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## *Be Nice and Do Your Best: Mr. Fahler Retires*

By Faith Jones (8th)

How do you measure the worth of a human being? Is it by the work they do or the people they help? Is it by their readiness to lend a hand or their compassion for others?

The simple answer is, you can't.

However, you can appreciate the things they do every single day, because you may not realize how much it means until they are gone.

Mr. Fahler has been in the education game for a long time, over 20 years in fact. He has worn many hats, including that of a high school math teacher, assistant principal, and a long-time principal of CMS.

Now he is taking on a whole new path. Retirement.

Mr. Fahler walked us through his career in teaching starting with his

experiences as a student.

From a young age, Mr. Fahler loved school: he was involved in sports and always thought it would be fun to be a teacher. That dream came true when he became a Math teacher

he worked with, and so it was a big change going from a high school teacher to a middle school principal.

This was a hard concept for him to grasp, as he went from the role

of immediate role model to a disciplinary figure. In order to try to connect to kids and still teach them the life lessons he so believed in, Mr. Fahler began saying the morning announcements, and the birth of the two maxims

we know so well.



for a local Lehigh Valley high school, also coaching the basketball team. Teaching gave him a new view on life as he built relationships and grew to adapt to each student's learning needs, ultimately learning a lot himself.

Mr. Fahler was close with every student



## *Mr. Fahler Retires (continued)*

*“Other than my family, teaching at Colonial has been my greatest gift.”*

Since that day, the words “Be kind and do your best” have rung through the hallways of CMS. Every morning, for nearly 20 years.

Within two decades of teaching many you-have-to-see-it-to-believe-it moments have happened. As they happen Mr. Fahler has learned it is best to adjust to the situation and do whatever you can to help.

Not only does he strongly believe in it, but Mr. Fahler also shows us this value everyday, whether we see it or not. During COVID, there were multiple times when students didn’t have access to the supplies they needed, so Mr. Fahler dropped them off himself.

We often don’t realize how much he does around our school and community. Since October, Mr. Fahler has been working on getting his bus driver’s license amidst the shortage—ready to step in to help serve our school and its students. He is currently subbing in for two math teachers because no subs are available. He has even picked up a child to bring them to school after they overslept and missed the bus.

He does all of this, not for the recognition, but because he cares.

“If you don’t love kids, you are probably in the wrong profession,” he said, which couldn’t be more true.

At the end of a busy day Mr. Fahler has often looked at his to-do list and checked off not even half the boxes, before adding twice as many. Most nights, he’s at school far into the evening, cracking open a can of Chef Boyardee for dinner, simply so he can power through with the

work he wants to get finished.

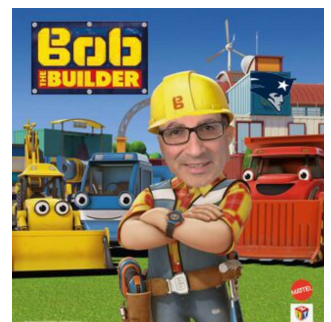
He has said that this job keeps him constantly busy, but he couldn’t be more grateful for it.

“Teaching at Colonial has been my greatest gift other than my family,” he admitted.

But when your life revolves around your incredibly busy job for nearly 20 years, what do you do when you wake up on the Tuesday after Labor Day and realize you don’t have to go to school?

As long as he can find someone to help, he said, he can keep himself busy. That is not to say Mr. Fahler doesn’t have plans.

He wants to renovate his house for his wife, spend more time with his kids and grandkids, and take care of his parents and in-laws.





## *Mr. Fahler Retires (continued)*

“[Being a middle school principal] has been one of my greatest blessings.”

And after so much time looking out for all of us first it's time for Mr. Fahler to focus on his own health again. Before Covid, Mr. Fahler used to walk almost 10 miles a day, a habit he would love to get back to. If needed, Mr. Fahler has said he would love to tutor kids in his free time, because he will miss helping kids after his last day at CMS.

But he said that he will miss the community he has built the most.

In his last days at our school, Mr. Fahler shared with us the most important advice he needs us to know. First, have patience; if something doesn't work

out the way you want, have faith—you cannot control everything in life, and it will all work out in the end.

“I never would have thought that I would end up being a Middle School principal in a district an hour from where I grew up, but it has been one of the greatest blessings of my life,” he said.

What has helped him more than anything else in his years here, and a lesson we should all learn, is to always be receptive to feedback—learning to accept that other people truly do want to help you.

For many of us, Mr. Fahler has been with us our entire middle school career, and whether we realize it or not, he has made a difference in our lives in more ways than we can or could count.

He has shared with us his life experiences, watched kids in our school grow from small insecure 6th graders to high schoolers, to college students, to adults, to

parents, and even some to teachers. And he has helped us in every way he could.

So on that last day of school, when the words “Be kind and do your best” come through the loudspeakers one last time, let's take heed.

Let's carry on the beliefs, and ensure the legacy that Mr. Fahler has left behind.



*Mr. Fahler “looking” forward to retirement.*

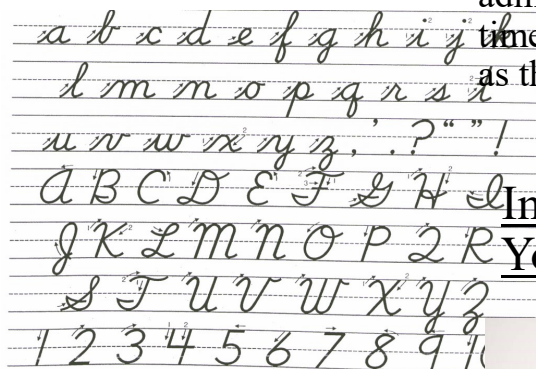


# *The Importance of Cursive*

By Avery Crump 6th

Some people think of cursive lettering as troublesome, while others believe it is easy. Then there are the people that do not even remember or know how to write in cursive at all. Brady Fox for one, states “I don’t remember how to write every cursive letter.” This is an issue—an issue we need to fix. Writing in cursive is crucial when you are an adult, which is why practicing cursive in middle school would be advantageous.

## Cursive’s Impact On the Child’s Mind



Though cursive is mostly used when you are an adult, cursive also has its benefits on children. It can improve spelling skills, which also helps with

recognizing more complex words.

Another effect is that writing in cursive can actually enhance a student’s intelligence. When you write in cursive, it can help train the brain to be able to take in as much information as possible, which will improve test scores.

Not only does cursive improve things mentally, but it also helps a person physically. Writing in cursive is faster than typing, and is evidently faster than normal handwriting. And if a student has the ability to write quickly, it will be admirable assistance for timed essays/tests, such as the SATs.

## Cursive’s Importance When You Are An Adult



Passports, contracts, taxes, bills. All of these things require cursive handwriting in one way or another. Even though the future is years away, it would be essential for middle school students to get a jump on practicing cursive *now*.

Cursive handwriting might be difficult at the start, but once practiced it can be just as easy as traditional handwriting. However, it will take years of practice, which is why middle schoolers must start writing in cursive now, that way once they get older, it will be a breeze.

## Cursive Should Be Required

So, cursive is not only great for the child’s mind, it is also significant as an adult. Because of these noteworthy perks, middle schools should make cursive handwriting a requirement. It will be beneficial now, and in the long run.

# My Favorite Quote

By Maddox Starr 7th

Quotes. Merriam Webster defines them as *“to speak or write (a passage) from another usually with credit acknowledgment”* Which is extremely ironic as I am quoting the dictionary in this very sentence.

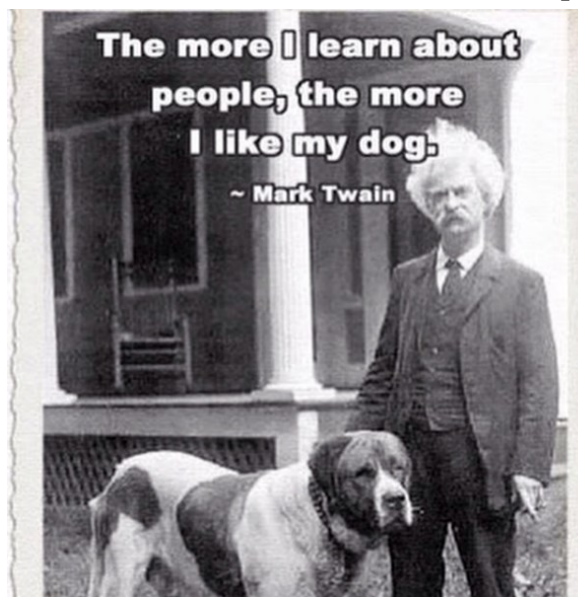
Regardless, in my own words, I would say a quote is “Legal Plagiarism.”

