



Too Cool for School

Seems like grades 9 through 12 are basically an infinity loop of classwork-homework-tests that gets old fast. Thankfully, the **XQ Super School Project** (xqsuperschool.org) and the Entertainment Industry Foundation (eifoundation.org) have teamed up for a smart mission: Rethink high school. Why? Because, as XQ points out, we've gone from the Model T to the Tesla and the switchboard to the smartphone, yet high school has remained frozen in time. Tune in to ABC, CBS, FOX or NBC on September 8 at 8 p.m. ET for *EIF Presents: XQ Super School Live*, a one-hour musical and comedic performance spotlighting public education in America. With an awesome lineup of TV, sports and film stars taking center stage, the two forward-thinking organizations aim to reimagine a better way to serve American students for years to come.

63%

The percentage of gamers who think video gaming should be considered a competitive sport (according to a recent survey). The Nintendo Switch (nintendo.com, \$300), a home console you can also use on the go, had a huge debut in March and is still selling strong. Now comes the newest option for high-level training: the Xbox One X, available November 7. It promises 40% more power than any other console, superior graphics and faster load times—plus it's compatible with Xbox One games. Xbox.com, \$499



Llbean.com, \$70

GETTING CARRIED AWAY

Another one for the who-knew category: **National School Backpack Awareness Day** is September 20. If your tween or teen is among the 79 million U.S. students who lug a backpack, teaching them the best ways to choose, load and haul one is worth the time and effort.

- Straps should be well padded and always worn on both shoulders to help with load balancing.
- Filled, the pack should not weigh more than 10% of the wearer's body weight.
- The bottom of the pack should rest in the curve of the lower back.

For more tips from the American Occupational Therapy Association, go to familycircle.com/backpack.



THE WRITE STUFF

Pilot Pen has \$15,000 up for grabs. To enter, students ages 13 to 19 must put ink to paper to express how they're going above and beyond in their school or community. The winner will receive \$12,500 plus \$2,500 for their school. For details on the G2 Overachievers Student Grant, go to g2overachievers.com.

By Ardenis Perez