

MMS TIMES

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

WHO IS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH? Turn to Page 12 to find out!



Is there any advice that you have for your students?

“No matter what you are doing, do your best and be proud of your accomplishments! And then do it again tomorrow.”

Say farewell to Mr. M on Pages 10-11!

“*The Midnight Murder*,” a horror story written by Ada Llabani, is featured on Page 15!

“The beauty in being blessed with talent is rising above doubters to create a beautiful moment.”

- Kobe Bryant

Turn to Page 8 for a tribute to Kobe Bryant, the late NBA player



It's spooky season! Check out Page 2 for an article about trick-or-treating during COVID and Page 11 to find out how to stay safe!

The local and federal elections are mentioned in the Politics & Opinion section, Pages 5-7

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Introducing Dr. Birden

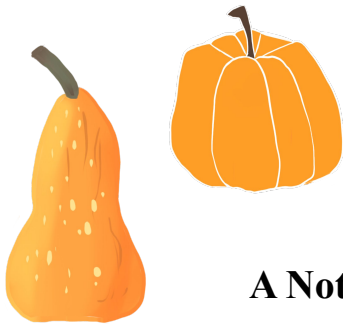
By Jasleena Thind (Grade 7)

I'm sure many of you don't know who Dr. Birden is, or what she does for Region 15, so I'm here to tell you. During my interview with her, I asked her some broad questions, including what she cares about, what she does, what her goal is, and what her role is as the Teacher in Residence for Diversity and Cultural Competency.

Dr. Birden's role as the Teacher in Residence for Diversity and Cultural Competency is to support students and staff, grades PK-12, in making sure that they are focusing on creating the kind of learning environment that every student deserves, an environment where diversity is deeply valued. It means each student and teacher experiences meaningful inclusion and feels a sense of belonging. It is where they grow cultural competency skills, so they stand strong against social injustice and know how to take action to support all of these goals.

Dr. Birden can examine resources teachers are using and ensure they are including diverse perspectives in all they do. She can also demonstrate a concept or strategy in a guest lesson. She can also collaborate with teachers, like co-teaching a lesson, or make presentations to groups. These are just a few examples of the ways her job can look! There are many people who are committed to and passionate about this work in Region 15, and she feels lucky to work alongside them!

Dr. Birden generously answered all of the questions I had in mind for her and about her job. I am so happy that I was able to introduce her and that she is now known for all the good she is doing for Region 15! I hope this encourages you all to do your share by being inclusive to all and create a great environment within yourselves and your classes.



A Not-So-Spooky Halloween

By Emma Sander (Grade 7)

2020 has been a crazy year, and the closer we come to the spooky season, one question haunts us all: What is going to happen to Halloween?

The fear of COVID-19 has taken over the quaint towns of Middlebury and Southbury. One of the most popular trick-or-treating places in town is Brookside, which is also one of the busiest places in CT during the Halloween season. Brookside resident Sara Gilchrist says, "Everyone will be wearing masks when they trick or treat, and we're washing our hands before we eat our candy." She also explains that her parents are letting her go, but her plans may change.

According to a report on Newsjunkie.com, Governor Ned Lamont said, "I anticipate we're going to have a Halloween season, it's a time of year when people automatically wear masks, they often wear gloves, so it seems like you're 90% of the way towards a safe way to do Halloween just by definition." Halloween seems like it's going to go on without a problem. As long as we stick to the right precautions, we should be on our way to a not so scary halloween.

Editorial Note: Before participating in any social activity during this pandemic, please consider the risks, and always take the right precautions: Wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance.





Wildfires Rip Through the West Coast

By Caitlin Overhiser (Grade 7)

Since September 7th, terrifying and sometimes fatal wildfires have been ripping through the west coast, leaving a trail of destruction. Within a timeline of a little more than two months, there have been 8,100 wildfires that have burned over 3.7 million acres and destroyed over 10,000 homes, even killing 31 people (NBC News). So, what caused these catastrophic fires? Many scientists have looked into the answers to that question, and they have found both good and bad answers.

“Fire, in some ways, is a very simple thing,” says Park Williams, a bioclimatologist at Columbia University. “As long as stuff is dry enough, and there's a spark, stuff will burn.” Like most of the United States, California is moist and cool in winter and spring, and warm and dry in the summer and fall. The dryness in summer and fall creates lots of brittle leaves, making the woods a breeding ground for wildfires.

While the West Coast has always been relatively dry, the recent changes in the climate have made it way drier. The connection between climate change and these wildfires has been very evident. But, even though climate change is the main cause of these wildfires, something still needs to ignite them.

The triggers of wildfires can sometimes be from natural things, like lightning. But most fires have been caused by artificial things. The most fatal fires have in fact been started by fallen power lines. (*The New York Times*)

Greenhouse gas emissions have also contributed to the west coast's dryness. Those greenhouse gasses and global warming create a “perfectly primed scenario” for large wildfires, says Dr. Benjamin Hatchett of the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nv.

While it does take a long time to determine links between climate change and individual fires, the overall change in the atmosphere can most definitely be linked to climate change. This means that unless lots of change happens, the west coast needs to prepare for a very fiery future.