Although the idea may sound completely inconsiderate, quotes are plagiarism. People infrequently cite the work you're quoting and when there is no source, the quote transforms into a long string of text indicating that it is not your own words by blatantly tacking on two apostrophes. The sweet irony of all of this is that I use them everyday. From The desolate news, to the antics of *The Simpsons*, My extravagant use of dialogue and thoughts makes it somewhat part of my personality (For good or for worse).

If said correctly, quotes can add great analysis and ideas while bringing them into a conversation but can be manipulated to turn into the finest disinformation ever to be cherry picked. Despite the whole argument that just had been made, let's

talk *about my favorite quote.*

“The more I start to learn about people, The more I like my dog” is known and behold best quote ever said or written. It is most often credited to



Mark Twain, but many other sources debate on the fact. Regardless of the origins, the quote explains humanity in the simplest terms. It explains the creeping thought, that the more and more deeper you go into learning about humanity, the more you start to question it.

The question is, why are humans such foul creatures? One immense aspect is self superiority. The thought that one human is superior to the

other can always be seen. The acts can be seen from bragging to the extreme case of racism and discrimination. Another poison could be the fact of being narcissistic. Even the nicest of humans fall in the trap of being selfish.

An example of this could be how a student could be more worried about a quiz next history class than a war that is happening overseas. Being narcissistic is caring more about themselves over others which all in all, falls in the category of superiority.

Humanity can never be fixed. There will always be human nature that will forever hold humanity back from being peaceful.

Fortunately though, people can learn from history. The dark and the gloomy aspects will always be a lesson to prevent other events in the future.

But like Twain suggests, when the world gets you down, just hang out more with your dog.

# The Not-So-Great Pacific Garbage Patch

By Olive Aydemir (6th)

The Pacific Garbage Patch is two times the size of Texas, three times the size of France, and is 1.85 times smaller than Australia.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This patch is already huge and growing rapidly. Read more to find the size, how it is made, if there are more of them out there, and how to slow the size.

What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

The GPGP (great pacific garbage patch) is a 1.6 million square kilometer sized garbage patch in the middle of the North Pacific Ocean. The patch is actually made of the Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between Hawaii and California. If you thought the GPGP was big then, did you know It is estimated that 1.15 to 2.41 million tons of plastic are entering the ocean each year from rivers? More than half of

this plastic is less dense than the water, meaning that it will not sink once it encounters the sea. That's a lot of trash! And so

stable. The circular motion of the gyre pulls debris into the center, where it becomes trapped.

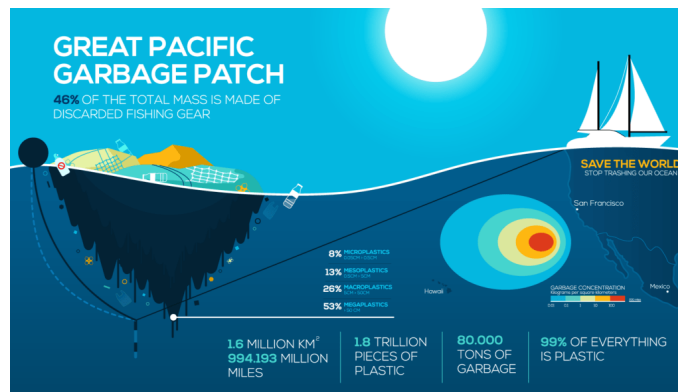
For example, a plastic water bottle thrown off the coast of California takes the California Current south toward Mexico. There, it may catch the North Equatorial Current, which goes across the Pacific.

Near the coast of Japan, the bottle could travel north on the Kuroshio Current. Finally, the bottle travels eastward on the North Pacific Current. The calm rolling vortexes of the Eastern and Western Garbage Patches gradually pull in the bottle.

much of it is entering the GPGP!

How was the GPGP made?

You may be wondering: how was this made? The answer is : Gyres. What are gyres? Well, gyres are a large system of swirling ocean currents. This is what the GPGP is surrounded by. The area in the center of a gyre tends to be very calm and





# The Not-So-Great Pacific Garbage Patch

By Olive Aydemir (6th)



## Are there more garbage patches out there?

Yes! There are five gyres in the ocean. One in the Indian Ocean, two in the Atlantic Ocean, and two in the Pacific Ocean. Garbage patches of varying sizes are located in each gyre. Each is as bad as the rest. They all happen the same way as the GPGP. Gyres force the garbage into a small confined space and it piles up.

## How are we cleaning it up?

Cleaning up marine debris is not as easy as it sounds. Many microplastics are the same size as small sea animals, so nets designed

to scoop up trash would catch these creatures as well. Even if we could design nets that would just catch garbage, the size of the oceans makes this job far too time-consuming to consider.

The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program (or NOAA MDP) has estimated that it would take 67 ships one year to clean up less than one percent of the North Pacific Ocean. Scientists and explorers agree that limiting or eliminating our use of disposable plastics and increasing our use of biodegradable resources will be the best way to clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

## Overall

Overall, the GPGP is just absolutely terrible. I mean, all that trash in the ocean, causing so many animals harm. You do your part to stop this from growing. Spread the word over the summer. Clean up rivers and streams. Donate money to Ocean cleanup projects. Together we can make a difference.



CMS Yearbooks are HERE!

“ I’M  
SO GLAD  
I DIDN’T  
BUY A  
YEARBOOK ”

- said **no one ever**

We hope you enjoy looking back on the 2021-2022 school year as much as we enjoyed capturing the year for you.

If you pre-ordered, you should have already received your books!

Any extra books will be sold for \$36, once all orders have been delivered.

**Big thanks** go out to **Faith Jones** and **Cameron Nguyen** and the CMS Yearbook staff for all of the hard work as photographers, editors and designers.

-Mr. Hankins



# An Ode to Asia

A tribute to Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Heritage Month

By Brandon Tupchong (6th)

The birthplace to civilization,  
The continent with 51 nations  
Filled with industrialization  
Greeted with much veneration

You have the largest population,  
Nearly 5 billion  
Rapidly advancing  
Prancing past the poor portrayal  
That  
You  
Are  
Seen  
As.

100,000 years ago,  
The first sapiens arrived  
As they dived into your land  
They were beginning a new life.

You hold the massive desert  
From Israel into Iran  
Down to Oman  
Then It's gone

The fertile land of the central  
With agricultural marvels  
India and Kazakhstan  
Colors dull, but the land is full  
With much soil and resources.

Your jungles of the Southeast  
Beauty unlike any other  
Located in the Southern  
Animals being quite the  
wonder.

Your industrialized East,  
The Japanese and the Chinese,  
Koreans and the Taiwanese,  
With the factories increasing  
The traditions start ceasing.

The mighty fortunate East,  
Flying drones, honed weapons,  
Sharp like claws  
Deadly like shark jaws  
They shine in times of darkness.

Up in the Blizzarding North  
The snow morphs and blows  
As the taigas and tigers march  
forth  
Sheltered in Siberian snow.

But behind the great biomes  
Hide a long history  
Much bloodshed  
And a story to unfold

Many empires in the region  
The Achaemenids, Qings,  
Soviets  
Unpredictable enough  
Yet  
Every  
Empire  
Leaves  
**Bloodshed**  
Behind.

In times of colonialism,  
You band together  
In times of great danger  
You band together  
In times of uncertainty  
You  
Band  
Together.

Goa, Macau, East Indies,  
The colonial powers have taken  
them.  
Those actions were never  
condemned.  
So new colonies stemmed.

British Raj and Hong Kong,

The unnoticed exploitation  
Of a nation  
Until negotiation  
Then  
Centuries later,  
Liberation.

