

# MMS TIMES

Memorial Middle School - 1 Memorial Dr, Middlebury, CT 06762

## A Controversial Thanksgiving?

By Sean Archibald (Grade 8)

Thanksgiving has been a tradition of celebrating peace and what you are grateful for. As some people reflect on the history of Thanksgiving, they think of a happy banquet then happily ever after, even though that's not how it all went down. Historians have been bringing to light the truth of what happened between the Wampanoag tribe (pronounced *waam-puh-now-ag*) and the Pilgrims. So whether you think Thanksgiving should still be a day of gratitude, or you believe Thanksgiving should be a day of mourning, here are some thoughts that might persuade you otherwise.

Flip to page 17 to read about the Comic Contest!

Turn to page 12 to find out who this month's featured teacher is!

## Reasons Why Thanksgiving Should Remain the Same

Thanksgiving is observed every year by most Americans as a day of gratitude, celebration, and prosperity. Each year Americans enjoy Thanksgiving Day by participating in certain traditions: making paper turkeys, playing games, watching football, and mostly having a feast. Evan Sood, an 8th grader at RMS, says, "By celebrating Thanksgiving, it makes you realize what you're grateful for. It makes you appreciate what you have."

A lot of people like Thanksgiving for how it already is: a day of gobbling on some food, making Turkey themed crafts, and spending time with family. But we should remember what the meaning of this day is: being thankful and thinking of those struggling Pilgrims who came to these new lands. Being thankful for family, friends, co-workers, any people you have come across no matter how they treated you because they are the ones who have made you *you*. Every year people show gratitude to others and that's what we should do to not be selfish or narcissistic.

In the 1920s, as "the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together" (Britannica). This was the start of the transition from a religious thanksgiving to a more entertaining one. The holiday left its roots as we started to have parades, football games, and aired humorous thanksgiving movies.

*(continued on page 6)*

## SECTIONS

News: 2-4

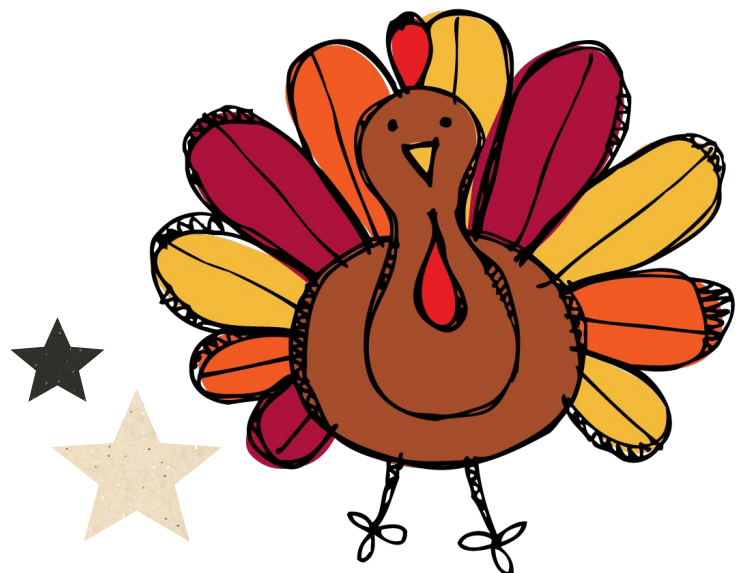
Politics & Opinion: 5-6

Sports: 7-8

Here @ MMS: 9-12

Arts & Culture: 13-14

Comics & Games: 15-17



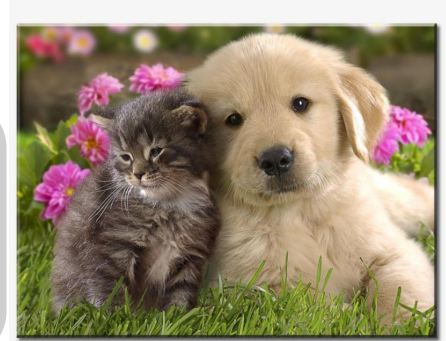
# Animal Abuse: A Major Problem

By Luke Bevilacqua (Grade 6)

When you think of an animal, do you think of your pet, or maybe your favorite wildlife creature? Now think about how much you love that beloved pet or animal. It's a lot, right? The thing is some of those favorite animals or pets are abused each year. Solemnly, according to petpedia.com, over 10 million animals die each year from animal abuse in the U.S. And 115 million perish worldwide. Shockingly, every 60 seconds an animal is abused. Furthermore, peta.org says that over 100 million rats, frogs, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, and other animals are killed from biology experiments, treatment testing, food testing, and other types of tests. Some people might say this is for an educational purpose, others might say that it should be prohibited.

There are many different kinds of abuse, and some are not as harmful nor as fatal as others. An example of this could be chaining up animals in one place or keeping them away from their natural habitats. But, it is not always fatal. Adding on, some of these animals abused, especially in the U.S., are able to get into shelters and away from the worse lifestyle. It might depend on the neighborhood they're in; poorer neighborhoods might have worse shelters or none at all.

It is painful to think about what can happen to the same species of animals we love so much. But to help, we can think about what can we do about it: reach out to the government and help our local shelters. Hopefully, now you are aware of this large heart-shattering problem throughout the world, that threatens the same species of wild animals or pets that we hold so dear.



## The Disappearance of Vanessa Morales

By Kassidi Houck (Grade 7)

Jose Morales is the prime suspect in the disappearance of Vanessa Morales, his daughter. He is already behind bars for the murder of Christine Holloway, Vanessa's mother.

Vanessa disappeared on December 2, 2019. She turned two years old on September 7.

Jose Morales is a convicted felon, and even before the baby disappeared, the Ansonia police wanted to interview Jose again, but it was up to his legal team.

The police are looking for a Graco car seat, teething ring, backpack, and a multi-colored comforter. The police are treating this case as active and are following up every tip they receive. Unfortunately none have turned out how they had hoped.

