

MUSTANG MONTHLY

~VOL. 2 ISSUE 5 - May 10, 2022~



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



Inside the Mustang Monthly by Allie McNerney



The Staff of the Mustang Monthly

Although the school newspaper is well known around the school and region, it is a relatively new club. Mr. Gaipa founded the club just last year after he became an English teacher here and saw that there was no student-run newspaper! Curious about the origins of the club, we reached out to Mr. Gaipa. When asked why he started the club, he was eager to tell the story.

“One day in September 2020 during lunch, a random 8th grader—a student I did not teach, although I wish I had—came running into my classroom, yelling, “Mr. Gaipa! Will you help me start a school newspaper?” I thought about it for about 10 seconds, and I replied, “Sure!”

I guess he had heard from other teachers and students that I might be a good person to help run the club.”

After about 50 kids piled into Mr. Gaipa’s room for that very first meeting, it was clear that the 8th grader was not the only one wanting a school newspaper. Although 50 people was an awful lot, Mr. Gaipa was no rookie when it came to advising school clubs. He said “At the other schools I’ve taught at, I have been the teacher advisor for activities like a Creative Writing Club and the Yearbook. New to a school, running a club is a perfect way for a teacher to get to know all types of students and do something cool to contribute to the school’s environment.”

This Month’s Issue: Inside the MM... pp. 1-2. The Oscars... pp. 3-4. Bees... pg. 5. Earth Day... pp. 6-7. Ms. Chicano... pg. 8. Mom Athletes... pg. 9. Comics... pg. 10. Mars... pg. 11. History of Easter... pp. 12-13. Mustang Monthly Staff... pg. 14.

Inside the Mustang Monthly

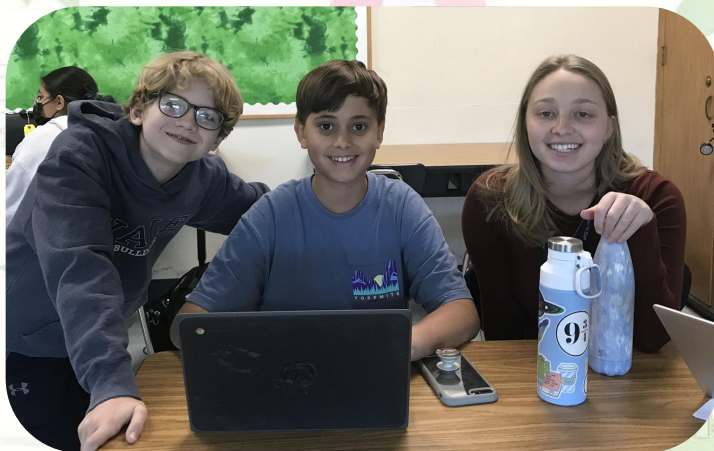
by Allie McNerney (continued from page 1)

Now, over a year later, the Mustang Monthly puts out a new issue every month, full of news about the school and community. It hasn't always been smooth sailing for the club, and Mr. Gaipa said that "there are certainly many obstacles in running a school newspaper. Most challenging is making sure that the content we publish is polished, accurate, and engaging. Much of the time I spend as the teacher advisor is spent reading, editing, and giving feedback on student writing."

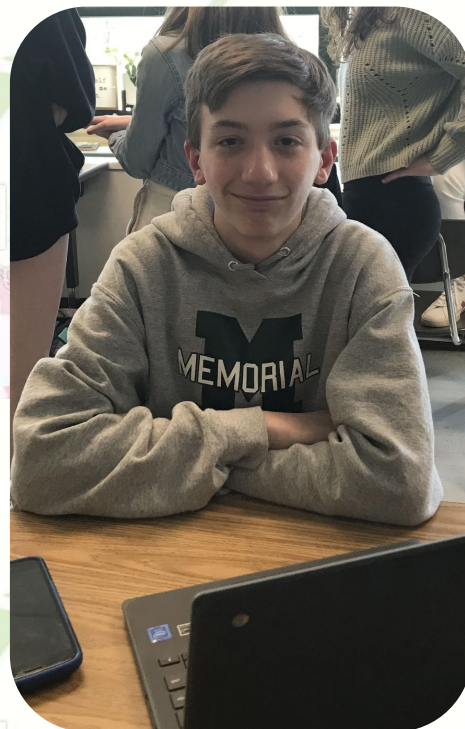
The club members age from 11-14, and writing interests and levels can change drastically during those years. Mr. Gaipa agreed that managing the ever-varying writing levels can be a definite challenge when putting out content that students and teachers will understand and enjoy. Mr. Gaipa told me that "As you know, this year I only teach 8th graders, so interacting with 6th and 7th graders in the club has been an interesting experience! An 11-year-old is quite different from a 13 or 14-year-old, so I am constantly trying to find the right way to communicate my ideas and questions."