Editorial: Global Warming at Its Finest

By Thomas Harris (Grade 7)

Let me just say right now: global warming is at its finest. Ice is melting, we are using more fossil fuels, and the icing on top, the atmosphere hates us. Let me explain. I know that this subject might not be the first thing that comes to your mind these days, and I don't blame you, but I do want everyone to be aware.

Now, because of fossil fuels (Coal, Natural Gas, Oil), the earth is warming up. Now you've probably heard that, and you're thinking, *yeah, yeah, I know I know, I recycle and all that*. Let me just say--that's good that you recycle, but, at the same time, it's not. Think about it. Do you really go to the transfer station and just toss in whatever you want to recycle? NO! Now if you're saying, I drive to the transfer station, that's nice. But unless your car is electric, you're using gas and polluting the environment.

What I'm trying to get at here is, even if you recycle, it's not enough, because the cars you're driving use gas that pollutes the air! So even if you recycle, it doesn't do enough, unless.... Do you take the recycling to the transfer station every month or so, only requiring two trips (one going, and one getting back)? If you do, that helps keep clean the air we breathe.

Now, if you don't want to do that, cool. If the town has massive air pollution, good job. You think wearing a mask all day is bad, even if you get some mask breaks? Well then my friend, you are very much mistaken, because if the air gets bad enough that you have to wear a mask all the time, then it's going to be harder to go outside and take mask breaks if the air is polluted. It's not going to be pretty.

Imagine this, you're at school and you go outside to take a mask break. You see the air, dusty, like there's a sandstorm, and when you take your mask off you start coughing. A lot. Like your lungs need air, but only finds dust. And when you try to breath again, it's like something is pushing the air out of your lungs down. That's what it would be like, coughing all the time. So just remember, do your part.



Two COVID Updates

By Erlina Etemi (Grade 8)

Forcing everyone to stay inside locked up, this virus is contagious, spread from human to human. If animals get in contact with a human that has coronavirus, they can catch the virus as well. Coronavirus is a type of virus that affects your respiratory system.

President Trump had this dreadful virus and so did his son Barron Trump. Both have recovered. This virus has affected more than 43,000,000 people worldwide and has killed over 1,000,000 people. At least 29,000,000 people have recovered, but recovery is terrible and painful. Fortunately, you can recover from Covid even without a cure. Scientists are working on discovering the cure and doctors are already at the early stage of the cure in some hospitals around the world.

Some experts have said that this terrible virus did not come from a human, but instead came from an animal. Scientists say that someone ate the animal and then it spread from human to human.

We do have a way of detecting the virus. The test is done by cotton swab. Doctors will stick the swab up your nose and twirl it around a couple of times until they get a good sample of your secretions. In conclusion we have learned that the coronavirus is something that no one should mess around with. It can send you to the hospital and even worse: death. So I suggest you stay safe so you wouldn't get the deadly virus.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Passing

By Luke Bevilacqua (Grade 6)

Graduated from the top of her class at Columbia law school, many Americans are familiar with the famous Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

However, less than two months ago, she said her last words. Sadly, at the age of 87, RBG has died after fighting the battle against pancreatic cancer.

Only the second woman supreme court justice, RBG served on the court for around twenty-seven historic years (Appointed 1993). She fought to the top, battling through gender discrimination.

She graduated top of her class at Columbia law school along with only nine other women. She went on to get a few different jobs, before being the first-ever woman to teach at Columbia law school. E

Eventually, after being on the U.S court of appeals she made it, she reached the dream of most judges and lawyers.

By Kassidi Houck (Grade 7)

The shut down in March left us all in shock, but did leave us without something we take for granted every day, school. School is our place to see our friends, have fun and learn.

On September 1st 2020 Region 15 started school again and our normal was back, well almost. MMS is back in school 5 days a week for many other schools this is not the case. I talked to a teacher from a different district about what her school is doing to keep everyone safe. Her school only goes in for half a day 5 days a week. The kids leave at 11:50 then once home are expected to log on for U.A. Desks in the classrooms are separated 6 feet and lunch isn't served.

The school has many similarities to MMS as well, for example mask breaks. The teacher I talked to says that her class has mask breaks when the students ask. Desks are being cleaned every night and materials aren't being shared.

Next I talked to a freshman from Pomperaug High School about what his year is looking like so far. For days that are online, he says there is lots of time in between classes, and that is because desks are being cleaned in between every class. Each student was assigned a cohort and goes to school for two days then is online for two days and so on.

During lunch there are different waves and there are no tables like at MMS. Each desk is separated six feet so that masks can be taken off and as for mask breaks well, lunch is their mask break. Also like MMS, there are less papers and more online work.

So even though this isn't our normal, we can try and make it our new normal and even if it isn't the best we can make it work because like everyone's been saying, "we're all in this together".

She made it to the U.S. Supreme court in 1993. She continued to fight for gender equality, contributing to many historic rulings. Her legal legacy marked by great achievements has come to an unfortunate end. However, we will still look up to Mrs. Ginsberg, knowing that she overcame seemingly impossible, fought for what she thought was right, and did what she wanted to do, not what others told her to do.

