

TEENS **in** PRINT BOSTON

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**How teens are helping to keep
their households together. pg 3**

▲ AFH photo by Bill Le

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In partnership with
The Boston Globe

Harry Potter: end of an era?

By Alicia Perez // Staff Writer



▲ TIP art by Makiz Nasirahmad

This summer, with the showing of the film “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2,” an extraordinary franchise came to a close. Whether you are a fan or not, you cannot deny that Harry Potter has arguably been the most successful and influential series of books and movies in history.

Teenagers of this generation were raised with Harry Potter either right in their hearts or at least in the backburner of their lives. Still, opinions do vary about what the final ending means.

Karina Pena, 17, grew up with Harry Potter stories and cinema and is truly feeling the grief.

“I’m really upset,” says Pena, who goes to the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science. “Now, there’s no more Harry Potter and there’s no more excitement and Harry Potter was one of those movies everyone was talking about.”

Meanwhile, seventeen-year-old Angellica Alessi, from Madison Park High School, is nonchalant about the whole thing. There are some teens that neither J.K. Rowling nor Warner Bros. could touch.

“It’s just the end of a movie for me and I don’t care, I guess,” Alessi says.

Jamie Leveque, 17, from the O’Bryant, managed to give a brighter side to the finale. While the media is promoting the official end of an era and declaring that all the older Potterheads must be forced to grow up, Leveque says, “The movies are over, the saga is over, but I feel like it’s not really over because there are fans out there that will keep it alive.”

Seventeen-year-old Sally Pham, from the O’Bryant, though, sums up the gloomy feeling of many Potter fans dealing with the final curtain: “The end of life. There’s no more Harry Potter. What am I supposed to do with my life now?” ■

Survivor Maine: a new beginning?

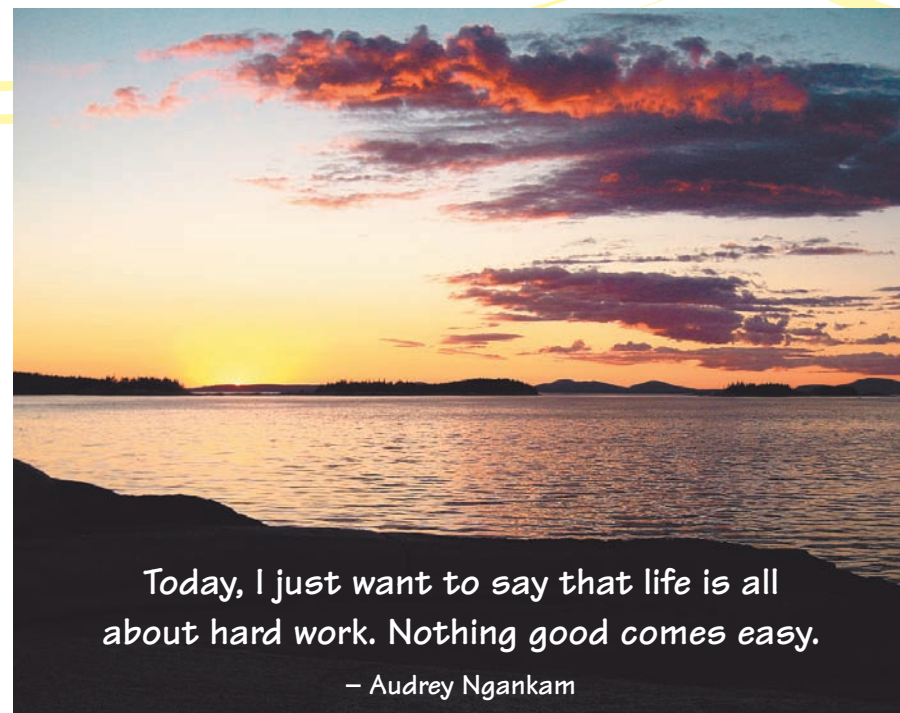
By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer

My mother used to tell me how to be thankful for all that people give you. I didn’t understand this until I went on a Summer Search Outward Bound adventure in Maine, where I learned that life is not milk and honey, and to be appreciative of what my mother provided for me – and to be strong.

This summer, I found myself on a 30-foot boat with 12 other kids of my age. I thought we were going to spend the day on the boat, then find an island, and go and spend the night there. But my imagination lied to me.

We spent the night on the boat, sleeping on wooden oars put together, side-by-side. It was cold, and in the morning I had to dip into the sea water to get clean before I could do anything else. This experience taught me how to appreciate the warm bed that my mother gave me for free at home.

One day on the boat it was raining. I was so scared. One question that I kept asking myself was: If the boat flips over, can our two instructors save a dozen kids



Outward Bound, Maine, 2010.

in the middle of the sea?

Well, that was not the case, and this helped make my adventure the greatest ever. To stay for 22 days without seeing my

of the boat. I asked myself: **How** can they let a girl be the captain? One of my instructors said: Don’t think there is something a boy can do that you cannot.

After two weeks on the sea, we switched to backpacking. This was fun but hard. This showed me that in life, even when things are tough, giving up is not always the best option. I learned that the first day of backpacking. Climbing rocks was 10 times harder than reading a book or listening to what Mr. Mwalimu is explaining to the rest of the class.

I tried my best to stay for 22 days without eating any of my African food or any meat – we had rice and beans. It was a big challenge for me. I still cannot believe I spent 24 hours on an island by myself. No Dunkin’ Donuts – my favorite. Going without a cellphone was like putting a knife in my back. But I made it.

Today, I just want to say that life is all about hard work. Nothing good comes easy. No matter how hard it will be to start a new school year, I will make it because I believe I can do anything now. ■

▲ AFH photo by Lena Yee