There have been setbacks in the Mustang Monthly, but there has also been growth. For Mr. Gaipa, seeing the club flourish has been extremely rewarding. He told me that "both this year and last, the best part of running the club is seeing a student's reaction when they see their article published in the paper." Personally, I know from experience that seeing your hard work on paper is a great feeling. For Mr. Gaipa, knowing he played a part in creating that feeling is one of his favorite parts of the newspaper club. Another favorite part of the newspaper for Mr. Gaipa is "sitting outside, talking about what happened at school this week, talking about what we'll do over the weekend, playing music, and just enjoying the end of the week."

As a member of the Mustang Monthly for the past 2 school years, I can 100% recommend the newspaper club as a wonderful experience. If you are interested in joining the Mustang Monthly, email tgaipa@region15.org for more information! We would love new members!



Members Ryan, Donnie, and Ms. Jarret (above) and Thomas (below) hard at work brainstorming for another issue of the Mustang Monthly



The 2022 Oscars by Maura Witkowski

The 2022 Oscars was one of the most eventful Oscar ceremonies that has ever happened! So, what are the Oscars? The Academy Awards, better known as the Oscars, are awards for recognizing excellence in film. This year, the Academy Awards were held on Sunday, March 27th at the Dolby Theater, in Hollywood, California. Most people watch for their favorite actors to win awards, but there's also the outfits, the performances, and even the drama! What was your favorite part of this year's Academy Awards?

The Oscars 2022 Winners

This year's nominees were some incredibly talented actors and actresses, and some amazing films. But, ultimately there had to be some people taking home Oscars that night! Here are some of the best actors and films that won this year:

**Actor in a Leading Role -
Will Smith (King Richard)**

**Actress in a Supporting Role-
Ariana Debose (West Side Story)**

**Actor in a Supporting Role-
Troy Kotsur (CODA)**

Animated Feature Film- Encanto

Cinematography- Dune

**Costume Designer-
Jenny Beavan (Cruella)**

Best Picture- CODA

With some of the highest numbers in the Academy Awards:

Dune- 6 wins

CODA- 3 wins

Encanto- 2 wins



Ariana Debose (Encanto), Troy Kotsur (CODA), and Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye) all posing with their Oscars



Will Smith crying in speech after Oscars win

The 2022 Oscars by Maura Witkowski (continued from page 3)

Drama in this year's Oscars

Chris Rock is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, producer, and film director. At the Oscars, he was announcing an award when he started cracking jokes. Although this seemed normal for a comedian, his attention quickly turned to Jada Pinkett Smith, Will Smith's wife. "Jada, I love you. G.I. Jane 2 can't wait to see it. Alright?" G.I. Jane is a 1997 movie about women going into military services, where most of them have to shave their heads. This is specifically sensitive to Jada Pinkett Smith because of the fact that she has alopecia, a condition that causes dramatic hair loss.

After Chris Rock made this joke, Will Smith was seen laughing at it in the audience. But, Jada Pinkett Smith was not so satisfied. From the camera's point of view, it seems that Jada said something to Will before Will stood up and slapped Chris Rock.

The incident, which originally appeared scripted, caused ABC to mute the live segment. The King Richard star returned to his seat before saying, "Keep my wife's name out your mouth!" In response, Rock attempted to laugh the situation off before promising not to mention Jada.

Shockingly, Will Smith later won an Oscar and let out some tears in his speech, apologizing to the academy. Smith also went on to resign from the Academy: "I am resigning from membership in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and will accept any further consequences the Board deems appropriate," Smith said in a statement shared with CNN by his publicist. This means that Will Smith will no longer be attending the Academy Awards, and cannot ever be nominated for one again. Although it is sad that he may never win an award as great as this again, it may be good for him.



Will Smith smacking Chris Rock

Highlights of the Oscars 2022

Troy Kotsur makes Oscars history as the first deaf man to win in acting. The 2021 film, CODA, is about a girl named Ruby, who is the only hearing member of a deaf family. The story follows her as she finds her way around life while discovering her interests. Troy Kotsur won the "Actor in a Supporting Role" award, Kotsur plays the main character's deaf dad.

