

The Pond Street Press

A Publication of Cohasset Middle School

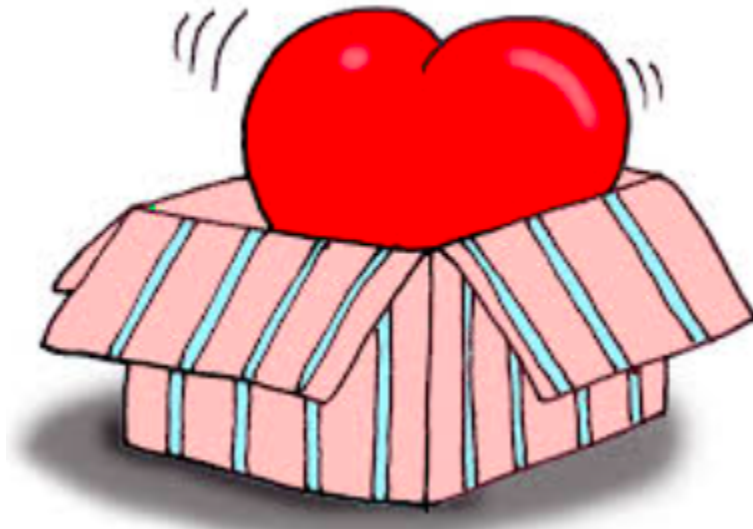


Image Source: Clipartqueen.com

February 2024 Issue

Table of Contents

School News - Pages 1-9

Comics - Pages 10-12

Sports - Page 13

“Pursuant to state law, no expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and school officials shall not be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by the students.”

School News

Search Begins for New Superintendent

By Jack Carcio

Since our current superintendent, Dr. Patrick Sullivan, is stepping down at the end of the school year, the School Committee wants to hire a new superintendent by this summer. The first step was to create a Superintendent Search Committee. The committee is made up of one administrator, two building principals, two teachers, and three family members of different students.

Once the committee was formed, the first step was to assess what the district was looking for in a new superintendent. This means they want to find what the students, faculty, and the schools as a whole need. Many surveys have been sent out to organize what everyone thinks the priorities are for the superintendent, goals for the district, and potential changes that should be made. This way, the district can gather more information on what the town needs from the superintendent.

The second step is to create a job description and invite candidates to apply for the position. Each candidate is asked to give a personal statement on why he or she is a good fit for Cohasset. The committee then looks over his or her background and sees if there is anything additional they should know. The candidates are narrowed down to 3-5 finalists.

Once they choose the finalist, they move on to the next step. The committee makes a timeline based on when they start, when to do a communication workshop, and when they have to go to the meetings.

(Photo above courtesy of Cohasset Public Schools.)

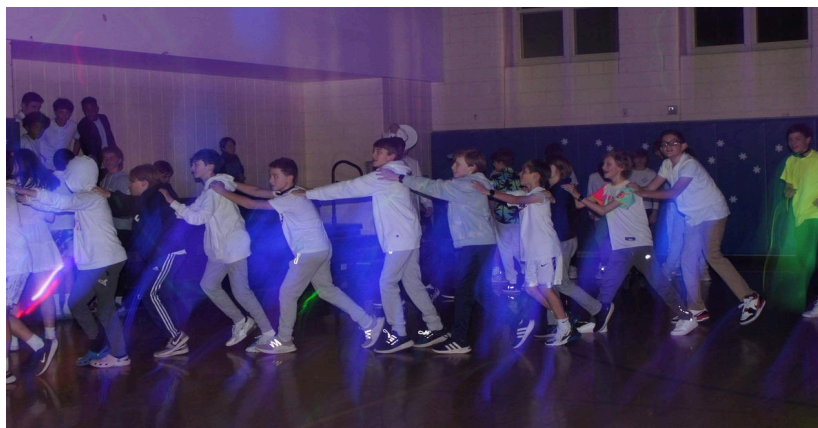


According to Craig MacLellan, Member of the School Committee and Chairman of the Search Committee, they have already put out a job description that will encourage more candidates to join.

This new superintendent can affect CMS in many ways like having a new building, improving our art departments, and more. The committee is reliable, and we can all trust that their decision will be good for CMS.

Snow in the Dark Dance Lights Up Friday Night

By Luke Hurley



(Photo Credit: Kali Roth)

This 2023 - 2024 middle school dance was held at Deer Hill School on Sohier Street on January 26 with a theme of "Snow in the Dark."

