

MMS TIMES

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

Golden Hour

By Emma Avcollie (Grade 8)



Peach juice dripping down your chin, sickly sweet strawberries on bitter biscuit cuts through whipped cream.

Sun beats down on tired necks, cold aloe after long days in the sand.

Golden sunshine through the window.

Rainbows shining after sweet sweat and summer rain.

The rush of cold air after running home from the playground for dinner.

July fourth, fireworks, barbeque, star light, picnics, school ends, lake days, life long friends, bathing suits, vacation, pool toys, city lights, sippy cups, wooden swings, angels sing, that's the thing. Summer lights, summer nights. It's alright, it's summer.

Can you guess this month's Teacher of the Month based on their responses...?

"I may have to send reminders to my teaching partners over the summer, so they can bask in the knowledge that they know who I am."

"On two occasions in high school, I had teachers make comments that they thought I was made for teaching. Pretty sure that was sweet revenge for them."

"Honestly, all kidding aside, I'm grateful to be in this profession and Memorial has become a home for me and the staff, like a family."

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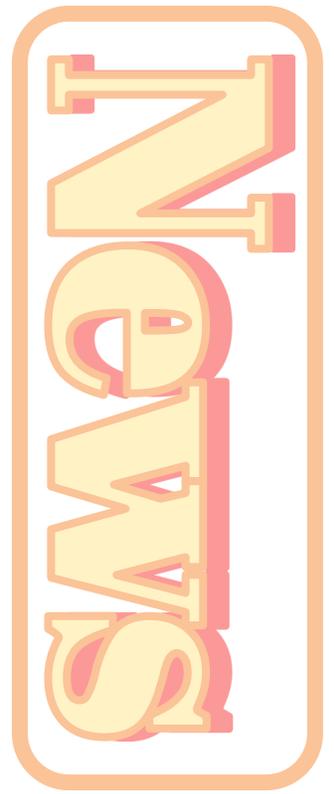
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Kamiyah Mobley

By Kassidi Houck (Grade 7)

This is a story of hope, a story of never giving up, a story to inspire others. This is the story of Kamiyah Mobley, On July 10, 1998, Shanara Mobley, at the time only 16, had just given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Only 8 hours later would Sahara's dream soon become a nightmare. A woman walked into their hospital room wearing green scrub pants and a floral top. This woman, who was later found out to be Gloria Williams, said she needed to take Kamiyah for a checkup. That would be the last time Shannara would see her daughter for the next 18 years. Kamiyah, who, at the time went by Alexis Manigo, was offered a job at a local restaurant. In order to take the job though, Alexis needed her birth certificate and social security number. When Alexis went to ask her "mother" Gloria for this information, she then told Alexis that she can't give her the information she needs because Gloria kidnapped her at birth. After Alexis found this out, she kept Gloria's secret until an anonymous tip brought police to investigate Gloria and Alexis. After a DNA test proved that Kamiyah and Alexis were one in the same, Gloria pled guilty to the charges of kidnapping and was sentenced to 18 years in jail. During an interview with 20/20, Kamiyah says she makes an effort to make both biological family and Gloria happy. Gloria is set to be released from jail on July 9, 2034.



Kamiyah Mobley



Gloria Williams

Tokyo Olympics 2021

By Emily Daukas (Grade 7)

Every day, we are getting closer to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and each day, volunteers are getting it ready. Tokyo is getting a ton of backlash for still hosting the Olympics because as of today, only 5.5% of the population is vaccinated in Japan and recently, in May, there was a surge of COVID-19 cases. Many people in Tokyo are protesting against holding the Olympics and people are getting aggravated. Japan reports that 80% of the population are against having the Olympics but government officials still believe the games will go on.

Recently, 10,000 out of the 80,000 volunteers for the Olympics quit. That's 1 out of every 8 volunteers quitting. They all quit because of fear of COVID-19 and they do not want the games to go on. 43% of residents said the games should not go on and 40% said the games should be postponed, only 14% said the games should go on as they are scheduled July 23. There are going to be 5 new sports, 18 new events, and 474 extra athletes will be competing. The 5 new sports that are being added include surfing, sport climbing, skateboarding, karate, baseball and softball.



A 12 Year Old Genius

By Luke Bevilacqua (Grade 6)



When you think of a 12 year old girl, you think middle school, friends, sports, and more. Let's make an exception... meet 12 year old Alena Wicker, who recently graduated from homeschool high school. Now, at only the young age of 12, she's going to Arizona State University, and planning on majoring in astronomical sciences, planetary sciences, and chemistry. Once she graduates, her eyes are set on working for NASA.

Legos are a popular toy among many kids. Believe it or not, they are what convinced Alena to be an engineer when she grew up. Alena's mom, Daphne McQuarter, said in an interview with Good Morning America, "[Alena] would organize the Legos by color, by size, she was always strategic with her Legos, and if you messed up her Legos, it was a whole problem. If you took one of her Legos out of the little set, she knew that one of her Legos were missing." At 6, Alena was building space shuttles with Legos, and now she's only a few years away from designing them in real life.

