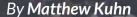
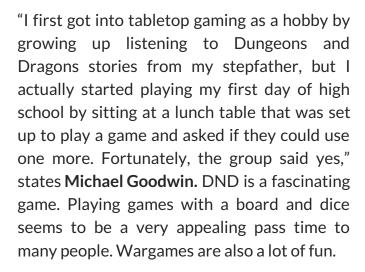


Cover Art by junior Gail Palmer

#### **Tabletop Gaming: A Timeless Classic**

Since the 80s, tabletop games like DND have captured the minds of millions of people.





The age of people who play generally is 12 and older. DND is a game that is very unique and well thought out, it often involves models and various types of dice. The game has a large rule book, though a lot of the game is pretty loose and you can pretty much tweak it to whatever you want. It is played at almost every hobby store ever opened.

Another game that is really enjoyable is the Warhammer 40k series of games. While it is a lot of fun, to newcomers it can be quite confusing. The gist of it is that two massive armies go head to head with each other. The game can vary in size, from small squads to enormous battalions. The sets always come with extra pieces that can allow for customization of future miniatures.

Wargames and board games have been with us for a while now. I find it just as fun as a good video game. Painting minis is also a fun thing to do. It can help with artistic expression. Most hobby stores have many card games, tabletop games to choose from. "I was able to use it a lot for winter learning," explains Upper School Algebra I, Computer Science Principals, and STEAM teacher Jennie Donaldson.

With the age of plastics and 3D printing warring forward. It seems there will be no sign of the conclusion of this beautiful genre. Even with all our tech, there still is an audience for those who want to get together.

Warhammer miniatures are pricey and finely detailed. Photo Credit: Bell of Lost Souls



#### **Painting the Miniatures**



Miniature of Abaddon painted by senior

Matthew Kuhn. Photo Credit: Matthew

Painting miniatures is very much a part of the process of the hobby that is Wargaming. Prices vary depending on paints. There are various different types of paints for different purposes. There is base paint, layer paint, contrast paint, and technical paint. The base paint is the foundation of the color of the model: they are generally bright in color.

Layer paint is to highlight the model and contrast paint is a one coat type paint for simplicity. Technical paint is for specific details (blood. etc). So why is painting your miniatures so important? It makes your models your own. Secondly, it's an artistic expression. Lastly, it helps a lot so you don't get confused with different people's models. Despite being a niche hobby, Warhammer is still loved by many people.

#### This Needs to Stop

Most movies or shows based on video games usually are terrible, and need to end while people still have brain cells left.

By Jaden Longley



Dead or Alive. Released 2006. Produced by **Corey Yuen**. This movie is one that was agreed upon by everyone who saw it: this was a terrible excuse of a fighting movie.

These movies are usually very unentertaining and expensive. No movie should be so expensive only to be terrible. There are only a few exceptions.

These movies are so bad, the original screen that these were played on melted. Take the movie above for instance. *Dead or Alive* is based off a video game by the same title and look at what that got it: this movie cost more than what it earned and is a disaster. The game however, is far superior in every way, although even then, this is not a recommendation and most people are better off playing something else.

But as we've said, there are a very few exceptions. The movie, *Ready Player One*, was a masterpiece made by **Steven Spielberg** in 2018. This movie combined numerous retro movies and modern video game references and did not fail to please the audiences who watch this great movie.

This is what a video game movie should look like, sound like, and feel like, spreading out the movie and masterfully entertaining the audience throughout the movie.

Ready Player One and others like it are where most video game movies should look to for guidance. This work of art is recommended by airliners everywhere and was rated 7.5 out of 10 on the IDMB scale. Honestly, it should've scored higher. Video game movies are mostly disgusting and horrible, with *Dead or Alive* being one of the worst. Please stop making these.



Ready Player One. Released 2018. Produced by Steven Spielberg.

#### **Are Dystopias Terrifying or Silly?**

Taking a look at dystopian universes and seeing how they fare out.

By Matthew K

The capitalist "paradise" Rapture. Photo Credit: Screenshot from the 2007 video game BioShock, DatBot

Dystopian nightmares are one of the greatest fears of humanity, yet how accurate are these warnings of authoritarianism or, in some cases, extreme libertarian ideals?