If you have any information, contact: 203-735-1885.



# **Mental Illness Symptoms in Teens (TW)**

**By Caitlin Overhiser (Grade 7)**

Mental health is making a huge impact on America's teens. While mental illnesses have already been on the uprise, the pandemic has made it way worse. Many factors go into the rise of people having unstable mental health, not just the pandemic.

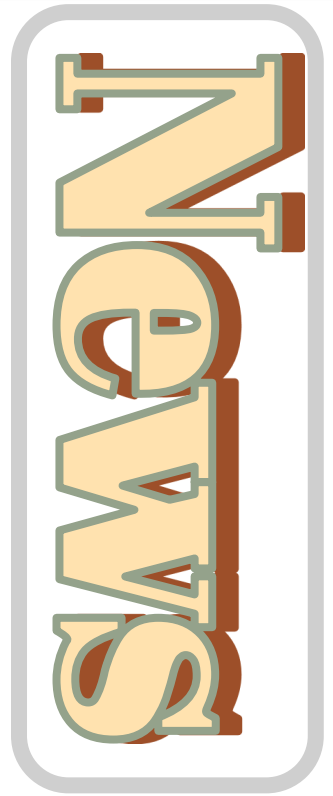
An estimated 49.5% of teens have a mental illness, the most common being anxiety or social phobias. Most mental illnesses are caused by change, poverty, abuse, or violence. For someone who may be worried about their mental health, it's important for them to know the symptoms.

Anxiety disorders have lots of symptoms, making them very easy to spot. The customary signs of anxiety are stress that is a lot for the event, not being able to set aside worry, and restlessness. You may also experience physical symptoms, such as nausea, fatigue, or trembling.

Social phobias are even easier to notice, though they need to be diagnosed by a doctor. Having a social phobia isn't simply feeling uncomfortable in a situation around people. If you have a social phobia, it means when you are around people you constantly feel scared and awkward. Usual symptoms of social phobias are depression, fear, worrying about being embarrassed or judged, and anxiety. Physical symptoms can be excessively sweating or palpitations.

Depression is common in the US among teens, but most people are good at hiding it. Depression isn't just "crying a lot" or feeling sad about one thing. Depression is way worse. It is when you feel like there's no hope left, or you just feel so tired that you don't want to have to do anything anymore. Common symptoms of depression are anxiety, apathy, generally being discontent, hopelessness, loss in interest for things you normally like, mental exhaustion, mood swings, sadness, and many others. Some physical symptoms are insomnia, restless sleep, weight gain or loss, excessive hunger, fatigue, etc.

Remember, anyone you know can be struggling. Check in with your friends and family, and just simply ask them how they are doing. If you or anyone you know is dealing with self harm, suicide, or one of these mental illnesses, and they havent gotten help, please try to talk to them or go to one of our guidance conselors. And, if you are struggling, just remember, you're not alone.



## **Snow Days, More Like No Days!**

**By Emma Sander (Grade 7)**

Getting to wake up at 10 o'clock on a snowing day, frost all over the window, and the smell of fresh snow on the ground are some of the best signs of a snow day. Many people take advantage of snow days, complaining about how we're going to have a short summer. but how would we feel if those days are gone?

As of October 29 2020, Bristol and Glastonbury have made it official that they are going online for snow days. Glastonbury's superintendent, Alan Bookman, says, "Days during the school year, days in November, December, January, February, are truly educationally more valuable than days in June. When you get to June it gets hot. Students get tired," Other states along the coast of the US, such as South Carolina, have also decided to go online. Many people agree that this is the best way to go.

A few weeks ago Mr. Smith, Region 15's Superintendent, was nice enough to answer all my questions. He said, "While we may hold a virtual school day instead of a snow day, it will not be an automatic decision." He also said that it will depend on the situation we are in. "What type of winter we have could also be a factor. If we have four or five snow days, we may have to look at virtual days to avoid going late into June." He explained that it would be easier to go online if we are already virtual. Nevertheless he still added, "However, that could be different if students do not have their devices with them or teachers aren't able to teach." In short, nothing is decided yet, we'll need to learn how to be flexible and have an open mind on not only snow days, but everything.







## Tips for Staying Social (and Safe) During COVID

By Jasleena Thind (Grade 7)

You might be a little down because of Covid and can't really hang out with your friends during this time and be social. Here are some tips that keep you safe and social at the same time.

1. Schedule zoom meetings--These can be really fun (maybe create a theme).
2. Outdoor movies--Set up a projector outside, grab some blankets and popcorn!
3. Go on a walk together--Take your dog with you, and stay six feet apart from your friend and you can chat.
4. Hang out with one or two friends at a time, socially distanced--Hanging with fewer people at a time is a lot safer than big gatherings. However, still wear a mask.
5. Go on bike rides--this can be social and a great exercise at the same time.

## What Black Friday Will Look Like In 2020

By Erlina Etemi (Grade 8)

Let's start this off by saying thank goodness that black Friday is not canceled! But things are going to look tremendously different this year on Black Friday. This year, Black Friday is going to be more than one day--it will be here for weeks and more because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Officially, Black Friday is on November 27th, the day after Thanksgiving. No one really knows what is going to happen exactly on Black Friday but there are some ideas.

Some of the steps that shoppers will have to follow are social distancing. Social distancing will happen in many ways: for example, Black Friday won't just happen in the stores, it will happen online as well. There will be many online businesses doing Black Friday promotions for everyone that doesn't feel comfortable with the pandemic. Walmart and Home Depot will most likely be the stores everyone will go to that day. Unfortunately, Black Friday won't be as fun as it is like in other years because the stores won't have a bunch of people crowding the stores like it was back then. There will be way fewer people this year going into stores.

While in-store activities on Black Friday attract a lot of media hype and local news crews, online sales on Black Friday are becoming just as thrilling. Walmart, Target, Kohl's, and many others have been rendering their Black Friday sales available online before Thanksgiving for the past several years. Black Friday this year will still be the day all shoppers love to have fun on, so don't worry shoppers, this year's Black Friday will be even more fun of an experience.





