

Mustang Monthly



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

A Learning Legacy: Mrs. Marrano Retires

By Marian Chesney-House

Mrs. Marano's sad departure has stirred the waters of our dry lakebed, and the news has spread like wildfire. I have gone to interview the teacher herself, as well as some of her students, both past and present.

I approached Mrs. Marano about her reasons to teach: "In Eighth Grade, I loved the teacher, Mrs Flynn." She said, "I thought, *I want to be like Mrs. Flynn, to encourage learning,*"

Then and there, her fate was decided: Mrs. Marano would be a teacher. Mrs. Marano has been in the teaching business for almost 40 years. (Specifically 37 ½)

She told me that her favorite moment when teaching is when the kids have a light bulb moment. "When I see that, I know the kids understand the lesson." She added, "Not just in Social Studies but in life."

I went to talk to her students. One student, Victoria Bal, in our interview said, "Mrs. Marano is a great teacher." Another student named, Mia Radlinski said this about Mrs. Marano: "I think Mrs. Marano is a very nice teacher and is very caring."

We will all be sad to see this incredible teacher go, but we will always remember her.

Before I left my interview with her, she told me her favorite quote was from Wayne Gretzky. "You miss 100% of the shots you never take."

It is true, because after all, if she had never taken the shot at being a teacher, she never could have created such a Legacy of Learning.

Here are some other things that previous students will also miss about Mrs. Marano:

"I'll miss how caring she is for all of her students and the effort she puts into our class to help us learn to the best of our abilities."

"Her daily morning greetings! Every morning she stands outside greeting her past and current students with warm welcomes and morning greetings."

"I will miss her always being so kind and caring for everyone even when being online at the end of the year"

"The way she greets everyone happily each time we walk into the building."



Mrs. Marano, sixth grade Social Studies teacher, retires after 37 and a half years!

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Getting to Know the Spanish Club

By Luke Bevilacqua

I'm sure you have heard about Wingman, Student Government, and all the other clubs we have here at MMS, but more recently a new kind of club has been created by our very own sixth grade Spanish teacher, Señorita Dripchak. As of January, the Spanish Club has been going for several weeks. According to multiple Spanish club members, Spanish club is "Exciting, fun, a good learning experience, and much more." Continue reading to learn about what goes on in Spanish club, and what the members have to say about it.

The Founder

Let's start with the creator, Señorita Dripchak, who is currently in her 2nd year teaching at MMS. I asked why she wanted to create a Spanish club and this was her response: "So that kids have an opportunity to learn more than what is taught in the classroom." When I asked what her plans moving forward for the Spanish club are, and she hopes to teach students about the many different cultures and countries in South and Central America.

Why Did People Join?

Next I interviewed a couple of the members of the Spanish club. I asked all of them why they wanted to join and these were their responses.

Brody Fellin, 7th Grade- "I wanted to learn more about Spanish culture."

Katherine Salsbury, 6th Grade- "I thought it would be fun, and I wanted to learn more Spanish."

Francesca Cipriano, 7th Grade- "I think the culture is very interesting and the traditions are very compelling."

These responses clearly show that the Spanish club has attracted many members, who are ready to learn more about a great culture.

Fun-filled Activities In Spanish Club

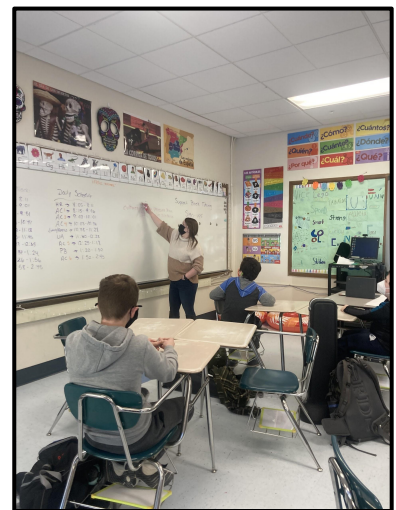
If you were ever thinking of joining Spanish club, there's a lot of fun things that they do. One activity that they have done was a virtual field trip to Argentina, which member Brody Fellin said was "My favorite activity that we have done, because we got to see so much." Other activities that the Spanish club has include watching movies about the many different countries in South and Central America, and figuring out ways to teach other kids about the Spanish community. Lastly, there was one thing Señorita Dripchak was looking forward to doing for the Spanish club, and that was going to be bringing food from other Spanish countries. However, due to Covid policies and limitations they are not able to do that this year.

During the weeks of activities and fun, almost all the members of the Spanish club I interviewed gave it a 10/10, while the only one who gave it lower was Katherine, a student in sixth grade who says "A 9/10 because we can't have it every day." Though the Spanish club has just started, it has already made a big impact in students' days. From the members I interviewed, every Friday, they look forward to being able to go to room 121 to learn more about a subject they love.



Spanish Club Member Clare Fellin creating the flag of Puerto Rico.

Señorita Dripchak and Spanish Club Members brainstorming fun activities.



February's Featured Teacher: Mr. Titone!

By Daniela Ardino

Welcome to our 2nd Featured Teacher! I would like to congratulate Mr. Titone on getting voted for this Month's Featured Teacher. Mr. Titone had a total of 18 votes from all different grade levels of students. All of you had wonderful questions to ask Mr. Titone. I hope you enjoy getting to know him!