One of the most obvious and iconic of these tales is 1984, a story where through an authoritarian state the people are suppressed and all rights are systematically destroyed. To live in 1984 would be a simply egregious life. This party was so powerful that it could rewrite history and make contradictory statements and have them be accepted as fact.

There are many novels featuring nightmare societies, from the Orwellian nightmare of 1984 to the subtle and far more terrifying themes of Brave New World. However, this trope has been explored in movies too. A personal favorite is Idiocracy, the cult film where people have become so inept that there is a lottery for free health care, and the water fountains have Brawndo (Gatorade) running through them. This dystopia, in my opinion, gets a surprising amount right. For example the dumbing down of television. Don't believe me? Switch on literally anything from TLC for two minutes, and if that does not convince you, look at the CW or any news channel. The gradual privatization of every single thing imaginable is also something that this movie predicted. However, I don't believe the general population will dumb down to a point where they can't even fit a square block through a square hole.



As far and entire genres go we have things like cyberpunk. Cyberpunk in of itself already seems to be a reality with massive corporations controlling our lives. Some just lack all the crazy technology. Most technologies in cyberpunk universes seem ridiculous and frankly backward. The latest attempt by Elon Musk to capture that aesthetic with his cyber truck is, frankly, one of the ugliest cars ever made. Then again, this genre would not have its charm without these technologies.

Dystopian themes are present in many pieces of media, even video games. Probably the best example is *Bioshock*. *Bioshock* takes place in a Retro-futuristic world that takes place in the underwater city of Rapture. Rapture started as a project where people can be free to choose the life they want. Unfortunately, everything goes south as the population becomes obsessed with drugs called plasmids. These plasmids grant the user powers that defy logic. Like with most drugs though they take a toll on the mental state of the user, and those that consumed them became insane. As a result throughout the game, you fight your way through the former residents of Rapture.

The most obvious message is that unregulated capitalism and human flaws coming together would result in a disaster. Besides the underwater city and magic drugs, this game does have merit in its criticism, as corporations already do violate human rights around the world. Giving them a playground to do whatever they wanted would be so much worse.

Welcome to the world of idiocracy, a world so stupid that the buildings and people defy logic. *Photo Credit*: Imgur

#### **School Uniforms: Nuisance or Necessity?**

Can the community of Mill Springs properly recognize the advantages and disadvantages that uniforms offer the student population?

By **Sarah Palmer** 

Mill Springs Academy is one of many schools that require its student's wear uniforms: however, are students and faculty on the same page when it comes to the benefits of a standard issued uniform?

School uniforms can be a divisive topic when discussed between teacher and student points of view. While uniform policies can be viewed by some as a

hindrance to creative expression, a standardized do wonders for easing student's nerves and removing common avenues of bullying. Social Studies teacher Smallwood acknowledged the fact that dress code

policies will never please everyone, noting, "I will say in my experience here there is always a handful of students that hate the uniform. Right, always going to happen. understand that, but I know for a lot of students they really like it."

School uniforms can have positive socio-economic effects, especially in a time where young people are often bombarded by the need to wear and own the newest items. Paige Wolf, a Mill Springs senior, said when asked about the benefits of uniforms,



Jayden Nelson in traditional MSA uniform. Photo Credit: Elke Silva

"The key to making set of clothing options can students happy but safe is to keep them in uniforms that allow for some individuality."

#### Shilpee Kathuria



Mill Springs ninth grader Elizabeth Bundy in traditional MSA uniform. Photo Credit: Caila Prestidae

"I think they're helpful in a way that students don't have to pick and choose what they have to wear for school every day and I think it also saves parents money so they don't have to go out and buy school clothes."

Brad Smallwood notes that in regard to student anxiety, "Here, I do think it's also nice to already know what you're wearing. I think that helps a lot."

> Smallwood references various studies about lessened student anxiety uniforms when employed. When students are able to focus on their school work instead of clothing options, grades and student performance have been noted to

increase.

Wherever the opinions on uniforms stand. Senior Research and Composition teacher Shilpee Kathuria believes "the key to making students happy but safe is to keep them in uniforms that allow for some individuality. While...uniforms (especially here) are easy to wear and comfortable, if students can wear funky socks or a Hawaiian shirt once in a while, that would make them feel like they can stand out too!"



