

MMS TIMES

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

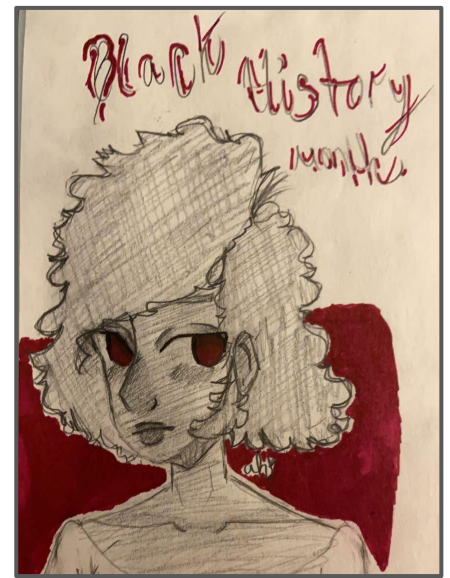


Reflecting on Black History Month: Past, Present, and Future

by Emma Bona (Grade 8)

It was the year 1915. It had been 50 years since slavery was abolished and an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH) had just been founded by Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland. This organization served to honor the accomplishment made by African Americans throughout history. The ASALH also sponsored National Negro Week during the 2nd week into February, which was established in 1926. According to www.history.com, "The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures." In future years, mayors from various cities in America officially recognized Negro History Week, and this continued later during the late 60s.

Negro History Week then developed into Black History Month. During the '50s and '60s, the Civil Rights movement took place, and this fight led to greater awareness of the discrimination black people face. It was also a fight for equal rights, and Black History Month being implemented was a way to honor African Americans throughout history who had made accomplishments, a fair number of these individuals being civil rights activists. When President Ford was in office (1974-1977), he officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, stating that this was a chance to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."



Drawing by Tea Hernandez (Grade 7)



Illustration by Nora Santoli (Grade 7)

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The Storm No One Expected

By Luke Bevilacqua (Grade 6)

“Blackouts, emergency, deaths.” Those are three words we hope to never hear, especially not in Texas. The winter storm that caused the deaths of 22 Texans has posed many questions, but the one big question is, what really happened?

The storm started on Sunday the 14th/Monday the 15th, and caused many blackouts all over Texas, which made millions of homes lose power. These blackouts were issued by ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas), which controls Texas’s state-wide power grid. The suppliers of the ERCOT power grid went offline, so they couldn't supply power. The biggest of these suppliers were the coal and gas lines, which froze, resulting in not as much electricity for the grid. Due to this, ERCOT started rolling out blackouts. This means that they would rotate 10-45 minute power outages everywhere other than critical care facilities. However, ERCOT simply couldn't keep up with the demand for all the heat in the Texans’ freezing homes, leaving many of them without electricity. On the bright side, the situation has improved and as of Thursday, March 4th, only 8,028 places were without power.

In light of this, lawmakers are demanding answers as to why it happened in the first place. After the short period of rotating blackouts in the winter of 2011, why hasn't the state done anything to prevent it from happening again? According to Michael Webber from the University of Texas, "We could have spent the decade improving efficiency in our homes so that it would take less energy to heat our homes. It would have helped for us to diversify the options we have for energy, including batteries, microgrids, and storage that make it easier for us to have our heat energy even when the grid goes out." Why did no one do something to prevent this from happening again? Like Webber had said, could Texas have been more prepared, and could they have prevented 22 innocent deaths? This question remains at large.



Gianna and Samantha Rucki

By Kassidi Houck (Grade 7)

Now, before I start, you may be wondering, “Who are Samantha and Gianna Rucki?” The Rucki sisters went missing in 2013 to reportedly get away from their abusive father. Due to court order, they were placed with an aunt and that same day, they ran away. They were found two years later in a place called the White Horse Ranch, 3 hours away from where they were last seen.

In a shocking turn of events, their mother, Sandra Rucki, is now behind bars, and their father, David Rucki, now has custody of all 5 children. Here’s what led up to this shocking turn of events:

The sisters were placed with an aunt the day they vanished. They waited 10 minutes after the cops left, then ran. A couple days after the girls vanished, they gave an interview with a local news station because they wanted to be heard, and after the interview was over, they were gone again.

They were found at the White Horse Ranch 2 years later and believe it or not, there is a link between Sandra and the ranch. Sandra is connected to an informal protective movement, which is a movement that hides abused children from a justice system and brings them closer to their abuser. The organization has hidden over 1,000 children.