In the present day  
You are technologically  
advancing  
But the traditions fade  
As the technologies are  
enhancing

War and instability  
You can see  
Refugees flee  
As you are left in ruins  
**Dreadfully.**

But despite that  
You can fly  
Above all others  
Soaring above the sky

You show great promise  
Catching up with action  
Exponential growth  
becoming common  
And many economic factions

But only you can go above  
all, Asia  
Release your inner talent  
Work together  
And fly above everybody  
else.



# 21 Legends Lost in 2021

By Amelia Johnson and Alyssa VanBuren (7th)

We lost many people last year. Here's a recap of the last 11 icons we lost in 2021.

**Larry King** was born November 19, 1933, in Brookland, New York he was a widely known American television and radio host from 1978 to 1994. Over King's 43 year long career he won many awards including 2 Peabodys, an Emmy and 10 Cable ACE Awards. And throughout his career, he hosted over 50,000 interviews. However the Television Legend Larry King died of sepsis on January 23, 2021. He was 87.

**Irv Cross** was born in Hammond, Indiana in 1939. He was the first African American sports analysis on national television. In the 1961 NFL draft he was drafted by the Eagles in the seventh round. Five seasons later he was traded to the Rams, and he stayed there for three more years. Then finally returned to the Eagles for a season before retiring. After retirement he

wasn't done with football and coached the defensive backs for the Eagles. Unfortunately, at the age of 81 he passed away on February 28th 2021 due to heart disease.

**Sabine Schmitz** was born May 14, 1969 in Adenau, Germany at the age. At the age of only 17 Schmitz started racing. At this time she had no license or her parent's permission, however she raced in her mother's BMW. In 1996 Sabine became the first and only woman to win the Nürburgring 24 Hours. This would not be her first time winning either. And after winning nearly 50 career races the race legend on March 16, 2021 she lost her battle with cancer and sadly passed away.

**Samuel Wright** was born on November 20, 1946 in Camden South Carolina, he was most well known for being the voice of Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*. He was also in *Bird* and *Dinosaur*. Samuel was nominated twice for Tony's, and he ran his own drama school in Walden, New York. In 2001 he played Mufasa in the Broadway musical *The Lion King*. On May 24th 2021 he sadly

passed away at the age of 75.

**Ned Beatty** was born July 6, 1937, Louisville, Kentucky when Beatty was 19 his acting career started. He was very successful and though his career had a reputation of being depicted as "The busiest actor in Hollywood". Ned Thomas Beatty was an American actor who was best known for *Toy Story 3* in which he voiced Lotso. Beatty's 50 year career included 160 films. Some of his more notable films were, *Superman* and *Superman II*, *Captain America* and many more. However Beatty's successful acting career ended in 2013 after his work on *Baggage Claim* and the beloved actor passed away on June 13th 2021 at the age of 83 the legend died of natural causes.

# 21 Legends Lost in 2021

By Amelia Johnson and Alyssa VanBuren (7th)

We lost many people last year. Here's a recap of the last 11 icons we lost in 2021.

**Lisa Banes** was born in Chagrin Falls, Ohio on July 9th 1955, she was in many movies and Broadway plays. In 2009 she played the headmistress in *Legally Blondes* not to be confused with *Legally Blonde*. She also starred in *Gone Girl* in 2014. She won a Theater World Award for *Look Back In Anger*. On June 4th in 2021 while she was crossing the street in Manhattan, New York she was hit by a motorized scooter. She suffered bad brain damage from the collision, and she passed 10 days after the accident. She was 65 years old.

**Janet Malcome** was born July 8, 1934 in Prague, Czechia. Malcolm was an American writer who started writing for the New Yorker in 1963. Janet Clara Malcome spent her entire career writing. Starting as a journalist for the New Yorker. Although she never stopped working for the magazine in the year 1980. She was the author of *Psychoanalysis: The Impossible Profession*, *In the Freud Archives*, and *The Journalist and the Murderer*,

among other books. The beloved journalist and author worked until her death on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. She died of Lung cancer at the age of 86.

**Peter Aykroyd** was born on November 19, 1955 in Ontario, Canada, he was a producer and writer in many movies such as, *My Stepmother Is A Alien*, *Spies Like Us*, and *Nothing But Trouble*. Peter can trace his ancestry back to the 15th century, and his grandfather was a mountie (basically like police in the early 20th century). He was an alumni of the Second City comedy troupe in Toronto, and he even was a physic researcher. He passed away on November 6th, 2021 due to a septicemia at the age of 66.

**Stephen Sondheim** was born March 22, 1930 in New York. Stephen Joshua Sondheim was an American composer and lyricist. Among the most important figures in 20th-century musical theater, Sondheim was praised for having "reinvented the American musical". Many of his outstanding works include, *Into the Woods*, the 1961 *West Side Story*, the remade 2021 *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, and *Gypsy*. However the award winning composer passed away on November 26, 2021. The legend was 91 and had cardiovascular disease.

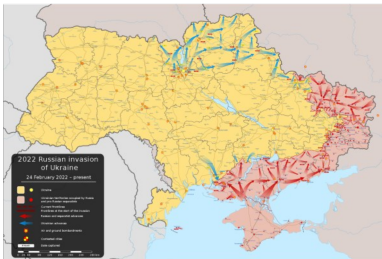
**Joan Didion** was born in Sacramento, California, on December 5th 1934, she was an amazing American writer. Her career started in the 1950's after winning a contest sponsored by *Vouge*. She is most known for writing the screenplay on the 2018 *A Star is Born*, and the 1976 *A Star is Born*. She had a best-selling memoir in 2006 called, *A Year of Magical Thinking*. This cultural icon passed away on December 23rd, 2021 due to Parkinson's at the age of 87.

**Sam Jones** was born June 24, 1933 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Samuel Jones was an American professional basketball player who was a shooting guard for the Boston Celtics in the National Basketball Association. Especially during the NBA playoffs, the five-time NBA All-Star was known for his quickness and game-winning shots. The HBCU legend died on December 30, 2021 from natural causes at the age of 88.

# Where Might Russia Go Next?

By Brandon Tupchong and David Hayman (6th)

On February 24th, 2022, Russia officially launched a large offensive invasion into Ukraine. Russia's influence over the world was slowly fading, and Russia considered a war with Ukraine to try to gain influence over Europe once more.



About 8 years prior to the attack, Russia occupied the Ukrainian regions of the Donbas and Crimea, and has set up two puppet states in the region: Donetsk and Luhansk.

It is currently unknown who the war will favor, but if the war favors Russia, there is a heavy chance that they could continue their advance into other smaller nations. First, we will go over the two most likely countries to be invaded by Russia: Georgia and Moldova. Belarus isn't included in this article because Belarus has a more likely chance to be **integrated** into Russia rather than being invaded.

Next, we will go over some unlikely countries that, on the surface, may seem like Russia might not care about invading, yet have solid reasoning as to why Russia could invade them. Note that this article may not be completely up to date with the current events of the war by the time of publication, as new incidents and events may happen after the time of publication that

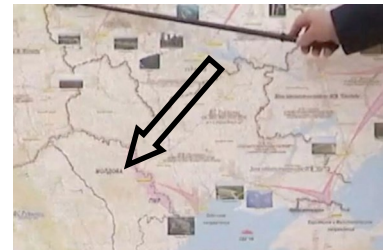
could render some things as false in this article.

Georgia (the country, not the U.S state) is a very likely candidate for being annexed by Russia. Georgia was a territory of Russia during the times of the Soviet Union and Russian Empire, and Russia has already invaded Georgia after independence once, in 2008. The Russo-Georgian war of 2008 was a war between Russia and Georgia. The main outcome of the war was that Russia would occupy two Georgian separatist countries: South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Recently, Russia has made a referendum on whether South Ossetia should be integrated into Russia. As of now, it seems like the vote is pointing to a strong yes, most likely because of rigged votes and propaganda. Georgia has a lot of unique culture in the country, and a Russian occupation of the country could mean disaster for many important artifacts, such as the first wine, the first thread, and the oldest gold mines in the world. Georgia has been trying to enter into NATO for security from Russian attacks.

