

# The Woodrow Wilson Challenger

WOODROW'S VERY OWN STUDENT NEWSPAPER

WWMS

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## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Fiona catherine Antony sudharsan  
Harshini Asokumar  
Ishani Bakshi  
Darshini Bandapalli  
Sarayu Bhumula  
Sai Bura  
Dharshini Chidambaram  
Avropa Dey  
Chaitra Dontineni  
Sneho Ghosh  
Danya Gillani  
Megan Gustave  
V prabhanjan Immareddy  
Anish Kamireddy  
Iniya Karimanal  
Anaya Khan  
Charan Kothapalli  
Pallavi Kothapalli  
Diya Mehta  
Vishruti Mehta  
Pranav Murthy  
Aditi Nagunoori  
Aryahi Nemala  
Harshvitha Parthasarathy  
Eva Patel  
Bhuvanyu Raina  
Ananya Raja  
Aditi Rajaraman  
Tanisi Sahai  
Ruthva Saravanam  
Arjun Shinde  
Shreya Singh  
Rohini Suratkal  
Sahasra Vedagiri

## Battles of the Classes: The Most Anticipated Competition of the Year

Written by Harshini Asokumar and Ishani Bakshi

On March 31, eager crowds filled the Woodrow Wilson gymnasium, in awaitance of the one and only 2022 Battle of the Classes. Each grade's respective team had been preparing for weeks. Mastering their choreography and perfecting their banners, after two years of virtual learning, our teams were more than ready to finally fight to see which grade comes out on top.

The most anticipated events in BOTC are the dance and banner. The only two events that must be prepared by members of each grade's team. To kick off the spectacular event, each team was greeted with roars from the bleachers that shook the entire building. 6th grade, marched in with their matching bright red hats that matched the raging fire on their posters. The quote stirred some controversy but was quite clever. The chants of 8th grade spread into everyone's ears as flames and ash on the poster left everyone stunned. The detailed lettering, splashes of color, and team spirit managed to bring smiles to everyone's faces. The final banner sparked frowns upon the grades as the cheers were replaced with rampant boos at the teacher's arrival.

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## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Editors in-Chief**

Iniya Karimanal  
 Harshini Asokumar  
 Ishani Bakshi  
 Sai Bura  
 Pranav Murthy  
 Sahasra Vedagiri

**Communication Directors**

Darshini Bandapalli  
 Aditi Nagunoori

**Layout Designers**

Dharshini Chidambaram  
 Chaitra Dontineni  
 Aryahi Nemala

**Club Advisor**

Mrs. Redmond

With a masquerade theme, the teachers strutted in with their heads high despite the lack of enthusiasm from those watching. The winners of the banner were announced at the end but each grade was left in anticipation throughout. The teachers placed first and the runner up was 8th grade. Each grade had also been preparing a group dance that involved tricky stunts, transition changes, and hard moves. The dances were spread out throughout the event, each more different than the last. Mr. Thomas’s djing was the icing on the cake. The winner of the dance was the 8th grade.



Although the dances and the banners are the crown jewels of the night, there is much more to be seen during these festive two hours. Following the display of the banners, the event staff and judges segued into the Accessory Relay, in which participants had to run a traditional relay race with the added bonus of putting on layers of necklaces, skirts, and more. The event was succeeded by the highly awaited Tug of War, in which, to no one’s surprise, the teachers were crowned victor. Though, the 8th graders put up an admirable fight! During Horsin Around, participants had to rely on inflatable horses, as crowds loudly boo-ed at the rampant cheating. Succeeding the event, we had the Hula Hoop Race, Balloon Head Race, and Scoot & Pop, with the 8th grade team being crowned victor for all of them. Last but not least, we had *the* relay race, in which participants hurriedly wrapped crepe paper around their arms, skated towards their teammates, wheelbarrowed into water bottles, shot hoops like never seen before in our WWMS gymnasium, and ate pie like champs.

In conclusion, after two years of zoom dances and google drawing banners, the 2022 BOTC culminated in a tear-jerking competition, in which the class of 2022, our WWMS 8th grade team, was named victor. The crowds cried out in joy and despair, the event staff smiled in glee, and the 8th grade team bathed in their glory.

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**Dance Teacher on the Rise**

**By: Sneho Ghosh**

**Meet Ms. Stine**

Hi! My name is Ms. Stine, I am from South Jersey, and I am a dancer. I love to travel and I like to bake. In my family I have an older brother, younger brother and my mom and dad. I also have a dog named Daisy! I am the dance teacher at Woodrow Wilson in the afternoon and J.P. Stevens in the morning. I teach a variety of styles, like jazz, ballet, modern dance, hip hop, and hula. There are a lot of creative dances and choreographies. I also help out in Woodrow’s Drama club.



**How long have you been teaching and why did you become a teacher?**

This is my first year teaching and I wanted to be a teacher because I think teaching found me, and as I am an older sibling, it naturally happened. I have always been involved in dance and I enjoy fostering younger children to help them find their passion.

**What was your dance journey?**

I started dancing at 3-4 years old. I started off in competitive dance like jazz, ballet, tap. Then I went to Rutgers New Brunswick for a 5 year program for majoring in dance. Finally I am a dance teacher here at Woodrow and J.P. Stevens.

**What made you choose this school**

I really liked this place in general. This school has a good reputation, welcoming community, and is a unique place. I also have family living here.

**Continued**

**How do you like Woodrow's community so far?**

It's great! The students are funny, I get to interact with more people, and everyone is sweet and nice about dance. Drama club is also a very exciting thing to work in.

**What are a few words you would describe yourself as?**

A few words to describe me are friendly, understanding, and happy.

**What is your motivation or inspiration as a dance teacher?**

Students, the collaboration side of teaching and being able to hear and work with other people. It is beneficial to build off of each other. When dancing, not only do you learn dance, you also learn about yourself in the process.

**What is a struggle you face and how have you overcome it?**

Originally, when I was hired, I was supposed to start near the end of October. However, later on I was told that they wanted me to start in September. This gave me only 1 week to prepare for teaching for the first time in my life. The transition to teaching and being able to let go of some things were also hard, but it is fine, because now I can allow students to grow and flourish into better dancers.

**If you had one day to do whatever you wanted, what would you do?**

I would probably sleep in, because I am not a morning person. I would have a big breakfast to start off my day. Throughout my day I would have hikes, go on long bike rides, etc., because I love nature. I would end my day with dinner and it would be a very laid back day, but it would be very relaxing.

**If you had one superhero power what would it be and why?**

I would probably have healing powers, so I can help people get better faster.



## Introducing Spring Sports

By: Shreya Singh



With spring on its way, every year new sports are introduced to the school. Whether it be baseball, softball, or track, everyone is interested one way or another! Tryouts determine if you may or may not be on the team roster, but this doesn't stop anyone from trying out and having fun! In this article I will explain the sports presented to Woodrow this year, and will go in depth about its origins and more!

Firstly, on our list we have baseball as a team sport at Woodrow! Led by Coach Campione, the boys tryouts began on Monday, March 14 and ended on Tuesday, March 15! This sport started around the 19th century, and has been played ever since! However, in the 1800s people didn't call it "baseball." This sport was more commonly known as "rounders." This sport has evolved into common day baseball, as it evolved, some rules changed from the original rounders to modern baseball. Like baseball, rounders are played between two teams; one team bats while the other team fields. The "bowler" bowls the ball to the batter who hits the ball. If the batter reaches the 2nd or 3rd post in one hit, the batting team scores  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Rounder.

Next, on our list is softball as a team sport at Woodrow! Led by Coach Connell, the girls tryouts began on Monday, March 14 and ended on Tuesday, March 15! This sport started in the late 19th century, evolving from baseball! It all started in Chicago, and became known as softball after evolving from an indoor baseball sport.

Finally, on our list is track coming to Woodrow as an intramural! Led by Coaches Mechetti and Dicocco, anyone has the opportunity to join, practice occurs every Monday and Wednesday after school until 4 p.m., starting on March 14! Unlike softball or baseball, track started long before any of these sports came into view. It began when the Greeks competed in the Olympics ever since around 700 B.C. This event was created to celebrate all the Greek gods. This sport has developed over time, and it's included in the Summer Olympics!

Overall, many spring sports have come to Woodrow, and now you know many interesting facts about these sports and its origins!

