Hello from the YPSSC

(Yarm Prep School Social Committee)

The YPSSC is made up and run by parent volunteers, like a PTA, our function is to provide a social network for the whole school community and raise funds for the children and local charities.

ypssc@yarmschool.org

iii) Classlist We are using Classlist!! An amazing app that keeps all events and info in one simple app. Get the app to never miss an event



### Dates for the diary

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Market Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November Winter Ball- Tickets on Classliet

#### **Coffee mornings**

A chance to relax and meet other parents and catch up with what events are coming up

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 9-11am Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 9-11am Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 9-11am Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 9-11am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 9-11am

#### **Drinks evening**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30-9.30pm Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7-10pm

@ The Keys, 65 High Street Yarm TS15 9BH

### Class reps

Each class has a parent rep who is a great 'go to'. Your class rep can be found on the Classlist app.

### **PreLoved Uniform**

As an Eco School we are very keen on preloved uniform and have a good and varied stock. Just drop us a message on the app and we'll see what we have. Donations are ALWAYS welcomewe can find homes for clean items in good condition



### https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

### **Tooled Up Education**

t's official: Tooled Up Education are innovators! We're thrilled to be finalists in the BETT Awards for Innovation. These Awards recognise creativity and impact in the use of technology in education. Thank you to the 23,000 that subscribe to our digital platform and for being as passionate as we are about the application of research insights in family life.

This week we're thinking about the role that technology plays in family life, and how we can support our children in forming good habits around technology and the internet.

With the holidays around the corner, many parents will be having that conversation about buying a child their first smartphone. Here at Tooled Up we get a lot of questions about "first phones." Watch Dr Weston's <u>webinar</u> on what to consider before buying your child a phone. Our <u>webinar</u> on raising a child in the digital world can answer some of your queries and make a good starting point for healthy conversations with children.

If you follow any of the latest trends in technology, you've probably heard of the metaverse by now, but you might not be quite so sure what it is or what it does. Our helpful <u>explainer for parents</u> from Dr Lisa Sugiura is a great starting point. Gaming is a key leisure activity for many young people, a social experience, a multi-billion dollar industry and a point of contention in many households. These <u>top tips</u> from expert Andy Robertson will help you set healthy boundaries and keep gaming enjoyable and safe.

As always, don't miss out on attending any online event. Coming soon:

### November 28, 2023 - 16:30 GMT: International Men's Day Panel Discussion

With Dr Hope Christie, Debi Roberts from the suicide awareness charity The OLLIE Foundation, and male mental health speakers Ryan Parkes, and George Sullivan.

### November 29, 2023 - 12:30 GMT: Help! I Feel Like A Failure As A Parent!

Psychiatrist Dr Gauri Seth will address the thorny topic of parental guilt and how to manage it.

### December 6, 2023 – 19:000 GMT: Raising A Resilient Teen Boy

In this online talk, Dr Kathy Weston will take parents on a journey through the evidence relating to boys' resilience and mental health.

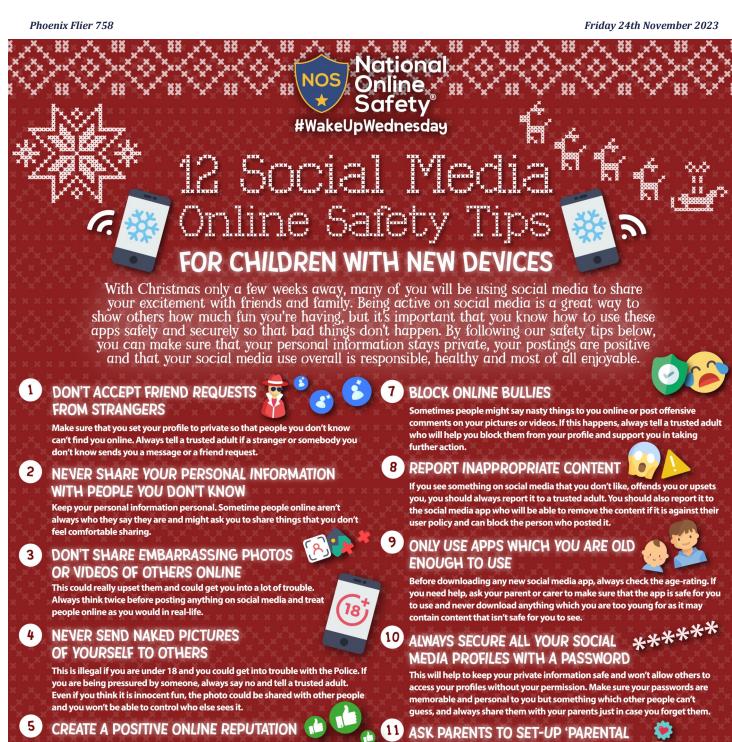
For those enquiring, all recent recordings will appear on our platform very shortly (watch out for the webinar by Dr Tara Porter on 'Understanding Girls' and last week's conference on ADHD!