Russia has only had Moldova for a little less than 2 centuries, yet the Russian influence on the previously Romanian country has been heavy. On September 2, 1990, pro-Russian separatists declared independence from Moldova, breaking away with the self declared country of the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, commonly known as Transnistria. Transnistria's right border runs along the Dniester River next to Ukraine. The government of Transnistria hopes to be integrated into Russia in the future, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine may only further strengthen Transnistrian integration into Russia. Recently,

Alexander Lukashenko, the "president" (dictator) of Belarus, released a battle map picture of how Russia and its allies will invade Ukraine. Looking closely at the image, you can see Transnistria in red, with an arrow hovering above it



pointing to the strategic Ukrainian city of Odessa.

This meant that there was (and possibly still is) a plan for Transnistria to invade Ukraine.

The Russian and Transnistrian government could potentially be working together to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine being a chance to potentially integrate Transnistria into Russia. If Moldova can be dragged into the war, then Russia could launch an offensive invasion into the country. This could lead Moldova in the same situation that Georgia is currently in: political instability with a self proclaimed separatist state. In this case, it is Moldova with Transnistria.

Like Georgia, Moldova is currently trying to join the EU and NATO for better economic opportunities and for protection from Russia.



# Where Might Russia Go Next?

By Brandon Tupchong and David Hayman (6th)

We have discussed the likely candidates for an invasion of Russia, but what about the unlikely candidates? On the surface, there may seem like there is no reason for an invasion by Russia, but under the surface, there are many reasons why Russia could invade these countries. Note that as mentioned earlier, this won't be completely up to date by the time that this article is published.

One unlikely candidate that may seem like Russia may not invade is Finland. One reason why Russia could invade Finland is because of previous ownership and wars with the country. Finland was a territory of the Russian Empire before declaring independence in 1917, when the Russian Empire collapsed. The most notable war



between the Russians and the Finns is the Winter War of 1939. Russia, then known as the Soviet Union, tried to invade Finland to get a better ground against Nazi Germany.

The Soviet Union, despite having 2x more troops than Finland, collected a minimum of at least 321,000 casualties compared to Finland's 70,000 casualties. This means that the Soviet Union suffered 4.6x more losses than Finland. Despite this, Finland still had to cede 11% of its territory to Russia, so the idea of having

another invasion terrifies Finland as it could cause them to cede more land to Russia. Finland also has natural environmental protection from invaders.

In the North, there are blizzarding winds and arctic-like conditions. The rest of the country is showered in thick forests and taigas that can slow down Russian advance into the country. However, this also leads to the second reason why Russia may invade Finland: Finland's geopolitical place in the world. The exact reasons why Finland is able to slow down Russian offensives are also the exact reasons why Russia wants Finland. Russia is able to build and hide plenty of military bases and nuke silos within the comfort of the taigas. A Russian occupied Finland could also serve as a natural defense for Russia if any countries try to attack through Scandinavia. However, Finland has applied for NATO membership and it will most likely join soon as a means to protect itself from a potential Russian invasion.

For quite some time, people in Finland didn't really want to join NATO. public support for this was almost always around 20%. But in recent weeks, that percentage has gone up about 56% and now rests at 76% percent for public support for Finland joining NATO. Recently, Finland and its neighbor, Sweden, both applied for NATO membership. The United Kingdom has also promised to support Finland if attacked, so this could be a Russian repellent for Finland's sovereignty.

Another unlikely candidate that could be invaded by Russia is Kazakhstan. One reason why Russia may invade Kazakhstan is because of previous interventions in the country. Russia has already intervened in Kazakhstan to crush civil unrest recently this year, although to

Kazakhstan's consent. Russia killed off the protesters, which strengthened Russian-Kazakh relations. This newfound trust in Russia could make Kazakhstan further dependent on Russia, simply for Russia to backstab them. Another reason for Russia to invade Kazakhstan is because Kazakhstan is a resource and agricultural goldmine.

Kazakhstan has been blessed with large Uranium deposits, which Russia may use to make new nukes with. Kazakhstan has tons of salt, coal, oil, and metals that Russia could use to their benefit. Kazakhstan is one of the largest grain producers in the world, and also produces many animal products. Kazakhstan's extensive agricultural section can be vital to Russian food supply. While Kazakhstan may not seem like a likely target at first, when you look into the details in history about the country, it may not seem that unlikely of a target anymore!

As of now, we don't exactly know what Russia's next move could be. These are just potential possibilities that *could* happen, not that they *will* happen. If Russia successfully invades Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia could be next. Finland and Kazakhstan may seem less likely at a first glance, but that doesn't mean that Russia won't invade any of those countries. As the Russian invasion of Ukraine rages on, only time will tell what will happen next.



# Why You Should Enroll in the Music Program

By Roan McLaughlin (6th)



The music program's are one of the greatest part of our school. There's band, orchestra, chorus and extracurricular activities.

**BAND:** I asked Mr. O'Neill (band director) Mrs. O'Connor (Orchestra teacher) and Ms. Venkus (Chorus director) why you should enroll, what's special about the group, what's different about the group and what afterschool programs it offers. Why don't we see what the band has to offer first?

"Music is a great way to get involved in school and meet lots of new friends. Music teaches many things that no other subject can teach." To see why you should enroll in the music program, according to the band. And what is special about the band? "When you get together in Band, it's like a family. There are different instruments and personalities that work together to create beautiful music."

The band is different from the orchestra and chorus because "the biggest difference with Band is the number of instruments. Each instrument has a different sound and everyone can choose an instrument that fits their personality."

**ORCHESTRA:** "Kids should be a part of the music program because honestly, it's one of the best things to be a part of as a middle school kid especially at CMS... The music program is my happy place and when you are one of the music kids, you totally get it." That's why you should enroll according to the orchestra.

Mrs. O'Connor mentioned that "there are guaranteed



opportunities to shine and have pride for something while also learning what it means to

be responsible for something on a daily and weekly basis."

For Mrs. O'Connor, the music program is her happy place and, she says, "when you are one of the music kids, you totally get it."

**CHORUS:** For Mrs. Venkus, "The music program provides a community for students where they can feel at 'home'. While advancing in skills on their instrument or voice, students also get to meet peers that have the same interests and hobbies.

Mrs. Venkus says that this promotes a place where they "can not feel judged and be themselves." That's why you should join the music program according to the chorus.

"The chorus is a place where we further our singing skills and build a community of support and kindness."

The chorus is comprised of students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and we perform twice a year.

In addition to activity period rehearsals, there are chorus classes where we work on sight singing, vocal tone, harmony, etc.

Remember: Chorus, Band, and Orchestra are classes that students can take all three years of middle school which results in a strong bond between the students and directors, Mrs. Venkus noted.

That's what is so special about the chorus and lastly why is it different from the band and the orchestra.

"The three different ensembles; band, chorus, and orchestra are really not that different.



Other than the orchestra is string instruments, the band is wind and percussion instruments, and the chorus is voice.

All three ensemble work toward the same goal; learning music. Each group performs in two concerts a year and works all year to further their musicianship."

So to answer the final question, if and what after school activities do these groups offer so why don't we start with the band?

We have a Jazz Band and a Wind Ensemble that meet every week after school starting in November. The Jazz Band also goes to Jazz Festivals to compete against other schools."

The CMS Orchestra program offers a smaller string ensemble in addition to the main orchestra group. This year we did not hold auditions and so it was open for any string kid who wanted an opportunity to play more music and have more music in their life!"

The chorus offers a group called the Clefnotes, available to any student in the Chorus that wants to sing more. We meet after school and this group performs in the Spring String and Sing, Trills & Thrills, and any other special event. Right now, the 8th grade members are preparing to sing at the 8th grade promotion.

So, join a music program. You won't regret it!

# A PSA From an Anonymous Font

By Maddox Starr, 7th Grade

You may have heard of me.

Maybe you wanted to make your essay have a little more pizazz, or maybe saw a beautiful PowerPoint.

It's not important though. I'd rather keep my identity anonymous for this PSA.

I have been around since 1994 (those were the good ol' days).

Back then, I was a True Type Font and I was proud of it! It was Times New Roman, Verdana, Courier, and me.

I was the most popular font, but now you hate me.

Nowadays, you have too many options. All of the fancy-shmancy, Google doodle, Frying pan, dapper dan, fonts are stealing the limelight. Even the elder font, Times New Roman, his time

is all about cutting us elder fonts some slack. The organization is constantly emailing Microsoft and Google for canceling all other fonts.