# politics and opinion

## A Brief History of the Electoral College

By Emma Bona (Grade 8)

When voting at the polls or through a mail-in ballot, your vote counts towards your state's electoral votes. Ultimately, whichever candidate has more votes in your particular state receives all of your electoral votes. In our state, (Connecticut) we have 7 electoral votes. We've always been a primarily blue state and thus, democratic candidate Joe Biden received our 7 votes.

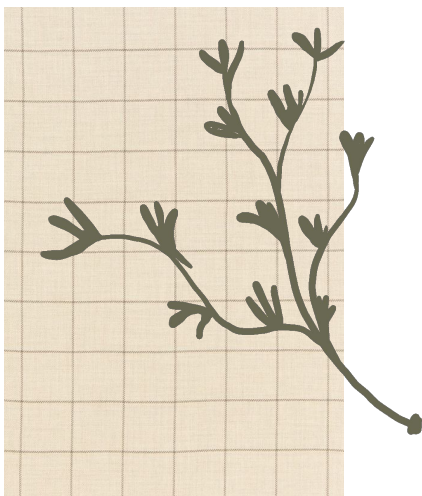
You've likely heard of the term, "popular vote". This vote represents who the majority of American citizens have elected to be president. However, just because a candidate wins the popular vote, doesn't mean they've won the election.

As stated in the article [Presidential Election of 2016](#), "While Clinton received about 2.9 million more votes nationwide, a margin of 2.1% of the total cast, Trump won a victory in the Electoral College, winning 30 states with 306 pledged electors out of 538." As it occurred in the 2016 election, while Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by a vast amount, Donald Trump won the electoral college, which in turn holds more value.



One key factor of electoral votes are swing states. Swing states are considered battleground territory. In swing states, there's a fair shot of them being swung in favor of either candidate and can change throughout the election. During Hillary's election, Arizona, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin voted in the favor of Donald Trump, who's a Republican. However, in the current 2020 election, the electoral votes from the states of Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin went to Democratic candidate, Joe Biden. This is a good example of how swing states can go either red or blue.

Throughout history, the electoral vote has been influential--however, most citizens aren't in favor of it. In 1816, congress made efforts towards abolishing the electoral college and instead go by the popular vote, but this attempt was denied by Southern Senators. As stated in [The Electoral College, Explained](#) by Senator William Wyatt Bibb (of Georgia), "It would be deeply injurious." Also quoted by Senator James Allen (Of Georgia), "The electoral college is one of the South's few remaining political safeguards. Let's keep it."



Why exactly was the electoral college even established? Well, according to the article [What Is the Electoral College](#), "They thought 18th-century voters lacked the resources to be fully informed about the candidates...they feared a headstrong "democratic mob" steering the country astray...and a populist president appealing directly to the people could command dangerous amounts of power. Out of those drawn-out debates came a compromise based on the idea of electoral intermediaries." The piece is referencing the framers of the US constitution who developed the electoral college (addressed in the 12th amendment).

Essentially, that is the electoral college and I hope this piece has enlightened you as to the value electoral votes hold and how they can potentially affect our nation tremendously for the following 4 years.

## Update: Local Election Results

By Mason Karpovich (Grade 8)

Now the election is over, are you wondering who won the local election? (Connecting to our last newspaper?) Now the results are in...

For the Democratic Party, Joan Hartley has won again for State Senate District 15. She pledged to rebuild Connecticut, and she also wants to continue to raise the minimum wage. She has already helped raise the minimum wage from \$12 to \$15, and she hopes to move forward with raising it further.

For the Republican Party, Eric Berthel won for State Senate District 32. And just like democrat Joan Hartley, he has also pledged to rebuild Connecticut. His final plans for running the towns have not been released yet.

Lastly Republican Tony D'Amelio also won for the Republican Party for State Senate District 71. Tony D'Amelio wants to keep health insurance, has a plan to keep lines shorter at the DMV, and wants people to renew their license fewer times..

Democrat Jeff Desmarais lost state senate district 32 race.

## A Controversial Thanksgiving? *(continued from page 1)*

By Sean Archibald (Grade 8)

### Why Thanksgiving should be celebrated differently:

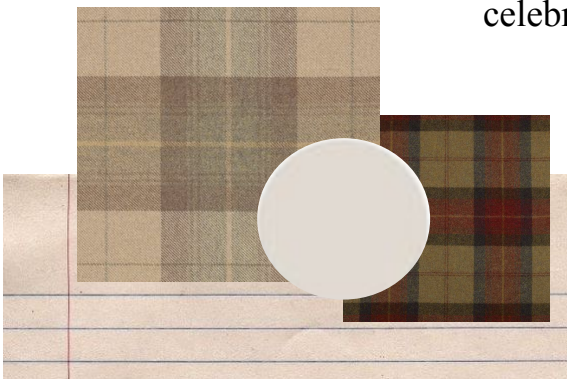
To most, they celebrate this day by doing many joyous activities, but to some, they celebrate this day by mourning and thinking of the natives that have passed away. A group of these people who disagree with the day of celebrating has created their own day, and it's called the National Day of Mourning. This day happens to fall on Thanksgiving. This new way of celebrating the 4th Thursday in November has been happening since the 1970s. It was created by Native Americans in New England.

Katherine Vongsouvanh, 8th grader at MMS, says, "This day should not be a celebration of the massacre of thousands of natives, it should be a day to honor them." The National Day of Mourning is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection. Natives protest the racism and oppression which they continue to experience.

A representative from the UAINE (the UNITED AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND) says, "Thanksgiving day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today." This shows why people and primarily Natives protest against Thanksgiving. Some protesters have even gone as far as laying stuffed body bags near the White House.

### Conclusion: Thanksgiving?

What do you think? What are your thoughts on the Thanksgiving Holiday? And how will you celebrate (or mourn) this year?