## Japanese Akitas

By: Ananya Raja

The Japanese Akita, also known as the Akita Inu, is well known for its loyalty, dignity, and courage. In Japan, they are the symbol of a long life, good health, and happiness. While they were trained to be watchdogs and hunters in Northern Japan, an order caused by World War II and other issues said that all Akitas were to be killed. A few were saved only by being set free into the mountains or being bred with German Shepherds. Once the war ended the breed was brought back through cautious breeding. The first Akita was most likely brought over to the USA by Helen Keller in 1937. She was gifted an Akita by Japan while she was there for a visit.



Japanese Akitas are a large working breed, with males usually being 26-28 inches at the shoulder and from 100-130 pounds. Females are usually smaller, being 24-26 inches at the shoulder and 70-100 pounds. Most have double-coated, dense coats that come in a variety of colors, such as black, white, fawn, red, along with combinations of these colors. Some have a recessive gene that grants them long coats. They also have different patterns, like brindle coats. Akitas have broad heads with ears that stand straight up and shining eyes. Their eyes are almost always dark brown, and blue-eyed Akitas are caused when Siberian Huskies are mixed with Akitas. This mixed breed is called a Huskita. They balance their large heads with their large curled tails. Akita Inus live up to 10-14 years on average.

Akita Inus shed quite a lot and shed even more twice a year. This causes them to need weekly brushing, but it should be done more during shedding seasons. These dogs are a pretty high-energy breed, so they need to walk at least twice a day. Akita puppies grow quickly, so they need a diet that is low in calories so they don't grow too quickly. Akitas are intelligent dogs, but they can be very stubborn and difficult to train. Akitas are very protective and vigilant, but they can be very sweet to family members and people close to them. Despite this, they are best suited in a family which has no young kids or other dogs. This breed can adapt pretty well to changes, such as weather or schedules.



## Chain Reactions

By: Megan Gustave

### What is Intergenerational Trauma?

Generational trauma is defined as a traumatic event that began decades prior to the current generation and has impacted the way that individuals in the current generation understand, cope, and heal from trauma. These traumatic events ignite cycles within family chains that can alter the way each generation may function. People stuck within these revolving cycles of trauma tend to be in denial about the effects the event may have had on them. They tend to minimize the impact that generational trauma has on their lives. Their actions toward other people including future children, significant others, peers, and other individuals may be molded by the prior trauma passed down. The internalized feelings of shame coming from the original event can be given to future generations afterward. Numerous parents struggle with the trauma that was inflicted upon them at a young age, therefore unintentionally perpetuating the same traumas onto their own children. The children may grow up and do the same thing to their children, thus contributing to the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

### How it Especially Affects People of Color.

Because of traumatic events in the past that riveted throughout history, many people of color struggle to understand why their parents act a certain way towards them; however, most of it could be explained through recognizable events in history. For example, after slavery, black people were forced to create an entirely new culture for themselves. Large pieces of black culture got lost throughout the dark years that slavery was alive. Numerous black individuals found themselves at the end of slavery with no understanding of their culture. Parents struggled during this time pressuring their kids into being better than them. Over generations, this pressure caused and still causes many African American children to act out because of the pressure cultivated inside of the household. Similar behaviors can be found within Hispanic/Latina, Asian, Middle Eastern, and many other cultures. It has since created problems within our current society.

### How to break the cycle

Numerous middle schoolers are at a point in their lives where generational trauma starts to take over, especially within home lives. It is Important to break the cycle before it becomes too large. There is a 3 step method that can help during this time. It begins With recognizing and identifying the problem in the trauma that causes your family to act in a harmful way.

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Then it's important to understand why your family is perpetuating generational trauma around you. Not all families go through generational trauma however it's still important to recognize it when you see it. Lastly, it's important to educate yourself on how to break the perpetuating cycle of intergenerational trauma. Start by making commitments to yourself to not make the same mistakes that your parents made. Also, pay attention to how you act and why you act the way you do.

### Generational trauma in the media.



Because this is a growing topic in 2022, famous media outlets are coming out with childrens' movies to educate people about generational trauma. *Encanto* is about a family that survived horrible attacks in Columbia. The head of the family Abuela puts pressure on her kids to be perfect. She lives in fear every day that something bad will happen just like what happened to her. This hurts the children because the pressure ruins the relationship with everyone within their family. However, at the end of the movie, it tells a tale of reconciliation within generational trauma. *Turning Red* is also a movie about this subject. This movie is fairly new and also can help with breaking the cycle of generational trauma.

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## Devonian Time Period

By: Fiona Catherine Antony Sudharsan



This amazing time period was home to a ton of large animals like the megalodon. It lasted from 416 to 359 million years ago in the Paleozoic Era. The climate in the Devonian period was mild, averaging at about 80- 85 Fahrenheit. The environment was mostly made up of water with minimal land. The atmosphere was very warm and dry. Most of the animals were marine, earning it the title "The Age Of Fishes".

The living organisms present were the brachiopods, trilobites, jawless fish, and tetrapods. The types of plants that you could find in the Devonian were most likely to be marine life, such as horn corals and ferns. By the late Devonian era, a ton of species evolved. To name a few, Trilobites and Ammonites, and armored placoderm fish such as Dunkleosteus. Plants like ferns grew bigger and evolved too!

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A few major events like the tetrapods colonizing the land then the vertebrates also occurred! The Devonian era was home to many unique species which have either died or evolved. If there ever is a time-traveling machine this place would be amazing to visit.

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## Ancient City of Pompeii

### Sai Bura

#### What was the Ancient city of Pompeii?

In centuries past, there have been many wonders introduced to our world, some questionable, some beautiful, some non-existent? The Ancient City of Pompeii is located southeast of Naples, in what is modernly known as the Campania region of Italy. This remarkable town lived approximately 2000 years ago (79 A.D.) and was known for its unique approach to human life. Pompeii was filled with 12,000 individuals, had an advanced water system and over 100 streets.

#### What happened to Pompeii?

One day, in the year 79 A.D, Mount Vesuvius erupted onto the streets of Pompeii. Volcanic debris engulfed the population of Pompeii. Over 18 hours, volcanic activity continuously harmed the lives of Pompeii, and volcanic ash and blistering gasses cruised over Pompeii.



In the process, 14-17 feet of ash buried the remains of Pompeii. 2,000 people were left to die and were burned or asphyxiated because of the inability to get out in time, or trapped by volcanic debris. This gruesome event traumatized the lives of many citizens and left the world population discussing the story of Pompeii for centuries.

#### How was Pompeii discovered, and what was the impact on society?

To this day, scientists and archaeologists rave about Pompeii, its wonders, its people, and where they traveled after the destruction of Pompeii. The architect Domenico Fontana discovered the ancient city of Pompeii in the 16th century, 1748 to be exact. This perfectly preserved--believed to be destroyed--city left the world astonished. Inside the homes, many people were found in their last moments. Bakeries had perfectly preserved loaves of bread in stone ovens. Over 200 years later, Pompeii became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. There are still many archaeological sites that continue to be left undiscovered to humankind, highlighting the wonders that humankind leaves behind.

## The Start of the Revolutionary War

By: V.Prabhanjan Immareddy

April 19 is the start of the Revolutionary War. So, how did it start? I'll answer that. Oh, and by the way, I'll mainly be talking about the Midnight Ride with an extremely brief backstory to the whole thing.



We all know what caused the revolution, right? If you don't, here's the gist of it. Britain decided to do a not-so-pip-pip-cheerio move by taxing the colonies. The colonists revolted, a couple of people died, tea was thrown into the sea and the king wanted revenge. He sent Thomas Gage to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock, leaders of the revolt, as well as to gain the weapons found in Concord, which was the location that Paul Revere, most famous rider of the Midnight Ride, a Son of Liberty, and a first-born American who was the child of French parents, had moved the weapons to on April 7. This is where Dr. Warren comes in.

Warren was a Patriot doctor who had a lot of spies working for him. One of the spies notifies Warren about **THE PLAN**, and Warren notifies Revere. Revere notified Robert Newman of Boston's North Church and helped create the now infamous signal that was used to notify the people of Charlestown, who the Patriots believed wouldn't receive the word of the midnight riders. If the British were to travel to Lexington via land, one lantern should be hung from the belfry arch in the church. A belfry arch is a structure that was used to hang a bell in a bell tower, by the way. If the British were to travel to Lexington via the Charles River, two lanterns should be hung from the belfry arch. This was the famous "one by land, two by sea" quote that we know today.