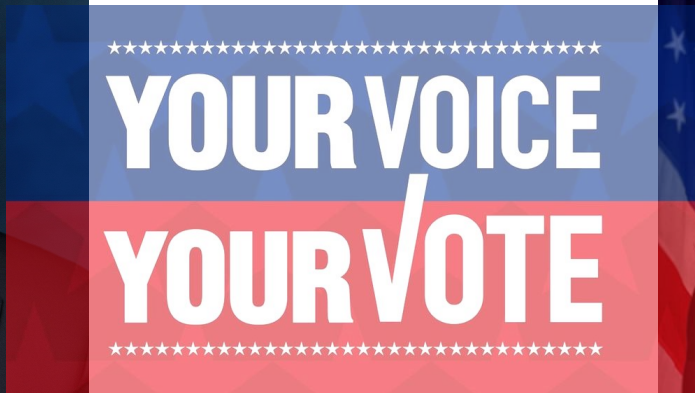
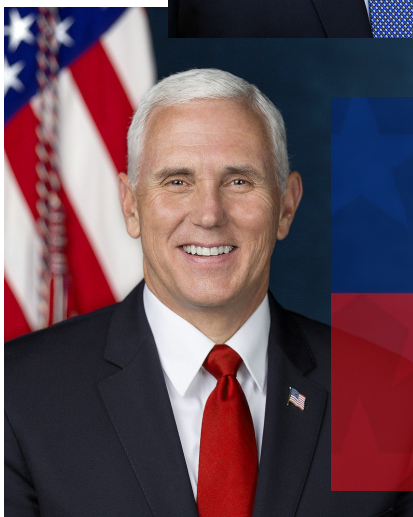
Each and every person who knew her, was on the court with her, and listened to her, will never forget the legendary Ruth Bader Ginsburg. *"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."* -Ruth Bader Ginsburg Thank you R.B.G



To all the teachers out there: Be sure to vote in person on November 3rd!
This might be the most important election of all time.

To everyone: The candidates for this election are Donald Trump vs. Joe Biden.
Who would you vote for, and why?
Write your answer in the box below!

Want your answer to be shown anonymously in the next issue after the election? Email us: tgaipa@region15.org



Photos from Wikipedia and <https://www.mylancastersc.org/vote>
By Isabella Batista

Dear readers of our *The MMS Times*, our School Newspaper,

We set out to create a newspaper in order to capture both the events and the voice of our school. We know that this is a strange time to be growing up--the pandemic has forced us to be students in different ways--to learn differently, to act differently, and to even think differently. We now take for granted all of the parts of adolescence that we had never thought about--sitting next to friends at lunch, playing sports and participating in clubs, and all of the other parts of being a kid that we were so used to. We hope this newspaper will be a time capsule in the way that it will record all of the peculiar parts of 2020-2021.

This newspaper will never be perfect, but please know that we are all trying our best and learning and growing as we continue to figure out the identity of this newspaper. We know we will make mistakes, and we hope you forgive us for those mistakes. We appreciate your feedback, and we hope that you continue to turn the pages of our newspaper thoughtfully and with a smile.

Thank you! The Editorial Board

Politics & Opinion

Local Elections

by Mason Karpovich (Grade 8)

With the election coming up it's very important to know who's running in your town.

The Republican running for Middlebury and Southbury is Eric Berthel, state Senate District 32. His final plans for running the towns have not been released yet. Tony D'Amelio, State House District 71, is running for Middlebury State Representative. 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.

Running for the Democratic Party is Joan Hartley for State Senate District 15. She is running for Middlebury State Senate. She wants to raise the minimum wage. She has already helped raise the minimum wage from \$12 to \$15 per hour, and she hopes to move forward with raising it further.

In other election news, the long serving First Selectman of Middlebury, Edward B. St. John, has been in office for more than 30 years, and he has reached the end of the term limit. He first started serving in 1983 and ended in 2007, but in 2011 he started his journey again to be re-elected in for the First Selectman of Middlebury. Before he leaves office for good, he hopes to finish his capital project which includes updating buildings in Middlebury and also fixing the roads.

Eric Berthel



Tony D'Amelio



Joan Hartley



The Importance of Political Discussion With Adolescents: Two Perspectives

By Emma Bona (Grade 8)

Even though it might seem many of our youth don't take interest in politics, it is important we teach them about policies and the rights of our nation so that when the power falls into their hands, they're able to make educated decisions that pertain to America's future.

According to psychotherapist Dana Dorfman, PhD, "Around the age of seven, give or take a year, children enter a developmental phase known as the age of reason." This age of reason consists of the development of opinions and morals. It's imperative that parents instill acceptance, love, and good intentions into children. Dr. Dorfman continues: "They've developed an internalized sense of right and wrong and are not as reliant on external forces to guide them." During this period, use each day as an opportunity to teach your kids right from wrong and, on a humane level, what it means to love everyone for their differences. You can bring up current policies in place or rights that have been implemented that support minorities and people in America that face discrimination on a daily basis.

Another point I wanted to bring up is how accepting another individual's personal beliefs or perspective on a topic doesn't mean disregarding yours or that speaking to someone with a different point of view has to result in conflict. You may become enlightened on another view to strengthen or change your belief. Remind your children of this open-minded way of thinking and particularly when it comes to developing their own political beliefs.

Politics shouldn't have a race, or basis upon wealth. In this election, human rights are on the line.

Our nation is divided and it's our job to find the unity in differences. As kids, we are the future. We'll be the names in future history books. Do you want to be remembered as someone who made our world a better place? Consider this now, because in the blink of an eye, you'll be making history. I hope for the right reasons.