Q: You have told students that you have traveled across the country extensively. Why did you travel to 49 out of the 50 states?

A: The U.S. is such a vast and diverse country, I have always enjoyed traveling and seeing what life is like in each state. There are so many amazing landscapes and biomes you can visit. The U.S. National Park system is also a great treasure to the public. Most of the states I have visited on road trips. In 2015 I lived out of a Jeep for a winter skiing out west and in Canada. In 2018 I spent the summer living out of my truck and surfing in the Pacific Northwest. Alaska is the only state I have not visited, but I have plans to journey there in the near future.

Q: You have mentioned that you love to mountain climb. What's your favorite mountain to climb?

A: It is hard to choose since all mountains are unique.

This time of the year I climb Mt. Snow in Vermont before sunrise to ski first runs.

Lately, I have been climbing peaks in the Adirondacks in New York.

I am most proud of summiting Mt. Washington during the winter of 2011.

I am working on a long-term goal of climbing all mountains over 4000ft in the Northeast.

Q: Students are really interested to know: Why did you become a teacher?

A: This is the hardest question to answer for me because I can't think of one distinct reason that has brought me into teaching. There are some teachers who always knew that they wanted to teach from a young age. I guess for myself I figured I would become a teacher after I was done having some adventures and learning more about the world. I love having the opportunity to share my experiences and hopefully help to guide and inspire others. I also like that teaching is a very dynamic occupation, and you never know exactly what each day will bring. I also like being able to continue being a student myself, as teaching always pushes you to learn new things or brush up on concepts you learned years back.

Q: What inspires you?

A: I am inspired by the human experience. I'm fascinated by how people lived in the past and how we have gotten to where we are today as a species. I am also amazed at how quickly the world is changing and how technology is rapidly improving. I am excited to see what the 21st century has to offer and what solutions we will come up with to fix the challenges we face.

Q: What grades have you taught?

A: At this point, I have taught grades 6th through 12th. It has been a great experience to see how students transition from middle school through high school and beyond.

Q: What was your experience in the lab?

A: It was a very unique and fast-paced environment. I started working in an aviation lab after I graduated from college. I spent about 3 years learning how to run every instrument in the lab, and I used to be the person who would sign off on safety reports for aircraft flying all around the world. It was a lot of responsibility for someone in their early 20's and it taught me a lot of lessons particularly about attention to detail, organization, and multitasking.

Continued: February's Featured Teacher

By Daniela Ardino



Q: Do you have any previous jobs?

A: In high school, I started off working in a grocery store and then lifeguarding at a town pool. I have also worked as a valet, carpenter, and even a security guard for an auction house.

I would like to once again congratulate Mr. Titone on being highly voted for this month's teacher of the month. I hope you enjoyed getting to know Mr. Titone!



Student Government: The classic school-planning group

By Emma Taglialatella

A classic club at MMS known as Student Government has just started up for this year. This is the group that organizes spirit days like Flannel Friday, Fancy Friday, etc. The club is ran by Mrs. Grieder, but a lot about the inside of Student Government is unknown. To get a better look at the club, I interviewed Charis Hubbard (6th) and Mia Radlinski (6th). I started by asking them how they felt about joining Student Government. Mia replied: "I love student gov. It is a great way to spend my time and I love to help plan stuff. It is very fun." And Charis added, "I love to learn how government works."

I continued on, wondering what they thought about how often the club met. Mia expressed that she was content with the meeting schedule, and that it wasn't too overwhelming. Charis' answer was a bit different, saying that "Student Government is off on a weird schedule, it's sometimes once a month, sometimes once a week."

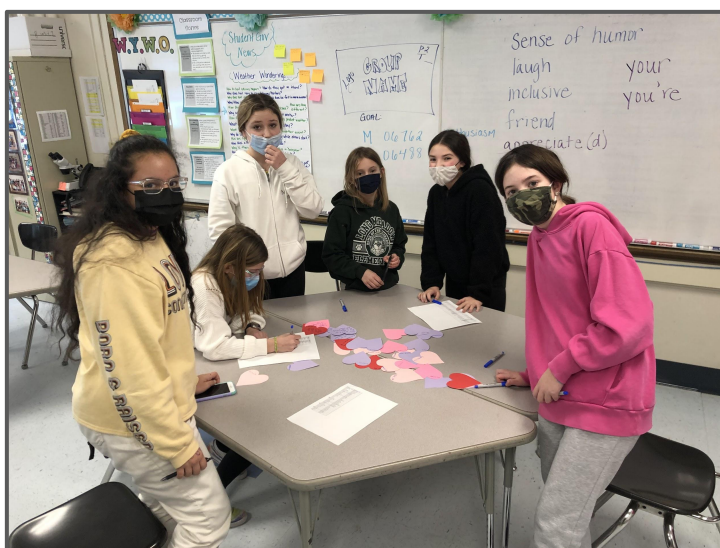
I applaud the members of Student Government for their loyalty to the club, no matter the schedule. Since Student Government is what plans events, I wanted to know what they had done that was exciting. Mia immediately responded: "I think that the ugly sweater contest was fun. I really hoped my mom, (Mrs. Radlinski) would win. I also think that if we have a spring dance it will be really fun." Charis agreed, and said that it was hilarious to see the teachers and staff in ugly sweaters.

I was really interested to see if there were specific roles that the Student Government has. Mia said "No, There are no roles, but we all work together to build a better school and community." Charis agreed, however, she had a different way of looking at it. She said that their "president" was Mrs. Grieder, the teacher running Student Government.