On the night of April 18th, Revere was ready to be rowed across the Charles River until he realized that he forgot his spur, which was necessary for making a horse go fast and making John Booth break his leg. He wrote the request on a piece of paper, put the paper on his dog's collar-for those wondering, the dog was a Pomeranian-and told the boy to run back home. Moments later, the dog had a spur around his collar and Revere was ready to depart. Well, except for the fact that the oars that were used to row Revere across the river would make a lot of noise when they were being used, which would have alerted the British ship that was stationed in the river to enforce the "no crossings at night" rule. However, that wasn't a problem for Revere, who asked a neighbor to throw down two pieces of cloth to wrap around the oars. Soon, Revere was being rowed across the river and spotted two lanterns hanging from the belfry arch, but he already knew that. He reached the other side of the river, borrowed a horse which he never returned, and rode into the night.

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Despite what Henry Longfellow's poem claims, Revere never shouted, "The British are coming!" This is because of two reasons: 1. British patrols were in the area and shouting would've given away the plan as well as annoying the colonists, who were mainly asleep, and 2. Many colonists considered themselves British, which would have made that iconic phase very confusing. He admitted to saying, not shouting, "The Regulars are coming out!" Also, he didn't carry anything at all, despite what you may think. After a while, he reached Lexington and warned Samuel Adams and John Hancock of their eventual fate. William Dawes, another rider sent by Warren, entered the house and he and Revere discussed plans to warn the colonists.

Dawes and Revere continued to warn the townspeople before Dr. Samuel Prescott requested to join them, as the people of Concord knew Prescott better than anyone else. They all continue riding their horses before they encounter a path blocked by two British soldiers. Turns out, the two British soldiers pulled another not-so-pip-pip-cheerio move and another duo of British soldiers was hidden behind them. The three men retreated: Dawes was in such a panic that his horse ran into the woods and hit a wall, Prescott managed to reach Concord and warn the townspeople, and Revere couldn't retreat fast enough and was arrested by the Redcoats, who had a bunch of Patriots that were arrested by the Lobsters(yes, that was an actual nickname for the British soldiers). Revere warned them to not go towards Lexington, but they ignored his warnings and moved towards Lexington.

The group was half a mile from Lexington when they heard a gunshot. The soldiers asked Revere what the sound was, to which he replied, "It is to alarm the country." The group, since they ignored what Revere said, started to move closer to Lexington when a bell rang. The British officers asked Revere why the bell was ringing, to which a captive interrupted Revere with, "The bell's ringing! The town's alarmed, and you're all dead men!" Never before has a warning become so poetic. The British officers decided to free the captives and ran. They also took Revere's horse. Revere went to the house where Adams and Hancock were staying and helped evacuate Adams, Hancock, and a bunch of papers as the Battle of Lexington unfolded.

Warren was later shot dead at the Battle of Breed's Hill and was turned into a painting. Revere got turned into a poem, artwork, and a stamp and later died in the 1800s. Dawes got turned into an elementary school and faded into obscurity. Prescott died in 1777 due to the conditions of the jail he was placed in since he became a POW and eventually faded into even more obscurity than Dawes.

The Midnight Ride was necessary because the initial three riders caused 4,000 more people to ride throughout the 13 colonies to warn people of the British soldiers and the battles in Lexington and Concord. The ride also provided a significant part in the American's first victory at the Battle of Concord, as it allowed the Minutemen to display the element of surprise towards the Redcoats. Eventually, the truth of what happened during the ride was covered in legends and myths because this is America. The land of making up so much stuff that the only truthful part of it is the planet where the story takes place.

## Fashion: Friend or Foe?

By Sarayu Bhumula

Every time an individual purchases a piece of clothing, they cease to think of its consequences. Not too many people know that what might look like a pair of jeans or cotton t-shirt could really be a danger to the Earth and all of its inhabitants.

The fashion industry is proven to be a great threat to the Earth's health and climate. According to [ClimateCouncil.org](https://www.climatecouncil.org), the fashion industry releases about 1.2 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly. This number is greater than the amount released by the shipping and aviation industries combined. Fashion production also uses an incredible amount of natural resources. [PSCI Princeton](https://www.psciprinceton.org) says it takes 3,000 liters of water just to produce one cotton shirt.



Imagine how much water is industrially used in fashion annually. And on top of it all, 35% of all global micro-plastics are used in the manufacturing of clothing. For example, producers tend to use lower-quality material to decrease prices. Even though this is beneficial to the economy, this adds to usage of fibers made of polyester, a material that contains plastic. This can release even more greenhouse gas and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than cotton.

Globally, some 80 billion apparel items are consumed throughout the world. A 2015 study says each piece on average will be worn only seven times before being thrown out, eventually making its way to a landfill, adding to the waste. And every time a piece of clothing is thrown out, that's thousands of liters of water being wasted and nearly millions of micro-plastics being let out into the environment. Remember this the next time you go out to the mall on a shopping spree. Every piece of apparel you buy makes a huge impact in the world.

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## Facts About Bunnies

By: Ruthva Saravanan

Bunnies can be amazing and social pets! Rabbits are full of personality and have a way of bringing joy to your days! They can be great house pets, if you take the time to socialize with them and learn about their basic body language.

Continued

However, rabbits require a lot more care than people typically expect, therefore, it's important to be prepared before bringing home a new bunny. To some, rabbits might seem like quiet pets, but they're actually capable of making a lot of sounds, including growling, screeching, chattering their teeth, and even honking softly. Bunnies are great animals that will stay with you as long as they can! They can get attached to loving owners in just a matter of days and are interesting animals that are worth spending



### Facts

Here are some more facts worth knowing about these lovely animals! Did you know that bunnies can live up to 14 years old! They go through 3 distinct stages, a baby, adolescent and teenager. These phases help understand the rabbit's life going through their different stages in life. Rabbits are great companions, especially when they have the opportunity to show their amazing personalities! Additionally, did you know that a bunny's ears aren't just for listening!



They also help regulate the rabbit's body temperatures. Rabbits can hop and they can also jump! In fact, rabbits can jump to huge heights and distances most bunnies can jump a little over 3 feet high and 10 feet long! Also, because their eyes are positioned on the sides of their heads, bunnies can see an almost perfect 360 degrees. This helps them know when a predator is near. Their one blind spot is right in front of their little noses! Like deer, a female rabbit is called a "doe" and a male rabbit is called a buck.

They can dig sophisticated tunnels, grow to weigh more than 20 pounds! Overall, bunnies are amazing animals and friends to have, so the next time you see one hopping around, now you know a lot more about them!



## Drones: Are they the future?

By: Charan Kothapalli



When someone says “the future,” what comes to mind? Flying cars? Jetpacks? Time-Travel? Well, we’re far from achieving most of those things as of now, but some things are closer than you may expect. In my opinion, drones are one of the closest things to the future as of this moment. They revolutionized many different fields including health care and the military. First, though, we need to understand what they are.

### What are drones and what are they used for?

A drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) controlled via remote control or software. Drones were originally made and used for the military. They were used as missile deployers controlled by a remote. Currently, though, there are a lot more uses. Military drones, also known as unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV), are used for stealth missions, rescue operations, and surveillance. The United States owns over 11,000 drones meant for military use. Over time, drones became more and more popular, not only in the military but for the public as well. There are over 1,782,479 drones registered across the United States as of 2020. Drones have a large variety of uses like delivering goods, construction, helping with search and rescue missions, and more recreational uses, like taking pictures or videos. Depending on the level of sophistication and uses, drone prices can vary ranging from a \$20 toy to a \$200 million high-tech machine. But, the most expensive drone available to the public costs only about \$2,500. Companies like Zipline use drones to deliver blood, vaccines, and medicines to local households, healthcare facilities, and places that are hard to get to using a ground vehicle. Drones can even be used for things like agriculture; to control weeds or fertilizer.



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### How do drones work?