Think of the possibilities!

Now you will be able to have no problem reading a document with a weird

cursive font! If you want to stop the fancy fonts taking over, help donate now.

If you do, you will get a free t-shirt.

The Font  
We Love  
to Hate

is running out.

That is why I started the organization called THE DEFINITELY NOT RUN BY COMICS SANS FOUNDATION, to let the classics be heard.

The Foundation



## *A Vignette (Fiction)*

By Faith Jones (8th)

A million thoughts rushed through my head at once. I could feel my heart vibrating underneath my hospital gown as my skin started to crawl. I had to get out of here. Now.

"In all my years I never really thought it could be possible, so many failed attempts, and now after all this we have an actual match. It's truly amazing, incredible even..." The doctor turned to look at me for the first time in what seemed like forever, like she suddenly got called back to reality. She had a small scar on her head, the shape of the sun. For some reason I hadn't noticed until now, but that made it all the more freaky. I did my best to act calm, tried to ease my sweaty palms and rapid breathing, but there's no doubt she saw the absolute terror in my eyes. Her face hardened as she looked up into the corner of the white room, and spoke.

"Subject 626 is now conscious; prepare the table"

Something in her mechanical tone told me it was now or never to run. My adrenaline spiked and I began to jump up, ready to fight my way out, but was stopped abruptly. I looked down, two large leather straps held my hands to the bed, another one around my chest and yet another at my feet, destroying any remote chance I had of escape. A cloud of terror rested on top of me as the doctor came around to meet my eyes.

Her voice was calming, nurturing almost. "I don't expect you to understand anything, none of your kind has so far. But I'll do my best to explain, considering you won't remember a bit of it. We're not going to hurt you, we just want to figure out how you work, get some information that will help us... interact... with each other."

Her words rang inside my head but I couldn't focus on a single one of them. I was drenched in sweat from head to toe, my fists clenched gripping the sheets for dear life. Somewhere a flip was switched and an utterly blinding light hung above me, making it almost impossible to open my eyes fully.

"Trust me, you won't feel a thing." Something jabbed my arm, making me flinch. "Tomorrow this will all feel like one bad dream" The woman's words seemed to drift in the air, hanging there until the cold metallic needle left my arm.

Everything began to blur. Bodies rushing into the room. What sounded like a foreign language being scattered everywhere at once. The sudden movement of my bed being pushed forward. Going in and out like pictures on an old fashion camera, flipping from one to the other, then everything blended together as I was rushed down the fading hallway. Maybe it was the sedative slowly making its way

through my body, but the people surrounding me seemed different. Otherworldly. Almost . . . alien. As if something had clicked at that last thought I faded into yet another reluctant sleep.

Dreams spiraled through my head, clips I couldn't quite grasp. I tried my best to fight it, to wake up, but random little things kept coming through and pulling me under. The smell of the hospital, the monitor beeping, the blue eyed lady's clipboard and the plain white sheets spiraled in my head, slowly morphing and changing, until becoming new scenes all together. A woman playing with a little girl in a park, that same little girl learning to ride a bike, or watching tv, or baking a cake. I could only assume they were my memories, but the second I tried to look they went away, and were replaced by a brand new one. I don't know how long they went on for, but it seemed like the more came in the quicker they disappeared.

Again and again, faster and faster until no more came and everything faded to black.



# Summer Reading

By: SCOOP Staff

Go to [www.colonialsd.org](http://www.colonialsd.org) for your summer reading lists

Most students dread summer reading. They're more interested in friends, summer camp, vacationing, and non-reading related activities. And when students hear the words "required reading," it often *zaps* the joy they used to find out of reading for pleasure. While some students this year may find reading a bore, they should also know there's research behind why teachers make students read over the summer.

In 1978, researcher Barbara Heyns followed 3,000 kids in 6th and 7th grade in Atlanta's public schools and tracked their summer reading. She found that, "children who read at least six books during the summer maintained or improved their reading skills, while kids who didn't read any saw their skills slip by as much as an entire grade level."

In 1982, another study completed by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Center for Summer Learning discovered that not only do children get ahead when they read, but they can also fall way, way behind. They found that, "by the end of fifth grade, students who didn't read during the summer lagged two years behind their book-reading peers and that summer learning loss accounted for most of the achievement gap."

Some critics have proven some of the information above false and argue that there are other factors, besides just reading, that impact a student's ability to do well in school. But what they all agree on is that **reading over the summer helps you.**

So when you're complaining you're bored this summer or "there's nothing to do," or if you keep putting that summer reading off until the last minute, try to remember the joy you felt when you were younger—or maybe still feel—when you got lost in a good book, and try to pick one up. The results may surprise you. Here are some places to get started if you're interested in reading but don't know where to find good books:

1. Your English Teacher!
2. Our Terrific Librarian/Media Specialist, Mrs. Carpenter
3. William Jeanes Library: <http://jeaneslibrary.org/teens/>
4. Norristown Public Library: <http://mnl.mclinc.org/teen-services/>
5. Young Adult Library Services Association: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/best>



# Does Summer Reading Even Work?

By: Amelia Johnson (7th)

Summer is most kids' favorite time of the year because there is no school. Except for summer reading.

## What is the Summer Reading Program?

Summer Reading is an activity where students pick a book off of the pre-assigned list and do a activity on it which generally changes year to year. Some kids do it the first week of summer to get it over with, while others forget and do it the last week of summer (or even the first week of school). The big question most kids have is why do we have to do all this work when the work we put in doesn't pay off?

## What are the benefits of the Summer Reading Program?

There are plenty of benefits for summer reading: it promotes reading, more kids get interested in the books, helps kids keep their skills up, and improves reading skills. Furthermore, it shows improvements in self esteem, memory skills, and it also improves spelling and fluency. All this time I thought it just improved your reading skills.

## How do we improve the Summer Reading Program so it's more effective?

I believe Summer Reading could be improved if we actually did something with the book. From personal experience, all the teachers say next year you do something with the summer reading books, but we never do except maybe once. Most of the kids think that their work of reading, and filling out the sheet goes down the drain since nothing is done with it.

The books on the lists always surprise me, and are better than I thought they would be, but the sheet of finding evidence and explaining something about it is basically the same every year. The activity I think should be more exciting like maybe changing the ending of the book, or the setting — something where the kids show they read the book, they understand it, and they can do something critical and creative with it.

The other thing to help improve the program is to have the kids share what they did, so the whole class can see their hard work, and not just the teacher. Let us showcase our learning, and maybe Summer Reading would be worth more of our time and effort.



# *Why CMS Needs 13! In 2022!*

By Leo Nasatir and  
Maddie Pomager (7th)

13! The Musical by Jason Robert Brown is a comedic, heartfelt show about true friends, and “Becoming a Man”. 13! is the only Broadway musical to ever feature a fully teenage cast, and band. The show follows soon-to-be 13-year-old, Evan Goldman who awaits his Bar Mitzvah the coming October.



His excitement deflates when his dad files a divorce, and Evan is forced to move to Appleton, Indiana, with his mother. Evan gets a tour of the “Lamest Place in the World” from his new neighbor, Patrice, who’s developed a crush on him. We then meet Brett, the quarterback of the football team, and his wingmen, Eddie and Malcolm. Brett wants to ask out Kendra, but Lucy, Kendra’s best friend, doesn’t approve. Brett isn’t the only one with eyes on Kendra. Archie, Patrice’s best friend, is dying to go out with Kendra.

Evan decides on the perfect plan to get both Brett, and Archie what they need. Evan uses Archie’s “Terminal Illness” to convince his mom to buy their whole class tickets to “The Bloodmaster”. After things don’t go according to plan, Evan is forced to grapple with what it means to mature, and how he can truly become a “man.”

13! the Musical is inherently different from anything produced at CMS. For one, it is not produced by Disney Theatrical Productions and/or written before the 1970s. But what sets this work apart is its understanding of the stage of life young teens exist in, and its effect on their future perceptions of the world. As a character, Evan sees nothing more important than his popularity, because that, in turn, dictates the validity of his Bar Mitzvah.