# politics and opinion



# SPORTS

## Soccer Interviews

### Megan Widlar (Grade 7)

This month we were curious about the changes and restrictions that have gone on in the Soccer team here at MMS as the season is coming to a close. We decided to interview 7th graders Jasleena Thind and Jillian Seiling.

The first question we asked Jillian was, *How do you feel about playing this year with the Covid restrictions?* “For me, I think it's fine,” she explained to us. “Everyone just needs to follow the restrictions, especially on the sidelines.”

Our next question: *what has been the hardest adjustment this season compared to last?* She told us that it was because they couldn't play any games.



7th grader Jasleena Thind in action from a 2019 MMS game



Next: *what are you looking forward to for next season?* “Playing games and meeting the new 6th graders,” she replied to us.

We were very curious about how often they have mask breaks: She told us they get to take off their masks whenever they are on the field.

Lastly we asked Jillian *is everyone as positive as they were last year?* Her final response was, “Yes!!”

We also interviewed Jasleena. We first asked her some similar questions.

*How do you feel about the Covid restrictions this year?* “It feels very different from the previous year because of many reasons including the fact that we are joining boys and girls together.”

She proceeded to tell us, “I enjoy being able to play. And I feel grateful that our school is one of the few schools still open and allowing us to play and all be together.”

Next, we asked her, *was it a hard adjustment compared to last year?* She told us. “Now of course we are not allowed to have games because we don't want to spread or catch the virus, this also means we had no tryouts. It has been a hard adjustment but it's not unbearable.”

Our last question: *is everyone as positive as they were last year?* “I think that it's very hard to be as positive as last year due to the whole pandemic but we are all trying our best!!”





## **A World Series With No Home Field Advantage**

**By Sophia Dickens (Grade 7)**

Game 1 - Nothing could get in the way of the dominant Dodgers in Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night at Globe Life Field in Arlington. Their 8-3 victory over the Rays gave them the early up in this best-of-seven series. Los Angeles used a middle-inning explosion to earn an 8-3 victory.

Game 2 - On a night when the Rays enjoyed a two-homer awakening from Brandon Lowe and evened up the best-of-seven World Series with a 6-4 win at Globe Life Field, having a more “Stable” pitching plan than their opponent made the biggest difference of all. Tampa Bay got the big outs late, whereas Los Angeles struggled to get any outs early. The Tampa Bay Rays had a stunning performance for a score of 6-4.

Game 3 - Charlie Morton had just done a difficult thing in getting Mookie Betts, a superstar with one of the lowest whiff rates in Major League Baseball, to swing through strike three for the second out of the third inning in Game 3 of the World Series. But when facing a deep and dogged Dodgers lineup, another difficult task always lies in wait. The Los Angeles Dodgers hit it out of the ballpark for game 3 with a score of 6-2. The Dodgers owned that 3rd game

Game 4 - Randy Arozarena's outstretched hands touched the plate, then lingered. Again and again, Arozarena emphatically slapped that plate with his right hand while brightly beaming at the celebrating teammates surrounding him. The Tampa Bay Rays had an insane victory of 7-8

Game 5 - This was Clayton Kershaw's moment, his time, his town, and nothing was going to take it from him. Not a Rays team that routinely threatened with leadoff baserunners, not an October narrative that has fairly or unfairly followed him, and certainly not that ambitious baserunner streaking down the third-base line and trying to swipe a run. Clayton's wish was granted the Dodgers won 4-2

Game 6 - The last game was almost a tie but they took Blake Snell their best pitcher out of the game and replaced him with Nick Anderson. So then the Dodgers took the lead and won 1-3

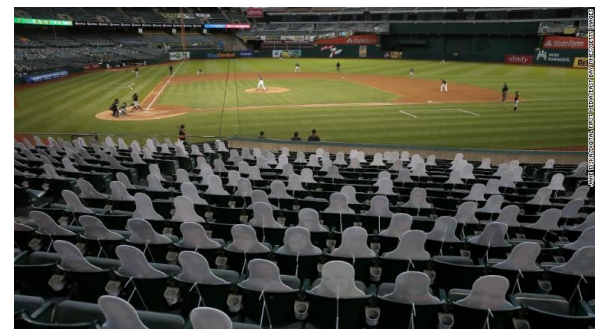


## **World Series Overview**

**By Allie McNerney (Grade 7)**

The 2020 World Series took place from October 20th-27th, with the Dodgers taking the series in Game 6. The series was back and forth with the Rays putting up a good fight before losing twice in a row to the Dodgers in game 5 and 6. Corey Seager, the LA Dodgers shortstop took home the World Series MVP (most valuable player) award. Seager across the entire series batted .400/.538/.700 with home runs in Games 2 and 4. He also won the NLCS MVP, and he now becomes just the eighth player ever to win LCS and World Series MVP awards in the same season. Seager's playoff success was just the icing on the cake for the best season of his career.

The series ended on a complicated and almost embarrassing moment. During the 8th inning of game 6 in the world series Dodgers 3rd baseman Justin Turner was pulled from the game with no explanation. When the Dodgers later won that game, Turner rushed the field to celebrate with his teammates on their new World Series championship. Everything seemed fine, but moments later the world was made aware that Turner had tested positive for Covid-19 and that was why he had been removed from the game. Then why was he celebrating with his team? There really is no good explanation. He shouldn't have. He not only ignored security guards who asked him to remain in isolation but he also decided to remove his mask while he joined the on-field celebration.



# HERE @ MIMS

## Meet Your New Math Teacher (pt. 1)

By Emily Bevilacqua and Haeley Barrett (Grade 8)

As you might already know, Ms. Keene is the new 7th and 8th grade math teacher at MMS, so we decided to interview her to get her point of view on teaching this year!

**Q: How has Covid-19 affected you as a teacher?**

**Ms. Keene:** It has changed teaching so much for me. I've had to adjust and adapt to so many new ways of teaching and supporting students. I am learning about new technology constantly thanks to the fact that we are supposed to limit papers going back and forth between students and teachers. I also have to recreate every resource and handout in Google Classroom, which takes a lot of time.