Drones are made from lightweight materials to help reduce weight and increase mobility. Most military drones are made from carbon fiber composites that help them fly at high altitudes. They include several high-tech components which allow them to do the tasks that they can do. Drones have obstacle detection sensors that allow them to avoid collisions. Some top-end drones like the DJI Mavic 2, have an obstacle sensing system that will sense objects, then fly around them. It can do the same when flying backward. This technology is known as APAS (Advanced Pilot Assistance System). Most drones include something called gyro stabilization which helps the drone stabilize itself. Gyro stabilization technology is a very important part of a drone because it allows the drone to fly very smoothly even in strong winds. The gyro stabilization component, called a gyroscope, detects changes in the position of the drone and adjusts its position so it can remain level in the sky. To move in any direction, quadcopter drones, the most common type of drone with four propellers, have two propellers moving clockwise, and the other two moving counterclockwise. The propellers work in pairs, allowing the drone to move up, down, left, right, etc. Each quadcopter motor has a circuit called an Electronic Speed Control (ESC). Drones depend mostly on the speed of the motors to move in a given direction. The ESC gives the quadcopter drone all of the necessary controls to fly. A problem with the motors is overheating. To prevent this issue, drones have a built-in motor cooling system. The motors are designed using a centrifugal cooling system, along with cooling fins. Moreover, to find where it is located, drones have an integrated GPS, an internal compass, and a failsafe function. When the internal compass is calibrated, it finds the location of GPS satellites. When 6 or more are found, the drone knows its exact location. The failsafe function allows the UAV drone to go to a set place on a map.

### Drones in the future

In the future, as technology becomes far more advanced than it is today, drones will be taken to the next level. Instead of using drones for detecting forest fires, they could be equipped with the technology to stop them. Instead of just delivering medicine during emergencies, drones will be used more often to deliver, not only medicines but also ordinary day goods. For example, rather than have a driver, who might get stuck in traffic, accidentally take the wrong route, come an hour late, maybe even eat your pizza, companies could use drones to get the job done fast and efficiently. And even though they are very popular today, maybe in the future, they might be as common, or even more common, than cars.

## Boldness is a requisite for Success

By: Vaibhav Venkatesan

We more often prefer the simpler, predetermined plans in life for the sole reason that they are where we find comfort. However, this robs us of the chance of growth since we remain in the 'known' life like this.

Life without risk is barely living. We as humans yearn to make progress in life; we want to see ourselves reach milestones, conquer obstacles and grow into the people we've always wanted to be, but in order to do so, we must force ourselves to be more courageous.

That being said, it doesn't mean you have to be fearless or have all the answers; because nobody does, but what you have to do is show up and take decisions that make you fearful, nervous or even uncomfortable.

As students, we often prefer to be just blend into the crowd because of the fear of being judged, but because of this we tend to hold back from things we really want to do, as a result, we often avoid doing things we truly want to do, such as speaking up in class, asking a question, or performing in front of a crowd.



Being bold doesn't have to result in revolutionary outcomes, a bold life is built on the foundation of believing in ourselves and our ability to overcome barriers. With this attitude, we can try new things, challenge ourselves, and move on from our failures.

It's never too late to make bolder decisions by pushing past our own fears and limits that we impose on ourselves, boldness begins with defying societal standards and crafting a path to achievement through the unknown.



## Deeper into Space: A Journey to the End of the World

By: Avrupa Dey



Space is way more than just, The Solar System and the Sun. That magical place is filled with never-ending mysteries and clues of the future generations coming. There's more hidden behind the beautiful blue sky, cotton clouds, and the bright smiling sun. If you want to know what's beyond all of those, come on a journey with me, you'll be able to travel to the end of the world in your own comfortable house.

### #1: The Milky Way:

The Milky Way isn't just a delicious candy to eat, it's the galaxy where all the planets, the Sun and we people are living. We may call it a galaxy, but actually it's a spiral that's created by billions of stars combined together like ingredients in a chocolate cake. The galaxy is approximately made of 100 billion stars. The Sun is in the center of the galaxy. The Milky Way is so big it takes 250 million years for the Sun and the Solar System to go all around the center of the Milky Way. The most recent data displays the fact that the Milky Way has four spiral "arms." There are other galaxies like the Andromeda Galaxy which is also a spiral that is made out of numerous stars, but it may be a danger to the Milky Way since it's coming closer day by day. Scientists and researchers predict that after a few billion years, The Andromeda Galaxy may collide with each other.

### #2: Star Formation:

Just like any human, stars don't just become stars, they are born into stars. They start their life as clouds of dust that include different chemicals mixed into them. Soon, molecules start to kick and the cloud begins to collapse. The kick could come from anywhere; other clouds, supernovae and so much more. As it collapses, it breaks into small pieces of clumps until they become knots. When the knots start to heat up, the material in the center of the small pieces begin to accelerate heat and density. Then, the outward pressure that's pulling it in, causes it to become a protostar. If the protostar has masses of material, pressure and temperature is formed to begin a type of fusion called deuterium fusion. Stars that form can be of any size, small dwarf stars, or as big as our Sun. But, there can be stars even bigger than the Sun.

### #3: Earth Formation:

Earth wasn't just there the moment people started exploring space..it was once created into existence. Earth is our home, where we live right now, but how exactly was it created? Billions and billions of years ago, when the Sun had recently just formed into the world. It was shooting out light materials and gasses from its surface outward. The heavier materials and gasses resisted the urge to move outward and far away and stayed near the Sun. Soon the heavy material joined together forming clumps until it formed the outer prototypes of our soon to be planets. One of them would be the one we live on right now, Earth.

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The core of Earth formed first, the heavy material flying in space was pulled in creating the core of Earth. Outside of the core, it soon formed the crust; it's the lighter material that stuck to the outer edges. Another planet called Thea, was roaming freely until it crashed into Earth causing material to break off and clumping together eventually forming into a ball. Today, that ball is our Moon. The comets that used to collide caused all the water we have on Earth today. After going through many Eras, it finally became our home. The era is called Cenozoic Era. Today we live happily on the Earth which was once just material that shoots outward from the Sun. It is pretty hard to believe, but it's all true.

#### #4: Interesting and Recent Facts:

- It has been discovered that Jupiter has a new moon.
- A small flower-like fossil, smaller than a penny, has been found on Mars. **(Image Below)**
- A black hole that is closest to the Earth has been discovered.
- The Sun is starting to reawaken. It has been quiet but now it's erupting on the surface.
- Did you know that it would take you about nine or more years to walk on the surface of the moon?
- Did you ever see the Andromeda Galaxy with your naked eyes? If so, then you probably have seen approximately, 14.7 billion, billion miles away?



## The Hubble Space Telescope: Dream to Reality

By Eva Patel

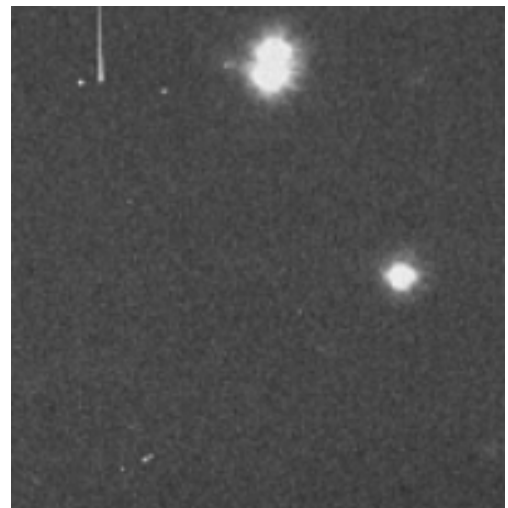
The Hubble Space telescope, named in honor of trailblazing astronomer Edwin Hubble, is a large telescope with the power to look into the depths of space clearly and send photos of the outside universe to Earth. It has been used to discover new things about planets, and even find the locations of new galaxies and celestial beings. Today, it is seen on social media, the news, and all over the internet, especially on [What Did Hubble See on Your Birthday?](#)



In the 18th century, telescopes were all the rage for exploring space all over the world, because scientists like Gallelio had made life-changing discoveries with them. Stars that couldn't be seen by the naked eye were now seen by telescopes. Advances in photography, spectroscopy and photometry increased telescope versatility and discovery power. By the 20th century, astronomers believed that the universe existed of gas, our galaxy, and dust.

