



December 2023 Issue

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School News

Save the Date! Winter Dance Scheduled for January

By Flynn Jansen

Save the date! StuCo has been hard at work for the past month for the upcoming school dance. As word starts to spread, many questions are now being asked about it. Here's what we know

so far: the all-school dance is scheduled for **January 26th**. It will not be located in our school, but instead at the **Deer Hill School gym**.

It will be a casual dance, so there is no need to dress up. The theme is "Snow in the Dark" meaning the lights will be low with lots of glow. Snacks will cost \$1, and water will be provided. Any white or neon clothes will glow in the special light, so make sure you dress to glow!



If you buy tickets ahead of time, you get to skip the line while entering the dance. Tickets will be \$5 at the door. More information will be disclosed nearing the date of the dance.

Image Credit: <https://www.twinchbrush.com/originals/paintingblondie/snow-dance-in-the-park>

CMS Compass Awards Highlight Exemplary Students

By Maisie Balck

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 that were nominated by their teachers for their empathy, collaboration, personal growth, and responsibility were called down to the Learning Commons to receive Compass Award certificates last week. The Compass awards are an award program presented by Mr. Mills to reward students who have gone above and beyond to be kind and to demonstrate certain traits like responsibility.

Here's a list of the award winners by grade:

| GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8 |
|---|---|---|
| Wyatt Chisholm Grace Banning Lillian Berry Jordan Campbell-Sailsman Levi Carpenter Isabella Carvalho Jack D'Adamo Sophie Davis Grayson Dial Ellie Hampton Piper Henry Beckett Nussbaum Jack Ryan Alison (Ali) St. Onge | Andrew Askjaer Matthew Banta Elena Bennett Nelle Brophy Max Bryan Merolla Fawzi Bella Guzman-Gonzalez Lilah Higgins Theo Johnson Delaney Lafond Caroline Lesky Liam Mahoney Julia Renaud-Flotte Sam Soares Claire Starvish Eddie Windham | Ciaran Bergan Davenport Crocker Payson Dodge Cormac Fraser Alex Hill Luke Hurley Quinn Kearney Brody Meyers Lane Monahan AJ Pistoris |

All students have the potential to be outstanding school citizens and may be recognized in the future for their kind, responsible, actions benefiting our school.

Robotics Team Attends Competition in Worcester

By Alec Vlasak

On December 9th, the CMS Robotics Team attended a robotics competition at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. This article is a simple explanation of what our 8th grade CMS Robotics Team's goals were at the competition in Worcester.

Our Goals:

We wanted to do well in all aspects of judging, which includes the robot, core values, and project. Our most successful thing this year was our robot, which scored 215 points on the board this year compared to last year, where we only scored 165 points. Our project on stop motion and filmmaking also seemed to do pretty well, although we do not get a specific score.



What do we do at the competition?

At the actual competition, it is much more serious than when in the robot room. We have to stay calm as the matches we are in are quick and tend to be pretty stressful. We have five "heats" of competition where we have two and a half minutes to try and score as many points with the robot as possible. Then there is also judging, where our team goes into a private room with two judges and we present our innovation project.



What does it take to make it to states?

State competitions are very difficult to get into as some teams have less time constraints or are more experienced than others. These teams typically don't just have a goal for states but also possibly nationals. For CMS, our goal is simply to make it to states, as nationals are very difficult to get into and take lots of commitment.

What do the judges judge us on?

The two judges which we present to go over our innovation project and robot first. After those are finished, they go over core values for teams which is a measure of teamwork and inclusion. The hardest part of the judging process is the core values as everyone may have to answer a question on the spot.

Robot competition room (top)

Project display area (bottom)

8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

By Ciaran Bergan

For three years (excluding Covid 2020), the 8th grade had an optional, end-of-year trip to the Grand Canyon. This year, instead of our regular Grand Canyon trip, there is a probability that a trip to Washington D.C will be offered to students.