Not only does Alena want to work for NASA, she also wants to make a difference in the world of STEM. She decided to launch a website called thebrownstemgirl.com. The website aims to shine light on women, and women of color working in the STEM field. Alena once told her mom, " Mom, I want to create this culture of Brown girls in STEM, because it's this whole gap, and I just want to do something." Lastly, along with donating and raising awareness for things she believes in, Alena is working on a children's book called "Brainiac World." The book aims to give positivity to kids who are getting picked on for being, smart, or different. All of this shows that just because you may be young, you can still achieve your goals. Like Alena says, "We're in a new year, in a new season, and no one can hold us down anymore. So you can keep your feet on the ground, but you can continue to reach for the stars."



Alena Wicker



Why Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine is Imperative

By Emma Bona (Grade 8)

In Connecticut, we have “fully vaccinated more than half of their total resident population, not just adults” says the article “Half of US states have fully vaccinated at least 50% of adults...” by Christina Maxouris. While this is an encouraging statistic, there are still some people who remain reluctant to get vaccinated. But if we don't defeat the stigma surrounding getting vaccinated, achieving herd immunity won't be possible.

Herd immunity is when the vast majority of a population has become immune to an infectious disease and is protected from contracting or spreading it to others. But this requires 75% or more of our population to get their covid vaccines. However, vaccine hesitancy within certain communities poses a challenge. According to “How to Talk to Someone Who's Hesitant to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine” by Elaine Howley, “Communities of color have been hit disproportionately hard by the pandemic...But many people in these (and other) communities are hesitant to take the vaccine...there's a long history of mistrust between communities of color and American health institutions.” This history of health inequities for both Black and Hispanic people can lead to hesitancy to become vaccinated. This in turn makes these communities vulnerable to getting Covid. As stated by COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy by Sherita Hill Golden, “People of color...are more likely to be working front-line, essential jobs that cannot be performed from home, increasing their chances of being infected.” By reassuring and educating people who have concerns or doubts about getting vaccinated, they might consider getting their covid vaccine. As more Americans become vaccinated, we become closer to returning to our normal lives.

“The Rising Politicization of Covid Vaccines” by the New York Times states, “According to an Axios/Ipsos poll... Thirty-one percent of Republicans said they were not at all likely to get the shot.”

While Democratic and Republican politicians have had contradicting opinions on whether American citizens should get the Covid-19 vaccine, politics don't relate to whether or not you are at risk of getting sick. In fact, the article “COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy” by Sherita Hill Golden, (M.D., M.H.S.) states “Waiting too long to be vaccinated allows the coronavirus to continue spreading in the community, with new variants emerging....The sooner you get vaccinated, the sooner you are protected.”

Many citizens also share reluctance to get their vaccine because of how quickly vaccines were developed. However, according to the CDC, “COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials... These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.” Some also fear the side-effects of the vaccination, but Dr. Golden clearly states, “After the shots, you might experience a sore arm, a mild fever or body aches, but this doesn't mean you have COVID-19....They signal a natural response as your body's immune system learns to recognize and fight the coronavirus.” Despite misconceptions, the chance of contracting Covid-19 after getting vaccinated is a very “small percentage,” according to the CDC. Also, all side-effects are temporary and in the vast majority of cases, mild.

If a family member or friend is hesitant to get their vaccine, encourage them to get theirs by reassuring them and providing them with knowledge of its safeness and effectiveness. You can visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus to learn more about Covid-19 vaccines!

Common Side Effects

On the arm where you got the shot:



- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:



- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

The Oversimplification of History

Emma Sander (Grade 7)

History is what happened and when it happened. It's who made it happen and where it all began. It's why something happened and how we can learn from it. History allows us to learn more about the world before now. It teaches us how things may have been years ago. We use history to help us grow from our past mistakes. We rely on people and books to tell us what, when, why, who, and how it happened. It would be a shame if the story told wasn't the full story.

But it is. It happens a lot. It's called whitewashing, meaning "to gloss over or cover up vices, crimes or scandals or to exonerate by means of a perfunctory investigation or biased presentation of data." It was first described as cheap white paint in the late 1500s used to paint or coat stuff white. The US started using the term more politically in the 1800s when a Philadelphia Aurora editorial said that "if you do not whitewash President Adams speedily, the Democrats, like swarms of flies, will bespatter him all over, and make you both as speckled as a dirty wall, and as black as the devil." This term is used more modernly by many dictatorships, authoritarian states, and democratic countries, covering things up and changing them to make the result of war seem more glorified.

I interviewed a few groups of people a few days ago to see what people knew about American history. Not many people were taught about American history yet so they don't know much anyway. I asked 3 pretty open-ended questions on American history. The answers were from students of many different understanding of our history, some with lots, and some who had no idea what anything was. This was expected.

For the first question I asked, "Who do you think helped, and how do you think this country was built?" People answered mostly about the revolution, past presidents or just not knowing, saying things along the lines of, "George Washington", "colonization", "our founding fathers", "Christopher Columbus", "Thomas Jefferson", "people rebelling against Britain", "built by earthquakes and volcanoes splashing", and "Biden". The second question I asked was "How do you think genocide was enacted on the indigenous people?". We didn't learn about genocide or indigenous people yet so there were a bunch of I don't knows, and a "what's genocide?" Most people answered with "they killed them", "I have no clue", "I don't know what that means", "Christopher Columbus wanted to use them as slaves", "it's very bad for everyone", and "it's bad for the culture". The last question I asked was "Who were/are some of the BIPOC (Black Indigenous people of color) leaders or people that contributed to this country?" Most of the answers involved people in the Civil Rights Movement and more modern day people, such as "Martin Luther King Jr.", "Rosa Parks", "Harriet Tubman", "I don't know", "What does BIPOC mean?", "All the presidents", "AOC", and "POC people even though they are very discriminated against". Though all these answers are correct, not everything was taught to them. It's sad, but true. All of the stuff isn't fully covered in schools and it is filtered out and not touched on. But some history book writers don't realize that they're not telling the whole story.