However, in the mid 1920's Edwin Hubble used a 100 inch Hooker telescope to study galaxies other than the Milky way, only to find them moving away from one-another. This suggested the theory that our universe was expanding. Around this time, scientist Hermann Oberth wrote a book about how a telescope could be propelled into space by a rocket. Afterwards, astrophysicist Lyman Spitzer wrote a book about the benefits of sending a telescope into space. Years later, Nasa launched two Orbital Astronomical Observatories into the depths of space. Scientific companies, governmental, and industrial groups tried researching and testing to go beyond using Orbital Astronomical Observatories. Their idea of using a large space telescope was approved by The National Academy of Sciences in 1969.

Throughout the next few decades, NASA and other numerous astronomical and science-related organizations put together the pieces of making this giant telescope. It had to have a lifespan for at least 15 years, meaning that its materials had to be changed in space every so often. A spaceship with a safe storage and release compartment had to be specially built so that the rocket and the telescope didn't explode, or catch on fire when entering space. The telescope was ready in 1985, but that's when disaster struck. The Challenger accident of 1986 forced NASA to stop their shuttle lines for 2 years.



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In this time, astronomers used new and improved technology as well as solar panels, which were a new idea to further support the spaceship. And after over 20 years of hard work, the telescope and spaceship were ready.

On April 24, 1990, the Discovery space shuttle launched into space, with the Hubble Space telescope tucked inside. The next day, Hubble was released into orbit and ready to make new discoveries that would someday change the world. However, when Hubble began returning data to the earth, the images were fuzzy and stars were surrounded by blurry halos of light. The scientists and engineers realized that the mirror of the telescope's edges were too flat by just a fraction of the width of a hair. The engineers had to be that precise when making the telescope. Although the mirror was shaped to a perfection, the mirror couldn't focus on a single star or a point of light. This mirror was later replaced with an instrument called the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 in 1993. Over the next few years, Hubble was visited multiple times in order to make its sightings be seen clearer, and make it go further into space. After numerous failed experiments to improve the telescope, NASA replaced Hubble's parts with other things, like new batteries and gyroscopes, as well as a new scientific computer.

Today, Hubble has been up and running for over thirty years, dominating the mission goal of a mere fifteen years. Over this time, the telescope has taken over 1.5 million observations of the cosmos and beyond, going into the deepest areas of the universe. These observations helped publish about 20,000 more scientific discoveries, expanding our knowledge of space. Teams of scientists and astronomers are working to keep Hubble working for as long as they can, by replacing its worn out part with the latest technology, so that we can continue seeing things like black holes, the birth of new stars, and the atmospheres of other planets, which will help find possible alien life! Hubble's observations have greatly changed what we think about our universe, and will continue to do so for many more years to come.

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## **Are GMO Foods Safe?**

**By Harshvitha Parthasarathy & Dharshini Chidambaram**

GMO, "genetically modified organisms", is not necessarily the most appetizing way to describe food but is food nonetheless. So what exactly does GMO mean? When you go to the grocery store and see an item labeled as GMO, it means that those plants have unnaturally altered DNA through "biotechnology" or "genetic engineering". As of now, GMO foods are mostly made up of crops, most commonly corn and potatoes, but scientists and food manufacturers expect GMO animals and microorganisms will soon be introduced into the market. But, the real question is, are GMO foods safe to eat? As much controversy there is about this particular topic, there are many perspectives to consider.

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Over time humans have begun genetically enhancing other organisms through processes like selective breeding. You probably see them in your everyday lives, from seedless watermelons to purebred dogs. Scientists use a simple method called gene transfer technology that involves inserting DNA into a genome of an organism. A genome is an organism's complete set of genetic instructions, including your cells, DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), and chromosomes. Once the desired gene is identified it can be cut out, transferred to the target plant, and pasted into its genome.

The gene gun approach is one of the several gene transfer methods that incorporate this idea (look at the image). Once the new gene has been introduced to the plant, it can be bred to create a new chain that passes the gene from generation to generation. GMO foods can be created for a lot of different reasons. GMO foods are way easier and cheaper to produce which makes them cheaper for the consumer. This method also allows humans to alter the way certain foods look, taste, and what nutrients they provide.

There have been multiple concerns about how GMO crops can affect people's health, ranging from simple allergies to the worry that it could be causing the progression of cancers. Some people believe that because GMO foods have foreign genes, they might trigger an allergic reaction but research has shown that GMO foods are not any likelier to trigger a reaction than their non-GMO counterparts. As for the progression of cancers, there isn't much evidence that proves either side. Since cancer is caused by DNA mutations it makes sense that genetically modified foods have made people worry, but the American Cancer Society has made it clear that there's no current evidence of GMO foods causing an increase or decreased risk of cancer. But, there haven't exactly been any long-term human studies. There has also been the worry about how GMOs would affect the environment. But, despite the distressed scientists, there has been no evidence or reports against GMO foods that have proven the theories. But no one knows for sure if there are actually any risks in eating GMO foods, even though there are a couple of research projects conducted, more long-term studies have to be conducted to reach the final verdict.

Unlike some other countries, there is currently no restriction in the US preventing the manufacturing of GMO products. Despite such controversies, GMO foods have taken root in our world, and as with any new technology, we have the responsibility to inform ourselves about genetically modified plants, to make decisions about their responsible use, regulation, and general safety.

## The Father of Genetics

By: Pallavi Kothapalli

Did you know that humans share 90% of their genetic code with mice and 98 percent with chimps? Genetics is a branch of biology which studies heredity and genes and how certain traits are passed down from parents to offspring as a result of alterations in DNA. DNA, also known as deoxyribonucleic acid, is a molecule found inside cells that contains genetic information and is accountable for an organism's growth and function. Genetics is a field of science that explains traits as simple as eye color, or as complex as vulnerability to hereditary diseases. Gregor Mendel, the father of genetics, is known to have made these discoveries.

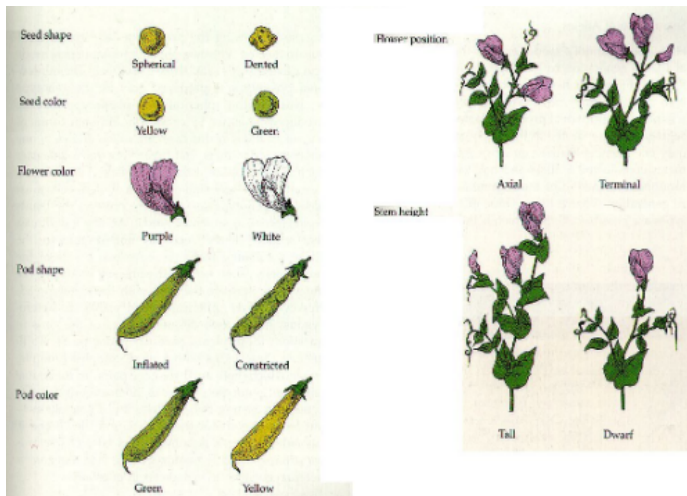


Gregor Mendel was an Austrian monk who conducted experiments in his garden to establish the basic principles of heredity. Mendel's findings laid the groundwork for contemporary genetics and the study of heredity, and he is largely regarded as a genetics pioneer. Gregor Johann Mendel was born on his family's farm in what was then known as Heinzendorf, Austria, on July 20th, 1822, to Anton and Rosine Mendel. At the age of 11, his schoolmaster was astonished by his ability to learn and suggested that he be sent to Troppau Secondary School to continue his schooling. Though the transfer put a financial strain on his family, Mendel focused on his studies and graduated with honors from the school in 1840. Following his graduation, Mendel participated in a two-year study at the University of Olmütz's Philosophical Institute.

He excelled there, notably in the fields of physics and math. Despite intense periods of depression that prompted him to temporarily abandon his studies on several occasions, Mendel successfully completed the course in 1843. He went against his father's wishes and became a monk. At the St. Thomas Monastery in Brno, he entered the Augustinian order and was given the name Gregor. Mendel continued his studies in many different places later on in his life. He met many people who studied all different fields in his education. At some point after Mendel returned to his monastery in Brno, he received a teaching position. It was at this time when he conducted his most successful experiments.

One of his most famous experiments was his pea plant experiment. Mendel chose to use pea plants for his experiments because of the variety of different types as well as the ease with which offspring could be generated. He crossed-fertilized pea plants with clearly opposing characteristics—tall with small, smooth with wrinkled, green seeds with yellow seeds, and so on.