Returning to Deer Hill made all the middle schoolers feel nostalgic. Also the DJ was really good with songs like "Sicko Mode" by Travis Scott, "Goosebumps" by Travis Scott, "Cruel Summer" by Taylor Swift, and other "good" songs according to student opinion.

It was also nice to hang out with friends and dance or listen to the music under the black lights. Everyone's clothing was glowing, and the student council handed out glow bracelets. Students could buy snacks, but most of us were too busy dancing to eat.

So it was really, really interesting with the glow and the dark school dance of the 2023 - 2024 school year.

Winter Forecast

By Flynn Jansen

As the second half of winter begins, people are yet again wondering where the big snow storm is. One big contributor to this is the temperature. This is mainly due to the northern jet stream holding cold air from Canada. The jet stream is not dipping into New England as much as it usually does. This has been expected due to their being an El Niño in place. This means that the waters in the equatorial Pacific are much warmer than average. This results in the northern jet stream staying farther north than an average year. This doesn't mean we won't see a large snow storm though. It actually enhances the probability of us seeing a large one. Historically, New England has seen its largest snowstorms in El Niño winters. One example of this was the historic blizzard of 1978 which dropped 27.1 inches of snow in Boston. This event occurred during an El Niño and is one of just many examples.

So does this mean we will see a major snowstorm? Although El Niño's have been responsible for strong snowstorms, they sometimes don't produce any notable winter storms at all. This is because the northern jet stream holding the cold air needs

to dip into the US. Not only this, the southern jet stream, which is responsible for carrying snowstorms, including nor'easters across the US, needs to have a storm being carried across it. These major snow events occur when these two jet streams, one with cold air, and the other carrying the storm, collide just off the New England coast. Any closer then we see rain, any farther and we don't see as much snow. This is a "perfect storm". These conditions tend to come together during an El Niño.



Another interesting event we've seen is strong wind storms over the past few years that aren't associated with snow. This is due to us being in the warm sector of these storms which an El Niño causes. This can be misleading to fishermen however because some still underestimate the power of rainy winter storms. This year, there have already been multiple fatalities because of the unforgiving New England waters which have become the country's deadliest fishing waters, beating Alaska.

As every day passes, it becomes less and less likely we will see a large snow storm as spring is right around the corner. That doesn't mean we won't see one though as New England weather can be unpredictable. What we can predict however, is what we might see next winter. Using climate models, we can predict that this spring, the El Niño will fall, giving way to a La Niña. This will likely allow for more hurricanes to rage across the Atlantic in the summer, and possibly more snow next winter. But it is New England, and we won't not know what will truly happen, until it's right on our doorstep.

(Photo Credit: Luke Hurley)

States Sue Meta for Social Media's Negative Impact on Teen Mental Health

By Everett Harrell

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia have sued Meta. Most states accusing Meta of building addictive additions into their popular social media platforms, saying that it contributes to youth mental health problems like depression, anxiety, loneliness, and even suicidal thoughts.

Colorado Attorney, Phil Weiser states, "We see a real problem. Meta has lied to people. They have been deceiving people about their platform. They have been marketing to people under 13, and they failed to protect young people. That's why we're taking this important action."[\(PBSNewsHour\)](#)



Meta representatives responded by saying, "Don't worry, there is no harm from the platform." But research shows that they know young people are losing sleep and are facing social media addictions that will take them down dark paths. But in the mainstream and in the overwhelming cases that we know about, young people are

hurting. And this platform is responsible for that harm. Meta is breaking the law by marketing to people younger than 13 and giving them poor mental health. Social media companies like Meta are to blame.

New York Attorney General Letitia James states, "Meta has profited from children's pain by intentionally designing its platforms with manipulative features that make children addicted to their platforms while lowering their self-esteem." ([PBS NewsHour](#)) People have spent an increasing amount of their time thinking about what children are looking at online and how it may be impacting them emotionally; this is why states are taking action.

Image:

https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/0f9384fd609ace3f000f9b6286e3bee9?impolicy=wcms_crop_resize&cropH=3228&cropW=4842&xPos=79&yPos=0&width=862&height=575

Quotes:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/more-than-40-states-sue-meta-claiming-its-social-platforms-are-addictive-and-harm-childrens-mental-health>

New Year's Resolutions

By Keren Laird and Phoebe Bunge

New year, new you! It is now 2024, which means a chance to make a new year's resolution. We asked multiple students and teachers about their new year's resolutions. We know that everyone has different resolutions because everyone has different things they want to change



or adjust in their lives. Some people want to change their activities or sports and others think more about their well-being. There is one thing about new year's resolutions, they are hard to keep. So we asked Mrs. Manewal

and Ms. Pearce about how you can keep your next year's resolutions.