This is caused by people oversimplifying textbooks and history lessons. Many middle school students don't know what genocide or BIPOC even means. This is a problem because students and people need to know what...

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politics and opinion

politics and opinion

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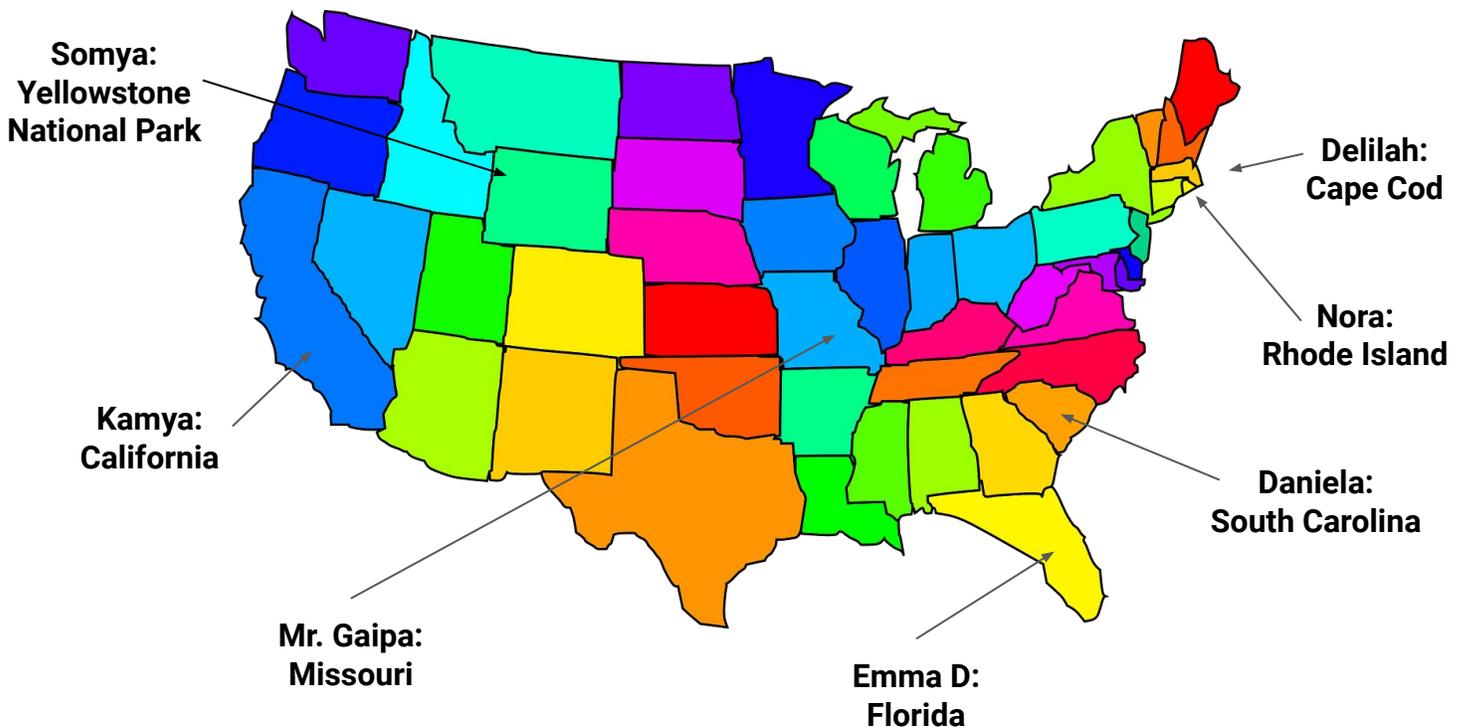
happened in our country's past and what we did that might not have always been the most humane thing to do. Adults may say we shouldn't talk about subjects that are "controversial" and "inappropriate", but shielding kids from what happened or even what is happening does more harm than good. Kids are known to be more accepting of conflicts, problems, and change than adults. It's also better to inform them correctly than having them find out from rumors or unreliable sources.

History books tell you that Christopher Columbus discovered America. Yes, that's true on some levels as he was the first person from Europe that they know of to have discovered America, but this is just another example of oversimplifying history. By doing so, we're taking out important people who did find this country first, we're taking out the fact that we claimed America without anyone's

consent, and on top of that, we're getting rid of the fact that we kicked, even killed, the native people out of their homes because they didn't come from where we were from, they didn't look like us, and/or speak like us. Luckily, this problem has been brought to many people's attention, causing them to question this and to start giving the natives the credit they deserve.

Though this is one step closer to having less simplified textbooks and history lessons, we still have a long way to go. Many people aren't as accepting of change and of different things to learn than what they've been taught. But we need to remember that these past few years alone have already brought in so much change, you need to try and keep a positive mindset on things and take things as they come. The world is forever changing and we can't do much about it because it's not ours to control. We all tell the version of the story that makes us look good.