By Sophia Ltaif (Grade 8)

As a child, the topic of politics is often considered "taboo". When it comes to important conversations about the present or future of our country, we don't get a say. Especially in this political environment, our opinions often get overlooked.

There's an important point to make. Kids can provide a new outlook on certain situations. Kids are often able to think of the easiest or blatantly obvious solutions to problems. In that way, adults can benefit from political discussion with kids.

More importantly, kids benefit greatly from political discussion with responsible* adults. A study done by the Education Psychology team at the University of Kansas found that most kids didn't know much about policy positions of foreign affairs when it came to the two presidential candidates in 2016, but made political decisions based on personalities or qualities. This is harmful because the British Cohort Study and the National Child Development Study have shown that political attitudes can start to develop in childhood and early adolescence. These baseless decisions can shape how people vote or think for the rest of their lives.

Politics can also encourage critical thinking in children. Making children think deeper, interpret articles or writings, and realize their own beliefs are crucial to brain development and maturing. According to the Lucile

Packard Children's Hospital, in an article titled "Cognitive Development in the Teen Years," a few of the best ways to encourage cognitive development in adolescents are 1) Encourage (your) teen to think independently and develop his or her own ideas, 2) Include him or her in discussions about a variety of topics, issues, and current events, and 3) Challenge him or her to think about possibilities for the future. Political Discussion makes kids think independently and develop their own ideas, includes them in a variety of topics, and challenges them to think about the future.

But here's the catch. If you refer back to the * near the beginning of my piece, I imply a RESPONSIBLE adult is necessary to have a healthy, helpful political discussion with kids. This is a big problem. Since a kid's critical thinking capabilities are significantly weaker than an adult or elder is, they can be easily persuaded into thinking something that might be against their morals. Adults who have ill intentions of spreading disinformation often target youth. This is why I believe teachers should teach the topic of politics.

Teachers typically don't inject their own bias into teaching, so if they were to teach kids about politics, in theory, they would explain both sides of the argument, and let the child come to an individual conclusion.

In conclusion, kids greatly benefit from political discussion with responsible adults. It helps them understand real, helpful discussion and develop their cognitive abilities. Adults need to realize that kids have political desires and views, and need to help them express and develop them. This doesn't mean we should be giving children a "fair say" in politics, but we should learn to accept and respect kids' interests and don't underestimate them.

SPORTS

Remembering a Legend: Kobe Bryant

By Sports Section Staff

Kobe Bryant was an African American male born August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Kobe first became interested in basketball at the age of three. When Kobe was a child, his favorite team was the Los Angeles Lakers. His father, Joe Bryant, played for the Philadelphia 76ers and retired when Kobe was born. When he was six years old his family moved to Reti, Italy. This is where Kobe learned Italian. During the summer, he would visit the USA for summer basketball camp. When Kobe Bryant became a teenager he played for Lower Merion high school. During his junior year, he averaged 31.1 points, 10.4 rebounds and 5.2 assists and was named Pennsylvania Player of the Year. During his senior year of high school, he became eligible for the NBA.

The Charlotte Hornets chose him as the 13th pick of the 1996 draft. He was traded to the Lakers shortly after and became the second youngest NBA player in history when

the 1996–97 season opened. Kobe quickly proved his abilities to the Lakers and was selected for the NBA All-Star Game in just his second season, becoming the youngest All-Star.

Kobe Bryant played 20 seasons for the Lakers. His career averages were 25.0 points, 5.2 rebounds, and 4.7 assists in 1,346 regular season games. Bryant won 1 MVP Award and was selected to play in 18 All-Star Games. Kobe Bryant's work ethic and positive attitude was a great example to all kids with big dreams. Michael Jordan was Kobe's mentor when he was first elected in the NBA. He helped coach his daughter's basketball team right here at the University of Connecticut.

He also became a children's book author which was one of his goals in life. One of Kobe Bryant's famous quotes was "Winning takes precedence over all." On January 26, 2020, Kobe Bryant and his 13 year old daughter Giana died in a tragic helicopter accident. His memory lives on forever in the hearts of his fans.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org>



<https://www.republicworld.com>

"The beauty in being blessed with talent is rising above doubters to create a beautiful moment." - Kobe Bryant



Cross Country Spotlight

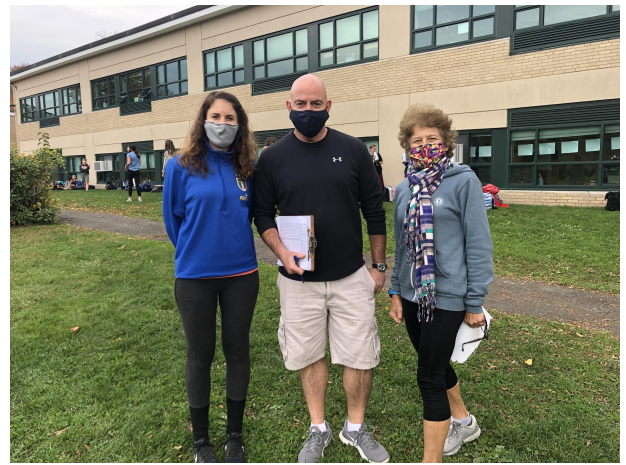
By Sports Section Staff

Henry Swan is a 7th grader who does cross country here at MMS. We asked him a couple questions about cross country during COVID. One question we asked was, "How is it different from last year?" and he replied: "It's the same but this year we're spread out more." We also asked if you could run close to other people, and he responded: "We have to spread out unless we have our masks on." We decided to ask our last question relating to COVID. We asked if it was hard to run with masks, and he said: "We do have to wear them when we are close, and it is hard to breathe, but usually we stay spread apart."