When the girls were found, they were placed in the custody of their father and the case was reviewed by Donna Linder, an executive director of Child Find of America, which is an agency that helps missing children. She says, “some kids are groomed by a parent to distrust the other parent, that’s commonly called parent alienation.” Other investigators say that the case matches some of the symptoms of parent alienation but it hasn’t been diagnosed by any medical experts.

You still may be wondering, “How did Sandra end up in jail?” Well, tune in to the next issue to find out!

Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans on the Rise

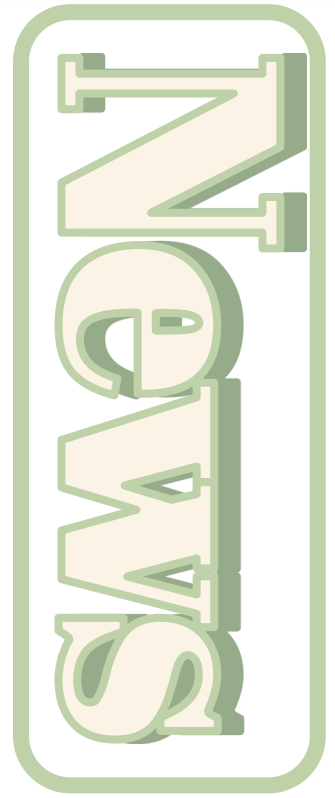
By Caitlin Overhiser (Grade 7)

Denny Kim, an Air Force veteran and long term resident of the U.S.A., was walking down a Koreatown street when two men attacked him. “They were hurling racial insults at me, calling me [expletives] and the ‘Chinese virus’ and told me to go back to China,” said Kim.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities reported that hate incidents have been on the rise across the country since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, and some people have even been targeting the elderly.

Across several videos taken on Jan. 31, a man is seen violently shoving three unsuspecting elderly Asians, a 91 year old woman, a 60 year old man, and a 55 year old woman. Stop AAPI Hate received 126 accounts of anti-Asian hate involving over 60 year old people in the U.S. over the past year. This is way more than usual.

Many organizations are working to raise awareness about these hate crimes. Joseph Cha, a witness of an anti-Asian crime, states, “At the end of the day, we’re all one human race, you know. It’s 2021 now.”



A Zodiac Take on the New Year

By Emma Sander (Grade 7)

Every February marks the date of Chinese New Year. This year, it happens to fall on the 12th. We celebrate with fireworks and lanterns to dragons and hóngbāo. Money is given by loved ones, which symbolizes luck and good wishes for the new year. Some of the more widely known and popular symbols during the new year are the Chinese zodiac signs, which are similar to the monthly ones. However, instead of one every month, there's one every year. Each zodiac animal determines the outcome of the year to come.



Last year was the Year of the Rat, known for sneaking around and causing unluckiness. Most people, born a rat, tend to feel like there is an unlucky cloud hanging over their head all the time. The Year of the Rat is the first zodiac sign in this cycle. According to an article called “The Year of the Rat by Fercility,” the reason for why the rat is the first zodiac sign follows a Chinese zodiac story. This story says, “In the competition held by the Jade Emperor to decide the zodiac animals, the quick-witted rat asked the diligent ox to take him on a ride to cross the river and jumped down before the ox crossed the finish line, so the rat won the race and became the first of the zodiac animals.”

We can probably all agree that last year was a bust, and we should try to make it better in this new year. This year will be the Year of the Ox, known for rebuilding, diligence, dependability, strength and determination. "The ox, in Chinese culture, is a hardworking zodiac sign. It usually signifies movements, so, hopefully the world will be less static than last year and get moving again in the second half of the year," says Thierry Chow, a Hong Kong-based feng shui master.

This year, let the ox be our inspiration to start moving on and rebuilding the destruction from the past. Although everything may be restored to exactly what it was before, let's grow from our mistakes and become better than what was!

The Disappearing Right Whales

By Emily Daukas (Grade 7)



North Atlantic right whale numbers are dropping by the month, with only 366 of them left in the world. Scientists and fishermen are trying their best to prevent the numbers from dropping even further but they are still dropping too fast. Scientists predict that by 2040, Right whales will go extinct.