**Q: We heard that you used to work at Rochambeau. How has the change from there to MMS been for you?**

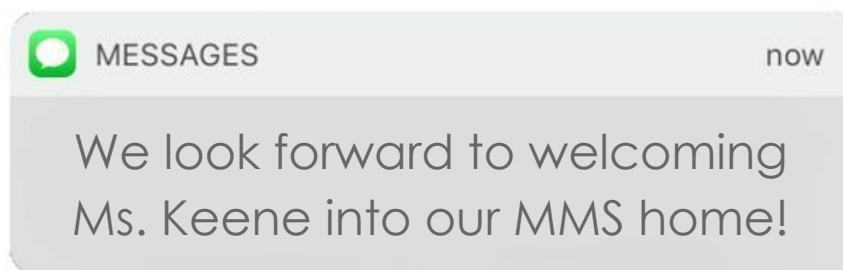
**Ms. Keene:** I've had to adjust to the different rules and teaming at MMS and I also teach two grades now, which I haven't done before. I've also had to meet new students and staff. I only knew 3 students and 12 staff members before coming to MMS!

**Q: How has the school year been so far for you?**

**Ms. Keene:** It's been an evolution of change! Some of it I regret and I wish I could redo. Thanks to everything that has been going on, (especially Covid-19) I haven't been nearly as comfortable with teaching as I was before and I have just been trying to take the stress off students, but I am definitely getting better at this as I go!

**Q: What do you like about being a teacher?**

**Ms. Keene:** The students! I love watching kids grow as students and teaching them is so much fun. I also like teaching middle school because I used to teach elementary (before I taught at RMS) and I had to teach a few different subjects, but now I can just teach math all day!



# HERE @ MMS



## Meet Your Math Teacher (pt. 2)

Written by Daniela Ardino (Grade 7)  
and Rachel Anderson (Grade 8)

Many of you might know that over this pandemic, the MMS community has seen many new changes in terms of teachers. One of the teachers that has joined us at MMS is Mrs. McConnon, who teaches 7th Grade Math. Some of you might want to get to know her more, and this is exactly why we are here. Tune into these questions to learn more about our magnificent Mrs. McConnon!

### Q: How has Covid-19 affected your teaching?

**Mrs. McConnon:** “The biggest challenge is making everything work online. I’m not very tech savvy, so figuring out technology has been a struggle for me.”

### Q: How has the change from teaching high school to middle school been?

**Mrs. McConnon:** “Well, I taught high school for 9 years, and teaching middle school for the first time is a BIG difference! I definitely respect the no-cellphone policy. In high school the kids don’t focus as much as my 7th graders do.”

### Q: Why do you like being a teacher/teaching?



**Mrs. McConnon:** “I love teaching, I always dreamed of teaching when I was a kid. I was a camp counselor in my teenage years and I moved on to tutoring. I love math, so I knew math was definitely something I wanted to teach.”

### Q: How do you feel about being invited to be a teacher here at MMS on such a short notice?

**Mrs. McConnon:** “I was really surprised and it was a really hard decision. You know what the hardest thing was? I had 3 teacher days to get ready for you guys to start. I definitely am very happy with my decision and wouldn’t go back.”

Some great news is that at the beginning of the year, Mrs. McConnon was a long term substitute but now, she is no longer a long term substitute and a teacher for good! We are definitely very excited about Mrs. McConnon's arrival!





# HERE @ MMS

## November Poll Results By Emily Daukas (Grade 7)

Hello everyone!

As some of you may know, the “Here at MMS” section of the MMS Times conducted a poll to get the general opinion of MMS students on a few topics, and as a result we got 188 responses on it! Thank you to everyone who participated in the poll! If you didn’t do it or are wondering where to participate in polls, they will always be available on our MMS Times Google Classrooms. If you haven’t already, please make sure to join the Google Classroom for your grade to participate in polls, Teacher of the Month Voting, and so much more along with reading the issues we publish!

Check out the results below!

### Q: What is your favorite color?

- 26% - Blue
- 16% - Purple
- 9% - Tied between Red & Green
- 8.5% - Pink
- 7% - Black

8th Grader Abby  
Arnauckas’ favorite  
color is blue.



### Q: What is your favorite subject?

- 15.4% - World Language (Spanish, French)
- 14.9% - Science
- 10.6% - Music Ensemble (Band, Orchestra, Chorus)
- 10.1% - Tied between Math and Physical Education
- 9.6% - English

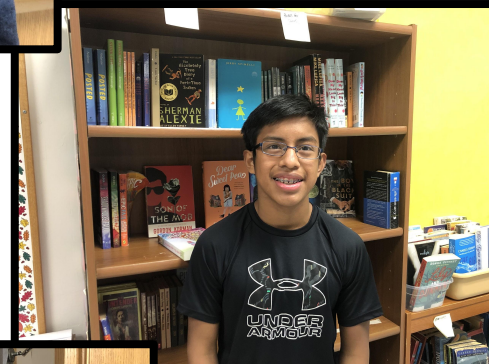


8th Grader Matthew  
Macaron’s favorite  
subject is math.

### Q: What is your favorite sport?

- 17.6% - Soccer
- 17% - Basketball
- 8.5% - Swimming
- 8% - They don't like sports/don't play sports
- 5.3% - Cross Country/Track

8th Grader Jose  
Critelli’s favorite  
sport is soccer.



### Q: What is your favorite fall activity?

- 17.6% - Hiking, soccer
- 17% - Carving pumpkins
- 10% - Apple picking, Football, Jumping in leaves
- 9% - Halloween
- 7% - Watching Movies
- 6% - Basketball



8th Grader Tesu  
Beavers’ favorite fall  
activity is also soccer.