Will Smith wins his first Oscar right after a dilemma with Chris Rock. Will Smith, who plays Richard Williams in the 2021 film, King Richard, won "Actor in a Leading Role." Significantly, his win was right after his conflict with actor, Chris Rock.

The 2021 movie, Dune, won the most Oscars this year. Dune, starring Timothee Chalamet, Zendaya, and Oscar Isaac, won 6 Oscars this year after being nominated for 10. Dune is a sci-fi film that came out in October, 2021. This movie won in cinematography, editing, score, visual effects, production design and sound. Although this movie was top in award wins this year, it doesn't beat the most Oscars a film has ever won, which was Titanic, with 11 wins and 14 nominations.

Bees... How could we BEE better?

By Thomas Harris

Bees, where would we BEE without them? Sure they might not seem relevant to you right now, but the overall population of them is declining. Bees make honey for us as well with pollinating flowers, but what else do they do?

Take all of the food we have... now take away $\frac{1}{3}$ of it, and that's how much of our food bees pollinate. Without them not only will the amount of food we have go down... but think of this: have you ever seen the bee movie?

If you haven't then I'll sum it up quickly, basically Barry B. Benson realizes that humans are "stealing" their honey, so he decides to sue the human race, which is crazy, but he wins the case (somehow) and so the humans stop taking the honey from the bees.

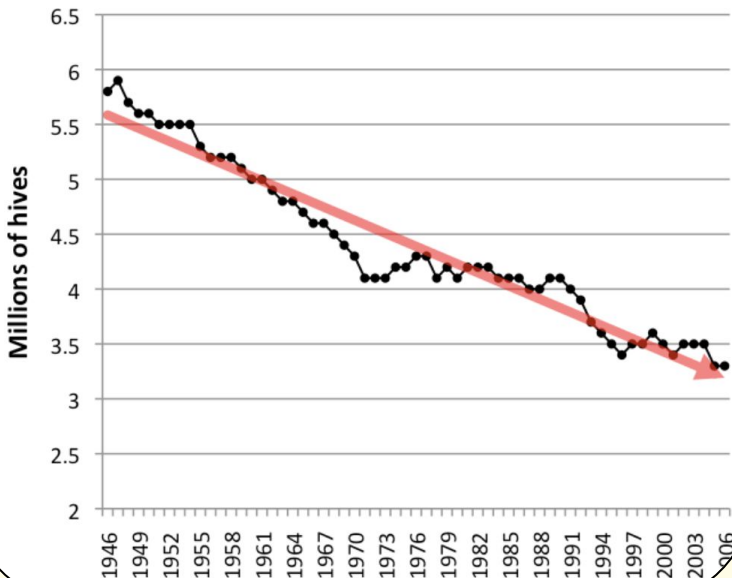
Here is the important part, when the humans stop taking their honey, the trees start to die because the flowers are being over pollinated and eventually the bees stop making honey because there is too much of it.

This is a prime example of what would happen without bees: trees would start to die, and what do trees make? You know it, you love it, you have to breathe it... oxygen. So without the bees, we would BEE dead. Bees pollinate plants, and even trees, so without bees who would pollinate the trees and plants?

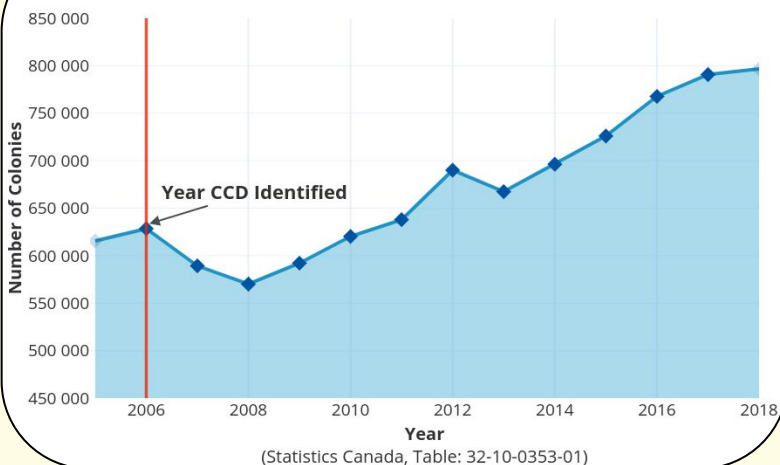
Even though we're advanced, I highly doubt that we could come up with a way to pollinate the trees and plants. We've been relying on bees for as long as people have walked this earth, which makes saving bees even more important.