The D.C. trip will leave on June 20th via tour bus and will make its way down to D.C stopping at Philadelphia for a night visiting the Liberty Bell as well as the National Constitution Center. After the first night, students and chaperones will work their way over to Gettysburg and get a guided battlefield tour as well as visiting the Gettysburg Museum and finish their drive



down to D.C. On the third day of the trip, the group will tour Arlington Cemetery and witness the changing of the guards at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Next, they will have a tour of the Capitol Building and visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum. On the fourth and final day of the trip, they will have a group tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture as well as having free time to explore the Smithsonian Museums. Finally, they will depart D.C to hopefully arrive in the evening.

Eighth grader Tighe Carter is eager to go on the trip. He said, "I am excited for the trip to D.C for a few reasons such as going into the Capitol Building as well as being able to hangout with friends."

After listening to this jam packed trip to D.C., are you interested in going? If so, please reach out to Mr. E. At this time, 32 students have signed up for the trip. (Only For 8th Graders!).

What's the Purpose of Your Student I.D.?

By Flynn Jansen

At the beginning of every year, students get their picture taken and then receive an ID. Most students and teachers alike just put it somewhere to keep and completely forget about it while others keep it just for fun. What is the point of a student ID and what can you use it for?

According to Mr. Mills, "There are no in school uses for the ID. In some schools, students are required to show it in the cafeteria or the library. Some require students to swipe it to get into school. CMS's small size makes these things unnecessary." Mr. Mills also said that CMS "has a more personal culture. Students can put in their own numbers in the cafeteria and are known by staff." This is a major benefit of having a smaller school. Everyone knows everyone which leads most students to feel more comfortable at CMS. Schools like Duxbury Middle School have more than double the amount of students than ours does.

Although there are no uses for the ID you shouldn't just throw it away. It's a great way to remember CMS once you move on.

Eighth Grade Osgood Reading Buddies

By Molly Irwin

On November 3rd, the 8th graders traveled to the Osgood School. They ventured through the woods behind the back field, to Old Pasture Road, and down to Osgood.

When they arrived, the 8th grade students were assigned to one or two kindergarten students. Once they greeted their buddy, they headed to a sitting area to read.



Some kindergarten favorites included *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell, *Fly Guy* by Ted Arnold, *Pete The Cat* by James Dean and Kimberly Ricks Dean, and *Bear's Loose Tooth* by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman.

The eighth graders also learned more about their buddies' favorite foods, movies, TV shows, and books.



Eighth grader Tatum Bridge said, "It advanced my learning experience with children."

At the end of the trip, the kindergarten students lined up with their buddies and were escorted to the main area. They said goodbye to their buddies and headed back to CMS.

"It was very fun because I got to read to little children," explained Tighe Carter.

The eighth graders can't wait to go back and visit their buddies next spring!

(Photo top right: Molly Irwin reads to a kindergarten student. Photo bottom left: Jesse Rafferty reads to his buddy.)

Thanksgiving Traditions

By Keren Laird



What are students' favorite traditions on Thanksgiving? There are many different traditions on Thanksgiving that people celebrate. Some people travel on Thanksgiving. Others have the classic turkey meal. Some may do both.

I interviewed some 6th graders that all have different traditions on Thanksgiving.

Lilly Mathieu said, "I ran around with my cousins at my grandma's house." Like Lilly Mathieu, some people travel and are grateful with their families.

There are different traditions people celebrate. Ava McClary celebrates in a different way than Lilly Mathieu.

Ava said, "We just make Thanksgiving foods like mashed potatoes and turkey. We are thankful for what foods we have in front of us." People who

celebrate like Ava McClary don't travel. They stay at home and eat a turkey meal and of course are thankful for food they are able to eat.

We can't forget the famous Macy's Day Parade in New York.

Phoebe Bunge said, "I watch the Macy's Day Parade in the morning of Thanksgiving. We eat a classic turkey meal in the evening."

The Macy's Day Parade is very popular on Thanksgiving. Many people want to watch the Macy's Day Parade as Phoebe does.

Other traditions have people come to their homes and celebrate with their family at home.

Auden Balck says her Uncle and Grandma come to visit. "My Thanksgiving tradition is to wake up, cook and clean all day until around 3:00 PM. Then I wait for my guests to come, which are usually my grandma and my uncle. Then hang out for a bit, play board games or video games. Then we eat! After that we keep playing board games and stuff until it's late and then we go to bed." She also told me what she eats. "I eat turkey, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, bread, squash, mashed potatoes." Auden has a very traditional meal on Thanksgiving.