Though this may seem stupid or absurd, what playwrights Dan Ellis’s and Robert Horn understand, Evan is a child of divorce, trying to build connection with others because it is all he has lacked his entire life.

Evan is struggling with true, universal issues, and yet travels through the heightened backdrop of Junior High to ensure that the

audience understands what it is actually like to live with the unwanted pressure of middle school. What makes 13 truly special is that it understands who it’s talking to, reaches them on a succinct level, and uses that to build a narrative that leaves a lasting impression and theme. Ellish, Horn, and Brown don’t look at students as stupid, dramatic, and emotionless caricatures, but instead see people attempting to forge connection and safety in an environment of compromise and hidden truth.

This story has the potential to truly reflect CMS students in ways that are neither idealistic nor ironic, but genuine, fluid, and contextual. We just need our department to try something new and work on a piece tailored to truth and understanding.

# *Why CMS Needs 13! In 2022!*

13! humorizes the teenage experience through its score, prime examples include “Hey Kendra” and “Being a Geek”, “Hey Kendra” mocks the absurdity of jocks, and their “cool guy” approach to, say, asking a girl out. It mocks the idea of being “smooth”, with clichés like going on a date to the movies, holding hands in popcorn, etc. Near the end of the song, the focus shifts from Brett and his friends to Kendra (left) and Lucy( right).



Lucy is furious at the idea of Kendra going out with Brett, and does everything in her power to stop it. On the other hand, “Being a Geek” show’s both Evan’s battle with his wish to become popular, and the underlying implications of that quest, given his need for community and a stable group of people as he recovers from

his parents unexpected, ugly divorce.

The score uses the strength of Brown’s music and lyrics to allude to depth of the challenges teens face, and uses the music to give them an outlet to their struggle, both genuine and fabricated. Because of the variety, from comedic and dizzy to calm and introspective, we are able to understand the rollercoaster that comes with the lives students live, and its effect on their world perception, no matter its true value in their adult life.

Because of the music, our CMS student body will have an easy and approachable way to connect and empathize with a genuine representation and recreation of our lives.

13! utilizes a fly system, which is a series of ropes and weights that — in 13!’s case — aid scene changes. Conveniently, CMS’s new theater contains a fly system, making the set change from the New York City skyline to Appleton in “13/ Becoming a Man”.

The costumes of 13! could easily be replicated for a school production. Most male characters wear khakis, denim, and simple t-shirts. The costumes in 13! are reflective of the mid-to-late 00’s era in which the show was written. Not only are these costumes representative of the era they were made in, but they are also symbolic of the characters wearing it. Kendra and Lucy are

prime examples of this symbolism.

Kendra wears pastels, long skirts, and headbands, reminiscent of her “good girl” persona. Lucy’s color palette is much darker. She wears leather, and boots, showing her mean, and malicious intentions. Patrice, the antisocial, quirky girl, dresses as such. Bell-bottoms, a white camisole, and a corduroy vest throughout the majority of the show. She looks out of place compared to the rest of the cast.

13’s power does not come from flashy sets or lighting, name recognition, or big brand attachment, but rather it’s empathetic and understanding approach to life as an adolescent. It meets young people where they are, and uses that as its ammunition to build upon real-world issues through a teens lens.

Because of this, 13! is a rare theatrical treat, combining both fun and depth to create a musical sure to delight all audiences in a way CMS has not experienced in its history.

With that said, it seems abundantly clear that 13! is the way to go for CMS, and the perfect musical to present this coming spring.

# Gender Neutral Bathrooms vs. Schools

By Zoe Walinsky, 7th

Imagine when you walk down the hall you see a bunch of classrooms, nothing out of the ordinary. You take a turn around the corner to enter a bathroom only then are you faced with a difficult choice male or female; but you're neither. There are some kids who struggle with this every day. The choice between the male and female binary.

Coming into a new building built in the 21st century, for the 21st century, and for all of our 21st century educational needs; however, as a society it would do us a lot of good to step out of the female and male binary.

Why do we even have male and female in the first place? This problem goes far beyond bathrooms. It's not doing anyone any good to be told that they have to like pink, bows, and dolls because of the body they are born into. People should be able to express themselves however they want, and a big part of this is having inclusive bathrooms.

A lot of public buildings have integrated gender neutral bathrooms. Cooper Union of New York City, New York was the first college in the country to de-gender all of their campus bathrooms in 2015. While some people may think that this means that men and women are being put in the same bathroom, this is

far from what's actually happening. These are single stalled bathrooms.

We don't even need to get rid of gendered bathrooms: we can just add these gender neutral enclosed single-stalled bathrooms on top of the gendered ones.



Since we're not taking away the male and female binary bathrooms there is no excuse for this being "dangerous for women to be in a men's bathroom" or that "bathrooms are separate for a reason, and we should keep them that way." If you really think about it, there's no logical reasoning behind these claims.

*Trans* is used for a blanket term of anyone who changed how they identify from what they were born as. A trans person can be non-binary or a trans woman. Non-binary is also a blanket term for anyone that falls out of the male and female binary. A non-binary person can

be a demigirl, non-gender confirming, a demiboy, or genderfluid. The one thing they all have in common is dysphoria, specifically gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is the feeling of discomfort with one's current gender or body. A non-binary person born female might feel very dysphoric going into a girls bathroom because they don't identify as one. Why would we ever subject anyone to this ever?

We've given women rights, we've created a lot of handicap accessible places and created handicap parking spots. Why are we drawing the line at creating a single stall bathroom that isn't gendered?

Students refusing to go to the bathroom could lead to a decrease in academic abilities. Students might hold it in or just refuse to take in any fluids, this could ultimately lead to extreme discomfort or pain and dehydration. This could drastically affect the mental abilities of a student.

If you really take the time and think there are so many benefits of having gender neutral bathrooms and not a single good argument against them. Let's hope for a more inclusive future in our new school.



# Moon Knight: A Review

By Davin Haley (7th)



Moon Knight. If I had a dime any time someone has asked me “who is Moon Knight” I would have a lot of dimes, so I thought I would be generous and not take any of your metaphorical dimes. See, after the time on the grounds of NYC during Hawkeye (review TBD) we finally go back to the land of the marvel gods but this time not in Asgard with Thor but in Egypt.

The show follows Steven Grant, a gift shop employee who has sleeping problems... or so he thinks. Marc Spector is a mercenary who was chosen by Konshu (the moon god of Egyptian mythology) to stop Arthur Harrow from finding and freeing Ammit (the soul devourer of Egyptian mythology). There is something that Steven and Marc have in common. They both share the same body, and they have to work together to stop Harrow and save the world.

This outstanding show would not be possible without the cast. Marc/Steven/Moon Knight is played by Oscar Isaac. Isaac’s most recognizable role is probably as Poe Dameron in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Star Wars: The Last Jedi, Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker. Another role is Duke Leto in the movie Dune. May Calamawy plays Marc Spector’s wife Layla. Calamawy is known for other roles, but she shines in this one. Konshu is played by American actor F. Murray Abraham. F. Murray Abraham is known for projects like the 1983 Al Pacino movie Scarface and How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World. Arthur Harrow is played by Ethan Hawke. Hawke is known for many roles but Dead Poets Society and the 2021 film The Black Phone stand out to me as they are the most popular and most recent Ethan Hawke movies.

In the comics Moon Knight is Marc Spector (a mercenary), Steven Grant (a billionaire), and Jake Lockley (a taxi driver). Marc Spector has dissociative identity disorder which makes him switch between Marc, Steven, and Jake. After he was chosen

as Konshu’s avatar he became Moon Knight and fought evil. Moon Knight even joined forces with other heroes like Black Knight and Blade who we could see in the MCU sometime soon. Moon Knight has also fought his fair share of villains like Midnight Man and even Kang The Conqueror.

Moon Knight is a great addition to the MCU. Although the show does not flat out contribute to the greater MCU nor does it cross over anything. Even without that Moon Knight still holds up and has lots of room to grow as a show and could even turn into a movie or could be crossed over into another movie. But even great shows have their flaws. Some parts of the show were left unexplained and could maybe be seen in season two. I think everyone should watch Moon Knight because anyone could watch it.

**DISCLAIMER:** I am sorry if I use any terms related to dissociative identity disorder wrong. I did my best to be sensitive without knowing anyone with the disorder personally.