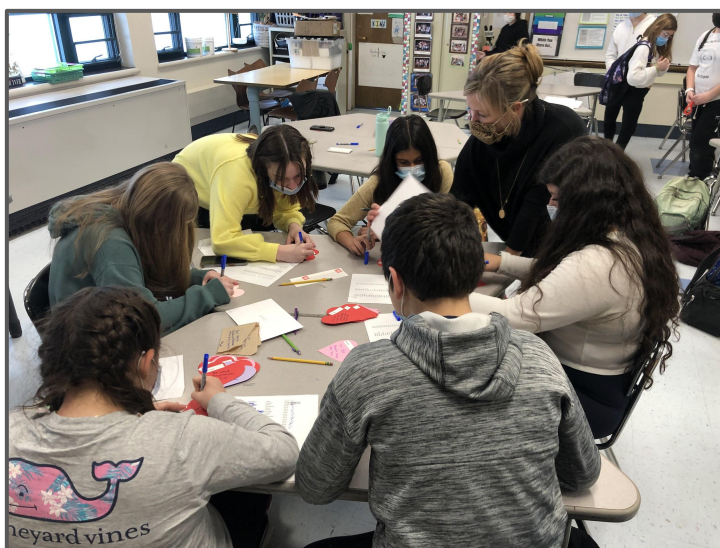
I finally moved on to my last question: "If you could, would you back out of it?" Charis said: "No way!" And Mia added, "I would not give it up for the world." Student Government is a great club, and I can't wait to see what else they have planned for this year!



Faith Salzo, Caroline Suter, Advisors Mrs. Selvidio and Mrs. Grieder, Claudia Burrus, Mia Shaker



Student Government members hard at work!



Seventh Graders Emily Lane, Arber Abazi, Laila Khouadra, Riya, Bajaj, Jordyn Fortier, Isabella Cirillo

A successful season: MMS 21-22 basketball

by Ayla Feratovic

The MMS girls basketball team has had an amazing start to the season. They have won 5 games so far, and lost 4. The captains of the team are Allie McNerney and Allie Leonard, with the managers being Daniela Ardino, Devin Mugavin, and Jordan Kovach. Allie Leonard and Allie McNerney are leading the team with the most points this season so far. Aside from the team's amazing season, I asked Claudia Burrus, a player on the team, a couple of questions to see her perspective.

The first thing I asked was how she thought the season was going, she responded with "Our season is going well, Mr. M likes to say we are one of the smartest teams he has had, which I believe is a part of why we have a winning record so far this season."

The second thing I asked was what the biggest struggles she has faced with the team so far and she said, "I've noticed that in the games that we have lost we have struggled with stopping the main scorer on the opposing team by not playing aggressively enough on defense."

Another thing I asked was how she thought the team dynamic is and she said, "Our team has a strong bond since we have been practicing and playing with each other since November. We've really gotten to know each other as players which lets us have trust with each other on the court" Good to know!



Claudia Burrus and Allie McNerney after tournament win

One other thing I asked was what she thought was the biggest improvement throughout the season and she responded with, "I think our biggest improvement is the ability to run our plays. In the first games of our seasons we would run our plays exactly how they are written, not looking for the split second where the opposing team's defense was out of place and there's a player wide open even if it wasn't a part of the plan. We now know to look for all passing options at different times, almost 'breaking the rules' of the play."

The final and last thing I asked was what one thing she wanted to improve on and she said, "As someone who is short, I think I could improve on taking more shots down low not being intimidated by the taller player guarding me."

Although the players may believe they need some improvement, they still have had an amazing season so far. Good job ladies!

The boys team this season has won 5 games, and lost 4. The captains of the team are Braeden Greider, Noah Pane, and Jude Turner and the managers being Brendan Mackenzie and Anthony Mancini. Noah Pane and Jude Turner are leading the team with the most points this season so far. Noah Pane has a total of 80 points, and Jude Turner has 75 points so far this season. Looks like the boys are also having an amazing season. Awesome job boys, keep it up!

This may not have been the easiest season for the players, especially because of Covid, but they seem to make it through just fine. Fantastic job mustangs!



Team celebrating win vs Bethel

Playing with the Boys

By Megan Widlar

In most youth sports there are two versions of the game, boys, and girls. But in youth hockey that is not usually the case. In a male-dominated sport, with only 9.1% female, being on a coed team as a girl might not be the easiest. So we decided to get an inside look by one of MMS's own, Allie Leonard and Natalie Kennedy, to get the scoop of being on a coed hockey team, as a girl.

We first wanted to know if they ever feel left out. Allie's initial thought was no. But then she went on to explain that she felt left out when she wasn't invited to sleepovers or other activities such as dinners or birthday parties. Natalie on the other hand said that they are always very friendly and including.

We next asked them "Does the opposing team ever target you because you're a girl?"

"Yes", Allie replied. "It didn't happen often, but definitely multiple times." She recalls one instance when she went into the corner to retrieve the puck and a kid came up from behind her and hit her, and then went headfirst into the boards. Allie couldn't play the rest of the game because she was light-headed and dizzy. Natalie said she has never been targeted.

Finally, we were curious if their teammates treated her well. Allie said " They treated me well actually. I got along well with most of them and some of the boys that were on my team turned into some of my closest friends." Natalie had most of the same answer. She said, "they're pretty great. They're always willing to talk about things, and be there for each other."