Where are newspaper staff members going this summer?



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Guess Who Answers By Bridget Moran (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! If you didn't already notice, "Here @ MMS" brought the "Guess Who?" game back. 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!

1. This teacher/staff member has interviewed LeBron James before.

32.7% of the participants guessed Mr. Duval.
25% guessed Mrs. Bronson.
19.2% guessed Mrs. Augelli.
11.5% guessed Mrs. Orefice.
11.5% guessed Mr. Lefkovich.

The correct answer is actually Mrs. Augelli!



2. This teacher/staff member has written and self-published a fantasy/mystery novel.

48.1% of the participants guessed Ms. Zamary.
26% guessed Ms. Whelton.
11.5% guessed Ms. Mancini.
11.5% guessed Mr. Walsh.
2.9% guessed Mrs. Edley.

The correct answer is actually Ms. Whelton!



3. This teacher/staff member has folded laundry with Cher before.

46.2% of the participants guessed Miss Pinto.
24% guessed Ms. Keene.
20.2% guessed Ms. Chicano.
4.8% guessed Mr. Duval.
4.8% guessed Mr. Lefkovich.

The correct answer is actually Mr. Lefkovich!



4. This teacher/staff member was a competitive Irish dancer for 8 years.

27.9% of the participants guessed Mrs. Titone.
27.9% guessed Mrs. Kirsch.
21.2% guessed Mrs. Augelli.

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(cont.d) 14.4% guessed Mrs. Orefice.
8.7% guessed Ms. Whelton.

The correct answer is actually Mrs. Orefice!

5. This teacher/staff member can identify 45 different types of mosquitoes!

47.1% of the participants guessed Mr. Duval.
21.2% guessed Mrs. Bronson.
12.5% guessed Ms. Keene.
10.6% guessed Mrs. Edley.
8.7% guessed Miss Pinto.

The correct answer is actually Mrs. Bronson!



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!

MMS Pet Showcase By Emily Bevilacqua (Grade 8)

Welcome to the MMS pet showcase! These are the amazing pets that MMS students and staff have shared with us that we would like to show off! Be prepared for a lot of cuteness!



6th grader Maria Bueno's gorgeous dog is a golden retriever and is 4 years old! She likes to wear bandanas!



6th grader Gabriella Brozak has a dog named Ellie who is a Jack Russell Terrier mix. She loves to sleep in Gabriella's bed, sit on the couch, and watch TV!



6th grader Alex Santos's dog named Nyka is a Catahoula leopard dog mix and is 4 years old! Her breed can climb trees!



6th grader Cassi Fernandez has a dog named Kai who is only 5 months old and a Purebred German Shepherd! Cassi got him during quarantine!



6th grader Jordyn Fortier's dog named Bo is a 2-year-old goldendoodle and has run away 5 times!



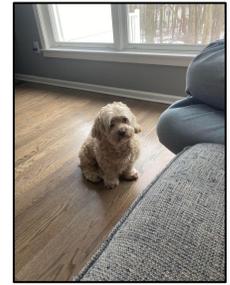
6th grader Madison Greco's dog named Molly is a grouchy 15-year-old chihuahua.



6th grader Jai Bette's dog named Echo is a pitbull/labrador and 3 years old. She has a white mark that goes down her entire body!



6th grader Avery Greaves has a rescue cat named Fuzz! He is very loving and will eat anything!



7th grader Noah Pane's dog named Maggie is a 5-year-old cockapoo who loves to swim!



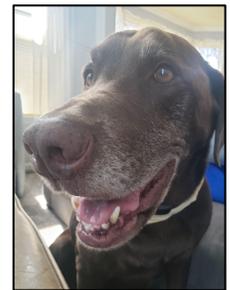
Mr. Schumacher has a mixed breed dog named Vige who is 3 years old. He got her in Colorado and trained her to be a watchdog!



Mrs. Orefice's dog named Tiger is a 2 year old Treeing walker coonhound mix. He is super wild and loves to chase his tail!



Mrs. Chicano's dog Ruger is a two year old German Shepherd who knows the command "lay down" in German!



Mrs. Mariani's super kind dog Ziggy is a lab. He was the first one to come up to Mrs. Mariani at the breeder!

Looking Back on 6th Grade By Ryan Murray (Grade 6)

Hello everyone, as the school year comes to an end, it is very important to reflect on the great experience. We conducted an interview with a 6th grader to see how they have reflected on the year.

Q: What has been your favorite part of this year?

A: "I think getting to switch classes has been a favorite of mine as well as getting to know all of my amazing teachers! I also enjoyed all the new things I learned!"

Q: Is there any advice you would give to upcoming sixth graders? (5th to 6th)

A: "I would say work hard and try your best, but you should do that always and through all the years!"

Q: Are there any after school clubs/activities you would like to recommend?

A: "I'd say homework club because it is really good to get your homework done before you go home as it helps to balance out social life and school life!"

Note: It is very important to thank your teachers for the wonderful year they have helped us achieve! The Here @ MMS section thanks you for all the support and have a great summer!