So how can you BEE the change? How can you help save the Bees? You could plant a garden for bees to pollinate, or even plant some trees for bees to live in (A bit of a long term project) but all in all, you should BEE mindful about the population of bees and what you can do to help.

Millions of hives in the U.S.



Bee Colonies in Canada (2006 to 2018)



Earth Day by Marlo Gabriele

Earth Day has been around since spring of 1970. This long held tradition was established because many believed something had to be done. Previous to Earth Day people were consuming vast amounts of leaded gas. And to this day we still aren't making that much progress. We continue to destroy our forests, and pollute our towns despite the warnings.

I interviewed two people about Earth Day, Lexie and zoni. They both gave very similar responses. When asking what their biggest concerns about the earth were, they both said pollution and climate change. Pollution and climate change are both connected, the more pollution, the hotter it gets. This takes time though.

"Emissions of pollutants into the air can result in changes to the climate. Ozone in the atmosphere warms the climate, while different components of particulate matter (PM) can have either warming or cooling effects on the climate," states the US EPA. If we continue to destroy our planet, and keep releasing carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses, our air quality will worsen, we will experience extreme weather, and much much more: "If this activity continues then a lot of animals are going to go extinct and I don't think we really realize how much we depend on them, so if we continue to not solve these problems then this planet is just going downhill," says zoni.

And she's right. Americans are huge meat consumers and fast food consumers and animals are our main source of protein. Almost 30 percent of the world's snow-free land is used to raise livestock. We grow a lot of crops to feed animals, and we cut down a lot of forests to do that. But beef, far more than pork or chicken, contributes to environmental harm, in part because it requires much more land. The greenhouse gas production per serving of chicken or pork is about 20 percent that of a serving of beef. This is because cows release methane into the atmosphere when they breath, just like we release carbon dioxide. And because of this, raising livestock generates 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Forests help lower the risk of a sudden climate change, but we've cut down many forests to make room for livestock, many of which are treated inhumanely. This doesn't mean that eating meat is bad, and you shouldn't eat it; it just means that it's important to be more aware of what we are eating, and try to get meat and poultry from somewhere local.



Earth Day by Marlo Gabriele

(continued from page 6)

Earth Day isn't celebrated like Easter may be, and many of us don't count down the days till Earth Day. But many of us recognize Earth Day and try to help the earth even more, like Lexie: "I pay more attention to trying to preserve things, like running water, and inform others about it and if it's nice outside, I always love gardening."

But, we shouldn't only be treating the earth great on Earth Day, we should be treating it great everyday. Because climate change is only going to get worse if we don't change our ways almost immediately. 1,300 scientists from the United States and other countries, forecast a temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century, which therefore results in products such as an ice free arctic, sea levels rising, hurricanes becoming stronger, more droughts and heat waves, drastic changes in precipitation, and more. Some of these changes are inevitable, they are bound to happen with the very little progress we have made, but this doesn't mean it's time to give up. If anything it's time to motivate and to educate people on what global warming is and what to do to make the earth a cleaner place, so keeping that in mind here are some things to do to help the earth...

Ride your bike more often.

Take shorter showers. (The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.)

Shop wisely. (Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.)

Plant a tree. (Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.)

Use long lasting light bulbs. (Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!)

Volunteer. (Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.)

Reduce your waste. (Every product we buy has an environmental footprint and could end up in landfill.)

Ms. Chicano, Former Basketball Star!

By Megan Widlar

Here at Memorial, we have many teachers that have a past in sports. But some teachers in particular are still very involved in various sports. One of those teachers is Ms. Chicano. Ms. Chicano is the Freshman girls basketball coach at Pomperaug. I wanted to get a closer look at her background in basketball, her experience coaching, and her favorite memories.

The first question I asked Ms.Chicano was "What was her experience with basketball growing up?" Ms.Chicano first started playing basketball when she was in elementary school. In elementary school she said "I began playing on a rec team and absolutely loved it." This love for basketball continued throughout the rest of her school years. She played basketball for her middle school, as well as playing Jv and Varsity for her high school. But she didn't just play basketball during the season. During the off season Ms.Chicano said she continued to play."I would get involved with different leagues in order to keep myself involved with the sport. I also played in summer leagues as well and they were so much fun."