Mrs. Manewal said, "Try to pick something specific and set mini goals to keep you motivated." This can be helpful because some of your

goals may seem very hard to accomplish at the start but making some mini goals will improve your mindset to keep going.

Ms. Pearce said, “One tip is to find someone who has the same resolution as you to hold you accountable for it. Another tip on how to keep them is no big resolutions. Cut your resolution into smaller pieces. Also along the way reward yourself with little things to keep you going.”

We asked a lot of sixth graders and teachers about their new year's resolutions. Sophie Kloster in sixth grade said, “my goal is to be more organized and to get into a theater program.” Students like Sophie want to focus on their hobbies this year and to get better at things that could help them later in life.

Ms Collins, a sixth and seventh grade math teacher, set a new year's resolution this year. She said, “I want to read more.” This is a perfect goal if you feel you are not reading enough, or if you want to read more. As Ms. Manewal said before, keeping smaller goals is good to keep you motivated. Setting a goal like Ms. Collins is a great idea. You can start by assigning a specific amount of time or pages you want to dedicate to every day of the week then gradually grow the amounts.

A sixth grade student named Taylor Gibson said her new year's resolution was “To stay hydrated. Get lots of good sleep and have a great 2024 (full of Taylor Swift).” This is a great goal if you want to focus on your mental health. Improving your mental health is always a good thing when looking for a new year's resolution.

Mrs. Blouin, the sixth and seventh grade English teacher said her new year's resolution was to, “book a good honeymoon with my husband and cook more.” Her resolution is very healthy. If you were to cook on your own, you have the choice of what you eat. That could be more healthy foods. The honeymoon is really only Mrs. Blouin. I hope you have a great honeymoon Mrs. Blouin!

Parker Appel, a sixth grader has a new year resolution that could be hard to keep. Parker said, “ Go to cool places, win Quordle and Octordle EVERYDAY”. If you don't know what Quordle and Octordle are, they are

both like the game Wordle. But they do different things. Quordle is a guessing game where you have to guess 4 words in 9 tries. Octordle is another guessing game in which you have to guess 8 words in 13 tries.

Stella Spear, a 6th grader, has a resolution that may be true for lots of us. She said, “I don't have any big resolutions, but I would like a phone, so I can take more photos and also I would like to get off screens more”. This resolution has a mix of things from taking more photos, which can be lots of fun especially with friends and family. Getting off screens more can help your mental health and eyesight. A resolution like this one is probably true for lots of people.

Hopefully resolutions will guide us in 2024 and help us make good choices in the future.

Teacher Feature

By: Katie Kenealy

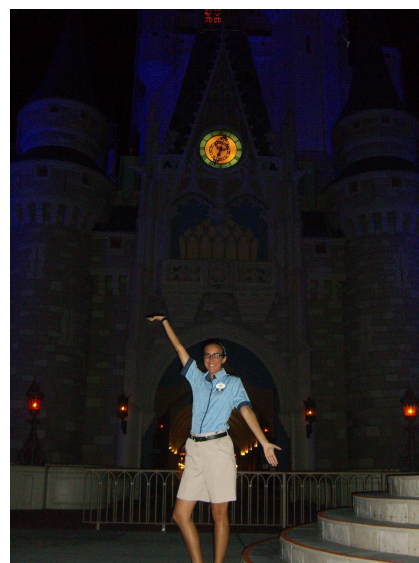
In this edition of the teacher feature, I asked a few of our World Language teachers a series of questions for students and families to get a chance to know them better.

Señorita Gabriella Lima is an experienced 6th-grade Spanish teacher at Cohasset Middle School. Growing up in Scituate and attending Scituate High School, Ms. Lima always felt fortunate to have grown up in such a beautiful town. During her school years, she discovered her love for Spanish and art. In fact, she enrolled in as many art classes as possible because she enjoyed it so much. Ms. Lima became interested in teaching during middle school and was especially inspired by her Spanish teacher, Mrs. Jewett. Ms. Lima went on to major in Spanish in college and started teaching after graduating. She has been teaching at



Cohasset since 2015 and has nine years of teaching experience.

