

The Ridge



SAGE RIDGE
SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2020

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A photograph of three students in a snowy outdoor setting. The student in the foreground is a boy with blonde hair, wearing a blue hoodie and khaki pants, with a colorful, patterned mask. Behind him to the left is another student with dark hair and a red mask. To the right is a boy with dark hair wearing a white surgical mask. They are all smiling and appear to be having fun.

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ELECTION 2020 AND THE HISTORY OF VOTING

Anne Thompson
Staff Writer

On top of the pandemic, climate change, civil rights issues, and an economic crisis, this year Americans voted to determine who would be the President of the United States for the next four years. In the end, the two competing candidates were President Donald Trump, representing the Republican Party, and former Vice President Joe Biden, representing the Democratic Party. The nation was completely polarized over countless political details, some claiming that mail-in ballots begot voter fraud, and others concerned over Trump's reluctance to affirmatively answer whether or not he would leave the office if he lost the election. Ultimately, voter turnout in 2020 was the highest it had ever been in the history of the nation. By November 3, over one hundred million Americans had already cast their ballots (Garrison). Without a doubt, the election of 2020 marked a key turning point not only in American politics, but also in American history.



To understand current politics, one must first take a look at the history of the election process in the US, particularly when different demographics of citizens gained the right to vote. Although America was founded on ideas of individualism and equality for all peoples, for many years the only Americans who were eligible to vote were white, property-owning men over the age of twenty-one (Wyman). Dearly beloved founding father Alexander Hamilton, a fierce defender of the electoral college, insisted that only a select few men should control the vote, deeming the general population unfit to determine who would lead the country (Elving). Needless to say, the same privileged, white men considered BIPOCs (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) as well as women of any race to be incapable of rational thought, and thus unworthy of the franchise. In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution gave black American men the right to vote, but throughout the country, particularly in the Southern region of the US, the voting system remained racist and corrupt. Individual states created arbitrary rules and regulations that barred black Americans from voting, such as poll taxes and literacy tests, which were designed to be impossible to pass. Native Americans would not have legal citizenship or the right to vote until 1924. Additionally, while

the 19th Amendment is often credited with giving women the right to vote in the US, it only secured the right to vote for white women. The right of all BIPOCs to vote would not be protected until 1964, when the federal government passed the Civil Rights Act, which prevented denial of suffrage based on race, religion, or education (Wyman). The right to vote for all demographics of Americans was hard fought, hard won, and not achieved until far too recently.



It is also crucial to have a general understanding of the presidential election process. In order to run for president, a candidate must be a natural born citizen of the US, be at least thirty-five years of age, and have lived in the US for at least fourteen years. Then, candidates enter the early stages of the election. During this time, caucuses take place, which allow citizens of a particular party to have a discourse with one another to determine which candidate best represents their party. Caucuses are followed by the primaries, where citizens vote for which candidate they believe best represents the political party that they align with. It's good to note that the two most popular political parties in the US are the Republican Party (otherwise known as the Grand Old Party or GOP for short) and the Democratic Party. However, these are not the only political parties, as the US is also host to so-called "Third Parties", including the Green Party and the Libertarian Party (Presidential Election Process).

After the primary elections determine which candidate will represent each party in the general election, each party hosts a national convention. At the national convention, the presidential candidate chooses another politician of their party to serve as their running mate. The running mate, if the presidential candidate is elected into the Oval Office, will serve as the Vice President. Often, running mates are chosen from the pool of candidates who did not win the primary election(Presidential Election Process).



The national conventions are followed by a period of intensive campaigning, where each candidate puts forth their best efforts to win the votes of Americans. Campaigns often include advertising through a wide variety of mediums and tours throughout the US where politicians speak directly to the people. It is also during this time that several debates are held between the two leading presidential candidates; typically, there are three debates between the two leading presidential candidates, and a single debate between the respective vice presidential candidates(Presidential Election Process).

Finally, in the general election, all American citizens over the age of eighteen have the right to vote for one president-vice president candidate pair. However, the results of the general election do not solely determine the outcome of the election. Each state is warranted a certain number of electors based on the state population. These electors vote in ordinance with the results of the general elections, and the votes of all electors defer to whatever candidate the majority of the state population voted for. For example, Nevada has six electoral votes, and if the majority of the state votes for a certain candidate, then all of six electoral votes will be counted for that certain candidate. The candidate who wins over half of the 538 total electoral votes wins the election (Presidential Election Process).

The Presidential Election of 2020 was anything but typical. The two candidates' stances on the numerous crises of 2020 were a good telling of who would serve as the best president. The pandemic created several complications, including a higher demand for mail in ballots and questions over the safety of political rallies and debates. Biden and Trump both agreed that the federal government should take action to provide more testing for the coronavirus, and that it was crucial for a vaccine to be developed with haste, but while Biden vouched for a nation-wide mask mandate, Trump stated that such a decision should be left up to individual states(Uhrmacher).

The brutal murders of George Floyd and several other black Americans called into question how the country should go about reforming the law enforcement system. Neither candidate supported defunding the police, but Trump applauded the current law enforcement system, while Biden acknowledged the presence of systemic racism in America as well and also set forth a plan to reform the criminal justice system(Uhrmacher). The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg left an open seat on the Supreme Court, which Trump wanted to fill as quickly as possible, and did so with Amy Coney Barrett. Biden believed that the more diplomatic, historically appropriate approach would have been to wait until the presidential election was over to deal with this issue(Uhrmacher).