# November Teacher of the Month

## By Somya Nog (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! It's the time you've all been waiting for, time to announce who October's Teacher of the Month is! This month's Teacher of the Month is..... drumroll please..... **Señorita Dripchak**, who teaches 6th Grade Spanish! Congratulations to her! She won with 37 votes out of 241, which is about 15.4% of all of the votes. This is definitely an accomplishment well deserved, because according to her students, she "is really nice and kind to (her) students", "is the best teacher ever", "is so much fun to be around", "brings so much joy to everything she teaches", "makes learning way funnier", and so much more. I personally have not had her since she is a new teacher this year and only teaches 6th Grade but after reading all of these positive responses, I would have loved to have her. To celebrate this recognition, I reached out to Señorita and asked her a couple of questions. Her responses follow:



### Q: How does it feel to be November's Teacher of the Month?

"I honestly feel very humbled. As a first year teacher and a new teacher in this school, I felt very grateful to my students for voting for me with all the other amazing teachers here."

### Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher/teaching at MMS?

"The students. All of my students make me want to come in every day and teach. Coming into MMS and feeling so appreciated by my students makes everything worth it."

### Q: Is there anything you would like to say to your students?

"Thank you!!! If it was not for all of them, I would not be the teacher that I am today."



### Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

"I decided to become a teacher because I have always loved learning Spanish and about the Spanish culture and I wanted to be able to share that love with others. I wanted to be able to help my students the way that my World Language teachers helped me and to encourage them to continue their language learning throughout their lives because it can open so many doors and lead to so many possibilities in their futures."

Once again, congratulations to Señorita Dripchak for being November's Teacher of the Month! A special shout out goes to our first and second runner ups, which happened to be the same ones as last month, with the exception of Mr. Mitrukiewicz. If you forgot who they were or did not read the first issue, our first runner up is Mrs. Grieder, who teaches 6th Grade Science. She received 34 votes, which is about 14.1% of all of the votes. Our second runner up is Mrs. Bronson, who teaches General Music and Chorus. She received 23 votes, which is about 9.5% of all of the votes. Amazing job to all of the teachers who were nominated! See you next month!

# HERE @ MMS



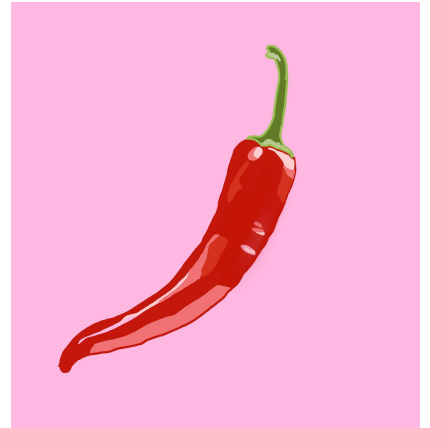
# Arts & Culture



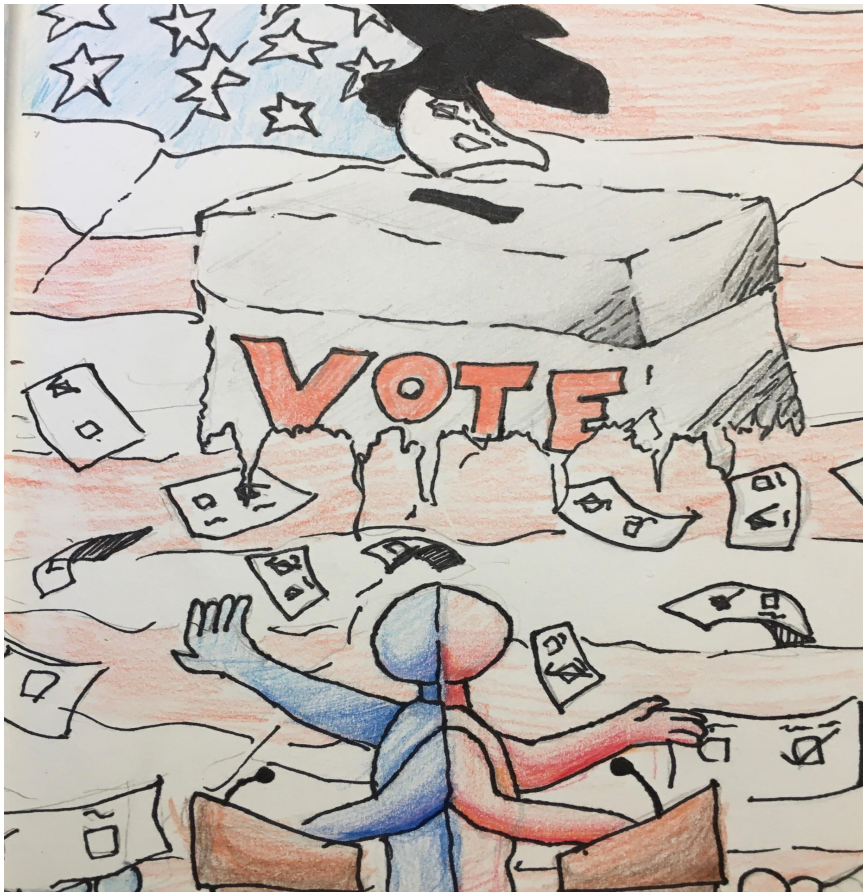
**Tea (Amaya) Hernandez (Grade 7)**



**Nora Santoli (Grade 7)**



**Nora Santoli (Grade 7)**



**Xavier Chu (Grade 7)**



**Nora Santoli (Grade 7)**



**Bella Batista (Grade 8)**



**Society**  
**By Ada Llabani**  
**(tw: hinting at ED's)**

I woke up with a funny feeling in my head. I slowly got up and realized I had to get ready for school. I went downstairs to eat breakfast but decided I shouldn't eat.

*But you didn't eat last night either.* My stomach twisted and turned.

*But society says you have to be skinny.* Of course, my brain always won.

I went upstairs to change and ended up wearing black leggings and a simple shirt. I grabbed my things and began the walk to school alone. I'm not exactly "little" anymore.