These are all different types of Thanksgiving traditions that people celebrate. Every tradition is special.

Middle School Supports H.S. Football Food Drive

By Keren Laird

CMS supported the holiday food drive organized by the Cohasset High School Football Team. Students were asked to donate a variety of drinks, food items, condiments and hygiene items. The goal was to collect 300 items in a week, from November 14th to November 22nd. CMS rose to the challenge and donated 470 items!

Ms. Ryan, the faculty advisor to StuCo, said "Stuco wants to thank all the students who gave items to the drive this year. Thank you for your generosity."



Teacher Feature

Get To Know Our Math Department

By Katie Kenealy

In this edition of Teacher Feature, a series of questions were asked to teachers in the math department for students and families to get a chance to know them a little better. Enjoy!

Mrs. Amy Gallagher teaches 8th grade math. Growing up in Holbrook, MA, Mrs. Gallagher has been passionate about teaching since the first grade! She remembers teachers giving her all the leftover handouts to play teacher



with the kids in the neighborhood. During her school days, Mrs. Gallagher enjoyed studying math and Spanish. She has been teaching for nearly thirty years and took some time off to raise her four children. Mrs. Gallagher and her husband have two daughters and two sons, and together, they all enjoy boating and playing sports. For fun, Mrs. Gallagher also enjoys playing pickleball, taking hikes, and traveling on her boat in the summer. Although she has no pets, she enjoys spending time with her

two "grand-dogs," Porkchop and Pepper. A favorite show includes anything on the Hallmark Channel. A fun fact is that Mrs. Gallagher and Senora Barry (one of our middle school Spanish teachers) have been friends for forty-three years! They were even classmates in senior year Spanish!

Mr. John Maher is our hometown teacher who teaches 7th-grade math. He went to school in Cohasset for grades K to 12 and grew up in the Old Pasture Rd. neighborhood. Mr. Maher started at the Osgood School and was in the last 6th grade class at Deer Hill before the 6th grade moved up to the Middle School. While in school, Mr. Maher enjoyed studying math, history,

and physical education and was an avid sports player. After graduating from Cohasset High School in 2010, Mr Maher attended college, where he developed an interest in teaching after taking an education class. Before becoming a middle school math teacher, Mr. Maher started in Cohasset as an Educational Support Professional. He has enjoyed teaching for seven years. Mr. Maher is married to his wife Tess, and for some exciting news, they are expecting their first child in February. To stay active, Mr. Maher plays in the “OMBL” or “Old Mans Basketball League” and enjoys coaching Cohasset football. His pets include a dog named Pastrami, aka “Rami,” who is a very handsome supermutt. In his free time, Mr. Maher spends time with family and friends and stays busy running errands with his truck. As for a favorite book, he enjoys spy-like books by Brad Thor. A favorite movie is Top Gun Maverick, and Mr. Maher jokes that Tess is getting a little tired of his fandom over the movie!



Mrs. Jennifer Cronin is our Math Interventionist. She grew up in Hanover, MA, and as a student, remembers always loving to read and study history; ironically, her least favorite subject was math! Mrs. Cronin recalls always wanting to be a teacher and has been teaching now for sixteen years! When her children were young, she enjoyed working as a tutor and teaching enrichment programs at Milton Academy and Stonehill College. Mrs.



Cronin's husband, Kevin, is a federal law enforcement agent. Her daughter, Kate, is a senior at Emory University in Atlanta, majoring in biology, and her son, Braden, is a senior in high school. He is waiting to hear back from colleges and would like to major in interactive media and game design. For hobbies, Mrs. Cronin loves to read, cook, listen to music, and travel. For pets, she had a cat named Artemis for ten years, but unfortunately, she passed away about a year ago. Her favorite thing to do in her free time is spend time with friends. Two favorite books include *The Book Thief* and *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Mrs. Cronin has also read all of the *Harry Potter* series more than once. Some fun facts about Mrs Cronin are that she has ten nieces and nephews and has been skydiving!