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The climate crisis was also a contentious issue, with Trump failing to give a clear answer on whether humans were even playing a role in global warming, and Biden setting forth a comprehensive plan to move to forms of sustainable, renewable energy while also creating new jobs (Uhrmacher).

This year, Americans had to wait days after November 3rd to know who would be the next president of the United States. The delay was primarily due to the large number of mail-in ballots, which legislature prohibited states from counting prior to Election Day. The processing of mail in ballots actually takes significantly longer, because signatures and addresses have to be verified before a vote can automatically be counted (Henley). The suspense during the long days of uncertainty that followed Election Day was enough to set anyone on edge. At the beginning of the counting process, the race appeared to be very close, with Biden and Trump neck and neck. As the election progressed, however, the incoming mail-in ballots and votes from states on the West Coast generally leaned towards the democratic side, so Biden pulled ahead in both the popular vote and the electoral college. On November 6, the results of the election were finalized; Biden will be the 46th president of the US, and Kamala Harris, his running mate, will be the first ever woman to serve as vice president (Matthews).

Tensions in our country were extremely high throughout the entire election process. Arguments between families, friends, and neighbors only add to the stress that every single individual is feeling during this time period. Whatever you are feeling during this time, whether it be relief or anger, we must remember that we are all American citizens, no matter what party we identify with, and most importantly, we all have the power to shape our future by voting. In this election and in every election that follows, it is critical that we exercise our right to vote. By remaining undecided and electing to not vote, citizens are wasting a precious, exciting opportunity to positively impact the future of America. Even if you are too young to vote, you can still exercise your rights to support your favorite political candidate by volunteering as a poll worker, phonebanking, or attending/organizing rallies. You can also set a reminder on your phone for your eighteenth birthday to make sure you register to vote! The nitty-gritty details of politics and elections can seem tremendously overwhelming, but the lives of Americans, particularly historically oppressed minorities, depend on our ability to elect a qualified candidate. Voting responsibly, basing your vote on factual information, will help us to build a brighter future and to truly live up to the promise of "liberty and justice for all."



SAGE SERVICE

SAGE RIDGE SCHOOL KARMA BOX DESIGN CONTEST WINNER

Sydney Strominger
Staff Writer

HOW IT ALL STARTED : GRANT DENTONS BACKSTORY

GRANT DENTON WAS A HOMELESS MAN IN VEGAS SUFFERING FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE. ONE DAY, HE GOT A TEXT FROM SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM SAYING THAT HE WAS A LOSER. HE THEN SEARCHED UP THE WORD "LOSER," AND FOUND THE DICTIONARY ENTRY STATES "A PERSON OR THING THAT LOSES OR HAS LOST SOMETHING." THE PERSON WHO HAD SENT HIM THE MESSAGE WAS RIGHT. IN THE RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL DENTON SAID, "AS MUCH AS I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT [THIS PERSON] WAS RIGHT".

DENTON IS A VERY MUCH CHANGED MAN TODAY.

HE IS KNOWN IN THE RENO COMMUNITY FOR STARTING THE KARMA BOX PROJECT. DENTON PROUDLY REFLECTED ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT, "I'M THE KARMA BOX GUY. I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D BE THE KARMA BOX GUY," (RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL) .

THIS ALL STARTED WHEN HE WAS IN A TIME OF NEED AND REQUIRED HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY. HE WANTED TO COME UP WITH A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO GET NECESSITIES THAT THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN

WHAT IS A KARMA BOX?

A KARMA BOX IS A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO GIVE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, TOILETRIES, AND OTHER USEFUL ITEMS TO THOSE IN NEED.



OUR KARMA BOX AND COMPETITION:

The Sage Ridge Parent Association is excited to announce we will be participating in the "Karma Box Project." Students grades 7 - 12 were encouraged to enter designs that represented our school in the community. Our future Karma Box is located in art room 220 and students are invited to come and check on the box as we begin the decoration process. Sage Ridge is very excited to celebrate Rhea Skaria in coming up with the final design for the Karma Box. The design will include a checkerboard pattern with the school colors and a scorpion in each tile. To enhance the sense of community and new life, there will be vines with flowers up the sides of the Karma Box, and tendrils that symbolize Sage Ridge branching out to benefit the greater community. The Media Arts team would like to thank everyone who put time and effort into their Karma Box designs.



Rhea Skaria, Grade Eight

TRUNK-OR-TREAT





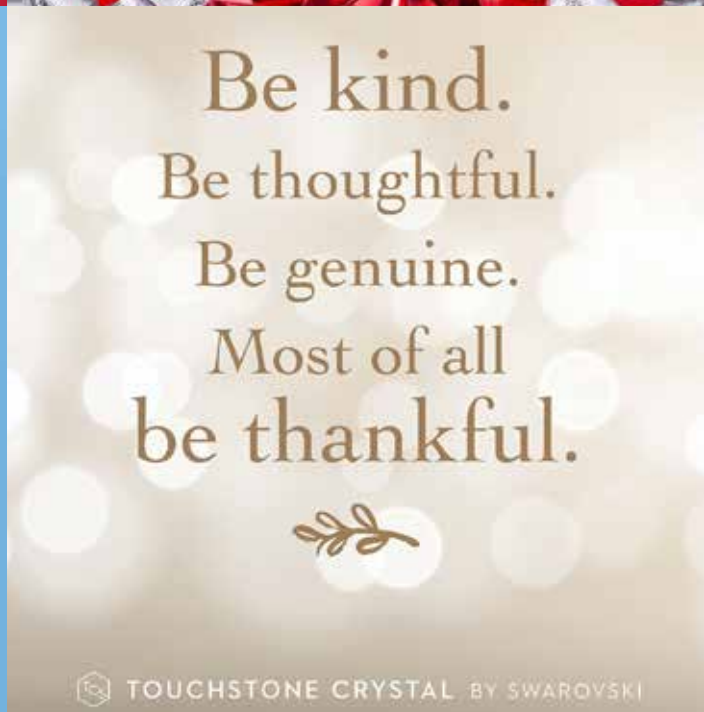
A Wrist Party
is the New
Holiday
Party



Your Perfect Gift
is Waiting



Deck the
Halls!