Next I was curious about her as a coach. I asked Ms.Chicano, "Why did you want to become a coach?" Her initial response was: "I wanted to become a coach because it is very similar to teaching, especially physical education." She then explained that she has always loved the sport of basketball and wanted to stay involved. But most of all she loves seeing how much the athletes progress over the season, and how happy they are when they do well. Along with why she became a coach I wanted to know what are some key things she has learned from coaching? "Coaching has taught me alot in a small amount of time," she said, Her three main takeaways are: you need a variety of drills/activities to get better, having fun is so important, and teammates need to work together and communicate to be successful.

Lastly I asked Ms.Chicano, "What is your favorite memory as a player or coach?". Without any hesitation she knew it had to be the past season she coached. She loved seeing how much the team improved from the beginning of the season to the end, and how their confidence on the court grew so much!

I enjoy seeing a different look at Ms.Chicano and her basketball coaching/playing career. Not only is an amazing teacher, but she is also amazing on the court!



Ms. Chicano in her days as a basketball player.



Athletes Who Are Also Mothers

by Sophia Dickens



Serena Williams

Now that the month is April and it is the rising of mothers day, there are some athletes who are mothers. Being an athlete and a mother at the same time is such an accomplishment. These mothers don't get the recognition they deserve. This mothers day we will be giving these athletes a spotlight.

Tennis star Serena Williams won the 2017 Australian Open while two months pregnant with her daughter Olympia. The 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams hasn't won a Grand Slam title since giving birth, but she has finished runner-up in the 2018 Wimbledon.



Alex Morgan

Alex Morgan, the co-captain of the U.S. women's soccer team, was seven months pregnant while training for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Morgan gave birth to her daughter Charlie Elena Carrasco in May of 2020. The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics allowed Morgan more time to train and recover from her child.



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

After Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce won the 100 meter sprint at the Athletics World Championships in Doha, she celebrated her victory with her son Zyion. Shelly-Ann stated "It was a long journey," What Shelly-Ann meant by that was time it took for her to get back into shape not only physically but also mentally was very challenging.

Comics Page by Amaris Fontanez



A Quick Detour to Mars by Olivia Williams

Oh yes, the Planet Mars is a very nice view to see if you ever go to space and travel 172.07 million miles. But have you ever wondered what Mars was named after or more specifically whose name it uses?

Who Mars is Named After

Who specifically Mars is named after is the god of war whose name is Mars (how convenient). The Romans named the planet after the god of war because Mars' reddish color was reminiscent of blood.

More info on the god of War Mars or Ares (Greek Mythology): He was The son of Jupiter and Juno and one of the most prominent war gods. The power of

Mars/Ares is

Immortality

Divine Weaponry (spear/sword/shield) Shield

Proficiency. Spear Proficiency. Swordsmanship.

Guardianship (of Rome)

Plant Manipulation. Plant Growth.

Sacrificial Power (usually the sacrifice of an enemy's weapon)

(Picture 2: The god of combat and strategy Mars)

Just to name a few.



An image of the planet Mars



NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover

Also even though I refer to Mars and Ares as the same they had different personalities entirely.

Mars was more the god of strategy and combat whilst Ares was just the god of war.

What's happening to Mars

NASA's Curiosity Mars rover spent a lot of time on Mars in March scaling up the "Greenheugh Pediment" - a gentle slope capped by rubbly sandstone. But on March 18th this little rover found something unexpected: the terrain changed ahead of it and realized it would have to turn around. But the path ahead showed some great finds like wind-sharpened rocks or ventifacts that they have never seen in the rover's nearly 10 years on the Red Planet. This find can prove many things: like it can prove there was life on Mars and if humans are able to survive based on these discoveries.

The History of Easter by Ramin Qurbani

Easter is a Christian holiday. It is mostly celebrated somewhere between March 22nd and April 25th. Though with a different version of Christianity (Eastern Orthodox Christianity), it is celebrated between April 4 and May 8. It is signified by painted eggs, and is considered a “movable feast”; this means that it can take place between the two dates I mentioned earlier. The history of this seemingly simple holiday about eggs is probably deeper than you thought.

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection/revival of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament in the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus happened exactly three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in 30 A.D. (Anno Domini, which means “In the year of our Lord”), his death happened on the previous holiday, Good Friday.