Jude Turner (Grade 7) and Joseph Bernardi (Grade 7)

Lastly, Mr. Morris is a 6th grade English teacher. He has been running all of his life, but has also been coaching here at Memorial for six years. Since we interviewed some people from cross country, we thought it would be appropriate to interview the coach as well. The first question asked was "What's coaching like during covid?" He responded with, "It's interesting, it's nice to get outside and move around. We as adults appreciate it, and so do the kids. But it is totally different. The idea that we are not competing in person against other schools takes a away from the experience." The last question we asked was, "How is the mask situation?" He responded by saying, "It's okay, but then again the whole sport is running so obviously is difficult, we wear our masks around the kids of course but if we are spread out we can keep them off."



Coach Augelli, Coach Morris, Head Coach Peck

We also interviewed 8th grader Lillian Strickland. Lillian told us that it might be challenging this year to be as fast as they were last year because there are fewer practices and a lot more rest days then they would usually get, and they also had a late start. When asked about the team's attitude this year, Lillian said, "This year everyone is pretty positive and it's a good time to see all your friends so that definitely adds motivation."

Lillian also was honest about the difficulties that come with coaching in COVID. "It's definitely a lot harder for them to coach because not only do they need to make sure we are doing what we need to be doing but they also need to make sure that we stay safe when we are running," she said.

Another runner, 7th grader Cora Tullo, explained to us what meets will look like this year with the challenges and restrictions the coronavirus brings. "Virtual meets are happening instead of in-person this year. We're all going to run and then submit our times to a group of people and then they will take our times and put them in order."



★ **HERE @ MIMS**

Meet Your New Library Media Specialist!

By Daniela Ardino (Grade 7)

This month we welcome Mrs. Velleca, our new Library Media Specialist, to our MMS Home! Many of you might want to get to know her more, so here's your chance!

One interesting fact about Mrs. Velleca is that she has previously been a library teacher for a few years before coming to MMS.

I asked Mrs. Velleca what her plan was at MMS, and she responded with, "I want to make the library a place where kids can come to have fun and still learn. I also want kids to read what they want to read."

Another really cool thing is that Mrs. Velleca has started teaching students how to check out their own books. If you're interested, you can talk to her about it at your next library class.

Have you ever wanted the seating to change in the library or have you ever wondered what the library used to look like when the school was just built? You're in luck, because I have some answers for you! Mrs. Velleca wants to bring more comfortable seating into our school library.

Right after joining our school, she found a book of pictures from what the Library used to look like. Bookshelves were rearranged and seating was much much different! Additionally, the hangout area outside was originally brick flooring but now it's gravel.

We are super excited to have Mrs. Velleca join us and learn more about her as the year goes on and to see some new changes throughout her time here at MMS!



Say Farewell to Mr. M

By Haeley Barrett (Grade 8)

Unfortunately, as you may have already heard, Mr. Mitrakiewicz is retiring as a teacher on October 30th, and we would like to sincerely thank him for his time as a teacher. He has done numerous things to ensure that everyone always has a great time in P.E. We are all very thankful for all that he has done for us and will greatly miss him.

We had the opportunity to talk to Mr. M about his time at MMS, and his responses follow:

What will you miss most about MMS?

"The students. They are the reason that we are here."

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

"When one of my students "gets it" for the first time, be it a concept or skill, there is a look in their eyes! That look is priceless!"





(cont.d) *What is your favorite activity to do with students?*

“Volleyball, Basketball, and Scatterball, of course!”



Is there any advice that you have for your students?

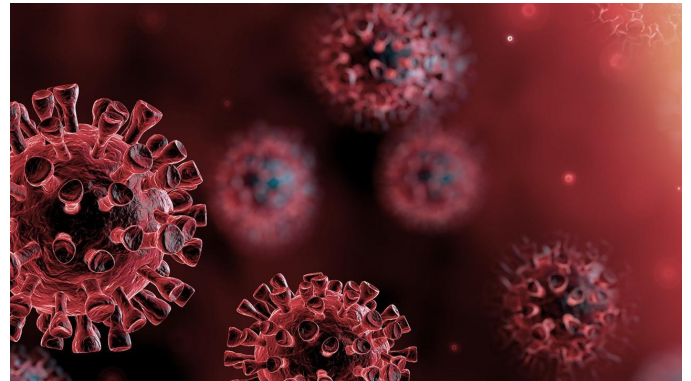
“No matter what you are doing, do your best and be proud of your accomplishments! And then do it again tomorrow.”

Is there anything else that you want to say?

“Being part of the Memorial Middle School family has been rewarding beyond words. I plan to be part of it in a coaching capacity for the foreseeable future, so I look forward to remaining part of our family!”