Be kind.
Be thoughtful.
Be genuine.
Most of all
be thankful.



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CARROT CAKE

Thara Sundaram, Vera van der Linden, Misha Sekhon
Club Writers



Ingredients

2 Cups Chopped Pecans (*1 cup for cake, 1 cup for garnish*)
1 and 1/2 Cups Packed Brown Sugar
1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar
1 Cup Oil
4 Large Eggs
3/4 Cup Unsweetened Applesauce
1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
1 and 1/2 Teaspoon Cinnamon
2 and 1/2 Cups All-Purpose Flour
2 Teaspoons Baking Powder
1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
1/2 Teaspoon Salt
1 Teaspoon Ground Ginger
1/4 Teaspoon Nutmeg
1/4 Teaspoon Cloves
2 Cups Grated Carrots

Cream Cheese Frosting

16Ounces Full Fat Block Cream Cheese, Softened
1/2 Cup Unsalted Butter Softened
4 and 1/4 Cups Confectioners' Sugar
1 Tablespoon Heavy Cream

A sweet, moist cake, covered in a sweet, yet savory frosting. How much better can it get? This carrot cake provides a perfect addition to a yummy fall meal! A hint of cinnamon, and some nuttiness. A beautiful aroma spreading through the house, making the mouth water. The carrot cake is a wonderful dessert to indulge in with the upcoming autumn season. Soft, and spongy, and crunchy too. Making this cake was a fun task, and a delicious one as well. Each ingredient, unique - like a person. All the people coming together, like all the ingredients. Combining to make something amazing! Eating this cake will be a joy to anyone consuming it.





Instructions

1. Make the cake: Preheat oven to 300°F (149°C). Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Spread the chopped pecans on the sheet and toast for 7-8 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 10-15 minutes.

2. Turn the oven up to 350°F (177°C). Grease two or three 9-inch cake pans, line with parchment paper, then grease the parchment paper. Parchment paper helps the cakes seamlessly release from the pans.

3. Whisk the brown sugar, granulated sugar, oil, eggs, applesauce, and vanilla together in a large bowl until combined and no brown sugar lumps remain. In another large bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves together. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and, using a rubber spatula or wooden spoon, fold the ingredients together until just combined. Fold in the carrots and 1 cup of the toasted pecans. (The rest of the pecans are for garnish.)

3. Pour/spoon the batter evenly into the cake pans. If using three cake pans, bake for 20-24 minutes. If using two cake pans, bake for 30-35 minutes. Test the center with a toothpick. If it comes out clean, the cakes are done. If not, continue to bake until cooked through. Do not over-bake. Allow the cakes to cool completely in the pans set on a wire rack. The cakes must be completely cool before frosting and assembling.

4. Make the frosting: In a large bowl using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a whisk or paddle attachment, beat the cream cheese and butter together on medium-high speed until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add the confectioners' sugar, cream/milk, vanilla extract, and a pinch of salt. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds, then increase to high speed and beat for 3 minutes until completely combined and creamy. Add more confectioners' sugar if frosting is too thin, more milk if frosting is too thick, or an extra pinch of salt if frosting is too sweet. Frosting should be soft, but not runny.



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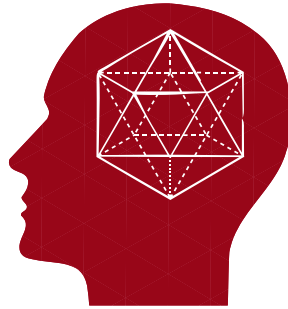
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RIDDLE ME RIDGE

Sydney Strominger

Staff Writer

Have a riddle you would like to share in the next addition of the Ridge Magazine?
Please submit to ssstrominger@sageridge.org and put "Riddle Me Ridge" in the subject line.

WINTER RIDDLE:

*YOU CAN SEE ME UP NORTH BUNDLED UP, I LIVE INSIDE A WHITE HOUSE, AND MY DIET IS
MAINLY PALEO. WHO AM I?*

WINTER WORD SEARCH

P E Q O U D J E D N H D L E F U V I G D K U M D J H L H S O
A B R C M V A Q H A R D J S A A N R R S A T K U O E I H L U
O Y S U S M E S W X L T E N Q S N T C L Z A P D U U N F L K
C F D L D M J Q U O V A H O H H G P J S Z W G E M L B D V V
N J V L Y I J N C R C N U W W L N B J F I Q Q M U B J Q N N
D A S B W A T X F V B H Y B F B V D I N Q X J L E T C V A F
W F P U C G J O I E H B R O F D Q D T G N U F I G O B M S L
E V Y M S Z H C H O C O L A T E B M P K H Q R F A X W R R Z
M V L I I I K Q P T G H P R S N M O Y B W N F R U O M L Q J
I X H I C I U F F Z S S I D B V J B Z P J O O R N J V C D G
R N T U V I L U R Z L Y N I O L W Q H E S R Z S V K Q V Y U
S W X S I C Z A K Y E U E N F W N F S L B U I I I P Y M T W
T V B V H K O S F C D X H G T D S H N Q B Q N Z K I R R F O
C V F X L N Z X O R D V Y M W E Q P N A V T O Q H L C Q P M
A L O Q V W J J G A I X J F L Z Y T X X G F P Q B I Y C T W
A B D M Q F P N O X N F T C Z R S P P Z I H Y H K B E C B M
K U H H Z B I T P K G U I O F P G F Z Y K U H O K I O V R W
S S H C B I O X B E H C N K M X N N D Z L E G L D A F A R D
Q T X M K H T G T U I Q G G M B Z E K Q E Q S I A O J Y U E
S C O S K I P V I A Z J Q R P M S C Z T Y C X D P W J V S H
H F H R X F X P K K T W A Q J I V M C Q R S K A R E J Y L O
C X N W B O E M J M W O A W I C C I G W E Y A Y Z O G Z D U
A L S W F K Y D R I V Z K T G D E E T E D E O S X L F K D X
U P U V W S F Q C Y C E S M D Z N V T K E Z J L U K G O G O
F G B X J A S N O W W D N R H C F X Q C Q P B T P C D J V C
N E E G P W T F V S K A T I N G K C Z N D D E N Y B N V A K
Y W U Y O W S Y U R N A A C D N C I P J F P L F W S L B F
M R W D I F E Y F C W F C F M U H Y V P G W N W L A J B E Q
S U N X C Z D X O B B I E G L Y H F N J A Y H M T V T B R Y
H Y W T L H Q Y N A J R B Q L U F R Z H F B Y E J B X J J D

SNOW
SNOWMAN
ICE
COLD
SKIING
SNOWBOARDING
HOT
CHOCOLATE
ICICLES
HOLIDAYS
SLEDDING
SKATING

RIDDLE ANSWER: ESKIMO

ENTERTAINMENT

ASK SPIKE

Dear Spike,

Do you wish there was a football team. If so, do you think we would still be undefeated?

Yes, I wish there was a football team at Sage Ridge.

Unfortunately, I do not think we would be undefeated due to our lack of people, practice, and field.

Dear Spike,

Spike, where are you from? Do you speak English too?

I am from Reno, Nevada and yes, I do speak English. I also speak Scorpionish, the language of the scorpions.

Dear Spike,

Where did you get that costume, Spike? It is very creative.

What costume? This is all natural.

Dear Spike,

When is the school going to implement a lacrosse team?

It is not in the near future as far as I know, but you should ask Mr. Farnsworth about it because he would know more about it.

Dear Spike,

Who is inside the costume?

It will forever be a mystery, but feel free to make guesses.

Dear Spike,

How many people have you stung for protection?

I have never stung anyone and do not plan on doing so anytime soon, unless I need to protect the school. I might sting covid if it doesn't go away soon.

Dear Spike,

What's your house from Harry Potter?

I am in Ravenclaw, but fun fact I have never read the Harry Potter series.



Dear Spike,

Why is your name "Spike?"

My name is Spike because Spike the scorpion has a good ring to it and Spike is a great name.

Dear Spike,

Why is our school mascot a scorpion?

Our mascot is a scorpion because scorpions live in Reno and it almost rhymes with Sage Ridge.

Dear Spike,

Are you a scorio?

Although, that would be very coincidental and funny I am not a scorio but a taurus. A bull but scorpion at heart.

Dear Spike,

Me and my friends have awkward silence around someone and don't want them to play, but we don't want to hurt their feelings. Help me.

"Do not look for a sanctuary in anyone except yourself. What you are is what you have been. What you'll be is what you do now". - Buddha



It's just a little chilly 'round this cozy house of mine
Cocoa is the only thing to warm these hands of mine
But watching all the mountains frost and losing track of time
Rewards enough to stand the cold around this house of mine

Tessa Mendez Leal
Staff Writer

Ornament design by the Day Family

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CLIMATE CRISIS

Anne Thompson
Staff Writer

The climate crisis is perhaps the greatest challenge the human race has had to face in the history of its existence. An issue unaddressed on the political field until far too recently, climate change has brought devastation to already challenged minorities, increasingly worse storms and wildfires, and a threat to the already delicate balance of human existence. The catastrophic events of this past year have served only to highlight the urgency with which this crisis must be addressed.



Throughout all of 2020, wildfires along the West Coast of North America ravaged ecosystems and human populations alike. In America alone,

8,719,721 acres of land had been scorched by wildfires as of November 9(2020 North American Wildfire Season). This is far, far higher than any number of acres burned in years past, and extremely far from a healthy amount. It is important to note that to a certain extent, fires caused by electrical storms are necessary for the natural purging and regeneration of ecosystems. However, humans are the ones responsible for the vast majority of wildfires and also for climate change, and as a result human existence as we know it is in great peril(Borunda).

The increase in the severity of wildfires is directly related to the worsening condition of the climate. The unhealthy build up of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as a result of human activity is steadily increasing the temperature of the entire planet. In turn, this increase in air temperature creates a dry atmosphere that soaks up more humidity from everything on the surface, whether it be from plants, soil, or bodies of water. The hotter the atmosphere, the more moisture it has the potential to absorb. This leaves us, on the surface of the earth, with an environment that is becoming dryer and thus more flammable (Borunda).