## *Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone*

By Thea Kupersmith (6th)

Change can be scary. It's hard to do new things, especially if it seems dangerous. Our bodies are wired to never change, and some people just don't like it. Now, there is nothing wrong with doing the things you like. But trust me, stepping out of the zone and trying new things is definitely worth it.

## Why do we resist change?

The answer is all in our brains. Your brain is wired to not accept change. If your needs are being met, and nothing stresses you out, your brain knows you are surviving. Plus, your brain is lazy!

It requires a ton of energy for day-to-day activities, and it doesn't want to contribute extra resources to new things that might not even be fun. Also, your brain wants to protect you. Humans are built to expect dangers like lions. Though taking a new drama class isn't exactly going on a lion safari, your brain sees it might be dangerous and holds you back. Any new experience will seem like a dangerous experience to your brain.

## But what's wrong with doing the same stuff all the time?

For one thing, when we do the same boring routine everyday, eating the same stuff for breakfast, packing the same things in our bag,

doing the same activities, and  
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ...  
Our bodies go one autopilot.

This hinders our ability to feel what's going on around us, be it sensory or emotionally.



We barely pay attention to what's going on around us, so we also don't pay attention to what's going on inside. Also, if you never do anything new, how are you going to know if you will like something? How would you know that you liked chocolate if you had never tried it? Imagine never having chocolate! If you don't try something new, you will never know how great it could be.

## So how exactly is stepping out of the comfort zone good for you?

Well, once you've started, it's hard to stop.  
Taking risks means weighing

pros and cons, deciding consequences, then doing it. (Unless, of course, you're one of those "Jump now, Think later" kind of people.) Once you've actually taken that risk and it turned out to be great, you feel better about doing new things, even if they are small, like a new kind of apple you've never had. Another thing, new experiences can show us what we are made of. What if you're a natural at the oboe? Or you can beat records at the long jump?

You'll never know this unless you try. New things help you tap into your full potential. Also, taking risks can help us deal better with change. Nothing in life will stay the same forever, but taking risks and living new experiences will help you cope with life changes much better and more comfortably. Lastly, even if something doesn't work out the way you hoped it would, you can always learn from it.

Every mistake has a lesson. And there is no better way to learn things than to get out there and face your fears.

# Spoon, Fork, Spork



By Ayana Willoughby (7th)

## An article I was actually able to commit to? No way...

I've brought you the question that everyone's been secretly wondering, but never asks. The question that's been racking everyone's minds for at least 12 seconds. And that question is...Spoons, Forks, or Sporks?

Now, you may be thinking right now, "Wow, I can entirely relate to this and I understand everyone else reflects on such a topic on a daily basis, yet I am unable to express this question to others, as it is an exceedingly intellectualistic query that is a concept far too unfathomable for our simple human brains to comprehend."

Before we get into the technical aspects of this, first, let's introduce *the candidates*.

### Spoon

A spoon is basically a ditch in a piece of metal with a handle attached. It's the all-in-one. You can scoop up some dirt from outside for your Earth day project, **cut into your enemies**, you could use it to eat away your sadness in ice cream after your pet crocodile gets hit by a semi-truck while crossing through an apartment complex. Like I said, it's the all-in-one. However, I can't speak for the people just yet, so I think I should continue on about the next contender, *the fork*. (\*Note: Spoon was not available for comment at the time.)

### Fork

You can eat applesauce with a fork. That's more than a person could ever ask for. Case closed. Is what I *would* say if I were finished talking about it. In a live interview with a real life fork reporters were told nothing, but the psychic that was present interpreted its energy as "extremely violent and threatening" and states that the aforementioned fork claimed to be a gamer, yet only plays mobile games. Don't let one dinky little fork sway your opinion completely, though—there's plenty of more ethical forks out there.

### Spork

Ah, yes, the chaotic evil. The spork. Don't even get me started on this. A portmanteau I'm pretty sure no one asked for. According to Wikipedia, they're commonly used in prisons! And...other places. Sporks are, in fact, tacky, cheap, trashy, and very untasteful. They're like the one kid who got recess taken away from the whole class. Disgraceful to all utensils. Nevertheless, you've heard enough from me on the sporks, let the results speak for themselves.

### The Results

According to my mathematical analysis, 14 people is about 0.1% of the school; which is a fairly accurate representation of the opinions of every student—

especially considering that no one surveyed was in 6th or 8th grade. Putting aside the sampling data that was clearly unbiased and not at all manipulated in any way, the respondents determined that spoons are undeniably triumphant by winning 49.2% of the vote, while spork and fork tied for second place with 28.6% of the vote each.

### Conclusion

The age-old question can finally be put to rest knowing that the answer is finally upon us: The spoon. And at first, while looking at the survey's outcome, I originally thought, "Yeah, the four people who choose spork are completely invalid." But now, after all I've been through writing this, I've realized...yeah, pretty much. One hundred percent. This was a personal attack on all the weirdo spork lovers out there. Go to prison, I promise you you'll be in a spork haven. The main takeaways from this are: You can't trust 14 people with 3 options to choose right, and we should condemn sporks.

That's not all from me though, stay tuned for next year's big question: Why the heck should I care if all the wasps die?



# A Different Earth

By Kaelen McAllister (7th)

## Introduction:

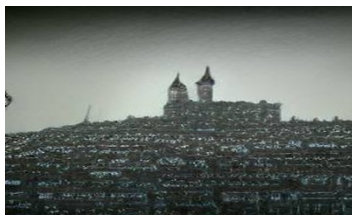
What if there was another time, another era, another species, or all of them together? This is a fictional documentary about the life of the Misa-Dova people.



The planet of *Dio-Mi*

## Location:

The Misa-Dova people are a species from another universe. Their home city is called the *Iawaki Noai* (presented in this image.). The population is unknown due to the fact that there is no actual record holding of it, but estimated to be 250000-500000 Misa-Dovians.



Not much is known about the leader, but all we really know is that his name is Viah Mala presented in the image below.



## Culture:

In the Dovian culture, the people tend to all move in unison to a religious building.



The people are very nice and respectful to travelers and animals and will give you food if you “Look hungry”. However of course the children seem to have the same rude and crude personality as most 3rd graders do. One of the insults we have heard is “Miaf diam jia siga mideao diaca” which translates to “You are a old scab who is lazy and you are a sad,sad man” which for some reason is more of a term of endearment and complement rather than an insult against the person.

The people here tend to hunt for animals, however, they do not refer to them as animals. Rather, “Monsters”. These “Monsters” tend to have extremely violent tendencies.



Miacala monster is known for randomly throwing fruits at children for some reason.).

Miacala tend to hang out around beach areas and sandy places to hunt

for random animals.

## Music:

Coincidentally, there is a folk singer in the city there that is named “Woody Guthrie ” however, this is purely coincidence and is just by chance. The people here tend to enjoy music a lot more than the average person on earth does. Fighting for instruments. When we showed them a flute and started playing it, they began to fight for it and we had to give the flute to them before it got fatal. Jazz (Or how'd they like to call it “Fats' ") has very diverse opinions on it. On the south side of Iawaki Noai, it's highly praised and is one of the most popular genres there.

However, on the west side, People will throw rocks at you if you even mention it. One of the most famous musicians is named “Bit” which translates to “One who can play every single instrument known to man and is talented in playing every single one of said instruments”. Who, when walking down the streets, people will bow down to him and on multiple occasions, give kids to him. One of his famous songs is titled “Liia mia” which translates to “I break into homes just to steal spoons”. It reached number 1 on the “Iawaki Noai music chart” which tied with “weia diea” which translates to “I scream at random children for no actual reason number 2” which is also by Bit.

When I brought up the Fats genre to the leader, Viah Mala he responded with “lim” which translates to “I despise this evil

# Vincenzo's Very Important Summary and Review

## Sonic 2—SPOLIERS!

By Vincenzo Doyle (6th)

So they finally made the second *Sonic* movie and it is extraordinary.

I really did enjoy it, but it does have its flaws even though it really is. So here today or when you are reading this I will sum up the movie and then hand you it in easy to digest form.

The movie starts with Tom and Maddie, (the 2 humans.) go to Hawaii for a wedding, and so Sonic Ozzy, (the dog) is home alone and so they completely destroy the house but Sonic cleans it up and then and soon Eggman and Knuckles break down the door to get Sonic.