We would like to let Mr. M know that his amazing deeds have not gone unnoticed. We are all aware of and wholeheartedly appreciate all the work that he has done to make sure that gym class is never boring! Mr. M, you were a great gym teacher and will be missed!

Image from <https://www.tmj4.com/>



COVID - 19 Safety at School

By Emily Daukas (Grade 7)

and Emily Bevilacqua (Grade 8)

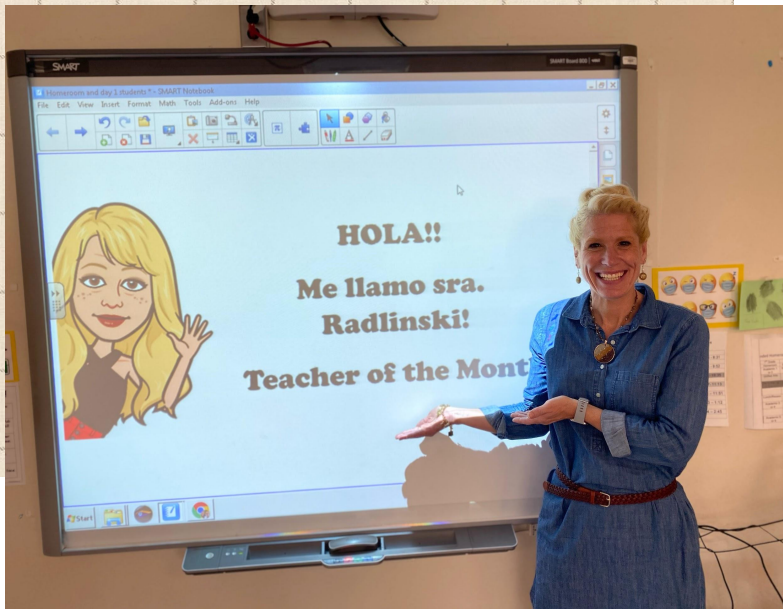
Hello everyone! You all know that we are in the middle of a global pandemic, so we thought it would be beneficial to reinforce the safety guidelines one more time to keep everyone safe!

1. Sanitize or wash your hands whenever you touch something that isn't yours or as much as you can.
2. Always keep your mask on unless you are taking a mask break or at lunch.
3. Social distance, which means keeping a minimum of 3 feet apart with masks on and a minimum of 6 feet apart with no masks on.
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow, especially if you are not wearing a mask.
5. Stay home if you are sick.

Thanks for being a team player to keep everyone safe!



HERE @ MIMS



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..... drum-roll please..... **Señora Radlinski**, who teaches 7th Grade Spanish! Congratulations to her! She won with 17 votes out of 152, which is about 11.2% of all of the votes. This is an accomplishment well deserved, because according to her current and former students, she "made(/makes) class super fun", "really helped (her students) out", "is super energetic and fun (and) always has a smile on her face", "is super nice", "helps (her students) learn in a fun way", and so much more. Here's what an unnamed student had to say about her:

"I can't even begin to describe the impact that Senora Radlinski has had on my life. She was my Spanish teacher for my 6th and 7th grade years at MMS and she is more like a close friend, rather than a teacher. Her style of teaching is so effective and pertains to every student so precisely, it's incredible. She is THE most, hard-working, compassionate, supportive, and loving teacher that I have ever met. I have never felt such a connection and gratitude towards a teacher. She gave me such an amazing outlook/perspective on life and the privilege of learning such a language. I will never forget all that she has done for my peers and I. Regardless of if she 'wins' this teachers award, in my eyes she will always have had a profound effect on me. I truly miss her and she raised my standards for a teacher to the point where anything below her just isn't the same."

As one of Señora's former students, having her for 6th and 7th Grade Spanish, I can wholeheartedly attest to all of these statements.

To celebrate this recognition, I reached out to Señora and asked her a couple of questions. Her responses follow:

How does it feel to be October's Teacher of the Month?



"Honestly, I feel very honored. There are some tremendous teachers in this school, so I feel extremely humbled. Honestly, I was very surprised because you guys are the reason we do this. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't feel so happy and excited to be here."

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

"So, my favorite part is definitely the students. They are the reason I am here every day. They are my energy, so whatever you give me, I'll give you 110% back. When I was sick last year, so many people wrote me messages of love, which really touched me. Memorial has been my home and family for the past 20 years."

Is there anything you'd like to say to your students?

"Thank you. Honestly, I'm honored that they chose me, and I think that they should be the real winners because they chose me. I'm here solely for them. I would tell them that they need to keep trying, even when the times get dark".

(cont.d) Why did you decide to be a teacher?

“One of the reasons I became a teacher is because as a kid, I had a learning disability and even as an adult, it still affects me so I can relate to the students that deal with these disabilities. During those dark times, my teachers helped me out a lot so I wanted to essentially repay that and pass it on to the next generation. I chose to teach Spanish because I loved languages growing up seeing as I spoke German as well. In high school, I learned about the Rotary exchange program. I left for Argentina in my junior year, 1993, and it was such a culture shock. I also loved babysitting, so I combined all of these loves and ultimately decided to be a teacher.”

Once again, congratulations to Señora for being October’s Teacher of the Month! A special shout out goes to Mrs. Grieder, who teaches 6th Grade Science and Mrs. Bronson, who teaches General Music and chorus, our first runners-up with 15 votes each, which is 9.9% of all of the votes, and Mr. Mitrukiewicz, who teaches P.E., our second runner-up with 13 votes, which is 8.6% of all of the votes. Awesome job to all of the teachers who were nominated!