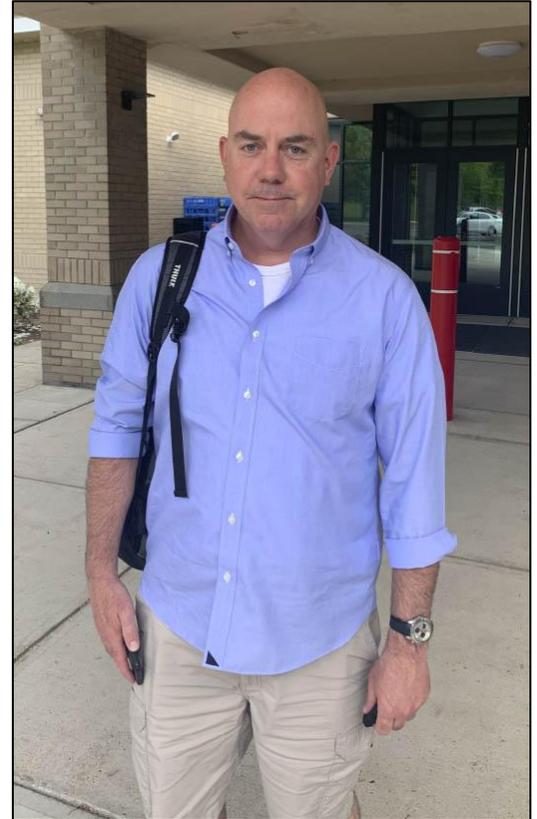
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May/June's Teacher of the Month

By Somya Nog (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! It's that time of the issue again; time to announce who May/June's Teacher of the Month is! Without further ado, this issue's Teacher of the Month is ... drumroll please ... **Mr. Morris**, who teaches 6th Grade ELA! Congratulations to him! He won with about 10.6% of the votes (10 out of 94). It's clear that Mr. Morris deserves this title because, according to his current and former students, he "is very funny", "is hardworking", "is really nice", "lights up [his students'] days with funny jokes and nice activities", "is very chill", "always encourages kids to do their best", "makes class really fun", and so much more. As one of Mr. Morris's former students, having him for 6th Grade ELA, I can assure you that all of these statements are indeed true. I will warn you though, Mr. Morris has a sarcastic side (which is reflected in his responses), but please note that it is all in good fun. As usual, I reached out to Mr. Morris and asked him a couple of questions regarding his teaching. His responses follow:



Q: How does it feel to be March/April's Teacher of the Month?

Mr. Morris: "While incredibly honored to be considered for such a prestigious title, I actually feel wholly unworthy of the recognition. I tend to spend most of my time in awe of how professional and accomplished my colleagues are here at Memorial, and I'm usually chasing that desire to be better at what I do, because I'm surrounded by excellence. But don't get me wrong, I'm totally going to milk this for all it's worth and rub it in their faces. My only regret is that the year is coming to a close so quickly. I may have to send reminders to my teaching partners over the summer, so they can bask in the knowledge that they know who I am."

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

Mr. Morris: "The students, definitely the students, especially since many of them will probably be reading this. Teaching my students is the first thing I think of when I wake up and the last thought I have before going to sleep. I often find myself wishing summer was shorter, just so I can get back to the classroom filled with students. Okay, so maybe I'm even having a hard time buying what I'm selling. The excellent parking options. Yeah, parking spots first, but definitely students as a close second."

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

Mr. Morris: "You, dear reader of this article, were my favorite student ever. I will always remember your name and how you reached for your dreams. No wait, sorry not you, I meant the kid next to you. Honestly, you were kind of a bit too needy. So yeah, tell the kid next to you 'congratulations'."

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Mr. Morris: “Oh, I could go on and on giving all the typical reasons that every teacher says like “we get the summers off, we only work until 3:00, winter and spring breaks, etc”, but for me it’s more personal than that. Think about it. The chance to change lives and inspire students on their amazing journeys ahead of them. Doesn’t that sound rewarding? Probably is, but it’s not that either.

As a kid, I wasn’t a huge fan of school, applying myself, or public speaking. On two occasions in high school, I had teachers make comments that they thought I was made for teaching. Pretty sure that was sweet revenge for them. Later in life, I found that I enjoyed training clients, rather than selling products. Eventually the desire was so strong to teach that I went back to school for a complete career change.