We can now see there are pros and cons of being a girl on a coed team. From being left out, targeted by the other team, and treated differently, it sure takes strength and determination to play as one of the boys!





Paige Buecker's Big Injury

By Sophia Dickens

Background information about Paige - Paige Bueckers was born on the 20th of October in 2001 in Edina, Minnesota. Paige is currently 20 years old. Bob Bueckers is the father of Paige who use to be a point guard just like his daughter Paige. Her Mother Amy Bueckers was into sports as well, she competed in track and field. Since childhood, Paige was very athletic and played baseball and soccer. She started playing basketball because she was inspired by her father. Her dad, Bob was the one who coached her till she was in seventh grade.

About Paige's Big Injury Paige went down with a non-contact knee injury. This kind of injury is when you put too much force on your ACL joint on your knee. This injury occurred on Sunday, December 5th, 2021 against Notre Dame. She went to make a move and her knee just buckled underneath her while playing. UConn is saying the recovery should take about 6-8 weeks. The head coach Geno Auriemma said he was more concerned with what's best for Paige long-term rather than how fast she can get back to playing with the team. Here is a quote from the head coach. "Obviously, we're all extremely disappointed for Paige and that she suffered this injury, We've had players get injured in the past and my philosophy here is, I'm not interested in how fast we can get someone back; I'm interested in what's best for her long term."

Civil Rights Today

By Thomas Harris



Civil rights have been something that people have talked about for a long time, so, what are Civil Rights? Civil rights guarantee equal social opportunities (like voting rights) and protection under the law. Some examples of these are public education and rights to a fair trial (In court.) Civil rights are supposed to support people regardless of race, religion, or any other cultural factors. Civil rights were made so that everyone in America would have the same chances. Only after August 18th, 1920 were women allowed to vote, considering the fact that America has been a country since July 4th, 1776, that's 245 years, which means that women weren't allowed to vote for 144 years. Which is a very long time. It's not just women that civil rights apply for, it's for everyone, it doesn't matter the color of your skin, the people that you like, or where you come from, or even how much money you make. Civil rights are for everyone one, so that everyone has the same chances and opportunities in life. Civil rights are important because they put a stop to discrimination, and make things equal for everybody

A problem today is that everyone judges you by how many zeros there are in your paycheck, but what we should do is show that no matter who we are, we are all the same, and we are all equal. Women have been fighting for their rights to vote for a very long time. It took nearly 100 years for women to gain the right to vote, one of the main phrases that women used in protests was "Votes For Women." .

Will There Be A 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics?

By Marlo Gabriele

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics are almost here! Almost everyone is hoping for their country to win. However, there is one thing that might be stopping the Winter Olympics, the boycotts. The U.S, Australia, the U.K and Canada are partaking in a diplomatic boycott. A diplomatic boycott is defined as when only government officials are restricted from going to the Olympics, so the athletes have a choice in whether they want to participate in the events or not.

This brings us to the question at hand: Why are they boycotting the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics? The main reason is due to their host, Beijing. Beijing has been accused for "genocide and crimes against humanity," as White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki states. In fact, they're doing something that's similar to what Hitler did in the 1940's. Genocide means the destruction of an entire ethnic group. In this case, the ethnic group is the Uyghurs. By participating in the Beijing Olympics, we could be turning a blind eye to the abuse that Beijing has taken part in. On the contrary, this could weaken our alliance with China, and since the U.S is one of its biggest consumers, this could take a toll on the economy. Not to mention, China has made a statement saying that the U.S will "pay a price" for not attending the Winter Olympics.

I interviewed a friend of mine, Maria Bueno, who is a member of the debate team at MMS and is also participating in a debate tournament on Saturday. She believes it was a good idea to boycott the Winter Olympics. "In making this decision, it shows that the US doesn't support the genocide and human rights issues in China. If we as a country do not stand against these problems, it could result in worse conflicts." She states a good point; strengthening our alliance with China by going to the Winter Olympics could worsen our alliance with other countries. I also asked her if she thinks that boycotting the Olympics is a good approach to the situation. She said yes, arguing that it would make a bigger impact the more countries participate. "I say this because now that Canada, Australia, and Britain have joined the US in a diplomatic boycott, we can make a major impact." The more countries who partake in the boycott, the more the impact we will see.

There have been boycotts against the Olympic games before. This includes the boycott against Russia for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. China even participated in the boycott, but now four decades later, they are the subject of an olympic boycott movement. Let's just say China is not taking this well and has been criticizing us for politicizing sports. But with all the recent accusations, it's hard not to take politics into account. After all, what kind of message would other countries be sending if they ignored China's brazen disregard for human rights. Let's not forget just a few months ago when tennis star Peng Shuai made an assault allegation against a politician then mysteriously went missing, only to reappear when her disappearance became heavily publicized. This in turn The Women's Tennis Association decided to suspend all tournaments in China, due to their suspicion that Ms. Shuai was being silenced.

In conclusion, China isn't doing much to clear their name. They aren't taking these boycotts as a way to change their ways, they just appear to be really frustrated. However, that isn't doing any good for them.



Value Everything

By Ryan Murray (Grade 7)

Hello everyone, this winter break I had the opportunity to travel to Antigua, an Island in the Caribbean. This trip ultimately changed my perspective on the lifestyle in which I live.