From right to left, 10th grader Matthew Clifton, 9th grader Elizabeth Bundy, 9th grader Rayna Doniparthi, 9th grader Ari Rogoff, 9th grader Isa Stokes, and 9th grader Matthew Carlson in traditional MSA uniform. Photo Credit: Caila Prestidge

Schools walk a fine line between allowing creative expression and exercising greater control over the student body. The benefits of uniforms have been demonstrated over and over, but the trouble seems to stem from finding the line between a healthy amount of restriction and scrutinizing down to the seemingly minute details of a student's appearance and dress. Senior Jody Cleveland believes that even with the proposed benefits of uniforms (minimized potential of bullying and socioeconomic discrepancies), "Mill Springs has so many other systems in place to prevent even the most minute cases of student on student conflict that [the need for uniforms] seems redundant in even a best-case scenario."

Though a student's originality and creative expression can be expressed in a multitude of ways, some students are pushing back on that, saying a fair part of their expression comes through their clothing attire. Fields confessed, "Being a teenager is the time in one's life that they are starting to discover who they are as an individual and it is hard to do that when required to wear a uniform."

Wolf does acknowledge the downsides of uniforms saying, "I think some students would rather be able to not wear uniforms so they can [...] express themselves."

Cleveland adds, "What people wear is a fairly basic form of self-expression and I don't think it's something that the school should regulate as heavily as they do." Nevertheless, students and faculty alike note the uniqueness of Mill Springs Academy and the importance placed on growing the community. As White said, "MSA is such a unique school in other ways. There are differences in the overall attitude and motivation, and uniforms may be a part of that, but I think that it is more due to our school size, and community structure."



from right to left, Mill Springs tenth graders Jaden Prince and Jeremiah Jones in their Halloween spirit costumes. Photo Credit: Elke Silva

In writing this article, students and teachers alike were asked if they believed the school could make certain allowances to uniforms to allow for greater ease and individual expression. **Kathuria** said, "Other schools (as have we in the past) have done Spirit Day fundraisers with items like "Pajama Day" or "School T-shirt" day: maybe we could do something like that to encourage individuality and raise money for the school? Just a thought!"

#### **Statistics Concerning Uniforms**

On the subjects of attendance, performance, academic preparation: **David L. Brunsma**, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), co-authored a study that analyzed a national sample of 10th graders and found "no effects of uniforms on absenteeism, behavioral problems (fights, suspensions, etc.), or substance use on campus" and "no effects" on "pro-school attitudes, academic preparedness, and peer attitudes toward school." [14][66] **Brunsma** also found a "negative effect of uniforms on academic achievement," and later found that uniforms were equally ineffective on elementary students and eighth-graders.

Wolf likes the idea of letting seniors wear random sweatshirts on Wednesdays, a slight modification of the college sweatshirt allowance. She also brought up another idea, saying, "Because it does get really cold, sweat pants, if we could get [them]. That would be nice." Mulhern had some thoughts about ways to amend uniform rules, saying, "I feel like we should have dress down days because I feel like we definitely got hit hard this year."



**Fun Fact:** Think your school uniform is strict? Up until 1972, Eton, a prestigious school in England required students to wear a top hat and coattails. Now, that would be rough!

#### Why We Sit On Hard Chairs

The chairs most commonly used in school are not suitable for a workplace.

by Jaden Longley

The common school chair is a pain in the butt for students everywhere, but teachers are saying that these chairs are actually convenient and better than soft chairs. One of these people is 9th grade World History teacher, **Elke Silva** who argues, "Hard chairs are easier to clean than soft chairs."

The other said that hard chairs were made to keep students awake and attentive in class. This is a really effective way to keep someone awake. Albeit it doesn't always work, it works most of the time. We should be grateful that we don't sit on wooden chairs at MSA.

#### The Purpose of Chairs Attached to Desks

Chairs are sometimes attached to desks to make the cost lower. Another reason is that it makes the desk more lightweight and easier to transport. Attaching chairs to desks is also more compact and you can fit more of them in one room. However, the inventor of these chairs did not account that people will get taller in the future.

Here at Mill Springs, the hard student chair is somewhat comfortable, but that is beside the point. After interviewing three people, two of whose names will not be mentioned, one agreed with the claim of the student hard chairs being uncomfortable. However, they assured that they are easier to manufacture and are way cheaper than soft chairs.