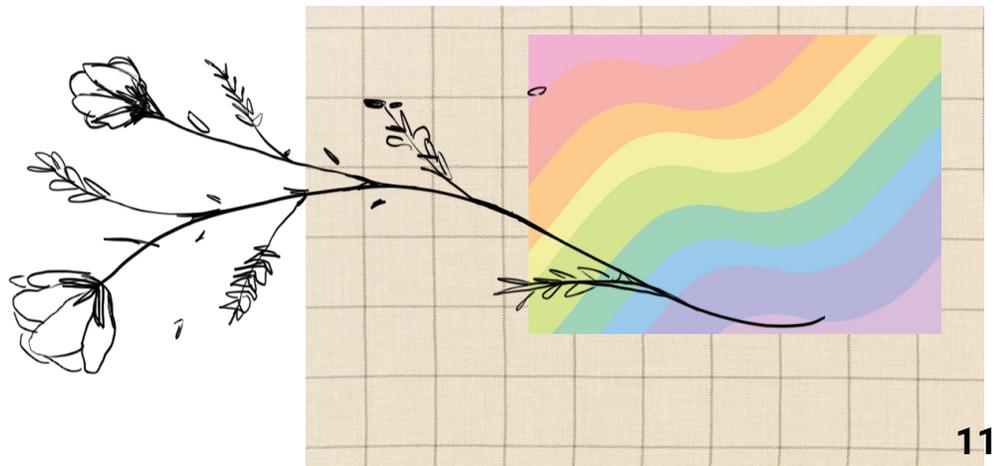
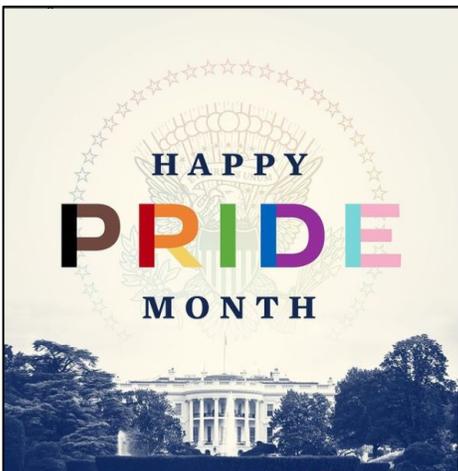
Had I known as a young man just how fantastic it would be, I’d have jumped careers right away. Never in my wildest dreams, did I imagine being lucky enough to work in environment where I get to wear a mask all day, while teaching in an unairconditioned room with huge, four-inch opening, ventilating windows, to teach a lesson to my students before me, a live feed to my students remotely, explain again for the ones that were not listening, and enjoy a fourth run at it for the late comers to the Google meet. It’s what makes every year fantastic. Well that, or the surprise of how fun the schedule could be. So fun, the ninth schedule in five years brings a smile to my face. So, what was the question again?”

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?

Mr. Morris: “Honestly, all kidding aside, I’m grateful to be in this profession and Memorial has become a home for me and the staff, like a family. The kind home where I can get signed out for the weekends and the family that doesn’t get invited to dinner because of that embarrassing uncle, but ya know still “home and family”. Thanks for the recognition; I’ll try to do the title proud.”

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Morris for being May/June’s Teacher of the Month! A special shoutout goes to our first and second runners-up! We once again have a three-way tie for first runner-up: Mr. Buckley, who teaches 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies, Miss Chicano, who teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Health, and Madame Ganti, who teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade French, each received about 9.6% of the votes (9 out of 94). Mr. Walsh, our second runner-up, who teaches 7th Grade ELA, received 8.5% of the votes (8 out of 94). Congratulations to all of the teachers who were nominated!

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SPORTS

The Effect of COVID on the Olympic Games

By Sophia Dickens (Grade 7)

Even though the Olympics did not happen last year, not all hope is lost for the Olympics happening this year. According to an article on WashingtonPost.com, "Even as the coronavirus pandemic continues to alarm health officials worldwide, Olympic officials and Tokyo organizers have been adamant the Summer Games will take place as scheduled. Already postponed a full year, the Tokyo Games are scheduled to get underway July 23, and officials have said repeatedly that an Olympics can be safely staged this summer, even as public sentiment in Japan wavers and health experts highlight some of the dangers."

When thinking about the future of the Olympic Games, here are some common questions and answers.

What would happen if COVID prevents the Olympics from happening on schedule?

Sadly if the Olympics are unable to be held again, they will be canceled with no plans to have them for four more years. The reason for this is that if the Olympics keep getting postponed, a lot of people will get frustrated and will not watch it. So in order to prevent that, they will be canceled. Any decision has to be made out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of the athletes and the fans.

TOKYO 2021 



How will the athletes be able to stay safe during the Olympics?

Athletes, along with all other participants, will be required to follow strict guidelines, chosen to prevent any exposures. Athletes will not be allowed to stay in the Olympic Village for the duration of the Tokyo Games. Also, they are not allowed to take public transportation or visit non-Olympic sites, including local bars, restaurants, shops and tourist destinations.

Will the vaccine be required?

The IOC officials are urging athletes to get shots, if possible, but COVID vaccines will not be a requirement to compete at these Olympics.

What do others think?

Nancy Armour's Opinion, a journalist for USA Today: "IOC is making the right choice – only choice – to not hold Tokyo Games as planned and have it this year."

Christine Brennan's Opinion, sports columnist for USA Today: "As much as it hurts, postponing Tokyo Olympics is what's needed."

Lacrosse NCAA National Championship

By Allie McNerney (Grade 7)

Memorial day weekend was a big weekend for lacrosse fans, with the NCAA womens and mens D1 national championships both being held. On the women's side, the Boston College Eagles faced off against a strong Syracuse team. Syracuse went 17-4 in the ACC prior to the tournament, and Boston College was 18-3. The game was back and forth at first, but it would later become clear that B.C was going to run away with it.



The men's D1 NCAA national championship was arguably a more entertaining game, with the last play of the game giving Maryland a last minute tying goal, but Luke Weirman missed the final shot for Maryland, which secured the win for Virginia.

It seemed like the game was over multiple times for Maryland, but each time, they battled their way back. In the end, for the first time in Virginia men's lacrosse history, the Cavaliers are back-to-back champs.

Virginia outlasted the No. 3-seed Maryland Terrapins 17-16 to win the program's seventh NCAA Championship. It was Maryland's first loss of the season, and the Terps finished 15-1.