As we drove through the villages I looked out at the hundreds of houses speckled along the Antiguan hillside, each and everyone of them a different color. There were roofs made of tin, concrete slabs, and scrap wood shingles. Men, women, and children sat outside soaking in the morning sun and enjoying their winter break. As we passed the local school I could see the teacher setting up her classroom and brushing away the fallen leaves in the school courtyard. Large churches made of concrete and stone, one even being pink, were scattered all over the village of Liberta. Small shacks of fresh fruit and vegetables aka supermarkets were on every road filled with the finest Caribbean produce. This was Antigua. The land of sun, sea, and sand.

Pink Panther Safari Tour

We started out our trip with a jeep tour, the Pink Panther Safari, to serve as a somewhat introduction to the island and its culture. Our tour guide, a local on the island, taught us about the culture and lifestyle of the native Antiguan. They prioritized school and discipline which led to an extremely low crime rate. She also talked about the amount of pride and value the people have in everyday things, such as a banana or leaf from a tree as I later learned.

My sister attracted a coughing cold (NOT COVID) a few days before we left and our guide even noticed that she was coughing a bit. She told us about how her grandmother and her grandmother's grandmother had taught her the local healing techniques as a child and she was kind enough to share them with us. She pulled small yellow berries and leaves off a tree and gave them to us. She said they would heal her cough and release all bad energies and sicknesses from the body. They tasted of a sweet ginger with a small pit in the center.



She brought us to Gallion Beach, a stunning beach with crystal clear water and perfect snorkeling conditions and reefs. Devils bridge, a historic rock structure looking out into the Atlantic with haunting history regarding the islands past filled with slavery. She also took us to Shirley Heights, a look out 400 feet in the air overlooking the island and our next stop, Nelson's Dockyard. Nelsons Dockyard is a small bayside area filled with exotic yachts and sailboats. There is a market and a bakery filled with some of the delicious local food. This was an amazing way to experience the island and taught me just how much culture and value there was in Antigua.

Calico Cat Snorkeling

For our next excursion, we took a trip snorkeling in the stunning reefs. The captain and crew of the Calico Cat snorkeling boat blasted Bob Marley and revved the engine and we were off. The rocky waves shook the boat splashing water onto the deck although it did not even faze the captain or crew; this was their normal. We even had to turn back because some people “couldn’t handle” the shaking and rocking of the boat, but man did they miss out. It was a party, us rocking on the waves with Caribbean music blasting over the speakers as we sailed past Eric Clapton’s house and various pillar rock structures as well as a natural infinity pool which we sadly could not visit. One of the crew members even taught me how to dance the Antiguan way!

We soon arrived at our destination, a reef in the center of Nelson’s Dockyard. The water was a deep blue yet still crystal clear and we could see shipwrecks and anchors the size of homes sunken at the bottom of the sand. There were colorful fish and eels swimming around us and through the wreck. We even managed to spot a baby speckled eagle ray, a rare marine creature on the island. Overall, this trip was a very enjoyable and memory making experience and there are no words to express the amount of fun I had that day.

Rainforest Ziplining

For our second to last excursion, we took a trip on Fig Tree Drive, into the Antiguan Rainforests. The lush foliage and vibrant colored flowers attacked us as we drove through the inner island. We finally arrived at the excursion and while I was quite excited, I was scared for my life. We checked in and began trekking up to the first zipline point. 30 feet in the air and 30 feet long, we went flying through the rainforest at unimaginable speeds. However, the moment I feared was soon to arrive.

The highest and longest zipline on the course. 350 feet in the air with a zipline that sagged down at the bottom and pulled you up at the top, that is *if you are heavy enough*. I was behind about 4 kids my age, height, and what looked to be weight. As each of them jumped off the platform, I watched as one by one every single one of them got stuck.

Of course my biggest fear was to get stuck myself hanging 350 feet in the air **ON A CABLE**. And why wouldn’t the Antiguan Gods decide to scare me to death. It was my turn. I leaped off the platform and was flying, closing my eyes, and then all of a sudden I began to slow down. I swear I was slower than fudging molasses, looking straight down to my death. I got stuck. Hanging on for dear life with my gloves on, suspended hundreds of feet in the air, I **WAS STUCK**. My brother and sister waited ahead at the next checkpoint and decided to put their ignorance to use. “Turn around!” They screamed. So I let go. I went zipping halfway back and now I was stuck in the dead middle. Turns out they meant to turn myself, not the direction. They could have been clearer. I was pulling myself up the zipline, looking straight down, when I was saved. The zipline attendant jumped onto the zipline and pulled me up. Thank the monkeys.

I continued on to do the rest of the ziplines 200 feet in the air and overall it was quite a fun experience, despite me being scarred for life by my near death situation.

St. Johns: The Capital

For our final trip around the island we wanted to experience the Caribbean side of the island and the capital, St. Johns. We took a taxi ride from our resort to the capital. As we drove I looked through the van window out at the villages. Today was their first day back and I watched as the boys in black shorts, white button downs, and black ties, and the girls in black skirts with white button downs and black ties walked to school. They carried small satchels on their back with a book in their hands. These children walked through the entire village to get to the school, this is how dedicated they are to their education.