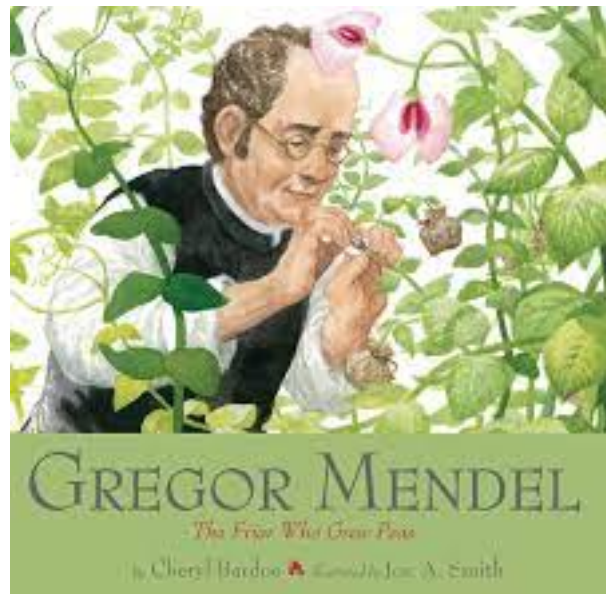
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He then analyzed the data to come up with two of his most important discoveries: the Law of Segregation, which proved that dominant and recessive features are passed down to children at random from parents; The Law of Independent Assortment, which showed that qualities were passed down from parent to offspring irrespective of other traits. He further claimed that this heredity was determined by statistical law ("Scientific law explaining a phenomenon in probability of occurrence of relationships underlying it")

Despite the fact that Mendel's tests were conducted on pea plants, he proposed the hypothesis that similar features existed in all living things.

Gregor Mendel went on to discover many more great things and spread his findings. Mendel gave lectures to the Natural Science Society in Brno, and his findings were recorded in their journal under the title Experiments on Plant Hybrids. All of these discoveries were a huge leap in the scientific study of heredity. In the world of genetics, Mendel's initial experiments blossomed to make many discoveries to enrich our understanding of life.



## Which One Is Better: Braces or Invisalign?

**By: Darshini Bandapalli**

People love the look of Invisalign, yet many people opt for braces. Both Braces and Invisalign are two popular orthodontic treatments used to align teeth and the result can be stunning, but it can be hard to know which method is better for YOU!

### Braces:

Braces have always been a go-to treatment for people who need complex corrections. It's also not removable without an orthodontist doing it. On the other hand, Invisalign is removable. Orthodontists usually suggest taking them out when you brush and eat but they should stay on your teeth. If you don't wear them regularly, there may not be much change from before you got them to when your treatment is over.

Before concluding which might be a better choice for you, let's hear an experience from a 6th grader from WWMS who has braces.

Me: Are they annoying?

Rohini: Initially, yes they are, but gradually you get used to them and they don't hurt that much. In case they do, drink cold water or have ice cream (the orthodontist will tell you this when you get them). I usually take painkillers when they hurt.



Me: How much does it cost on average?

Rohini: My braces cost \$3,500 but it depends on your orthodontist.

Me: How many times do you have to meet your orthodontist on average?

Rohini: About once a month, and if there are any problems, I meet my orthodontist right away.

Me: Can braces fit any lifestyle? In other words, based on your lifestyle, can braces be an annoyance?

Rohini: Not really, because when you get your braces, then they give you a pack to take care of them, and in it, there is some wax to put on the braces in case they start hurting you or they're annoying you. I know, it sounds disgusting, but it helps.

Me: What advice would you give to patients debating whether Braces or Invisalign is a better option for them?

Rohini: Well, it's really up to them, as they're the ones using it, but some advice is to trust your gut. It doesn't matter what other people use, and it's up to you to decide.

**Continued**



Me: What is the most popular color for braces and what would you suggest?

Rohini: Some popular colors are pink, orange-ish red, green, blue, yellow, and purple. I would suggest *not* to choose blue or white, as they get dirty very easily. Choose more of a darker color so that the color lasts longer, and it doesn't get stained easily.

Well, that's interesting. Hopefully, you got some important information from this interview. Thanks, Rohini! After all, she *did* say it was totally up to you and your comfort.

### **Invisalign:**

Invisalign is also another treatment orthodontists offer for people without much-needed complex corrections. Invisalign is still a great option and alternative to braces, but before you choose let's hear another side to this dilemma from another WWMS student who has Invisalign.

Me: What is the best thing about Invisalign?

WWMS Student: It does not hurt and you can eat whatever you want. Additionally, you can take them off for your convenience.

Me: Are there any bad effects of Invisalign?

WWMS Student: Not really! But it might be a longer treatment than braces.

Me: How much does it cost on average?

WWMS Student: (not sure)

Me: How many times do you have to meet your orthodontist on average?

WWMS Student: Usually every 12 weeks or longer. You do not have to go as often as people with braces.

Me: What happens at your Invisalign appointment?

WWMS Student: They usually just check if everything is alright and then scan my teeth to give me more Invisaligns!

Me: What advice would you give to patients debating whether Braces or Invisalign is a better option for them?

WWMS Student: Invisalign is a better option. However, if your teeth need major help, braces are the way to go.

Very interesting! At the end of the day, it's truly up to you and your convenience. I'm sure that whatever you decide is a great option and is sure to transform your teeth in a spectacular way!

## The Legend Of Zelda Breath Of The Wild: A Video Game Review

By: Tanisi Sahai and Aiman Ahmed Shaik



Have a nintendo switch, but don't have any fun and interesting games to play? Well you should feast your eyes upon The Legend Of Zelda: Breath Of The Wild. While Zelda games have always been huge, The Breath Of The Wild feels grand, it's a massive world with so much to do.

Breath Of The Wild starts as the series hero Link, awakens in a dark cavern. There, a mysterious voice guides him to a tablet that resembles the Nintendo Switch/Wii U controller. The tablet helps navigate this version of Hyrule, the fantasy realm which is the heart of all Zelda adventures. You learn in really early parts of the game that a century ago, a malicious entity destroyed much of the world, littering the land with many abandoned/still functioning machines of war. People still exist, in small towns and stables, but the vast majority of Hyrule is beset by hordes of monsters. This is a very dangerous place, and naturally, your job is to set things right again.

One of my personal favorite things about this game is the map. Filling out and understanding Breath Of The Wild's map itself, instills a deep sense of adventure. In most games, your map of the game is usually overfilled with icons from the very beginning. You can spot where everything is located, before you even start exploring. It can start feeling overwhelming. Breath Of The Wild, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. When you first start out in the game, the map is almost completely empty. You can see the many dividing lines between various areas of Hyrule, but none of their details. Things only start to appear once you start exploring them. A town won't appear on the map until you actually go there, which you can only accomplish by finding it on your own. Discovering new places in this game, truly does feel like a true act of discovery.

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Not only is the Breath Of The Wild's map large; it is also extremely dense. While you play, you will constantly discover new places and puzzles. My personal favorite addition to the game are the shrines - glowing caverns that are scattered throughout the map of this game. Early on in the game, these Shrines are used for tutorials, to show Link's powers - like his ability to use bombs - but later they become essential parts to the game. These are even better, because unlike typical Zelda puzzles, the Breath of the Wild's shrines often have multiple solutions.

Moreover, if you finished the game and don't want to buy the DLC, you can try finding/completing all 120 shrines, and obtain a surprising reward, which you will need to buy the game to find out.

In addition to an exquisite map, in Breath Of The Wild, some features completely change the world you view. In addition to the standard methods of transportation; foot, horse, and fast travel - In this game Link also has the ability to climb on every surface you come across, and an epic motorcycle in the DLC. If you spot a castle or a mountain, you can climb it. The only 2 restraints to this is Link's stamina, which grows over time and can be fought with things like potions, and there are clever ways around this. Yet, one obstacle you can't overcome is the weather. In Breath of the Wild, Link can now cook. For instance, we can gather ingredients from the wild, and use them to make food for health or buffs abilities. Cooking isn't really explained in the game, but it just makes the game a lot more compelling. Cooking up a tasty mushroom rice ball by guessing instead of with a recipe gives this satisfying feeling. These features are so awesome, that even other games are ripping them off(I'm looking at you Genshin Impact!)

This game also has many survival elements to it, for example, forcing you to protect Link from the extreme heat and cold. You'll often find Link either shivering or sweating because of the atmosphere around you, thus causing his health to deplete. In this game, for the first time in **any** Zelda game, your swords and shields degrade as you use them. But weapons in this game can be found everywhere.