Easter is called Easter because a saint, specifically St. Bede the Venerable, says that the English word “Easter” comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility, Eostre. Though, others say that “Easter” comes from “in albis”, a phrase in Latin that is plural for “dawn”. Despite its significance in Christianity, many of the traditions and symbols of Easter actually have a history in pagan celebrations; such as the goddess Eostre (mentioned earlier) and the Jewish holiday of Passover.

The resurrection of Jesus, as it was described in the New Testament in the Bible, states the foundations of the religion of Christianity, which is why it is significant in Christianity. As stated in the New Testament, Jesus was arrested by Roman authorities because he stated that he was the “Son of God”; and some thought that he was a threat to the Roman empire. He was sentenced to death by the emperor of Tiberius in the 1st century, named Pontius Pilate. Like I have stated, Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion, and the day that he died was marked on the Christian calendar as “Good Friday”. After his resurrection three days later, the authors of the gospels proved that Jesus was indeed the living son of God.

Easter is also commonly associated with the Jewish holiday called “Passover”, as well as the exodus from the Jews from Egypt in the Old Testament. These links to each other were seen in the Last Supper, which happened the night before Jesus’ arrest and his punishments. The Last Supper was the same exact thing as a Jewish Passover feast. Though, the New Testament called it different as it was given more significance due to Jesus being there. In the Last Supper, he called the bread (called matzah) he shared with 12 of his apostles as Jesus’ “body” and the wine they drank as “blood”.



The History of Easter by Ramin Qurbani

(continued from page 12)

The rituals in the Last Supper symbolized the sacrifice he was going to make, and he became the basis of the ritual in Christianity called the “Holy Communion”.

In most western Christianities, the time before Easter holds more significance as well. The previous 40 days before Easter is called “Lent”, it begins on Ash Wednesday (the 41st day before Easter, not including Sundays). In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, the pre-Easter rituals also start with the “Great Lent”, which begins on Clean Monday (also the 41st day before Easter, not counting Sundays). The last week of Lent or the Great Lent is referred to as Palm Week, and ends with Lazarus Saturday; Palm Sunday starts the beginning of Holy Week, which ends on Easter.

Non-religious Easter traditions include easter egg hunts, easter egg rolling, and easter egg decorating.



Egg decorating might be part of the Easter celebration due to the religious significance of Easter, in Jesus' resurrection/rebirth. There are also Easter Egg Hunts where people (mostly children and kids) hunt for hidden easter eggs; one of the most famous Easter Egg Hunts is the “White House Easter Egg Hunt”, which is an annual event.

Another part of non-religious Easter traditions is the Easter Bunny; the Easter Bunny gives out candy and chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny is thought to have originated from German immigrants coming to America in 1700; in many cultures, rabbits are usually associated with birth and renewal. Other Protestant Christians, including Quakers and Lutherans opted to abandon a lot of Easter traditions.

Other traditions such as Easter food are very symbolic, for example, a dinner of lamb has great historical roots. This is because lambs are used as sacrificial animals in most Jewish traditions as they are frequently eaten on Passover. Also, the phrase “lamb of God” is used to describe Jesus and the nature of his death, in which case his death was “sacrificial”.

MUSTANG MONTHLY

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

.....



Teacher Advisors
Mr. Gaipa and Ms. Jarret

Editor in Chief - Allie McNerney



Assistant Editor in Chief - Jasleena Thind

Assistant Editor in Chief - Kassidi Houck

News

Section Editor - Luke Bevilacqua

Thomas Harris
Shaivi Gaddam
Maura Witkowski

Arts & Culture

Section Editor - Emma Sander

Nora Santoli
Lily Scozzafava
Ramin Qurbani

Here @ MMS

Section Editor - Daniela Ardino

Comics & Games

Amaris Fontanez
Elias Jabri
Camila Reyes

Opinion & Politics

Section Editor - Ryan Murray

Donald Scacco
Marlo Gabriele

Advertising & Design

Section Editor - Riddhima Chaurasia

Design

Cole Hayes
Marian Chesney-House
Olivia Williams

Advertising

Jamaryz Ruiz
Evan Gilliam

Sports

Section Editor- Megan Widlar

Sophia Dickens
Ayla Feratovic
Anabelle Greenwood
Akash Bajaj

Copy Editor - Marlo Gabriele