Though these chairs are really uncomfortable, we must be grateful for them, as we could be sitting on a concrete floor, or on the polished stone floor, or out in the woods. These chairs are cheaper by default and easier to clean and maintain than soft chairs. Some may disagree with this but I am rather happy that industries are looking after the health of students in

schools, especially in these trying times. These chairs may seem inconvenient, but we must remember that people put time into making these chairs, and we could easily end up sitting on the ground.



Students (left to right, front to back: Jaden Sella, Zach Porter, Elizabeth Bundy, someone, Joaquin Campos) in Judy Norris' Biology class in the standard plastic chairs. Photo Credit: Caila Prestidge

## Seniors Finding Success in College Hunting MSA Seniors preparing college applications, coping with the wait after having submitted applications.

#### by Sarah Palmer

Thanks to the guidance of Senior Transitions teacher **Brandi Smallwood**, students are feeling adequately prepared to submit their Common Applications. Senior **Mallory Mulhern** attributed a stress-less application process to **Brandi Smallwood's** constant assistance, noting "The application process went by rather quickly for me. **Brandi** really helped me with my college applications and to not be so stressed out about them, so I really have her to thank for that."

While some students have no idea what they plan to study, some seniors have clear plans in their minds of what they wish to major in. Senior **Bella Rousseaux**, an avid musician, cited she aims to focus her interests in that direction. When asked if she had a major in mind, she noted, "Definitely music. I am thinking of going into early education or Music therapy." Senior **Maclean Tadlock** is heading towards a Communications major.

He mentioned, "Sports journalism or broadcasting... Mainly it's going to be like mass communications." **Mulhern** reported "Either Marketing, Early Childhood Education or psychology."



countries worldwide

Regardless of whether students have a general plan in place, everyone must suffer the wait to hear from their colleges of choice. For most applications, the first round of due dates is fast approaching. If students find themselves feeling anxiety, **Smallwood** details one method to reduce stress, explaining, "I recommend pausing. Often time seniors struggle with recharging and finding small joys. If we are always thinking about ALL the things, our mind does not have a moment to slow down, and work through whatever moment we are in, leading to stress."

### Seniors with College Acceptances

**Bella Rousseaux**: Young Harris College, Wingate University, and GSU at Perimeter.

**Laura Turnbull**: Reinhardt University

**Madison Taylor**: College of Coastal Georgia

**Reese Urban**: Kennesaw State University

**Ben Parker**: University of North Georgia

Paige Wolf: Utah State University

**Taylor Mallady:** LaGrange College

For many schools, students can choose to apply towards Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision. While each choice has its own set of pros and cons, some students have sworn off applying Early Decision, as if that specific school accepts you under Early Decision, students will be locked into that school alone. **Tadlock** joked, "you never know what can happen with other schools and then you're locked in if you do Early Decision and it's like, oh no."

Seniors of the class of 2021 are already nearing the midpoint of the year's first semester. **Smallwood** wishes Mill Springs's seniors luck in their endeavors, exclaiming "Be your authentic self. Many times we fall into the habit of comparing ourselves to others and this is such a thief of joy. There is no one else like you on this earth, remember that! You have a true village of supporters here at MSA cheering for you in all things as you embrace the courage to follow your goals...."



Photo Credit: Caila Prestidge

#### Brandi's top tricks for stress relief:

- 1. Spend time in nature to decompress
- 2. Engage in Mindfulness
- 3. Fuel your body with healthy foods
- 4. Make connections with your support system (friends, family, teachers) when you are in need and if you need help building that, we are here for you!
- 5. Listen to music that puts that dance in your step and a smile on your face
- 6. Read a good book or other activity that just brings joy

#### HOW IS WORLD FOOTBALL COPING IN A PANDEMIC?

A look at Project Restart, the recent transfers (and non-transfers), and what Mill Springs thinks about them

by J. Maclean Tadlock



The Utah Jazz's **Rudy Gobert** mocks Coronavirus by touching all of the mics in the press room before testing positive days later. Photo Credit: *CNN.com* 

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the NBA's Utah Jazz French center, **Rudy Gobert** tested positive for COVID-19. This came a few days after he mocked people who had contracted the virus by touching a mic, among other things, in a press room.