Ms. Ellen Collins teaches 6th and 7th grade math. She liked to study math and history in school and has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. She recalls having a large whiteboard in her playroom and pretending to teach what was learned in school that day. This is Ms. Collins third year teaching and her first year at Cohasset Middle School, and she says she loves it! Welcome to CMS! Ms. Collins likes to spend time with her two nieces and one nephew. They are three, five, and seven years old. She enjoys being an aunt in her free time and spending as much fun time as she can with them. For hobbies, Ms. Collins enjoys doing diamond painting, a calming activity that involves placing gems on a "color by number" picture to create beautiful portraits. It sounds like it would take incredible patience. She has a loud, purring cat named Susie, whom she rescued when the cat was only two years old. Ms. Collin's favorite song is "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift, the ten minute version. Her favorite movies include all the *Harry Potter* movies, and her favorite book is *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

Ms. Foley is a math teacher for the 6th grade students. She grew up in Norton, MA, which is a small town located about an hour away from Cohasset. During her middle school years, Mrs. Foley loved English because of her passion for reading. However, math was her least favorite subject. After pursuing a degree in biochemistry in college, Mrs. Foley developed a

liking for math. She has taught for five years, starting as an Educational Support Professional in Mrs. Gallagher's classroom. Even though she initially planned to teach biology, her positive experience with Mrs. Gallagher influenced her to teach math instead. Mrs. Foley is a proud owner of a thirteen-year-old dog named Meeko, who she calls "the best dog in the world." She enjoys spending time with Meeko, camping, and kayaking at Hermit Island Campground in Maine. During remote learning, Meeko was the official class mascot. In her free time, Mrs. Foley likes to read books and watch movies. Her recent favorite movie is *The Barbie Movie*, which she has watched several times since it came out. For a fun fact, Ms. Foley's dog, Meeko (on the left), is besties with Ms. Bracchi's dog, Olive, and they like to celebrate their birthdays together.



The Arts

Winter Concert

By Phoebe Bunge



The winter concert, held on December 7th, was magnificent this year! The audience enjoyed a collection of songs that all had different tempos and styles, but each song was played and sung beautifully.

This year the concert was slightly different. Instead of having the chorus and the band play at the same time this year, they were split up by time. The chorus played first starting at 6 and ending at 6:45. Then the band played at 7 and ended at 8.

The 6th grade chorus, led by Ms. Ramos, played “Frosty and the Hand Jive,” a more jazzy tune of the classic, “Frosty the Snowman.”

The 6th grade band, led by Mr. Myers, played a total of three songs in their section: “Warp Speed” by Michael Story, “To the Fore” by Chris Bernotas, and “Teleportation” by Timothy Loest. “Warp Speed” was the first song the 6th graders played and was a high speed tempo (as most of the songs were). The second song that was played by the 6th graders was “To

the Fore” by Chris Bernotas. The final song they played in their section was “Teleportation” by Timothy Loest, a quick and steady song.

The 7th grade chorus, led by Ms. Ramos, played “Vuelie” from the movie, *Frozen*. If you have ever watched *Frozen*, this is the first song that you hear during the start of the movie. The 7th grade band, led by again, Mr. Myers, played three songs: “Celebration Overture” by James Swearingen, “Colliding Visions” by Brian Balmages, and “Danza de Espana” by Carol Britten Chambers. “Celebration” was played first in their section and is a song that has a mediocre tempo. The second song they played was “Colliding Visions,” a smooth song that all comes together. “Danza de Espana” was played as their last song, and you can imagine it being a suspenseful song.

The 8th grade chorus sang one song this season, “Last Christmas.” This song is a beloved Christmas song by Wham! The 8th grade band played three songs: “Heroes Triumphant” by William Owens, “Fortis” by Gary Gazlay, and “Year of the Dragon” by Michael Sweeney. “Heroes Triumphant” has driving rhythms and is an awesome piece of music for the band students and the audience. “Fortis” is an upbeat song that was played second in their section. The last song they played was “Year of the Dragon” by Michael Sweeney, a suspenseful song that is played magically.