Fires are not the only worsening natural disaster affected by climate change. Hurricanes have become much more dangerous in recent years, with stronger winds and record amounts of precipitation that pose an even greater threat to all forms of life. As aforementioned, the warming climate continues to absorb increasingly greater amounts of water from the surface of the earth, and thus more water is held within the atmosphere.

When tropical storms do form, they are pouring down greater amounts of water. Flooding, particularly on account of storm surges, is becoming more and more severe as a result of the rising sea levels caused by the climate crisis. The higher the sea level, the more water is going to be pushed onto land by wind during a storm surge (How climate change).

On another note, the increased demand for disposable masks is also taking its toll on the wildlife of our planet. It is absolutely essential for all people to continue wearing masks, as they are currently the most effective tool humanity possesses at stopping the spread of COVID-19. However, the barrage of mindless littering is absolutely something under human control, and it must be stopped. Wild animals can easily become entangled and essentially murdered by the straps of the mask.

A large build up of masks is also capable of disrupting the flow of waterways. The great news is that there is an easy fix to this issue! Simply cut the ear

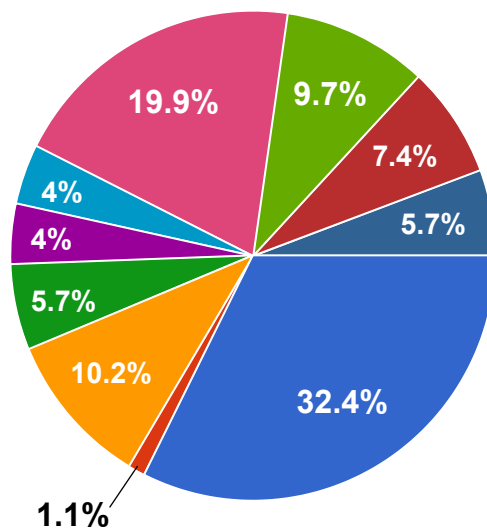
straps of your mask so that they are no longer one continuous strand, and dispose of the mask in an appropriate receptacle container. These simple steps are an easy way to legitimately help out wildlife.

Taking action to help our planet should certainly go far beyond having the basic human decency required to not litter. The climate crisis has not simply been put on hold on account of



STUDENT SURVEY TOP TEN HOLIDAY MOVIES

Top Ten Holiday Moivies
176 response s



- Elf
- A Year Without a Santa Clause
- The Grinch (original animated)
- A Christmas Story
- Muppet Christmas Carol
- Its a Wonderful Life
- Home Alone
- Christmas with the Krank's
- Polar Express
- The Nightmare Before Christmas

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Thank You For Your Service

On Tuesday, November 10 the Lower and Middle School students assembled in small groups to meet several members of the 152nd AirLift Wing Unit of the Nevada Air National Guard. We were honored to host Colonel Kirkwood, husband of Mrs. Kirkwood and father of Kaylee (grade 10), Major Jaquish, and Captain Roberts. The gentlemen spoke of their service and experience as Veterans and as both active and reserve personnel.

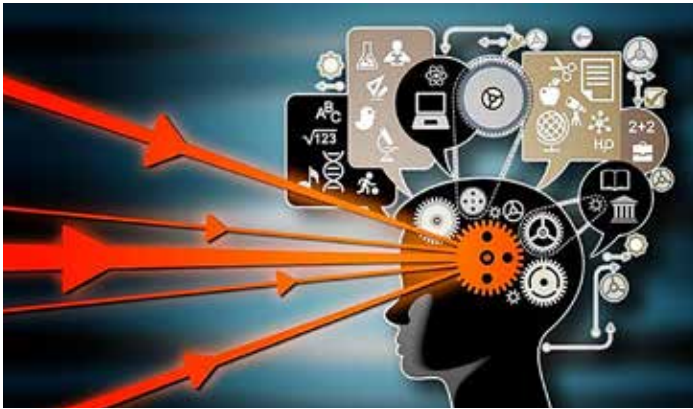
One of the themes from the presentation was Gratitude and Service. Our guests miss home when they are deployed and are in turn grateful for being able to return home to Reno, family and friends. In addition, they are grateful for the opportunity to serve our country and benefit from their service in terms of education and character development. We shared our gratitude for their service and time with us by presenting cards and notes as well as applause. Our community was happy and fortunate to have these gentlemen visit and we would like to thank Mrs. Kirkwood for arranging the visit.



SIX DEGREES OF LEARNING

Ethan Wu
Staff Writer

In our current world, education is not a one size fits all. Instead, every person has their own preferred learning style that helps them learn better. There are 6 learning styles: visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, individual, and group.



Visual learners are those that learn best through seeing things. They prefer learning through pictures, videos, and diagrams or graphs. Some strategies for visual learners are: Write information down on paper, study independently, make flash cards, and take notes in class.

Auditory learners are those that learn best through listening and sound. They enjoy talking and listening, and can interpret the meaning of speech by listening to tone of voice, pitch, and speed.

Some strategies for auditory learners include: Study with a friend or parent by talking about information, reading out loud, and recording relistening to lectures.