Uruguayan striker **Luis Suárez** in his first game with Atlético Madrid, in which he scored two goals off the bench for Los Colchoneros (The Mattress Makers). Photo Credit: *Getty Images* 

Gobert's actions were a catalyst for nearly every sports league across the planet to suspend play. Miraculously, on Saturday, May 16, 2020, the Deutscher Fußball Bund (German Football Federation) took extreme cautions to bring the Bundesliga, one of the most exciting leagues in world football back. After much criticism of the DFB for bringing football back what seemed to be too early by many people, federations around the world including, England's

Football Association (FA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Real Federación Española de Fútbol (Royal Spanish Football Federation) began to follow the Germans in bringing their respective leagues back too. This period when leagues around the world began to come back became known as Project Restart. When asked about how he thought that Project Restart went, Mill Springs Communication Arts and Pre-Upper Math teacher Michael Adams had this to say: "[...]I think it went well. I was glad it came back on. I think they did a good job with testing."

As for the Summer Transfer Window, some clubs have been busier than others. Some big signings include young German players **Timo**Werner and Kai Havertz, who both signed with the English club, Chelsea. Spanish side Real Madrid sent Welsh striker, Gareth Bale on a season-long loan to London-based Tottenham Hotspur (Spurs). "I'm kind of mixed because he does have skills... but he's old!

But we needed some fresh legs, I guess [...]," acknowledged MSA World History teacher, Yearbook teacher, and Spurs supporter **Elke Silva**.

Another huge signing was Barcelona legend, Luis Suárez signing for Atletico de Madrid for just €6 million (\$6,982,080). This is huge because many consider Suárez to be the best South American striker in the world.

The most likely move of the window seemed to be the recent English powerhouse, Manchester City, signing long-time Barcelona right-winger Lionel Messi. This was going to be a great move because City is currently managed by Catalonia native, and Messi's former manager, Josep "Pep" Guardiola. When asked about the Argentine, Mill Springs American History, Economics/ Civics teacher, and Manchester City supporter, Brad Smallwood admitted, "It was exciting to hear the potential of him coming to City. [...] but obviously, it became a deal where it was too much money [...]."

No matter what your opinions on the window were, at the end of Monday, October 5, it could not be denied that though it was different with a pandemic, it still had the drama of a traditional window. It is still uncertain when the exact opening and closing dates of the winter transfer window will be, though the last winter window went the length of January.



Arguably the greatest player ever, Barcelona and Argentina winger, **Lionel Me**: shows his frustration as their grips on the LaLiga title slip away. Photo Credit: *The National, July 19, 2020* 

#### Bad Call, Woodward

During Project Restart Manchester United conceded just six goals in the final nine matches of the 2019-20 Premier League campaign. However, in the first three matches of the 2020-21 season, the Red Devils have already given up 11 goals, 6 of those against Tottenham Hotspur in a 6-1 loss. What makes this even worse is that Chief Executive, Ed Woodward signed 33year-old Uruguayan striker **Edinson** Cavani from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). instead of signing another defender to partner with Brazilian left-back Alex **Telles**. Some know **Cavani** as a veteran Uruguayan who has partnered with **Luis Suárez** at the national team level. Upon further examination, though, it is quite clear that United's newest signing is nowhere close to Atlético's newest signing.

#### A Recap of the 2020 Mustangs' Cross Country Season

Looking inside the success of the Mustangs' cross country team.

by **J. Maclean Tadlock** 

On Wednesday, October 7, senior Jody Cleveland crossed the finish line in first place with a time of 19:02.

Directly after the race, **Cleveland** responded to a guestion about what keeps him motivated with: "[...] running can suck sometimes [...] but I love being out [there], and I love making my team proud of what I do, and I'm proud of my team for what they do too." It is evident that the resiliency of the team is making all of us proud.



Photo Credit:: Caila Prestidge

It was a warm clear day with few spectators. The Mustangs were competing against Cumberland Academy of Georgia and The Cottage School (TCS), who the Green and White have been rivals against in almost every sport for many years. The competition may have been strong, but the sportsmanship between both coaches and runners was even stronger. First place runner and Mustangs' senior, Jody Cleveland, fellow senior **Nicholas** congratulated **Daugherty** from TCS on finishing second.

When asked about what she was most proud of, Coach Angela White acknowledged. "Regardless of how fast anybody is, everyone encourages one another." Just as we saw with Cleveland, sportsmanship seems to be the focus of Mustangs' Athletics.