"Hey, lady!" a man in a truck slowly drove by. "You should smile more! You'd look so much prettier!" he yelled at me.

I felt attacked and I began to walk faster. I kept speeding up until I was practically running. The second I set foot on the school property, I tried to relax.

*Just forget it and get on with your day... But maybe you should smile more.* Society pushed thoughts into my head and I had no choice but to listen. I stood up straighter and gave my face a light smile. I pushed my blonde hair back and made myself "pretty". But I didn't feel pretty.

As I went through my classes, my day got worse and worse. I saw Maddie Smith and her little back-up crew talking to a short freshman with long black hair. Laughing at anything they could think of, even if it wasn't funny. The freshman ran away crying and trying to hide her face. The popular girls strike again.

As I'm about to start walking home, Maddie Smith starts walking in my direction.

*Please not me. Please not me.* But it's me.

"Well, would ya look over at Basic Betty over here!" she said in her weird country accent. Her friends snickered behind her. I didn't say anything. I just looked at her, stared her down, and tried to walk away.

"Oh, I'm sorry! Did I hurt your feelings?" her voice went from babyish to icy cold, "Good. The world doesn't need people like you, stinking up the place." I was infuriated. I felt my face turning red hot. After all those years of silence, I finally decided to use my voice.

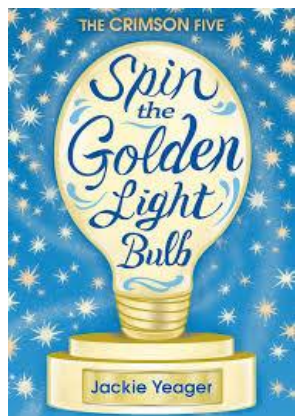
"At least I'm not artificial. No wonder you don't know how to treat people properly. Maybe you should try this thing called kindness," I sassed. I tried to make it as loud and powerful as I could. I turned on my heel and walked home, with more confidence than what I thought was possible.

Once I arrived at my house, I got a text from an unknown number.

***I saw what you said to Maddie today. You're pretty amazing. And super brave. :)***

I stared at the words on my screen and realized what I had done. I hadn't just fought back to Maddie. I had fought back to society. I had fought back to standards. For the first time, I realized that my entire life has been controlled by society, not me. I had just defied society and I'll do it again until the world can stop holding its breath. Until girls, boys, and everyone in between learns to love themselves and each other. Brave and amazing, huh?

*Yes. I told myself. Yes, I am.*



**Spin the Golden Light Bulb by Jackie Yeager**

It's 2071 and eleven-year-old Kia Krumpet has 67 inventions to build. Winning the Piedmont Challenge, which she competes in, could earn her a place at the Piedmont Inventor's Prep School. But sometimes it takes a friend (or four) to make your dreams a reality.



# Comics & Games

By:

- Delilah Salcito
- Jacob Radlinski
- Lincoln Macumber

## Veterans Day Word Search

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

## JOKES

(Answers from last issue)

- Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?  
-He was stuffed!
- What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?  
-A dino-snore!
- Why did the student eat his homework?  
-His teacher said it was a piece of cake.

## RIDDLES

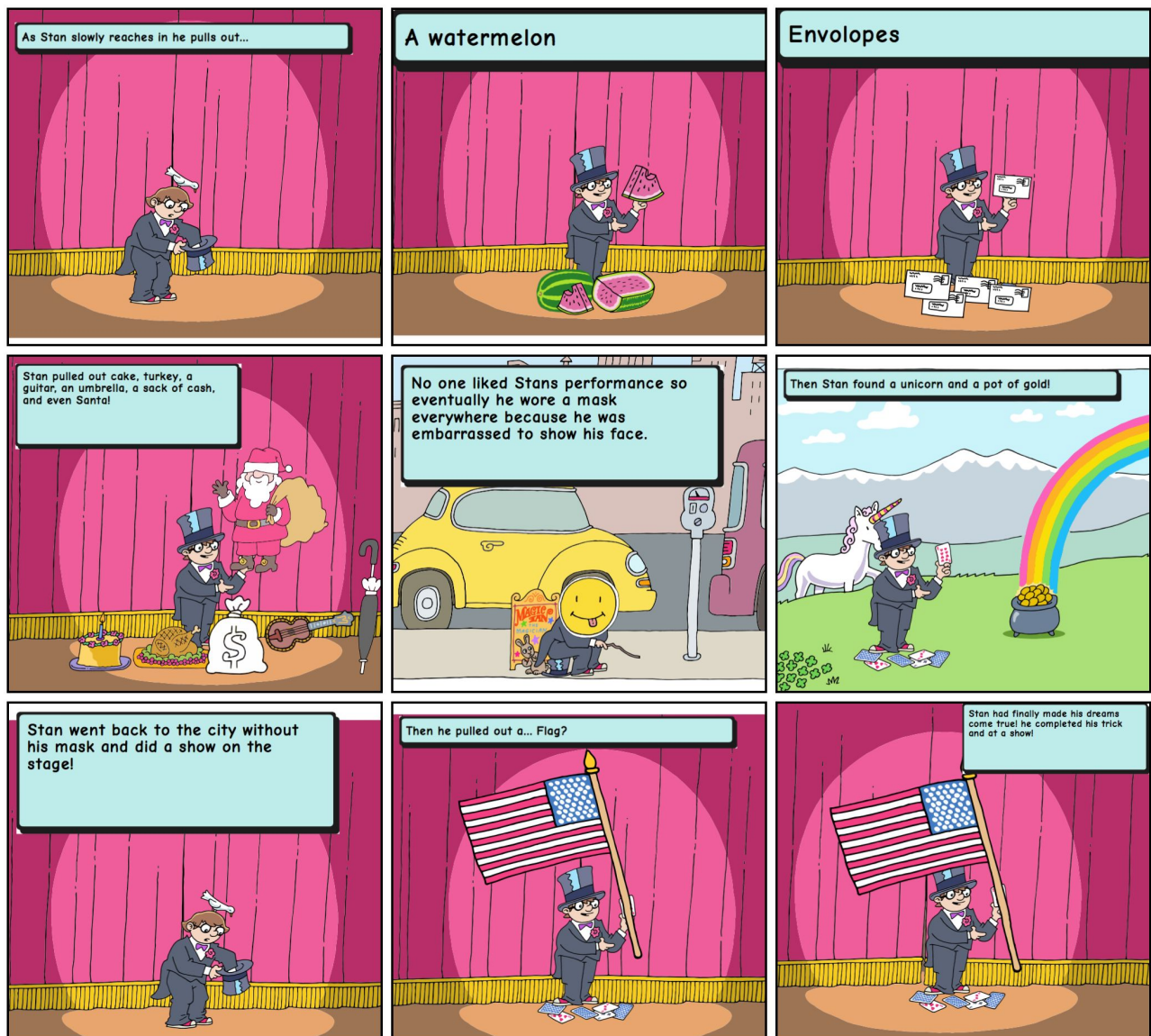
(Answers from last issue)