As we drove, our taxi driver offered the rest of his breakfast to us, three antiguan bananas. Of course my mom, my sister, my brother, and I had to indulge in the local produce. The bananas were small and fat with greenish colored skin, similar to a plantain. They tasted like a normal banana, just not as sweet with a bit of a fresher taste. You could tell it had come straight from the bunch. As we drove through, we saw many different churches. One was made of old different color stones and stained glass



with oak doors that looked like they came from a Captains quarters. We also saw the famous pink church, Our Lady of Perpetual Hope.

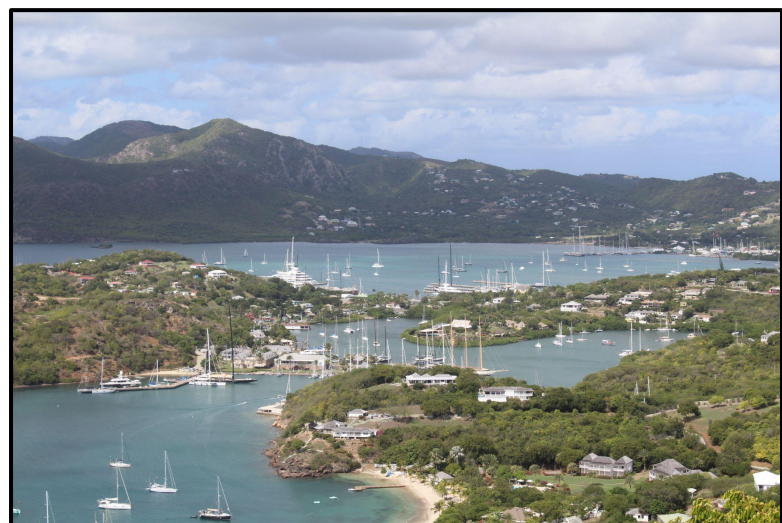
Once we arrived in St. Johns, we visited the piers where we saw massive yachts and cruise ships parked along the docks while their passengers visited the local shops just as we did. We bought several souvenirs from the markets and made our way to a local restaurant. After eating sandwiches and fish, we made our way back to the taxi. Overall this experience was extremely captivating as it reminded me of a Caribbean Los Angeles with the hustle and bustle of our nearby New York City.

Conclusion

All things considered this trip was one I will never forget. The pride and value the Antiguan's see in absolutely everything forces me to appreciate everything I have. Luxuries such as a paved road, and grocery markets that aren't shacks. Things that seem normal to us, that we don't appreciate, aren't even on the island. We have created such a small world for ourselves we don't even begin to realize how many luxuries we have. Be appreciative of absolutely everything you have, because somewhere else in the world there might be someone, somewhere, dreaming of whatever it is. Family, health, food, simple things like backpacks, everything. Value everything as if you didn't have it. Value everything.

Final Statement

Thank you to everyone who I met on my trip and who made my trip such an amazing experience. Thank you to our tour guide, for teaching us her families' ancient healing techniques. Thank you to the captain and crew of the Calico Cat for leaving me and my family with unbelievably fun memories and teaching me how to dance the Antiguan way. Thank you to the zipline attendant who, in my head, saved my life. And finally, thank you to our taxi driver for teaching us about your amazing culture and giving us your bananas. I will never forget your hospitality and kindness. Thank you Antigua, I hope to see you again later in my lifetime, until then your legacy will FOREVER be with me.



The Life of Marsha P. Johnson

by Lily Scozzafava

“How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?” -Marsha P. Johnson. Marsha “Pay it No Mind”

Marsha P. Johnson was a black trans woman who is a key figure in the gay rights movement. Born on August 24th, 1945 and identified male at birth, Marsha grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey with her six siblings and father, Malcolm Micheals Sr. Johnson was harassed as a child for wearing dresses and clothes that were feminine. After graduating from Edison High School in 1963 Johnson left for New York City with \$15 and a bag of clothes. Homeless, Johnson turned to prostitution to survive, soon finding a community with a like-mind.

Johnson had struggles finding a name but ultimately deciding on Marsha P. Johnson, “Johnson” from an eatery she enjoyed going to, and “P” which purposely stands for “Pay it No Mind” a catchphrase Johnson liked to use.

On June 28th, 1969 the starting day of the Stonewall riots, Marsha became one of the faces of the queer revolution.

The Stonewall riots began when New York City police raided a gay club called the Stonewall Inn. This act would lead to 6 days of protest and would serve as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

This uprising would cause the first gay pride marches around the country in 1970. In the same year, Johnson and her friend Sylvia Rivera would found the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), which would feed, house, clothe, and advocate for transgender youth.

Much of Marsha’s life was spent helping and advocating for others, even while struggling with her own demons. Mental illness, arrests, and psychiatric hospitals never stopped her from fighting for gay civil rights. She was an ACT UP member and an AIDS activist, she was also a victim of the disease announcing that she had been diagnosed as H.I.V. positive in 1990. On July 6th, 1992, Marsha’s body was found floating in the Hudson River. The police ruled her death a suicide but many people strongly disagreed. In 2012 the NYPD reopened the case but it still is unsolved. In 2019, New York City announced that a statue of Marsha and Sylvia would be the first monument to honor trans women in the city.



How Martin Luther King Jr. Changed the World

by Shaivi Gaddam

Over the past couple hundred years, we have seen some truly impactful and remarkable leaders make their mark in our world. Malala; fighting for women's rights, Gandhi; expressing his feelings through peaceful protests, Cesar Chavez; pursuing the job of a labor leader and a civil rights activist. And finally, someone who fought until their assassination, someone who continuously proved what a great speaker he was, that someone was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, who we honored on January 16th of this year.