Kinesthetic learners are people who use their whole body while learning and learn best through motion. They have a high level of motor-skill control. Kinesthetic learners also struggle with teaching styles that involve only auditory and visual lessons. Some studying strategies for kinesthetic learners: 1. Place facts on tangible index cards, 2. study while lying on a bed or the floor 3. Listening to music, 4. use brightly colored paper under worksheets to help focus. 5. Perform a repetitive movement while you study, such as tapping your foot on the floor

Tactile learners are people who learn best through the sense of touch, like hands on projects or experiments. They learn using their small motor skills, and can make their own instructional resources. They can also create alternatives to learn and reinforce new and difficult information. Study strategies for tactile learners include:

Making models of things you are learning.

Chewing gum while you study.

Teaching the material you are learning to your friends or family.

Take frequent breaks to exercise and move around.

Individual learners prefer to work and study alone. They are more private, introspective and independent, and likely to prefer individual work over group projects.

Group learners prefer to learn in groups or with other people. They prefer learning in groups or classes than having a one-on-one session, and enjoy group projects more than individual work.

In conclusion, everyone has different learning styles., Some individuals even have multiple learning styles! It is crucial that we respect the differences in learning styles throughout our community. By being aware of your main learning style, you can learn and study much more effectively.



OPINION

LIVE ACTION VS CARTOON MULAN

Tessa Mendez-Leal
Staff Writer



The most recent live action adaptation is based on the 1998 original animated feature *Mulan*, a story based on the Chinese Folklore that tells the story of Hua Mulan, a young woman who took her father's place in the Chinese army by disguising herself as a man. In the folklore, Mulan's true identity is revealed only after she has been given honors by the emperor, but both the Disney adaptations gave a more feminist take on story, having Mulan reveal her identity and accepting her reward from the emperor as a woman, not a man. Both stories bring forth strong, independent feminists who challenge the limits of their situation in hopes to do what is right. However, there were some elements of the animated film that were lost in the live action, and some elements of the live action that simply could not be produced in the animated feature.



The live-action adaptation of Disney's *Mulan* is a massive visual achievement. The action scenes in the film are a spectacle to witness, complete with effects both subtle and apparent, each fitting in with the setting of the film and providing an engaging viewing experience for the audience that challenged modern cinema. Though both films feature Mulan as an undeniably independent character, the remake highlights her specific destiny in relation to the war, and how she and she alone is the answer to save China. It is a feminist movie, just like all the adaptations before it, but it brings forth her strength in a more forceful and dominant matter, highlighting her stature and ability as a woman to save the lives of many men, and though the story does revolve around Mulan, it continuously hints at the strength and abilities

of other women, like when Mulan's parents are discussing her mother's tendencies when she was young, and how they don't stray very far from Mulan's. It is an empowering movie, to all women, regardless of nationality. It depicts the struggles and sexism that women are often subjected to in fiction and nonfiction alike.

Sadly, there is little else to commend about the movie in my own personal opinion. The animated film featured a Mulan who struggled to fit in not because she was exceptional (though she is) but because she was on the wrong path. It brought forth the message that in each woman there is the ability to become exceptional, with hard work and determination. The animated film makes Mulan seem more human. Every woman who watched the movie can look at her and relate as she struggles to master the obstacles in her way. She fought hard for the achievements that she obtained, and succeeded in her ambitions by expecting greatness of herself, regardless of her current station. In the live-action, however, Mulan is simply born with this exceptional talent for combat and control of her chi. Though she does work hard in the military camp, she is better not because she is determined, but because she has these incredible powers that make the trials she is faced with much easier, and it is arguable that she would not be able to achieve them if she lacked these powers. The animated film is also undeniably more mature. Though there are many more childish elements like Mushu, the Cricket, and Mulan's sarcastic humor, it is brilliant in the way Disney often is, by providing a more serious theme and narrative and still appealing to a younger audience. The elements sexism, classism, repression, and censorship are all apparent in the film, yet lost in the live action, which was modified to appeal to the censorship requests of the Chinese government. It was a movie made mostly for appearances, both in visuals and reputation, which robs the story of much of the magic that we had come to love.



SAGE SEERS HOROSCOPE

Rhea Skaria and Nanki Sandhu
Club Writers



CAPRICORN
DEC 22 - JAN

December: Strengthening your body while increasing stamina and endurance are good fitness goals. You may also feel like working toward overall conditioning, using holistic thinking and complementary approaches to enhance your health. Clearing the way for long-term success does not have to be destructive, but you may have to separate from factions or situations that waste your resources.

January: The beginning of the month will be associated with positive events. The Capricorn horoscope for the first decade of January suggests focusing on setting goals. The second decade of January will provide bright changes. The third decade will be filled with pleasant moments.

February: In early February 2021, the Capricorn horoscope suggests problems in personal life. The horoscope for mid-February has positive predictions. Your work will start yielding results. The end of February will be especially eventful for all Capricorns with many exciting adventures in store for you.



AQUARIUS
JAN 20 - FEB 18

December: Your spirits will be boosted from recognition for your achievements, but you will also be setting goals to plan for what you want to do next. You may also be influenced by the energies of Uranus and Mars to take a few risks throughout the month. Remember that utilizing your unique talents will set you apart from others in competition. Listen to your intuitive voice to help guide you.

January: Try not to be too impulsive during January. Not all of the projects you start will turn out as you hope, so try not to put all of your faith into your expected outcome. Pay special attention to the needs of your loved ones because they will be there to help you through difficult situations. Be careful during winter sports because there is a high chance of injuries and sprains of the legs, ankles, and ankle tendons this month.