SPORTS

COVID's Effects on Memorial's Athletics

By Megan Widlar (Grade 7)

As our school year is coming to an end, as well as our spring sports season, it's a great time to reflect on how far we have come from the fall time in regards to COVID.

In the fall, times were much different. No tryouts, no games. While at practices, the soccer, field hockey, and cross country teams had to wear masks and could not practice in competitions outside of Memorial. Teams were also only given two days of practice a week during the shortened season, in which it would be hard for them to compete with such few practice opportunities. With that being said, the athletes made the best of it and will be happy to hopefully play a complete season next fall.

Once the winter rolled around, we were saddened that there would be no basketball season at Memorial this year. But soon enough, the announcement was made for softball/baseball team tryouts. As the season started, we were more than thrilled to see the sports team practice and have the game schedule back how they would've been during pre-COVID times. Memorial is happy to see things going back to normal and everything is moving in the right direction!



NHL 2021 Playoffs

By Anabelle Greenwood (Grade 7)

The NHL Stanley Cup playoffs have begun. The top seed in each division faces the fourth seed, while the second faces the third in the first round. The winners face off in the second round. Once we reach the Stanley Cup Semifinals, the four remaining playoff teams will be re-seeded based on their regular season point totals.

The teams going against each other in the first round were the Maple Leafs vs. Canadiens, Penguins vs. Islanders, Capitals vs. Bruins, Panthers vs. Lightning, Hurricanes vs. Predators, Avalanche vs. Blues, Golden Knights vs. Wild, and Oilers vs. Jets. The teams competing against each other in the second round are the Bruins vs. Islanders, Lightning vs. Hurricanes, Avalanche vs. Golden knights, and Jets vs. Canadiens.

We will see who wins later on in June and they will receive the Stanley Cup at the end of the playoffs.



Arts & Culture

The Importance and Value of Poems, Music, and Visual Art

By Ramin Qurbani (Grade 7)

Poems, music, and visual arts are the most simplest and significant part of Arts and Culture. Poems are used by lots of famous people, Beethoven, Wolfgang, Bob Ross, Leonardo da Vinci, Shakespeare, and Edgar Allen Poe.

Poems are very intricate and interesting. You can write poems about almost anything in the entire world; you can make poems about farms, cars, or just anything that you can find. There are lots of different styles of poems you can write, like rhymed poetry, haikus, epics, sonnets, and free verse poems. Each poem has a different style, like a haiku having 5 syllables for the first line, 7 for the second, and 5 for the third, or rhymed poetry having to be rhymed like its name implies.

Music is also very important to Arts and Culture, anything can be used as an instrument, not just, say, a drum. You can stretch a balloon over a cup, kind of like foley sounds. Music is also intricate like poems. Similar to poems, there are lots of different styles of music, such as romantic, classical, jazz, rock, pop, modern, blues, and instrumental. Each style has a different style, like jazz usually having brass instruments, modern having more modern instruments, and rock having guitars.

Visual art is one of the most important parts of Arts and Culture, as it was what started Arts and Culture in the first place. Famous artists like Leonardo da Vinci made the Mona Lisa, and Vincent van Gogh made Starry Night. Art was the foundation of all Arts and Culture as everything stemmed from it. Like music and poems, there are lots of different types of art too, like abstract, modernism, realism, expressionism, surrealism, and even architecture, as it is art too. Also, similarly to poems and writing, each type of art has a different style.

In all, poetry, music, and art are the base foundation of Arts and Culture, as they were the first types of Arts and Culture people found. Even 1000 years ago, there was Arts and Culture, and it was prevalent in almost every time period too.

EMILY DICKINSON

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry –
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll –
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human soul.

(1263)



Beethoven Symphonie No. 8



Arts & Culture

Nora's Review Of Olivia Rodrigo's New Album *Sour*

By Nora Santoli (7th Grade)



So as you may know, *Sour* is Olivia Rodrigo's new album and OMG I know there's no such thing as the perfect album, but THIS ONE checks out all the boxes. Here's my take on each song.

“Brutal!”

Very upbeat and very relatable. I think she took a step back from the whole Joshua and relationship narrative in this one and instead used her blood, sweat, and tears to make a song about, overall, just dealing with the struggles as a kid or as a teen.

“Traitor”

Holy guacamole... roly poly... holy moly! This one did something to me. I think i was having heart palpitations the first time I listened to this. IF PHYSICAL PAIN WAS A SONG, THIS IS IT. She did it! She made an actual masterpiece.

“Drivers License”

Ok ok ok no need to get political right now, but IF DRIVERS LICENSE WASN'T RELEASED AS A SINGLE AND RELEASED WITH THE REST OF THE ALBUM EVERYONE WOULD BE RAGING OVER THIS. “Driver's Licence” gives me something that I don't think oxygen to my brain, air in my lungs, or anything keeping me alive could give me.

“1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back”

I think this song needs a moment of silence, or not even a moment... a time scheduled out of everyone's day to worship this song.....moment over. I don't know if she put pieces of her dna in this song, but I think it actually can cure all diseases, or whatever tylenol does.

“Deja vu”

OK OK OK GET IT LIV I SEE YOU WITH THE STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM (disclaimer: strawberry ice cream slander will not be tolerated). I WILL BE PLAYING THIS SONG AT MY WEDDING, FUNERAL, DINNER PARTIES, VACATION, AND ANYTHING WHILE THE EARTH IS STILL ORBITING. She is a literal lyrical genius and I would sell my left kidney to meet this woman.