While Right whales are no longer pursued for their oil, meat, and bones, they are still victims of ship strikes and getting entangled in fishermen's nets. This leads to long, painful deaths and them washing up on shore. Recently, scientists and fishermen have found an endangered right whale named Cottontail dead in South Carolina who was only 12 years old. Cottontail was caught in fishing nets like so many other animals. He was the second right whale to die in 2021.

There is some hope that this species can make a comeback with 15 new right whale calves spotted. This is the highest amount in several years and scientists are hoping that they can track the whales and prevent more deaths.

Right whales usually grow to 50 ft long, similar in size to sperm whales. They are also filter feeders like most whales and feed on mainly krill and copepods. They can weigh up to 140,000 pounds when full grown and at birth are about 14 feet long. Right whales migrate and have feeding grounds that they use, some of which are even in the Cape Cod Bay. They travel thousands of miles a year, going from the southeast of the U.S to the northeast and Canada. Right whales can live up to 70 years old, but many don't make it that long because they are so endangered. The name "right whale" comes from the hunters who used to hunt them because they noticed the whales moved very slowly and would float after they were killed so they were the "right" whales to hunt. Scientists also worry that human made noises can cause the whales to have a harder time communicating.

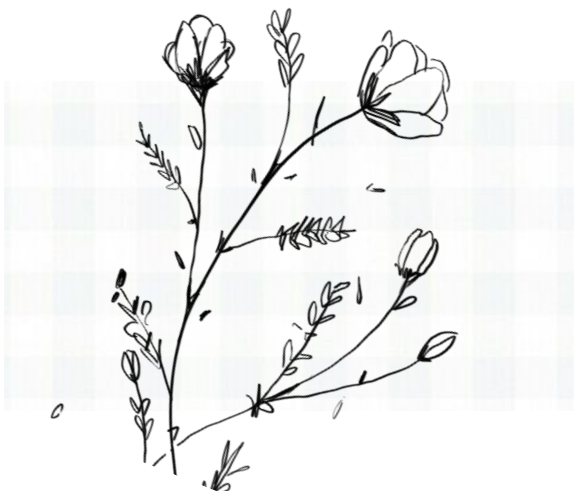
What we can do to help them is report right whale sightings so that scientists can study them and find out where they are. You can also make sure to stay 500 yards (1,500 ft) away from a right whale to avoid them getting hit by a boat or any other watercraft or even planes and drones. You can also call to report a right whale that is sick and injured, but you should never approach an injured right whale because you could end up hurting them even more. Lastly, you should do your part and get involved. Just taking time and learning about them can help.



Yelp Reviews

By Jasleena Thind (Grade 7)

I'm sure you all use the reliable Yelp reviews and trust them. Well, each year, Yelp puts together a list of the "Top 100 places to eat in 2021". Last year, Connecticut had one restaurant on the list. However, this year, Connecticut now has three restaurants on the list! "Tacos EL Azteca", located in Norwalk, came in 33rd on the list, "Grassroots Ice Cream", located in Granby, came in 60th, and "September in Bangkok", which is located in New Haven, came in 61st.



Reflecting on Black History Month: Past, Present, and Future

by Emma Bona (Grade 8)

(continued from Page 1)

Many historical figures typically honored during Black History month include Martin Luther King Jr, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Muhammad Ali, George Washington Carver, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B DU Bois, Sojourner Truth, Langston Hughes, and so many others who made famous accomplishments or partook in movements such as the Civil rights movement, women's rights, etc. These historical figures made remarkable changes in our nation whether in politics, literature, science, sports, or any other domain. All of these contributions helped shape our history and are noteworthy achievements. Even other countries such as Canada, the UK, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, and numerous countries in Africa and the Caribbean celebrate Black History month to honor African Americans' accomplishments and activism.

You may have the opinion that Black History Month isn't important enough to celebrate and plus, the month has already passed. Black History Month, or what was known as Negro History Week, was initially established to spread awareness, specifically to black and white schoolchildren, about the accomplishments of many African Americans that weren't acknowledged in textbooks and curriculum taught. By overlooking these achievements and the impact many African Americans made in history, students had no knowledge of such accomplishments and were given only a partial version of history. Therefore, Black history month spreads awareness on Black history in many crucial ways. It shows that various African American figures have impacted America's history and helped create the narrative of our nation.