Important Achievements:

In 1955, Dr. King was chosen as a speaker for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a campaign led by the African-American community of Montgomery, Alabama, to try and get the city's bus lines to be better. The U.S Supreme Court found that racial discrimination in transportation was illegal after 381 days of everyone participating in the act, and many had to walk miles to work every day as a result.

Martin was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, a club created to add new leaders to the civil rights movement, which was then in its early stages. He led the SCLC until he died in 1968, being their main leader.

King had become the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at the age of 35. Many people believe his acceptance speech is one of the most impactful ever made at the event in Oslo, ending with the words, "I hope that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the ultimate word in reality. This is why evil triumphant is temporarily stronger than justice temporarily defeated."

Also in 1964, Congress approved the Civil Rights Act, finally ending racial segregation in the United States. Discrimination against blacks or other groups was banned in jobs, public institutions, education, transportation, etc.

When Martin was arrested because of a protest on Good Friday of 1963, he wrote a letter to 8 white Alabama clergymen, who are male religious leaders, who thought his actions were "untimely". The following phrases are from a part of the letter in which King explains the hardships that he and fellow black members faced during this awful period of segregation.

" " Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; ... ; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness"--then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait"

This quote shows the eight clergymen on MLK's side how racially separated people could no longer wait. The black community had previously been unfairly treated and had done little in comparison to how others discriminated against them. According to nps.gov "MLK is largely considered as America's leading proponent of nonviolence and one of the world's finest nonviolent leaders."

Resolution of MLK

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights Movement for a little less than 13 years, from December 1955 to April 4, 1968. During this time African Americans made more progress toward more racial equality in America than in the previous 350 years.



New Spider-man into the Spider-verse

By Olivia Williams

If you know Marvel then you know you should know Spider-Man into the Spider-verse. This was a movie made in 2018 and made \$190.2M in the box office. It was a very popular movie getting (97% or 5 stars) on Rotten Tomatoes. You know that the movie is legit when it's certified fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

If you're a huge fan of this movie or Spider-Man in general, you will be interested in the new series coming out in 2022. The new marvel series is called Miles Morales. The series follows an alternate reality where after a battle between Electro and Spider-Man, Miles' father. Spider-Man die.



Animated image of Miles Morales

As the multiverse has been cracked open (as seen in the latest Spider-Man: No Way Home) Peter gets sucked into Miles' universe, allowing the two to meet properly as Miles discovers his own Spider-abilities, and to fight side by side against Shocker and his minions.

Part one is coming out in October 2022 to Disney+ and part two is coming out in December 2023.

What Are Your New Year's Resolutions?

By Maura Witkowski

A New Year's resolution is a commonly known tradition, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their life at the start of a new year. When the New Year rolls around it's typical for adults to set fresh goals for the 12 months ahead, but New Year's resolutions aren't just for adults. "Goal-setting gives children and teens a sense of responsibility and purpose," says Lauren Mosback, a Philadelphia-based licensed professional counselor who specializes in child and teen mental health. She also adds, "As children and teens begin to form their identities, it is important for them to feel positive about themselves, their interests, and achievements. Creating and attaining goals gives children direction, motivates them and contributes to a strong belief in oneself and the knowledge that they can make a difference."

Since the start of 2022 is rolling around, and you may be creating some resolutions already, I can give you some ideas! Whether you want to make some goals for school, sports, or even yourself, here are ideas that are great for everyone:

School Resolutions:

Get high honors. Setting goals for grades in school can be extremely beneficial and help to achieve the steps that lead up to getting that goal.

Work on getting homework done and not being lazy. As a student, it can be extremely easy to procrastinate and not get schoolwork done, so this is a goal that any student can have.

Get involved in extracurricular activities at school. Whether it's debate club, Spanish club, student government, or newspaper club, extracurriculars can be very beneficial to your school life. Extracurriculars provide a channel for reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom.

Sports Resolutions:

Score more than one goal in your next game. It could be shooting a basketball, getting a good hit in baseball/softball or breaking the record of your fastest mile time.

Practice at least four days a week. Practice makes perfect! Even if it's at home.

Work on sportsmanship. Have a positive attitude, play by the rules, and don't argue with the referees.

Family involved Resolutions:

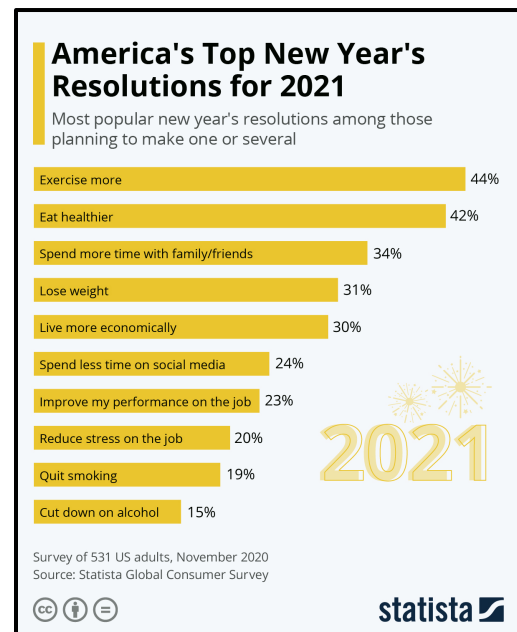
Be nicer to your sibling. I know it can be hard to always get along with sisters and brothers but, it wouldn't hurt to try to be a little nicer.