February: The great successes that may come this month can only be achieved through hard work. You will also have lots of motivation to be very active during the month. You may be more emotional this month, so a lot of your decisions may be influenced by your feelings rather than common sense. To help, you may want assistance from family or close friends. You will also be able to find creative solutions to various problems this month.



PISCES
FEB 19 - MAR 20

December: The decisions and actions you're undertaking this month may be influenced by some of your long-held dreams and wishes. You will most likely need time to renew yourself and rest since this is a time for you to develop your personality, as well as think about how you want to contribute to the world. Matters on education show excellent potential this month, and your character may also improve if you keep a steady mindset.

January: analyze the current position and understand that their current situation is the result of the innate sensitivity of this zodiac sign. You will be able to make effective conclusions and partake in hard work with the help of Mercury in Aquarius. This month may be intense, and you should avoid reckless actions because their consequences may have a negative effect on the rest of your year. You should also dedicate time to your family and hobbies this month because doing what you love will help organize your thoughts.

February: February 2021 promises change, but not very dramatic ones. People of this sign should not be doubtful of their strengths and should firmly take on tasks. They should also try to be less nervous because then health problems will not arise. People of this sign can count on success on their professional and financial side this month. assistance from family or close friends. You will also be able to find creative solutions to various problems this month.



ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 19

December: You will have a special sense of satisfaction from support and encouragement you will receive from friends and associates. This month is a time of innovation, leadership, and charisma for you. You will really appreciate it if you take a little time to commune with nature. Your confidence will be high this month, and you will be in a great position to impress others with your talents.

January: This month foreshadows challenges and a long-term vision. It is focused on your professional social destiny! The beginning of the year starts with fanfare for you! Ready as you are to face the challenges of life, the sky tests you and you feel the soul of a warrior!

February: Your time has come. The second month of the year declares to be extremely productive for those who have a clear understanding of what they want and set specific goals and objectives for themselves. You will be able to access not only ways to accomplish your plans, but also many new interesting possibilities. The stars recommend not to disregard healthy sleep and proper physical activity. There is also a promise for new pleasant acquaintances at the end of the month; long-term friendships may be started.



TAURUS
APR 20 - MAY 20

December: Your ambition to accomplish your goals reaches a peak, although you may feel easily frustrated or discouraged by obstacles in your path. Take the time to figure out how you might actually be working against yourself. You're keen on learning more about your body and the best ways to care for yourself. Listen to cues from your intuitive voice from December 11 to 20, when your insights may lead you to solutions you might have otherwise overlooked.

January: Neptune brings you brilliant friendships and original projects that can arise slowly but surely. Follow the beginnings of some professional social adjustments, first decan, to start this year on a good note! There will also be a beautiful energy and a protected emotional area, enough to give you a smile and your outstanding tranquility!

February: The horoscope recommends maintaining clarity and making informed, deliberate, accurate decisions. At the end of February, Taurus will receive additional luck and help in anything related to their work area. You should not act impulsively or hack off the shoulder because you need to make important decisions with a calm mind.



GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUN 20

December: Your energy is fabulous, and you may feel like you're ready to take over the world! Educational pursuits expand your horizons and your opportunities. Even if you're staying home, a break from routine adds spirit. Taking a risk and forging into new territory may be a challenge, but you can rise to the occasion if you're prepared. It's unwise to join a highly competitive field without full preparation from December 1 to 10, since you're vulnerable to criticism.

January: Your energy benefits your circle until the 6th of this month, and strengthens your inner life the rest of the month. The beginning of this year challenges your sign on its capacity for inner transformation. Have no stress, however, because you are up for the challenge!

February: The horoscope for February 2021 promises Gemini enhancement and success. This month is perfect for making new acquaintances and establishing social connections. The horoscope for February 2021 recommends them to pay attention to their personal lives, and beneficial changes are not excluded. This period is perfect for informal communication and relaxation.



CANCER
JUN 21 - JUL 22

December: When you're ready to let go of situations that aren't working to benefit those that provide positive confirmations. Directing your appreciation toward people who share their love, time and resources with you paves the way for better understanding and more productive relationships after December 16.

January: There is room for your projects and your friendships this month. From the 20th to the 31st, the idea of introspection is reinforced for the whole sign. This beginning of the year looks nice for your sign, so enjoy it!

February: In early February 2021, the Capricorn horoscope suggests problems in personal life. The horoscope for mid-February has positive predictions. Your work will start yielding results. The end of February will be especially eventful for all Capricorns with many exciting adventures in store for you.



LEO
JUL 23 - AUG 22

December: Artistic and entertaining pursuits have your heart. This month is a period of balancing freedom with responsibility, and each of them are important elements. Since you're feeling a bit competitive, sports or fitness activities that challenge you to meet new goals may be fun.

January: Venus in Sagittarius until the 9th protects your creative and emotional sector, then this beautiful planet will carry its beneficial attention to your ambitions. Deepen your thoughts and open your spirituality while focusing on health and daily life.

February: The horoscope for Leo for February 2021 promises a peaceful and calm start to a month filled with exciting events. In a given period of time, Leos will receive complete satisfaction from everything that they have to do, as well as pleasure from both work and rest.

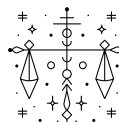


VIRGO
AUG 23 - SEP 22

December: Even though you may be working harder, you're still driven to spend time accomplishing family responsibilities and enjoying your personal life. Altering your priorities will be easier if you create the right support system. Staying active is critical, but you may be tempted to push beyond your limits from December 4 to 18.