This month can be a form of inspiration showing that anything can be achieved if you put your mind to it. While Black History Month has already come to an end, you can still celebrate at any point in the year by supporting black-owned businesses, purchasing books to educate yourself on black figures in history, supporting black musicians (authors, poets, artists, etc) by exploring their music, enlightening yourself on black history through the form of books, recognizing racism and discrimination within your community, and by spreading awareness on the importance of black history.

10 Executive Orders President Joe Biden Has Signed (So Far) **Sophia Ltaif (Grade 8)**

Although in the past Joe Biden has opposed enacting executive orders, he has already signed over 40 in his first month of his presidency, which is more than any other President. In case you were curious, here are some of them:

1. Revoke permit for Keystone XL Pipeline
2. Rejoin World Health Organization
3. Stop Construction of Border Wall, previously started
4. Require Ethics Pledge of Executive-Branch Personnel
5. Improve Delivery/Analysis of Covid-Related Data
6. Restore collective bargaining power for federal workers
7. Pause new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands/waters, elevate climate change as national-security, foreign-policy priority
8. Rescind a Trump order creating industry-led apprenticeship programs
9. Revokes a range of Trump orders, such as one targeting "anarchist" cities
10. Lift certain restrictions on abortion funding

What does this all mean? Most of the executive orders signed so far worked to undo some of the previous administration's works. This is a statement saying the current administration disagrees with the past administration's handling of many issues. I hope you learned something from these 10 executive orders Joe Biden has signed as President.

Perspective of an athlete in COVID-19

By Sports Section Staff

Allison Leonard is a multi-sport athlete here at MMS and has been heavily impacted by the sport restrictions due to COVID-19. We wanted to get her view on how it has been to be an athlete during these tough times, so we interviewed her. Her responses follow.

Q: What has been the hardest part about continuing to play with the restrictions?

Allison: “So, the hardest part has to be wearing a mask because it’s very hard to adjust to and it’s obviously very hard to breathe in and especially for athletes since there is a lot of running back-and-forth in most sports. You’re breathing really heavy already so it’s especially hard to breathe with the mask and it gets really sweaty.”

Q: What have you missed out on in sports because of the Coronavirus?

Allison: “So every year for hockey we’ve always gone to Newport, RI the day after Christmas and played in a huge tournament with a bunch of other teams but this year we didn’t get to go. It’s really frustrating because this is my last year playing with this specific team so this was really my last opportunity.”

Q: Has there been any perks to playing sports during Covid?

Allison: “Not really, but I’m really glad I get to play at all.”

Q: When Covid-19 kept you from playing any organized sports, what did you do to stay fit?

Allison: “What I did to stay in shape was I worked out about 1 to 2 times a week and *tried* to eat healthier, but it was definitely hard to stay motivated without any practices or games.”



Mahomes Vs. Brady

By Sophia Dickens (Grade 7)

Patrick Mahomes

Mahomes uses his skills from different sports to help the other, and mostly uses it for football like his secret weapon that he uses against other teams. Some of the other quarterbacks are missing key ingredients that will help their team, but Mahomes uses those ingredients such as decision making and leadership. Those things help the team work together and know they can trust their quarterback.

Facts About Mahomes

Growing up, Mahomes' father nicknamed him "Showtime" because of his athletic skill. Patrick Mahomes started to get interested in sports when he would watch his dad Pat Mahomes, a professional Baseball pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, New York Mets, Texas Rangers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Minnesota Twins during his career from 1992-2003.

Tom Brady

Brady is known for being intense on the field. However, he's also lauded by his teammates as a caring and supportive team leader. He understands how important it is to be there for your team not only professionally but also personally, so they'll be there for you on the field when it counts.

Facts About Brady

He grew up as a San Francisco 49ers fan and Joe Montana was one of his heroes. He likes to play practical jokes on his teammates. Brady went to college and played quarterback at the University of Michigan.



SPORTS

Super Bowl LV: Brady Tells Mahomes To Walk the Plank; Could You Feel Your Face After Watching The Weeknd?

By Sports Section Staff

Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LV on Sunday, February 7th. Here is a recap of the game, and a halftime show review, in case you missed it (or only like the commercials!).

The quarterback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tom Brady, won his seventh ring, his first since leaving the New England Patriots last year. He was also named Super Bowl MVP, which was his 4th time. Throwing for 201 yards and 3 touchdowns, the Bucs were in control of the game almost the whole time. Leonard Fournette rushed for 89 yards and a score and Ronald Jones added 61 more yards to secure the game for Tampa Bay.