Some new members of MSA's cross country team include 9th grader Elizabeth Bundy, 11th graders Calista Craig, Katherine Adair, Josiah Altland, and 12th grader Justin Bryan. New and old members of Cross Country have to demonstrate commitment, endurance, and togetherness. The cross country team provides people with a chance to advance socially and athletically.

Though everyone deserves recognition because they were on the team, to begin with, only a select few qualified for the State Meet. These few are 11th Graders. Josiah Altland and Galton Schobloher, as well as 12th Graders. Justin Bryan, Jody Cleveland, Sam Henslee, and **Zach Smith**. It is very exciting to see where they are going and will go in the future.



Mill Springs cross country team preparing at the starting line in their race against The Cottage School and Cumberland Academy of Georgia. Photo Credit:: Caila Prestidge

# A Mill Springs Halloween A Halloween celebration for the ages by Sarah Palmer

Jack-o-Lantern carved by senior Paige Wolf. Photo credit: Paige Wolf

The halls of Mill Springs were filled with ghouls, monsters, and creatures, all in the spirit of a Halloween celebration. The itinerary featured a costume contest, trivia, and a relay race. Even a pandemic could not stop the eager planning by levels L and R students, guided by teacher **Caila Prestidge**, who was all the while dressed as "Handsome Squidward" from *SpongeBob*.

Though the social interaction aspect from past Halloween celebrations had to be modified this year, **Prestidge** had one goal for the students celebrating. She hoped that "all students felt somewhat celebrated and were able to enjoy some candy and fun." And it seemed her desire to create a safe yet still exciting party was fulfilled.

One of the activities during the celebration was a costume contest, which yielded multiple winners. First place was awarded to freshman Zach Porter and junior Connor Doyle. Second place winners were sophomore Jaden Prince and the dynamic duo senior Chris Carey as Batman with seventh grader Tobi Ojanuga as the Joker. Third went to freshman Will Harvin and two group costumes: senior Zach Smith, with juniors Josiah Altland and Ryan Collin, along with the pair junior Aaron Breitkopf and eighth grader Marcus Profaci.

It seemed the only thing spookier than those costumes was the relay race that took place. Each advisory was tasked with dressing a skeleton and then carrying it around the school to take photos with it. While hesitant at first, advisories threw themselves fully into the competition, sprinting around campus to be the first to complete all the required tasks.



10th grade American Literature teacher and Newspaper advisor Caila Prestidge at her desk as Handsome Squidward. *Photo Credit:* Elke Silva

If Caila Prestidge can throw together an exciting Halloween party even in the midst of a pandemic, the school should wait in anticipation to see what she can do next. Happy Halloween!



Digital Jack-O-Lanterns created by sixth grader **Max Young** 

## THE NEWSPAPER STAFF

#### **WELL-WRITTEN CONTENT FOR THE MSA COMMUNITY**

We are so thrilled to be covering all the goings-on of our Mill Springs community and world! Feel free to reach out if YOU want to be featured in our next edition! In the spirit of Halloween, we wrote our own two sentence horror stories: enjoy!



SARAH PALMER

Editor in Chief, Op-Ed Editor

Two Sentence Horror Story: I spent the whole Zoom class singing along to the radio. It was only after I looked back down to the screen that I saw I had been unmuted the whole time.



**MACLEAN TADLOCK** 

Sports Editor

**Two Sentence Horror Story:** I decided to kill off a few characters in the book I'm writing. It would definitely spice up my autobiography a little.



MATTHEW KUHN

Reporter, In-Depth Report Editor

Two Sentence Horror Story: I was walking to Costco, talking to my friends. Somebody asked, "Who are you talking to?"



**JADEN LONGLEY** 

Feature Editor

**Two Sentence Horror Story:** I was running down a straight in a labyrinth, thinking I lost the ghost. In real life, it had split into two.



CAILA PRESTIDGE

Advisor, Layout Editor

Two Sentence Horror Story: In the middle of the night, I heard a sharp 'meow' and then a slow drip on the floor outside my door. I wished that my cat was there to comfort me.



**GUEST WRITER** 

We would love to feature YOUR writing in our

Contact Caila Prestidge at cprestidge@millsprings.org with a sample of your writing and we will discuss next steps to get published!