In her personal life, Ms. Lima is very close to her family. She adores her mom, dad, and little sister. Interestingly, her mom was actually her high school Spanish teacher, which helped foster her own love for the subject. Ms. Lima loves to travel and has been fortunate to visit many unique places, such as Morocco, Iceland, and Japan. She hopes to visit France someday. Though she has no pets, she has a talent for caring for her many houseplants. In her free time, Ms. Lima enjoys watching movies, especially Disney movies, and practicing yoga. One of her favorite songs is "Polaroid" by Jonas Blue, Liam Payne, and Lennon Stella. Her all-time favorite movie is "The Princess and the Frog." An interesting fact about Ms. Lima is that she used to work at Disney World. She describes her time there as a magical experience, which is unsurprising given her love for Disney movies.



Señora Melissa Barry is our 8th-grade Spanish teacher. Growing up in Hingham, she recalls really enjoying English class and loving Spanish class. Interestingly, she began learning Spanish in the fifth grade and adored her Spanish teacher, describing her as "amazing." After attending High School, Señora Barry got a degree in business and Spanish. While contemplating returning to school for her master's, she came to substitute in Cohasset and discovered that teaching Spanish was a great fit for her. She then pursued her master's in education and remarked that "the rest is history." She has been teaching for almost 25 years in various high schools and middle schools. She taught at Cohasset High School for her first nine years and then moved permanently to the middle school. Also, she was the cheerleading coach for many years, describing it as a great experience spending time with the student-athletes.

As for family life, she has a husband, John, and three children, Jonathan (28), Greta (25), and Hope (21). Señora Barry loves spending time with her family in their summer house, going to the beach and pool, and meeting with friends. Señora Barry says, "My children take very much after me in that they are loud and fun and enjoy every moment." She loves reading all types of books and has participated in a book club for eighteen years. She has enjoyed being able to get together with a group of friends throughout the years and read great books together. Señora Barry also has a cat named "Stormy" who rules the house, and she describes as "a very spoiled little guy."

In her free time, Señora Barry loves spending time with friends and family. She loves the movies and is in a movie club with her brother. Every few weeks, they get together for dinner and a movie. Also, Señora Barry likes to discover home decor in different shops. She is an avid decorator and loves designing pretty spaces for her home and development company. Señora Barry loves all types of music and says to her students; "it is all about a good salsa." Every week on Friday, her



Spanish class starts off dancing to a Latin song, which she recalls as the highlight of the week. As for fun facts, Señora Barry went to highschool with Mrs. Gallagher, our eighth-grade math teacher. They were both captains of the cheerleading squad and had lots of fun together. She says Mrs. Gallagher was as fun and bubbly as she is now. Señora Barry loves teaching at Cohasset and praises her grade eight colleagues for their remarkable teamwork and unwavering commitment to supporting their students.