January: Emotional satisfaction is in sight! Some remodeling for your home is possible before the 10th, so do not get annoyed if things are more complicated than expected.

February: Virgo is waiting for a relatively calm month in February. This will be a good time to think about your ultimate life goals, and about the path or paths leading to them. The standards of expansion and limitation will ironically weave their way into the life of Virgo. For example, they can benefit financially not from extra money, but from sudden discounts. They may also have the ability to work productively from home because they are unable to leave it for some reason.



LIBRA
SEP 23 - OCT 22

December: Although you may feel like spilling all the beans about your good fortune, you may run into problems about appropriate or socially adequate limits. Good news around hypothetical concerns increases your confidence mid-month, but acting without thorough investigation is unreasonable.

January: A light will be shed on your home, family and creative sector! Until the 19th, stay calm because the Sun and Mercury until the 9th in Capricorn excite your private sector with no precipitation or annoyance. From the 20th to the 31st, the energies of Aquarius, the Sun, and Mercury reveal your emotional and creative sector.

February: The beginning of the month promises to be productive. At work, all things require attention, and you may start to get lost and confused. Dear Libra, do not run away from difficulties halfway, but take small steps towards your goal. Accepting the offered help is worth it, so you will be able to cope with a bunch of things.



SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOV 21

December: You may feel like your nerves are a bit frazzled, and having enough time to relax will probably seem like a joke. Try taking short breaks throughout the day, and put messages to voicemail. You need some time to yourself whenever you can take it! If you're truly unhappy it's important to let go of your grievances. Your intuitive sensibilities cue with the best timing.

January: The position of the planets in the first ten days of January promises neither ups nor downs. According to the Scorpio horoscope, the conflicting effects of the new moon at the beginning of the second decade will reduce their performance. At the same time, any dormant period has a positive aspect, and this is the ideal time to develop new plans which will bring significant success when implemented in the future.

February: In the first decade, the horoscope for February 2021 predicts new experiences for Scorpio. The second decade, according to the Scorpio horoscope for February 2021, will bring more endeavors to life. You must take care in any unfamiliar or abnormal situations.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 22 - DEC 21

December: Positive technological developments or innovations enhance your ability to accomplish your aims, and may also intensify your outreach and communication. Seminars, educational endeavors, and travel expand your abilities and understanding. With a positive attitude and a desire to increase your vitality, you're ready for an exciting physical challenge. You'll most enjoy activities that expand your awareness while strengthening your body, and this is a great time to use visualization to improve your physical abilities.

January: The beginning of January 2021 is a great time to put all your energy into work. Health in the middle of the month may fail a little, but don't be scared. Only mild colds are possible, which will not keep a Sagittarius in bed for a long time. The horoscope recommends paying attention to nutrition. At the end of the month, one should not be nervous about trifles; it is better to gain new strength for the upcoming accomplishments.

February: The February 2021 horoscope for Sagittarius promises to be quite safe. No serious stressful or adverse situations are foreseen. On the contrary, the acquaintances that will be made in February will be very useful later, and you might find good friends or companions. In personal life, everything will be fine and smooth. Your family has got your back and is your outlet, so you should do something nice for them.

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION



The Ridge Art Competition is meant to showcase student work, inspire the Sage Ridge Community, generate excitement about the arts and build confidence through creative expression.

LOWER SCHOOL WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

HANNAH HUTTER, THIRD GRADE



SECOND PLACE

GYSEL NAJJAR, FIFTH GRADE



THIRD PLACE

TASHA SCHULER, FOURTH GRADE

Submissions are now open for next quarter's Visual Arts Competition.

There are three Categories: Lower School, Middle School and Upper School. Please submit your work to Mrs. Ashton via email nashton@sageridge.org with "visual arts competition" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, grade, title of work and medium's used in your creation. Submissions must be received by February 12th to be considered.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



FIRST PLACE
AVA WOHLTZ, SEVENTH GRADE



SECOND PLACE
ZACH POWER, EIGHTH GRADE

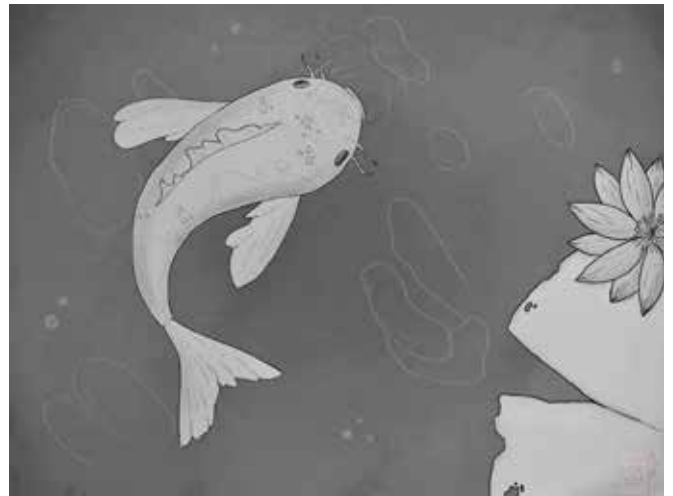


THIRD PLACE
QUINN DYSON
EIGHTH GRADE

UPPER SCHOOL



FIRST PLACE
LILLI DE JONGHE, ELEVENTH GRADE



SECOND PLACE
PAIGE NEWMAN, ELEVENTH GRADE



THIRD PLACE
SYDNEY STROMINGER
NINTH GRADE



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