As for the Buccaneers' defense, defensive coordinator Todd Bowles' group executed a great performance, limiting quarterback Patrick Mahomes to 270 passing yards and a 53% completion rate of his passes. Mahomes also had two passes intercepted by a stubborn Bucs defense. "It won't be impossible, but it's definitely an uphill battle," Los Angeles Times says, referring to the Kansas City Chiefs in quarter 3 of the game. The game wasn't very exciting, but definitely a "worlds colliding" moment for Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes.

The half time show in Super Bowl LV was interesting, some would say. This year, Canadian artist The Weeknd performed. Fun fact: The Weeknd actually contributed 7 million dollars of his own money to this year's performances to make it "what he envisioned", but still, some people seemed to not love it. "There was zombie-like dancing by those bandaged dudes that surely triggered viewers," the Los Angeles Times says. Weird, right? The Weeknd is known for his amazing performances, although this one left people shocked and saying "Huh?" "Spooky yet darkly funny, this appealingly bizarre spectacle reflected the COVID era in both mood and logistics," the Los Angeles Times chimed in with a positive voice. This past year and halftime show matched each other very well, like no other.



**Do you want to work on our school newspaper?
Talk to one of our staff members, or email Mr.
Gaipa (tgaipa@region15.org) to get started!**

Teachers Play Sports?

By Megan Widlar (Grade 7) & Anabelle Greenwood (Grade 7)

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been interviewing the teachers here at MMS about the sports and athletics they played when they were kids. After collecting our information, we have made a collection of photos and facts about them!

Mrs. Debe played softball from ages 10-13 (grades 6-9). She played pitcher, outfield, and 2nd base.



Mr. DiGiovanni played basketball from ages 13-17 and football all through high school. Mr. DiGiovanni also had a short lived baseball career at age 14. In basketball, he was a guard, in baseball, he played first base, and in football, he played offensive and defensive line.



Miss Chicano played JV and varsity Basketball throughout her high school career. She played from grades 6-12 and played shooting guard.

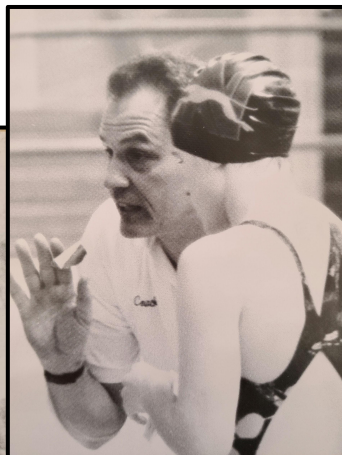
Sra. Radlinski swam from kindergarten to 12th grade. She swam the 100 yard butterfly, IM, 50 yard freestyle, and 100 yard freestyle.

Mrs. Grieder (no picture) played softball, diving, cheerleading, and intramural sports in college. She played softball from ages 10-13, diving from ages 13-14, and cheerleading from ages 11-17. In softball, she played outfield, and was a flyer in cheer.



Mr. Buckley (no picture) played baseball and soccer in highschool. He also went on to play college baseball! He played catcher in baseball and defense in soccer.

Mrs. DiGiovanni (no picture) played soccer, gymnastics, and cross country, and was on a dance team. She played soccer and gymnastics in elementary school, dance team grades 9-12 and cross country grades 6-9.



SPORTS

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Guess Who Answers By Emily Bevilacqua (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! If you didn't already notice, we at "Here at MMS" released a special new "Guess Who" game. In this game, students were given a fun fact about 5 different teachers/staff members and they tried to guess which teacher/staff member it was out of 5 different options. Keep reading to find out the correct answers and the data we received from the game! We hope you enjoyed participating in this game and possibly learned something new about a teacher/staff member!

Question 1: This teacher/staff member once went on an African safari.

40.9% of people guessed Ms. Post.

23.4% guessed Mrs. Pinto.

16.9% guessed Mrs. Zamarly.

11% guessed Mrs. Keene.

7.8% guessed Mrs. Edley.

And the majority of you were correct, it is Ms. Post!



Question 2: This teacher/staff member once worked on an island with 3000 monkeys.

46.1% guessed Mrs. Cimelus.

20.1% guessed Mrs. Keene.

14.3% guessed Mrs. Whelton.

11.7% guessed Mr. Gaipa.

7.8% guessed Mrs. Kirsch.

And again, the majority of you were correct, it is Mrs. Cimelus!



Question 3: This teacher/staff member once worked in a chocolate factory.