Do your chores. Do your laundry, clean your room, or bring out the trash!

Go see family you have not seen in a while.

Personal Resolutions:

- Eat healthier.
- Drink more water.
- Break an annoying habit.
- Get more sleep.
- Exercise more.
- Take a break from social media.
- Try something new
- Go outside more.
- Make new friends
- Stop comparing yourself to people.
- Be confident



A History of Hanukkah

By Ramin Qurbani

In 200 B.C., Judea, or the Land of Israel, came under the control of someone named Antiochus III, he was the Seleucid King of Syria, and allowed the Jews to practice their religion. But his ancestor, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, was less kind, he forced the Jews to worship the Greek gods, and outlawed the Jewish religion.

In 168 B.C., he and his soldiers went down to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and massacred thousands and thousands of Jews; and desecrated the city's holy Second Temple and placed a statue of the Greek King-of-gods Zeus. After he erected the statue of Zeus, he sacrificed a lot of pigs to his god inside the sacred city's walls.

After the massacre, the Jewish priest Mattathias and his five sons started a large rebellion against Antiochus IV and the Selucid monarchy. In 166 B.C., his son, Judah, also known as Judah Maccabee ("The Hammer"), took over his father's job.

After 2 years, the Jews finally drove the Syrians out of Jerusalem, Judah called on all of his followers to clean the Second Temple of the "corruption" of the invaders, rebuild it's altar, then light the golden candelabrum (the menorah) with the seven branches. Each of the seven branches represented creation and knowledge, the candelabrum also had to be kept lit every night. Hence candelabrum is the icon of the Hanukkah is the seven-branched candelabrum.

In the Talmud, one of Judaism's most important texts, Judah and his followers found just enough "untainted" olive oil to keep the menorah burning for only a single night and day. But through a miracle, the menorah stayed alight for eight days and nights, enough for Judah and his followers to find more to keep the menorah alight for longer; which inspired the Jewish priests to celebrate a yearly eight-day festival!

The eight-day festival is now called Hanukkah, and is still celebrated yearly, lighting a candle each day after the first day in reference to the seven branches staying alight for eight days. Though, it is not the end of the story of Hanukkah.

Other interpretations of the story of Hanukkah were that Jerusalem under Antiochus IV erupted into a civil war of sorts between the two sides of Jews. One side adopted Greek and Syrian customs, and made a kind of mesh between the religions. The other side were purely Jewish with no other religions mixed in, or traditionalists. Led by Judah's brother and descendents, traditionalists won out in the end, and took control of Jerusalem by force. Making Jerusalem an independent city dominated by only one religion, which they made a celebration for taking control of the city.

There are many other interpretations of the history of Hanukkah, and there are lots of disputes about what happened.

How do you celebrate Hanukkah?



LIVE ON TOUR

As you may know my favorite person to walk, run, skip, orbit or gallop on this planet recently went on tour and this man has more outfits than a episode of america's next top model so I decided to ask my fellow classmates what they think of these earth shaking outfits and here were the results. By Nora Santoli



Not only did I thoroughly enjoy this outfit but the school did too. This outfit slayed and I would take the pacer test 8000 times to be able to wear this piece of absolute mastery. If anybody knows an ebay listing where I can get the exact feather from this sleeve please contact me asap.

If you voted for this outfit literally buy a suit/gown and meet me at the church in 10 minutes for our wedding-I absolutely guarantee that this outfit costs more than my house's mortgage and this makes me so grateful for my sight to be able to see this piece of poetry.

Holy moly pepperoni macaroni tony antony bologna..... Were half of those words italian names... possibly. This made me #blessed for Judy Garland and it's absolutely revolting to look this good it should be a felony, add a felon of spectacular outfits to the list of adjective to describe this man.

Frilly Sweaters or Frilly Dresses?

By [Olivia Williams](#) (Artist), [Camila Reyes](#) (idea maker), and Amaris Fontanez (Idea maker)



WE NEED MORE **STORIES** FOR THE **COMIC** STRIP CHARACTERS OF THE **MMS** NEWSPAPER IN ISSUE #5!
HELP US WRITE THE NEXT **STORY** ON HOW **CICI** MEETS **BUG** AND HOW **TUNA** MEETS **BUG** AS WELL!
WE'LL CHOOSE ONE AND FEATURE **YOU**! THANK YOU, **MMS**!

How to enter!

1. Write your story or submit an idea! It should be simple and include Cici, Tuna, Bug, and be school appropriate.
2. Go to your Newspaper Google Classroom stream.
3. Enter the story in the comments!

Easy as that! We can't wait to see your new ideas!



Credits; Olivia Williams (artist), Camila Reyes (Idea maker)

How to play "Spot the Difference"!

1. Look at the image
 2. Try to figure out what was different.
 3. Check the comments on Google Classroom to see if you were right
- Remember to find all of the Differences!!!

Good luck Memorial!

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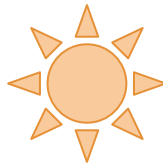
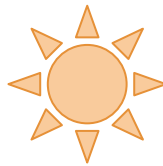
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