Make sure you vote next month so your favorite teacher can win!



Harry and the gang wish you a Safe & Happy Halloween!

Artwork by Isabella Batista (Grade 8)

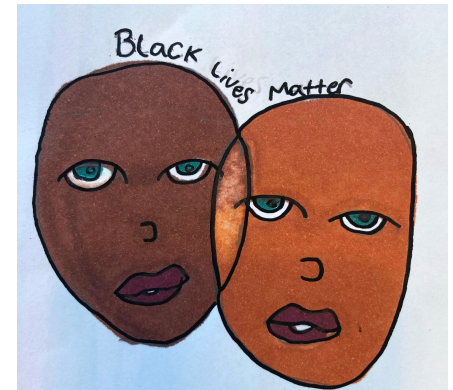
Arts & Culture



Xavier Chu (Grade 7)



Nora Santoli (Grade 7)



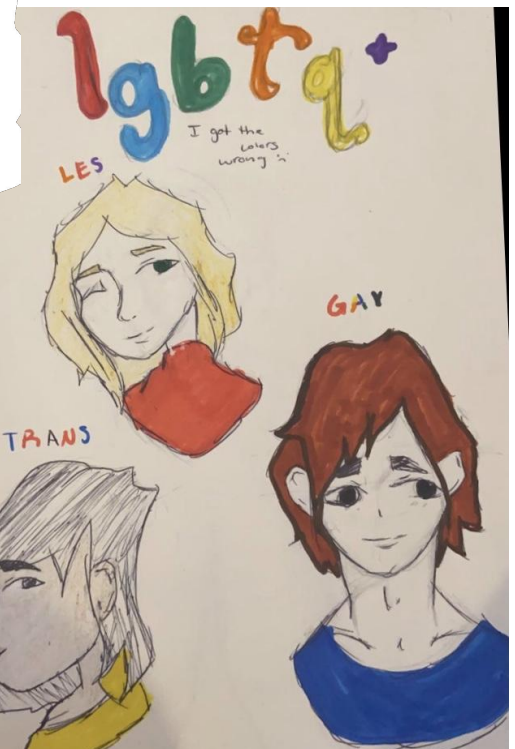
Nora Santoli (Grade 7)



Nora Santoli (Grade 7)



Isabella Batista (Grade 8)



Tea (Amaya) Hernandez (Grade 7)





The Midnight Murder, a horror story

By Ada Llabani

The night was cold and eerie. The midnight fog did not help with the fact that the leafless trees in the dark forest gave off a spine-tingling feeling. There was an old, rickety house hidden deep within the woods. The house was tall and grey, made of wooden planks and not much else. The large, black gate enclosed the building and added to the curiosity of anyone who laid eyes upon it. But what added more to the mystery was the lonely girl living inside.

The girl had been sleeping when she heard a loud creaking coming from the attic. She bolted upright as if she had just had a bad dream. Her long black hair drooped over her shoulders in a tangled mess, her nightgown fitting loosely to her slender figure. She glanced around at her few belongings in the dark room. She slowly stepped out of her bed and gently walked into the hallway.

The girl carefully lit a candle and carried it with her as she trudged up the stairway. When she reached the top she heard the creaking again and began to dread opening the attic door. She silently turned the doorknob and gently pushed the wooden board open. But when she peered inside the room, it was empty. Confused and unsatisfied, she decided to search the rest of the house. As she turned around, everything suddenly went black.

The candle went out and even the moon stopped shining. She couldn't see a thing. Her heart began to race and she couldn't catch her breath. Then, almost magically, her candle lit up and the moon reappeared. She was so shocked she didn't realize that the room she was in had no resemblance to her home. The girl simply continued searching for the strange noise. She began to hear a faint whisper as well.

Run. Run away.

A rush of anxiousness overwhelmed her. She whipped around but saw no one. The creaking didn't stop and neither did the harrowing voice. The girl walked faster and faster until she was practically running. She opened door after door, trying to find her bedroom, but she suddenly realized that the walls were unfamiliar. Out of breath she rushed to a flight of stairs and tried to find a way out. She reached what she thought was the main entrance and tried to open the door but it was locked. Fear and panic tensed her body as the girl weakly shoved herself into the wood, trying to burst it open.

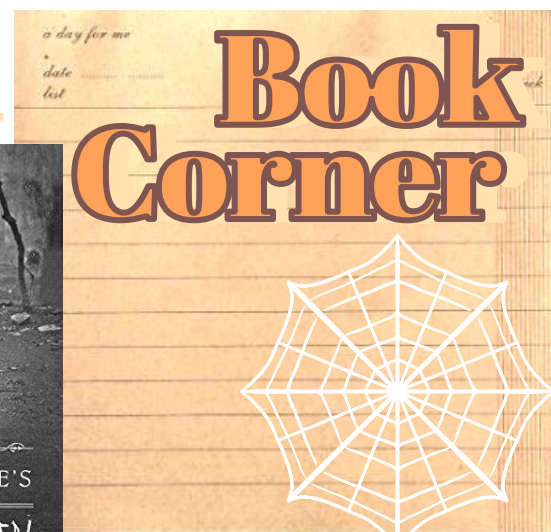
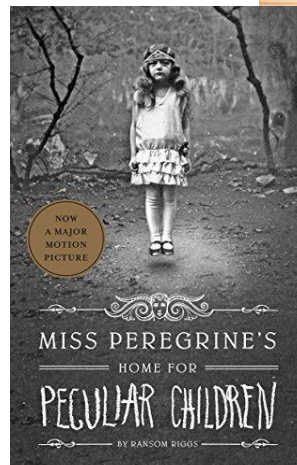
Too late.