Here's where Breath of the Wild isn't normal, compared to other traditional video games, if you're a level 5 character in a typical RPG, you definitely wouldn't want to go inside of a dungeon with level 10 enemies. And there's a whole lot of items and abilities you cannot use nor get until you meet the appropriate level for those things. Breath of The Wild completely throws this logic away. Link does gain more health and stamina as the game progresses, and you can acquire stronger weapons and armor, however Link himself doesn't get stronger. He himself doesn't learn how to swing a sword any better, but you do. Personally, it is one of the most challenging Zelda games I have ever played.

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Stepping aside from the game itself, one of the game's most notable features is its audio. All thanks to the work of Koji Kando. When you explore the first few areas of The Great Plateau, fighting a few of the game's enemies, the composition style has such a diverse and original feeling to it. "The Great Plateau" has a very calming and ambient piano underscore, making it such a beautiful and easing piece to listen to. "The Great Plateau" is only one of the many musical pieces in this game that make it so relaxing to play and enjoy.

The Breath Of The Wild, is just one of the many beautiful continuations to the Zelda video game franchise (and Link's body, cause he be lookin' ripped!), which can be proven by the Game of the Year 2017 award. The heart in Zelda games lies in exploration, and the Breath of The Wild takes this idea, and smoothly expands upon it. It pulls and utilizes ideas from other games, and adds them perfectly into the Zelda universe. It's exactly the Zelda game we, and other avid Zelda fans have been waiting for. **Therefore causing us to give it a final rating of 9.5/10 stars.**

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## Why Does Body Shaming Need To Stop?

by: Diya Mehta

### What is Body Shaming?

A lot of people are insecure about their bodies, even if they don't show it. There is always something that someone wants to change about their physical appearance. Whether it be to be skinnier or to be taller, it's an insecurity of theirs. When people body shame others it points out that insecurity and they are just making that person feel bad about themselves. Body shaming according to Oxford Languages is "the action or practice of humiliating someone by making mocking or critical comments about their body shape or size." However, people may not always directly do it, but instead, make negative comments about someone's body indirectly. They might say something like, "Do you want to eat that much?" In some circumstances, someone may not be body shaming you, instead, you're the one putting yourself down. For example, someone might say to themselves, "This dress makes me look so fat." Body shaming is something that happens to many people around the world, but it sometimes goes unnoticed and those people don't end up getting the help that they need.

### Is Body Shaming *just* a joke?

Often I see people joking around with their friends about their friend's physical appearance. As this might seem like a joke to many people, some may not find it particularly funny, even if they laugh along.

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People sometimes laugh when they are put in an uncomfortable situation, so chances are that they are uncomfortable and are laughing along to not cause a scene. If this was a joke though then why are they putting others down when joking around? The purpose of a joke is to get everyone laughing and nothing is to be taken seriously or personally. They may say "oh it was not my intention to make them feel bad."

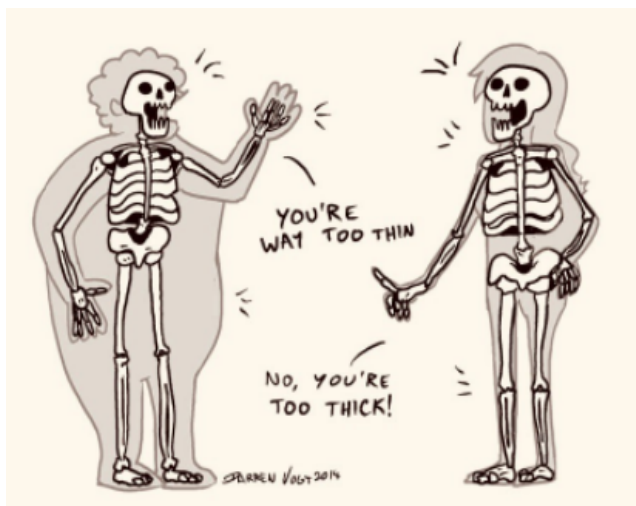


Well even if they intended to make someone feel bad they should think about how it could make someone feel bad. Before saying something like that they should think about whether or not someone would feel bad if that was said to them. Even if they wouldn't feel bad, everyone has their insecurities and there is no need to point them out to tease them. There is no exception for talking about someone's physical appearance unless someone is saying something positive or they are in a medical profession where they are giving a patient the care they need.

### **What are the effects of body shaming?**

Body shaming is bad and could lead to some serious issues. Some of those issues may include embarrassment, anxiety, sadness, anger, fear, low self-image, social anxiety, depression, and eating disorders. Eating disorders could be narrowed down into two categories: Anorexia or Bulimia. Anorexia is when a person starves themselves and Bulimia is when someone eats a lot of food, but then ends up puking the food out. People who have been body-shamed might do this because they believe the amount of food they ingest will change their appearance, but these methods are not recommended by doctors or medical professionals because it is unhealthy for someone's body. Overall, body shaming someone or yourself has no positive effects.

### **Fat Shaming Women vs. Short Shaming Men**



This is a common debate among people around the world, is fat-shaming worse than short-shaming or are they both equally bad? Both fat-shaming and short-shaming fall under the category of body shaming. In society, it is socially unacceptable to call a woman fat, though calling a man short is considered to be fine. If a woman can dismiss a guy because of his height, then shouldn't a man be able to reject a girl because of how much she weighs? They both are considered by society to be "disadvantages" in the dating world.

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Society condones short shaming, but then also claims that fat shaming is not acceptable. Nevertheless, fat-shaming could have more effects on a person health-wise. Regardless, both types of body shaming are bad and are not acceptable as they can result in people feeling bad about themselves.

### **How to get help if you're feeling insecure about your body?**

A lot of people feel insecure about how they look. Sometimes they might tell themselves things like, "I wish I look like her", "I wish I had fewer pimples", or "I wish I was slimmer" when they are insecure about themselves. Some effective ways to help a person have high self-esteem are to use daily positive affirmations, go outside, be aware of how they treat their body, and set healthy goals for their body that are not unrealistic. If these quick fixes don't seem to help them there are many organizations that can help them with overcoming their insecurities. Some organizations they can go to are the National Eating Disorder Association or any local support groups.

### **Summary**

In conclusion, body-shaming is something that should never be considered okay, no matter what physical feature someone is going after. This is because after all, it isn't someone's right to negatively comment on someone else's physical appearance to bring them down. If this is the case though, there are many local health organizations that can help with this problem.

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## **Minecraft Game Review**

**By Arjun Shinde**



Developed by a Swedish man named Marcus Notch, Minecraft was first made public in May 2009 and fully released in November 2011. In Minecraft, people use 3D blocky sculptures to build, gather, and use materials.

### **Game Play**

In Minecraft you don't have any requirements to meet, however, there are certain tasks that you can complete to get trophies.

**Continued**

Usually, you will play the game from a first-person perspective but you also can play in 3rd person. The game world is composed of multiple things, most of them are blocks and fluids. Some materials first appear as blocks. The game world is infinite at first, but before joining a map you can edit the size to medium, large, etc. When starting a new world you have four different options to play, these options vary from peaceful, easy, medium, and hard. Increasing the difficulty adds more mobs to the game and makes them do more damage. The modes you can play are creative and survival mode.

### **Survival Mode:**

In survival mode, players have to gather natural resources such as wood and stone in order to craft certain items. Depending on the difficulty, monsters spawn in darker areas outside a certain radius of the character, requiring players to build a shelter at night. This mode also makes the character have a health bar which decreases by taking fall damage or getting attacked by mobs. Players also have a hunger bar, which must be periodically refilled by eating food in-game, except in peaceful difficulty. Players can create a bunch of items in Minecraft such as a Diamond Sword or a Torch. The game has an inventory system, allowing players to carry a limited number of items, and once they die their inventory resets.