33.1% guessed Mrs. Drew.

22.1% guessed Ms. Pinto.

20.1% guessed Mrs. Marano.

15.6% guessed Mrs. Cimelus.

9.1% guessed Ms. Chicano.

Unfortunately, the majority of you were incorrect, it is actually Mrs. Marano!



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(cont.d) **Question 4: This teacher/staff member used to play bass in a heavy metal band.**

52.6% of people guessed Mr. Gaipa.

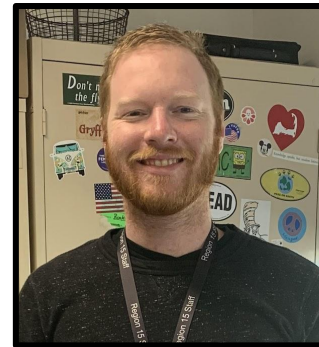
27.3% guessed Mrs. Edley.

8.4% guessed Ms. Whelton.

7.8% guessed Ms. Mancini.

3.9% guessed Ms. Post.

And the majority of you were correct, it is Mr. Gaipa!



Question 5: This teacher/staff member once helped to rescue 56 beached whales on Cape Cod.

65.6% of people guessed Mrs. Grieder.

11.7% guessed Mr. Walsh.

10.4% guessed Mrs. Zamary.

6.5% guessed Mrs. Cimelus.

5.8% guessed Ms. Chicano.

And again, the majority of you were correct, it is Mrs. Grieder!



Thank you to the teachers/staff members who gave us a fun fact about themselves, and thank you to everyone who participated in this game! See you next issue!

Principals Interview By Ryan Murray (Grade 6)

We at MMS are lucky enough to have two amazing principals, Vice Principal Bourque and Principal Murphy. If you want to know more about them, now's your chance, so keep reading!

Q: Did you always want to work in an educational role?

Mrs. Bourque: "When I was growing up, I always wanted to be 1 of 3 things; a lawyer, teacher, or journalist. I always loved history and social studies and studied pre law in college. When I graduated, I decided that instead of becoming a lawyer, I wanted to teach history. It was the best decision I ever made. I taught history for 13 years and loved it!..."



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(cont.d) “...It was hard to leave the classroom, but I enjoy being an assistant principal. I get to be involved in all aspects of the school which is great.”

Mrs. Murphy: “I always believed in the vital importance of learning and earning a good education. I have always felt a strong commitment to the field and to kids. After 25 years in education, I still love my job and it continues to teach me many things. I am grateful to be part of such amazing and important work!”

Q: If you could be something other than a vice principal/principal, what would you be?

Mrs. Bourque: “That's a great question. I think I would probably do something in the journalism/communications field. Perhaps a sports broadcaster or reporter. I've often thought about writing a book someday, so maybe an author. I love to write!”

Mrs. Murphy: “I would find a way to use my creativity to make the world a better and more joyful place for all.”

Q: What is your favorite part of being vice principal/principal?

Mrs. Bourque: “I love middle school and I love being around kids! The best part of my job is getting to interact with students in so many different ways. They make me smile everyday. Mrs. Murphy and I always say that the kids keep us young.”

Mrs. Murphy: “I love working with students, staff, and our parents to collaboratively create a joyful and engaging environment for learning at MMS. I enjoy being part of such a wonderful team, and I think our students keep us young and dynamic. We are lucky to laugh a lot while we do such important work!”

Q: What is a typical day like as vice principal/principal?

Mrs. Bourque: “I don't think there is such a thing as a typical day. Some days are much busier than others. Most days consist of some meetings for a variety of reasons, collaborating with staff, communicating with families, and working with students. There are a lot of decisions that need to be made every day. Luckily we have a great staff to help with everything that needs to be done!”

Mrs. Murphy: “Interestingly, there is no typical day and that is another thing that I love about being in my position. Every day is different and dynamic.”

Disclaimer: For the next question, Mrs. Bourque and Mrs. Murphy collaborated on their answer.

Q: What is the difference between the vice principal and principal positions?

Mrs. Bourque and Mrs. Murphy: “There are many similarities between me and Mrs. Murphy. We are about the same height, have similar hair color, both drive Jettas (one is white and the other is black) and even have the same first name! We are close in age (although she is a little older). One difference is that although we have the same shoe size, I wear heels and she wears flats. As far as our jobs, most roles and responsibilities overlap. We work as a team everyday to address all aspects of the school community.”