“Good 4 U”

STOP STOP STOP! I THINK THE WIND WAS KNOCKED OUT OF ME WITH THIS ONE! YES LIV MHM GET IT BESTIE! I HAVE NO WORDS! SPEECHLESS! THE ACTUAL WORDS I NEED TO EXPLAIN THIS IS UNEXPLAINABLE!

“Enough For U”

If that one scene from *Spongebob* where he floods the Krusty Krab with his tears, I think that would be it. WINNER WINNER MEATLOAF DINNER. I think if i listened to this song one more time, my large intestine would break. I don't know if that is even possible, but it would happen.

“Happier”

Ok ok ok... Hear me out: can my vocal cords break from screaming the same song so much? Google says I can, but I would like a professional medical consult because... WOAH I CANNOT COMPREHEND THIS moment of silence taken...moment never over.

“Jealousy jealousy”

GIVING ME VERY MUCH MS. TAYLOR SWIFT AND VERY MUCH PAINNNNNNNNN. I would 10/10 recommend this compilation of words to my grandma, my uncle, my aunt, my long lost sister that I don't even have, the cat living down the street...

“Hope Ur Ok”

Ummmm... I don't know how to say this, but I physically passed out from this song. If anybody were to make a perfect song, I would suggest talking to this woman. I can't even physically press the caps lock button for this one.

“Favorite Crime”

Ummm okay... GET IT BESTIE YASSSSSS! If I could listen to one song on repeat for my life, it wouldn't be this one but it would make a close 2nd. OMG I LOVE IT SO MUCH



Arts & Culture

Things I Hate (Poem) By Emma Sander (Grade 7)

i hate how society has placed unspoken rules
how people have to act a certain way just to have friends
how you can't just be yourself and get recognized for it
i hate how people made "weird" a bad thing
how we have to be nice because nobody likes mean people, but we also have to make fun of people because nobody likes a suck up
i hate how being a feminist defines you as a man hater
how women had to work twice as hard just to be kind of equal to men
and how even after hundreds of years we still do
i hate how you have to be pretty and make yourself a specific way just so you can maybe get noticed by someone
how your supposed to show some skin to be pretty but not too much where your an attention seeker
i hate how people think it's okay to starve yourself just to look good in someone else's eyes
how people think they have to match everyone else's standards
and how being smart and kind isn't always enough
i hate how you're supposed to be embarrassed for stupid things
how you can't wear the same thing as someone else's
how you have to hide the fact that you're on your period
how you can't say or do stuff because it's not "cool"
i hate how wearing makeup and the way you dress labels you
how if you don't where makeup you're not pretty
how if you do wear makeup people think you're a try hard
how if you wear what you want, people think you have bad taste in clothes because what you're wearing isn't "trending"
and however you dress or look, people assume you're doing it for someone else
i hate how it's normal for you to hate your body
how your body is supposed to look like an impossible figure
how you're supposed to eat and not eat certain things, again, for someone else's expectations
i hate how it's normalized for people to make fun of someone sexuality
how the world has a problem with boys kissing boy and girls kissing girls
how you get made fun of for the type of people you love
above all i hate how i follow some of these rules because i'm too afraid to speak up and speak my mind.

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We Will Figure Something Out

Comics & Games

Summer Word Search By Delilah Salcito (Grade 6)

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

Word Bank

June

Ice Cream

Beach

July

Hot

August

Delilah's Corny Corner

Why does a seagull fly over the sea? **Because if they flew over a bay they would be called bay gulls!**

What type of tree fits in your hand? **A PALM tree!**

Why do ghosts especially like summer food? **Because there is some I-SCREAM!**

What did the beach say to the tide when it came in? **Nice to SEA you!**

What is the admission fee to the beach? **One sand dollar**

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To my Newspaper Staff, but especially to my 8th Graders--thank you for making the first year of our rejuvenated school newspaper a success.

Thursday afternoons were times I always looked forward to, especially knowing I'd get to see you try out new ways of thinking and writing, working together, and most importantly connecting with each other, especially after being so *disconnected* over the past year. Newspaper Club was a sign that life was getting better, and I'm so proud of everything you've accomplished!

To the 8th Grade Editors: Emma Demiraj, Emma Avcollie, Somya Nog, Bella Batista, Sophia Ltaif, and Kamya Keerthivasan--best of luck to you next year in high school. The same goes for all my 8th Grade Writers: Emily Bevilacqua, Katherine Vongsouvanh, Emma Bona, Bridie Moran... We'll miss you!

Enjoy your summer, and keep in touch!
Mr. Gaipa, Teacher Advisor

MMS TIMES

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Thank you for your support throughout this challenging year. On behalf of the Newspaper Club, we thank everyone for reading our issues, offering ideas and suggestions, and participating in our polls and interviews.

If you are interested in joining our Newspaper Club next school year, please contact Mr. Gaipa and let him know. Interviews will begin the first week of school in September. Sincerely, The Newspaper Club & Mr. Gaipa

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Changes

By Emma Avcollie (Grade 8)

I walk through the halls with a purpose. I look at the walls with a plan. I smile in the hallway with an intention. I think about standing when I stand. My last moments here as a student, I hope I remember them fondly. My final day as an 8th grader, I hope that in their memory I am strong.