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better?

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click <a href="https://example.com/here-to-register-for-an-account">here-to-register-for-an-account</a>. It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at <a href="https://example.com/support@tooledupeducation.com">support@tooledupeducation.com</a>. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.





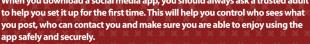
Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of you digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or there's more to life than just what's on social media.

CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult



12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.





### **Coming Up**

### You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

Sat 25 Prep Christmas Ball

(PAA; 7pm-Midnight)

Mon 27 ABRSM examinations week

Tue 28 U8 Rugby and Hockey with St Peter's

(home; 2pm start)

Wed 29 Pre-Prep Nativity

(PAA; 5.30pm start)

### **DECEMBER 2023**

Fri 1 U11 Hockey v St Peters

(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
U11 Rugby v GSAL and others
(away; 2pm start, 5pm return)

U10 Hockey v St Peters

(home; 2pm start) U10 Rugby v DCSF (home; 2pm start)

Mon 4 Christmas Postbox opens today!

Clubs and activities finish this week

Reports released to parents (4pm)

**EYFS Nativity Performance** 

(Studio Hall; 2pm)

Tue 5 Prep Carol Service (PAA; 5.30pm)

### **Term Dates**

### **Autumn Term 2023**

Finish Friday, 15th December 2023

(after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2023

Pupils Return Thursday 4th January 2024 Half Term Begins Thursday 15th February 2024

(after school)

INSETFriday 16th February 2024Pupils ReturnMonday 26th February 2024FinishThursday 28th March 2024

(after school; no after school care)

**Summer Term 2024** 

Pupils Return Thursday 18th April 2024
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term Begins Thursday 23rd May 2024

(after school)

Pupils Return Monday 3rd June 2024 Finish Thursday 4th July 2024

At 12 noon

(after school; no after school care)

### **Autumn Term 2024**

Preparation Day Tuesday, 27th August 2024

Wednesday, 28th August 2024
Thursday, 29th August 2024

All pupils return Thursday, 29th August 2024
Half term begins Friday, 18th October 2024

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 4th November 2024
Term ends Friday, 13th December 2024

(after school; no after school care)

### **Spring Term 2025**

Pupils return Monday, 6th January 2025 Half term begins Thursday, 20th February 2025

(after school)

INSET Day Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils return Monday 3rd March 2025

Term ends Friday 4th April 2025 (after school)

### Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return Wednesday, 23rd April 2025
Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025
Half term begins Thursday, 22nd May 2025

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 2nd June 2025 Term ends Thursday, 3rd July 2025

(after Prize Giving)

## **Celebration Assembly**

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Kaycee W.	Ayah B.
3J	Gowri P.	Senon W.
3P	Alex Z.	Jayden W.
4F	Harriet P.	Emily W.
<b>4</b> J	Sajan G.	Zac S.
45	Sia S.	Harriet A.
5G	Fathe C.	Max J.
5H	Emily Q.	Henry S.
5K	Rory B.	Evelyn C.
6Н	Thea S.	Will B.
6L	Samuel I.	Tallulah M.
6W	Pradyoth K.	Sri R.

### **Head Teacher Awards:**

Year 6: George P.

#### **Music Awards:**

Silver: Jack M.

**Bronze:** Cooper W., Thomas M.