- You're running a race and, at the very end, you pass the person in 2nd place. What place did you finish in?  
- 2nd place.
- Where is the only place today comes before yesterday?  
-In the dictionary.

PATRIOTIC  
RED  
WHITE

STARS  
USA  
PRIDE  
HONOR

BLUE  
FLAG  
VETERAN



This comic was created at [www.MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://www.MakeBeliefsComix.com). Go there and make one now!

## Sudoku Puzzle

Fill the grid so that each column, each row, and each 3x3 subgrid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

Good luck!

		9						2
		4						
5	8					1		4
	1		9		3			
	6					7		
				8		2		
	2	1	3			8		
7								
6			4		5		7	





# COMIC CONTEST!



Are you an artist?  
Do you enjoy creating comics?  
Do you think you're funny?

Well, this contest is for you!

Submit to the MMS Times First Comic Contest,  
open to all students here at MMS grades 6 through 8.

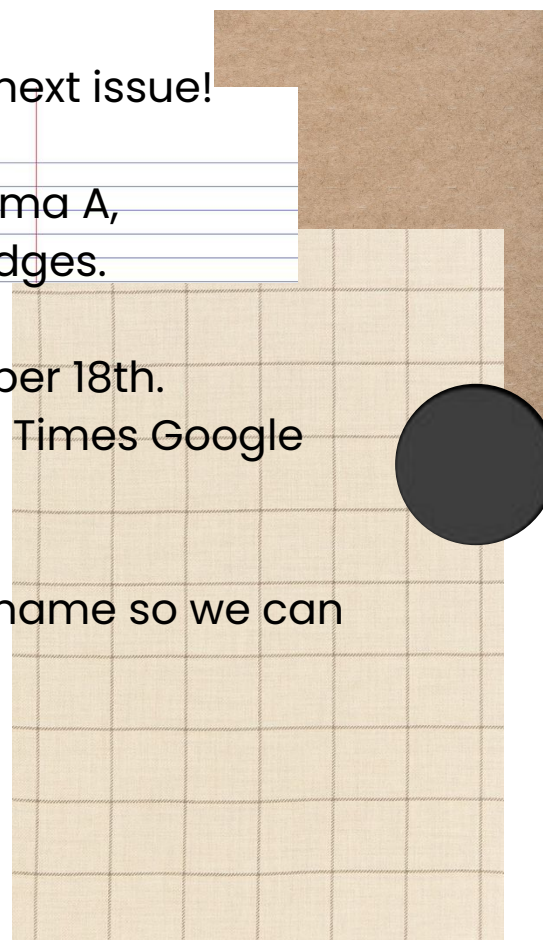
Please make sure your comic strip  
is school appropriate and is not political.  
Your comic should be between  
three and seven panels (boxes).

Winners will be published in our next issue!

Jacob R, Ada L, Emma D, Emma A,  
and Mr. Gaipa will be the judges.

Submit your comic by December 18th.  
Use the submission form on the MMS Times Google  
Classroom Page.

Good luck to all, and don't forget your name so we can  
give you credit!



# MMS TIMES

Memorial Middle School - 1 Memorial Dr, Middlebury, CT 06762

**WE WANT YOU! That's right, you there! Ask one of our staff members or Mr. Gaipa (Teacher Advisor) if you are interested!**

## News

### Editors-in-Chief:

Emma Avcollie  
Emma Demiraj

### Design + Publishing Editor:

Isabella Batista

### Copy Editor:

Julia Markelon

### Here @ MMS

**Section Editor:** Somya Nog

**Section Editor:** Emily Daukas

Rachel Anderson  
Daniela Ardino  
Haeley Barrett  
Emily Bevilacqua

### **Section Editor:** Erlina Etemi

Luke Bevilacqua  
Thomas Harris  
Kassidi Houck  
Caitlin Overhiser  
Ramin Qurbani  
Emma Sander  
Jasleena Thind

## Arts & Culture

### **Section Editor:** Ada Llabani

Xavier Chu  
Tea (Amaya) Hernandez  
Nora Santoli

## Comics & Games

### **Section Editor:** Ada Llabani

Cian Flanagan  
Lincoln Macumber  
Jacob Radlinski  
Delilah Salcito

## Sports

### **Section Editor:** Allie McNerney

Jacob Ansari  
Sophia Dickens  
Annie Greenwood  
Megan Widlar  
Maura Witkowski

## Opinion & Politics

### **Section Editor:** Sophia Ltaif

Sean Archibald  
Emma Bona  
Mason Karpovich

## Advertising Team

**Manager:** Kamya Keerthivasan  
Michelle Latifi

Do you want to stay connected with school news?  
Do you want digital access to the newspaper?  
Do you want to participate in our polls and questions?

**Join the MMS Times Google Classroom Page!**

To join, use the following code:

222r6p3 - 6th Grade  
tsf6s2a - 7th Grade  
ukfjdpf - 8th Grade