Then Tails runs Knuckles over with a car as Sonic hops in to drive off to somewhere away from there and then go, to try and find the master emerald after settling in Siberia and winning a fight they get the map they lost back, (by the way this map is very important because it holds the place of the master emerald. ( very important.))

So then after that they go to the holding place of a compass to get to the master emerald, so then, Robotnik and Knuckles go and try to steal it and, OH MY GOD IS THAT A ICE CAP REFERENCE!?!?!)

Ok then Tails faceplants and then takes a nice big nap till an earthquake like thing sends an avalanche, and Sonic throws a ring to the wedding mid wedding and snow Sonic and Tails go through the ring, and everyone is mad so then the government materializes

and then the groom is a government too and so the bride wants to attack him, and then the government catches Sonic and Tails in cages.

Tim, Maddie, and so then Rachel the (bride.) go to get Sonic and Tails, and the groom so then they take Tails weapons from his tiny backpack, and then they get them back so they can go to stop Robotnik on some island off the coast of Hawaii.

They go through a giant



temple maze, maybe aquatic ruin, or hydrocity (not hydro city, it's one word, get it right.) ok well then they race through the maze and they get the emerald and Eggman just takes it and then vanishes and leaves Sonic and Knuckles to drown, but Sonic saves Knuckles and they are now nice to each other, so then Tails flies over in the tornado and picks

Then Eggman makes the Death Egg Robot so they can fight, but Sonic becomes super Sonic with the chaos emeralds and defeats Robotnik therefore ending the movie and after some great

credits music and animations a credits scene plays confirming a 3rd movie and shadow in it.

With that being said, I thought this was a great movie and really enjoyed it all the way through, but it does have its flaws as i had said before, like how idiotic Knuckles is sometimes witch it don't really like he isn't supposed to be that dumb but i did like how the didn't make him an complete idiot just not really knowing what most of the stuff

was in the human world and kind of gullible throughout it but that is kind of what happened.

# Vincenzo's Very Important Summary and Review

## *The Batman* — **LOTS of SPOILERS!**

By Vincenzo Doyle (6th)

The big movie that has recently been released by DC is "The Batman'," which is a STUNNING movie that nobody has seen yet, but me. I saw it and therefore I'm better.



And basically, "The Riddler doesn't like society and is like 'no u' to all these political figures and people like that who lie a lot and so he kills them and eventually kills Alfred and everyone is very, very sad after that, but then he is walking around killing people, Cat Woman and she needs money, so then she works for the penguin and wants to kill this guy who killed her friend. I still don't know

why they killed her but the plot goes on.

Next, she tries to kill him but Batman is like, "no" and stops her and so then whilst they are doing that little Riddler is like "ha ha ha you just activated my trap card" and tries to bomb the city and flood it with a bunch of bomb-rigged vans.

They explode and then Batman gets very mad and goes and watches them explode and then helps save everyone so then the Riddler is in jail and the Joker is back and then the end of the movie."

But the movie is actually really good and I really enjoyed it, even though people there at the theater couldn't BE QUIET.

There really isn't any movie like it anywhere else, and it really goes into the darker part of Batman instead of being funny like the Lego Batman movie.

Even though it has its flaws like how Batman is a complete idiot sometimes and is, like, blind. But still it's a great movie

## **MERCHANDISING AND ADVERTISING**

Yes, it exists and it's kind of pointless, because when you release it before the movie comes out and you don't even know what if the movie does bad or not well.

In this case it did good but what if it didn't and with the advertisement like "ha ha funny Batman shaped pizza me enjoy." we need to make sure we have made the merch look good even though it doesn't really look the best.

However, it's ok and can be better but I don't care is the Lego good?

It's pretty good. What about the action figures? MEDIOCRE. But they still function and don't seem like they would be too good. I mean they are meant to be toys but enough with that matter.

The movie itself is very good and I think you should watch it if you haven't.



## *Another Vignette (Fiction)*

By Alyssa VanBuren (7th)  
Edited by Zoe Walinsky

**BANG! CLASH!**

Henry had a plate made of pure shimmery gold in his hand.

He rounded up, and putting all his force threw the plate at the ceiling. I looked up.

Faster than I could blink, the massive grand chandelier was flying down towards me. I leaped out of the way.

As it smashed to the floor a blood shaking roar ran through my ears. I looked towards Henry, hatred racing through my veins. He terrifyingly walked towards me.

All I thought to do was step back. He slowly bent down, picked up one of the shards from the chandelier and flung it toward the doorway. Petrified, I raced

out of the room into the hallway.

After frantically looking around I came to the conclusion that Anne had left the room.

Nothing that was happening had I planned, however everything had turned into total chaos, for I had been so stupid to not have predicted this . . .

My mother and father were away for business so I had the whole castle to myself. I bolted through hallway after hallway until in my great grandfather's room I saw a bright glowing purple orb. Amazed by curiosity I speedily bounded into the room.

"Don't be deceived by the glow, for I can bring back the dead at your command!" said a glowing lady who emerged slowly from the orb. I was so amazed I

hadn't thought about what I said next. All I knew was that I wanted to have some fun.

"Henry the 8th and Anne Bolyn, and invite them for dinner," I told the glowing lady and I darted straight to the grand entrance to welcome my newly resurrected guests.

## Play Ball: Sports for 6th Graders

By Marjorie Brenner (6th)



Personally, I strongly disagree that 6th graders should not get to experience school sports.

I believe that 6th graders should be allowed to play sports. Some may think that 6th graders aren't mature enough to handle school sports but to me that is bizarre! I may be a little biased since I am a 6th grader but I think school would be much more enjoyable if we could play sports.

For some people, sports are a break from the world, a break from stress, worries, anxiety, and so much more. Therefore, I believe that if 6th graders were allowed to play sports, school would seem like a less scary place for some.

In an article I found, it states "*Playing sports is a great way to build confidence and dedication*" so why not start this in 6th grade to carry on into 7th and 8th grade?

So, why not start in 6th? Give next year's 6th graders the chance to play so they can build confidence and practice dedication, too.

# Daily Rubbish: The News . . . But NOT!

By David Hayman (6th Grade)

'ōpala i  
kēlā me  
kēia lā

ka nūhou akā  
'a'ole



Goodbye new CMS!  
And hello old  
CMS!

Welcome to the \*ahem\*  
*actual daily rubbish.*  
*As you may know, just  
a few days after they  
started demolishing  
the old building, the  
new fire alarm started  
talking.*

According to the  
district, some stupid  
6th grade boy got the  
smartest idea of his  
life in the cafeteria:  
to make REALLY flamin'  
hot Cheetos by setting  
a bag of Cheetos on  
fire.

This student, who we

will refer to as Stu  
Pid, attempted to eat  
the Cheetos, but some  
flamin' hot crumbs  
fell on his pants,  
and they caught on  
fire. Stu then  
dropped the chips and  
the fire spread. No  
one (except Stu Pid)  
was hurt, however,  
the fire did devour  
the building before  
the fire department  
could get there.

When they did, they  
just turned around  
because they didn't  
even see a building.  
It was all gone.

Learning has now been  
moved to the old CMS  
and students have to  
dodge falling  
rubble, sit on piles  
of metal, and 80  
million dollars have  
been used to give us  
a change of scenery  
for a some time. And  
incinerate all of our  
stuff. What a waste.

One good thing has  
come of this though.  
A new tik tok trend  
has started, in which  
kids buy flamin hot  
Cheetos or Doritos,  
or Takis, and light  
them on fire.

In unrelated news,  
there seems to be an

epidemic of fires  
reported in school  
cafeterias.

'o ia wale nō no ka  
'ōpala. mahalo no ka  
heluhelu 'ana\*.

\*Translation: that is all  
for the rubbish. Thanks  
for reading.



# “Jay’s Jokes”

By Jayson Kelly, 6th Grade

See You Next Year! -Jay

Q. Why couldn't the bicycle stand up?

A. Because it was too tired...

Q. What do you call a fake noodle?

A: An Impasta!

Q. What kind of tea is hard to swallow?

A. Reality!



**THANK YOU!**  
**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**