### **Creative Mode:**

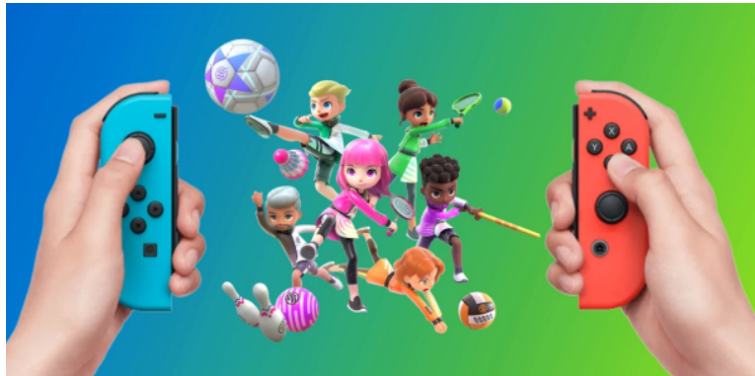
In creative mode, players have access to nearly all resources and items in the game through the inventory menu. Here, they can place or remove them instantly. Players can toggle the ability to fly freely around the game world at will. Their characters do not take any damage and are not affected by hunger. The game mode helps players focus on building and creating projects of any size without disturbance. In Creative mode, unlike survival, you cannot die as it is supposed to be a fun way to experience "life."

### **Education**

Minecraft has been used in multiple schools as an educational game. In 2011, an educational organization named MinecraftEdu was formed to introduce Minecraft into schools. The group works with Mojang to make the game affordable and accessible to schools. The version of Minecraft through Schools includes unique features to allow teachers to monitor the students' progress within the virtual world, such as receiving screenshots from students to show completion of a lesson or to check if the student is following up on what a teacher is trying to explain. In September 2012, MinecraftEdu said that "approximately 250,000 students around the world have access to Minecraft through the company" as stated by Mojang Studios. A wide variety of educational activities involving the game have been developed to teach students various subjects, including history, language arts, and science. "For example, one teacher built a world consisting of various historical landmarks for students to learn and explore for the subject of history." With The Introduction to Redstone blocks that represent an electrical wire, a student was able to create a hard drive using Minecraft. This game has made a big impact on many lives.

## Nintendo Switch Sports Coming Out Soon!

By: Anish Kamireddy



Nintendo Switch Sports, what is it and when can you get it? Well, Nintendo Switch Sports is the sequel to the game we all know and love, Wii Sports! Nintendo Switch Sports is coming out on April 29th, 2022. This new game consists of badminton, bowling, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and chambara. The game is on pre-order now ranging from \$49.99 to \$59.99. Keep an eye out for the release of this game as it will be out of sale in the first month or two!

This game uses motion sensors in the Joy-cons from the Nintendo Switch or Oled models just like the original Wii game. You can even use a new leg strap for the controllers for soccer! But unlike Wii Sports with Nintendo Switch Sports, you can play online with your friends. If you are good enough and have experience and skill, you might be able to get to the professional league!

There are some interesting extra features included in the game, player vs player modes of up to 2 are available including free for all where you all can play simultaneously. The game also includes customization for your Mii character! Nintendo released a sneak peek that golf will automatically be added to the game in an update in the fall. In addition, Nintendo sent out requests for people to test out the new game.

I hope you will consider buying the Nintendo Switch Sports, it is fun and gets you moving at the same time! This is a great game to play during the lockdown and quarantine as you get to stretch and exercise without having to worry about Covid-19 and leaving your house.



## Why All Middle Schools Should Have Recess

By: Danya Gillani



Going from elementary school to middle school is a big adjustment for most kids. There are different things like classes, friends, and lockers. One difference from elementary to middle school is the lack of recess. However, recess is actually really important. Here is why recess should be included in all middle schools.

### **It provides time to socialize**

Although academic studies are emphasized in school, interacting with peers socially should be considered just as important. Recess is a great time for this. It provides a time where kids can simply talk to each other, face to face, about something other than schoolwork. Kids can make friends and learn important skills, like how to resolve conflicts and communicate with each other effectively.

### **It makes time for physical activities**

Physical exercise is extremely beneficial for kids, especially at this age. Without recess, some kids don't have enough time to make sure they are spending enough time outdoors and keeping their bodies healthy. With all the schoolwork and homework piling up on kids during middle school, it can be easy to forget just how important a sufficient amount of physical activity is. Recess, even if it is only a short amount of time each day, is a great opportunity to get outside and get some fresh air.

### **How it affects kids emotionally**

Recess can be a time to take mental breaks and relieve yourself from the daily stress of schoolwork. It's a time where you can just take a break and loosen up a little. There should be at least a few minutes every school day where everybody can recharge for the rest of the day. This can actually help clear kids' minds and make them perform better on their schoolwork.

Recess is more beneficial than most people realize. Cutting out that daily break when kids graduate from elementary school means losing more than you think. These are only a few reasons why recess should be mandatory in all schools instead of just elementary schools. Though it is a controversial idea, the evidence is clearly in favor of recess, and hopefully after reading this article, you are too.

# Meet the 2021-2022 Executive Team!

## Editors

### Ishani Bakshi (8th Grade)

Hi! I'm Ishani, and this my third year of editing our wonderful Challenger; outside of the newspaper I am a MUN officer, National History Day participant, the pianist for Top Jazz, a Schoolhouse tutor, and a Vampire Diaries fanatic. Can't wait to work with all of you phenomenal journalists!



### Sai Bura (8th Grade)

Hi, I'm Sai and this is my first year being a executive and my 5th year of being in newspaper club! I enjoy many extracurriculars and love to participate in school activities. I'm excited for the year ahead of me as an executive in Newspaper Club.

### Iniya Karimanal (8th Grade)

I'm Iniya and this is my 5th year involved with newspaper and 2nd year as an editor. I love to write about historical and political issues I am passionate about , including human rights and the economy. Outside of newspaper I am captain of my debate team, owner of a small business, and love to crochet clothes. I look forward to another year editing the WWMS Challenger!



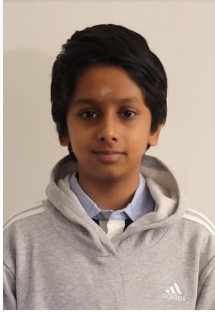
### Harshini Asokumar (8th Grade)



Hi! I'm Harshini and this is my third year being an editor for our spectacular Challenger! Besides this, I'm Student Council Vice President, Slam Poetry Captain, a Mun Delegate, National History Day Participant, and I'm on the Thursday Morning Announcements. It's been such a pleasure to work with the journalists in creating this edition and can't wait for the upcoming year!

## Sahasra Vedagiri (7th Grade)

Hi everyone! My name is Sahasra Vedagiri, and I am a 7th grader. I am one of the editors for the newspaper article, which looks phenomenal! Outside of school, not including Newspaper club, I participate in MUN, Scouting, and Odyssey of the Mind. One of my favorite books is Kalahari, and I can't wait to read many more amazing, and talented writings throughout this year.



## Pranav Murthy (7th Grade)

Hello everyone! I am an editor for our wonderful Challenger newspaper! I am also a part of many clubs, including the Math Competition team, Odyssey of the Mind, and the Chamber Orchestra. I enjoy writing stories and also like to learn about current events. I'm really excited to work with you writers!

## Layout Designers

### Chaitra Dantineni (8th Grade)

Hi, I'm Chaitra and this is my second year being a layout designer for the WWMS Challenger Newspaper! Outside of newspaper club, a few hobbies of mine include playing volleyball, baking, creating art, and doing outdoor activities in general. I look forward to another year being a part of this club and formatting the newspapers each season!



### Dharshini Chidambaram (7th Grade)

Hi, my name is Dharshini and I'm one of the layout designers for our newspaper! Other than newspaper & OM, I love to swim & play piano. It's been super fun working on the newspaper so far & I'm looking forward to what this year has to bring!

### Aryahi Nemala (6th Grade)



My name is Aryahi Nemala and I'm a 6th grade Layout Designer for our gorgeous school newspaper! I adore spending my free time outdoors and I am a total bookworm! I can't wait to meet more amazing WWMS students this year!

## Communication Directors

### Aditi Nagunoori (8th Grade)



Hi! I'm Aditi, and this is my second year in newspaper club, and it has been such an honor to contribute! Outside of newspaper, I'm an avid debater, a MUN delegate, a class rep, and a part of FBLA! I'm looking forward to collaborating with Woodrow Wilson's amazing writers!



### Darshini Bandapalli (6th Grade)

Hi! I am in the 6th grade and I am a Communication Director in the Newspaper Club. Two facts you probably didn't know about me are that I have one dog and when I grow up, I want to be an Orthopedic and own my own chain of hospitals.