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(cont.d) Thank you to Mrs. Bourque and Mrs. Murphy for allowing us to interview them! Happy reading everyone, and don't forget to join the Google Classroom page for your grade to participate in polls, read our issues, and so much more!

February's Teacher of the Month

By Somya Nog (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! It's that time of the month again; time to announce who February's Teacher of the Month is! Without further ado, this issue's Teacher of the Month is ... drumroll please ... **Mrs. Bronson**, who teaches Chorus and 6th and 8th Grade General Music! Congratulations to her! She won with about 12.3% of the votes (17 out of 138). It's clear that Mrs. Bronson deserves this title because, according to her current and former students, she "is so nice and friendly", "makes (her students) feel so welcome and included", "is very fun to be around", makes her students "look forward to her class all the time", "cares about each and every one of her students", and "knows when you are feeling down and will ask you what is wrong and is there for you in every way possible", and so much more. As one of Mrs. Bronson's current/former students, having her for 6th and currently 8th Grade General Music, I can assure you that all of these statements are, indeed, true.



As usual, I reached out to Mrs. Bronson and asked her a couple of questions regarding her teaching. Her responses follow:

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

Mrs. Bronson: "I'm honored to be recognized amongst a building full of talented and experienced educators."

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

Mrs. Bronson: "The students and the staff. Since coming to MMS 2 years ago, I've learned that middle school is a great place to be. I appreciate that I get to work with all students and hear about their day. I greatly appreciate the support the MMS staff gave when I arrived here."

(cont.d) Q: Is there anything you'd like to say to your students?

Mrs. Bronson: "Always try your best. One of my favorite quotes is credited to Henry Ford: 'Whether you think you can, or you think you can't – you're right.' You are incredible people and can accomplish whatever you put your mind to. My door is always open."

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Mrs. Bronson: "I went to college to become a doctor and said I would never EVER be a teacher. I realized during college that I wanted students to learn and have an appreciation for music so I decided to be the one thing I thought I never would do, TEACH! And I've loved it ever since."

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

Mrs. Bronson: "Every day is a new day. Make it your best day."

Once again, congratulations to Mrs. Bronson for being February's Teacher of the Month! A special shoutout goes to our first and second runner-ups, Mrs. Edley, who teaches Orchestra and 7th Grade General Music, and Mr. Morris, who teaches 6th Grade ELA, respectively. The former received 11.6% of the votes (16 out of 138 - it was a super close race!) and the latter received 8.7% of the votes (12 out of 138). Fantastic job to all of the teachers who were nominated! See you next issue!



Drawing By Nora Santoli (Grade 7)

*Delilah's Corny Corner
Answers from Page 16*

A1. It has a hole in it.

A2. Corn on the cob, because you throw away the husk, cook and eat the kernels, and throw away the cob.

A3. The letter M

A4: The letter W!

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Arts & Culture

An Interview with Miss Pinto, Digital Media Teacher Daniela Ardino (Grade 7)

Every quarter, you get a new STEM class. One out of those 4 is Digital Media with Miss Pinto. This year has probably been one of the most difficult years of teaching for teachers. In late December, I asked Miss Pinto some questions about teaching, her class, and the struggle of teaching during COVID-19 as a teacher along with her . Here were her answers:

Q: What is Digital Media?

Miss Pinto: “Digital Media comprises the use of technology - such as computers and software programs and digital cameras. These tools are combined with traditional art concepts, art historical references and traditional art media and used to create innovative works of art. Students look at visual art through the lens of photographers, graphic designers and filmmakers.

Digital Media students are creative problem- solvers, finding their own unique solution to an assignment, with the application of the aforementioned technology, concepts and materials. Students build their artistic vision through discovery and experimentation.”

Q: What are your students doing in Digital Media this year?