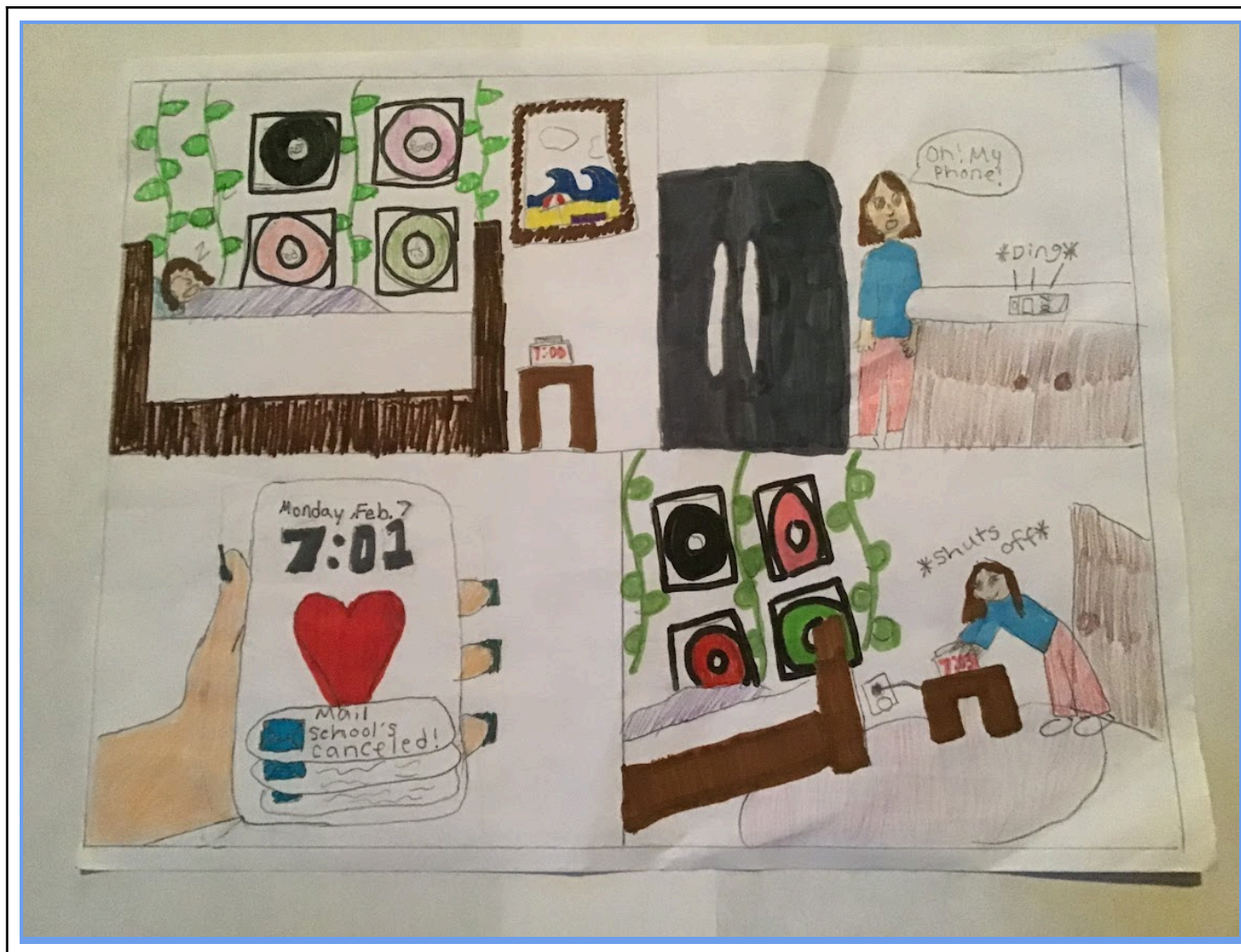
Comics

By Kali Roth and Auden Balck

The theme of this month's comics is "Snow Days Past and Present"







Sports

Superbowl Game, Ads, and Halftime Show

By Ciaran Bergan, Jack Carcio, and Luke Hurley

On February 11th, the National Football League had their annual Super Bowl game where the two best teams from the AFC and NFC dueled it out in a game watched by millions of people.

On January 15, 1967 the first Super Bowl occurred where the Green Bay Packers of the NFC went up against the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFC. This was the first official championship game where the two divided leagues came together to start a tradition that would last more than half a century.

This year's Super Bowl was held at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. This year's Super Bowl was between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers and it was an intense game finishing with a very surprising ending.

Surprisingly, the game started off slow with very few points scored in the first half. Eventually the game took off and it became very nerve-racking for fans of both teams. On what everyone thought was the last drive of the game, star quarterback Patrick Mahomes led the Chiefs to tie the game with zero time left, therefore taking the game to overtime.

Everyone was on the edge of their seats as the San Francisco 49ers scored a field goal, putting the pressure on Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs.

As 8th grader Jack Carcio said "Patrick Mahomes was ice cold when dealing with the pressure."

He marched down the field for a game winning touchdown, final score 22-25 Chiefs.

The Super Bowl halftime show was one to remember starring Usher and with a surprise guest Alicia Keys. This performance was very inconsistent while a lot of the songs were well done, a few in between each good one were very lackluster. But they were, as in Usher, very creative with roller skates and at the beginning with a type of circus part and the band playing their hearts out to "In this Club". In the end, the Chiefs pulled through making Chiefs fans and Swifties very happy, but the rest of the world has felt the loss of the year.

Pond Street Press Staff

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Melia
Editors: Ciaran Bergan, Katie Kenealy
Editorial Writers:
Sports Editor:
Sports Writers: John Gordon, Everett Harrel

Staff Reporters: Ciaran Bergan, Auden Black, Maise Black, Phoebe Bunge, Jack Carcio, Colby Colleary, Luke Hurley, Molly Irwin, Flynn Jansen, Katie Kenealy, Keren Laird
Contributors:
Photographers: Kali Roth, Luke Hurley, Kate Lombardi, Sophie Davis
Graphic Designers: Kali Roth