All that was heard was a piercing scream, echoing into the night.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

by Ransom Riggs

Sixteen-year-old, Jacob, finds an abandoned orphanage on an island. While exploring the building, he realizes that the children of the orphanage were more than just peculiar. Jacob begins to understand why the orphans were kept on a deserted island. As he looks through the remains, Jacob finds evidence that the dangerous kids may still be alive.



By:

- ★ Delilah Salcito
- ★ Jacob Radlinski
- ★ Lincoln Macumber

Comics & Games

Fun Fall word search



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

Jokes

- What did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
- What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?
- Why did the student eat his homework?

Riddles

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

(Stay tuned for the answers in our next issue!)

APPLES
FALL
LEAVES

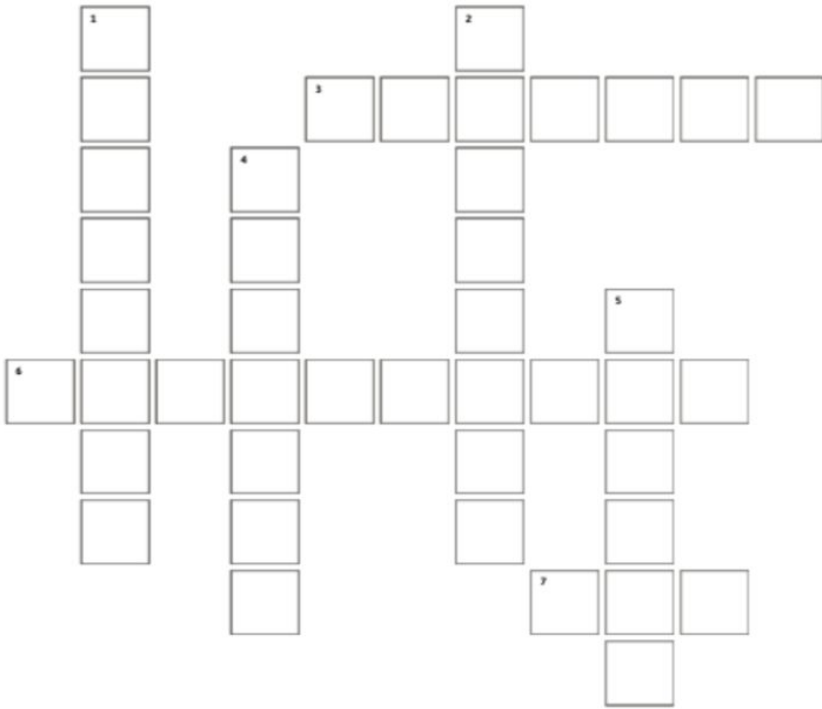
BATS
HALLOWEEN
ORANGE

PUMPKINS
RED
THANKSGIVING

SPOOKY
YELLOW

TURKEY

Halloween/Fall

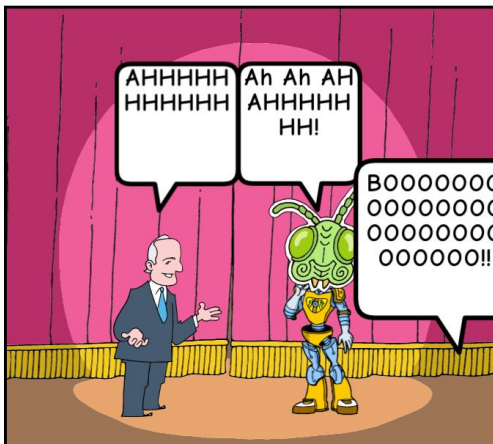
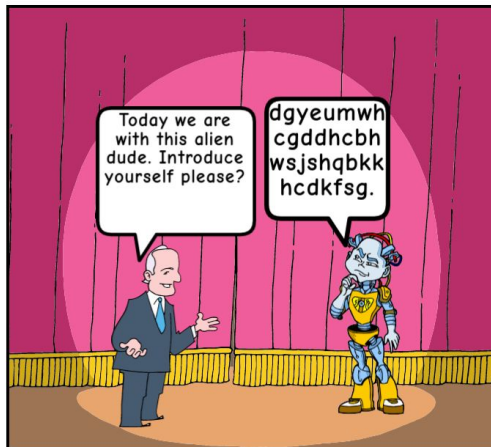


Across

3. A tractor ride to pumpkin patch
6. This is how witches fly
7. A hairy bird that lives in a cave

Down

1. Where witches make their potions
2. What pirates wear on one eye
4. The month that Halloween is in
5. AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!



This newspaper would not have happened without the idea and inspiration from Jacob Radlinski. Thank you, Jacob!
- Mr. Gaipa

MMS TIMES

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

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