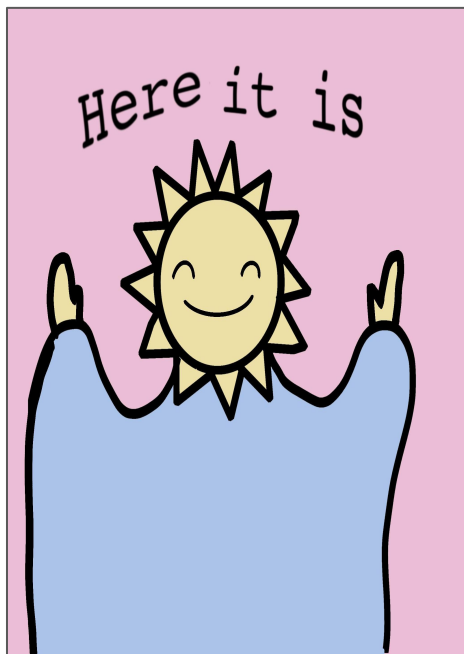
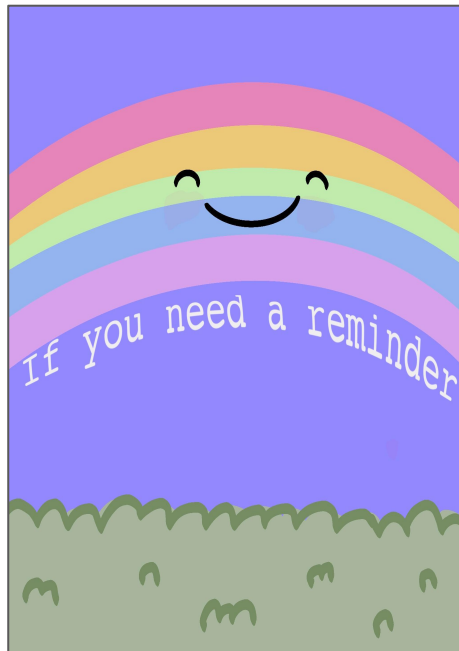
Miss Pinto: “Grade Six works on several projects utilizing the different ways of creating artworks. Students use digital cameras to take a series of portrait photos, manipulating some digitally and another hand-colored using traditional art materials, such as chalk pastels. Grade Six will also digitally alter a photo of themselves to look like they were originally in an historical painting. Sixth graders will also begin to learn the basics of creating moving images.

Grade Seven students are just beginning to create a digital image collage using a photoshop-style software program. These digital images are influenced by the art historical style of Surrealism. Images are manipulated, arranged, and adjusted to create a realistic, yet, dreamlike or fantastical image. Grade Seven will move on to a Graphic Design Project. For this project students will use more traditional art materials, such as markers, color-pencils, and drawing templates, creating a new font style and using this as the basis of an album cover design.

Grade Eight completes an intense Unit of Study including a series of assignments encompassing advanced digital photography focusing on skillful image composition utilizing The Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Students will also engage with image manipulation using photoshop-style software. As a culmination to this learning, the students will create a ‘personal story still life’ photograph, utilizing all their knowledge gained from the prior assignments. Future projects will include more advanced image manipulation and some moving image work.”

(Continued on next page.)





(Continued from previous page.)

Q: Why do you like teaching Digital Media?

Miss Pinto: “Watching students persevere with an art media that is new and challenging to use is exhilarating. Witnessing the students’ unique creative ideas come to fruition is inspiring. The challenge of teaching with, and, learning how to use a new art-media is exciting for me, as well. Being a sculptor, my forte is creating three-dimensionally. Having to learn how to use and teach technology has been challenging, however, as I gain more and more knowledge, and am exposed to different types of art, the journey has been very rewarding. I have grown as a teacher and as a person who likes to ‘make stuff.’”

Q: How is Online Teaching With COVID-19?

Miss Pinto: “Beyond challenging; a juggling act. Doing the best possible; learning every minute. Missing the interactions and connections with students and the school community offered from in-person learning.”

Q: What’s the difference between last year and this year?

Miss Pinto: “Well, so much is different - just about everything has been adjusted to our present circumstances. I am sure we are all looking forward to future days with a balance of the positives learned from our experiences this year combined with the tried-and-true of the past.”

It was an honor and a privilege to interview Miss Pinto. A big thank you to her for taking the time to write these amazing answers!

By Nora Santoli (Grade 7)

Comics & Games

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

Spring is almost here...

A Word Search

by Delilah Salcito (Grade 6)

Butterfly

Clover

Flowers

Grass

Green

Rain

Spring

St. Patrick Day

Tulip

Delilah's Corny Corner

Q1. How can a pant pocket be empty and still have something in it?

A1. _____

Q2. Throw away the outside and cook the inside, then eat the outside and throw away the inside. What is it?

A2. _____

Q3. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in one thousand years?

A3. _____

Q4: What is at the end of a rainbow?

A4: _____

Answers on Page 13.

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