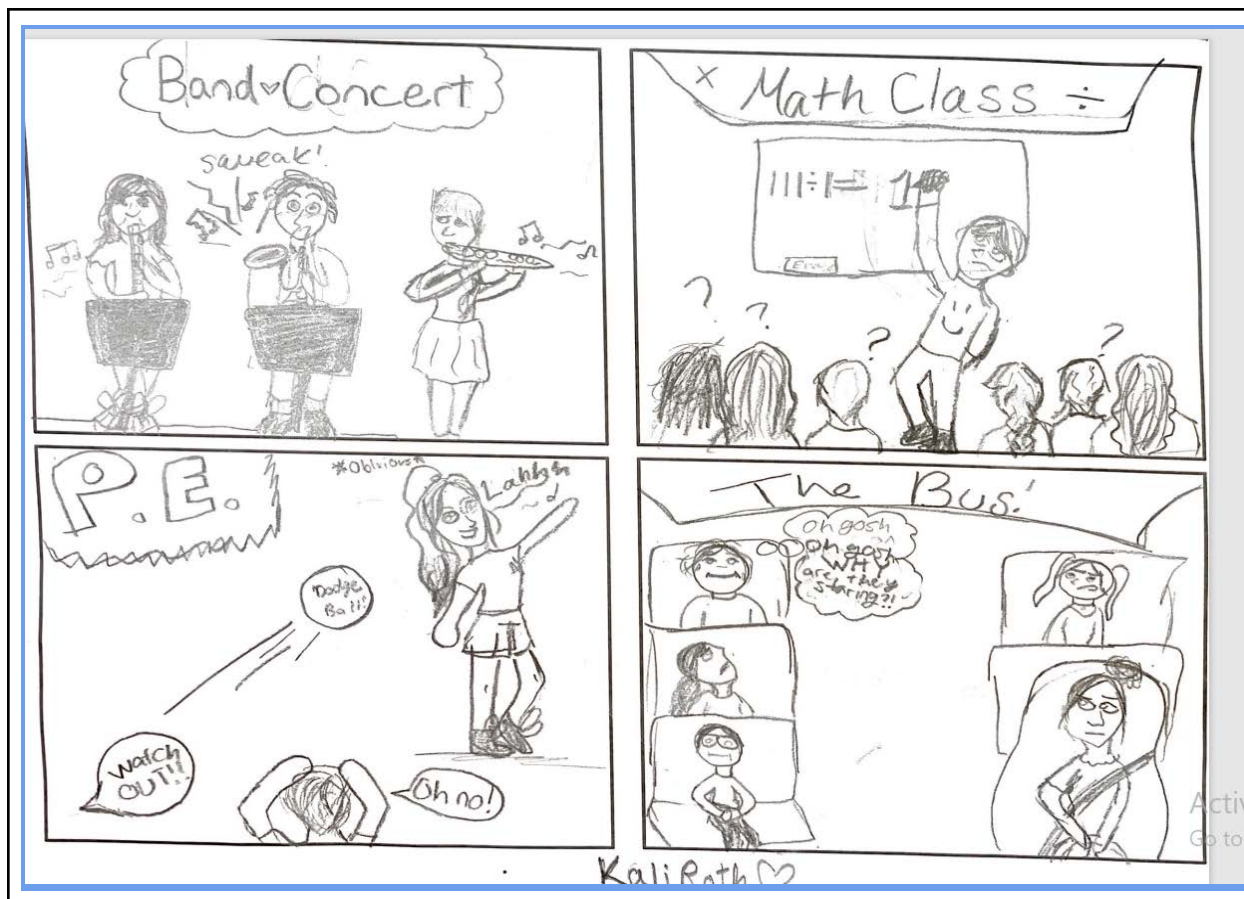
All three grades sang “The Bells,” “Snow on Snow,” and “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” together. These songs are holiday classics, and they were all sung beautifully. We also heard songs from CMS Singers and “Jingle Bells” from the beginning band. CMS singers sang “All I Want For Christmas is You” and “Christmas Time is Here,” holiday classics that were sung awesomely. Overall, the Winter concert was magnificent.

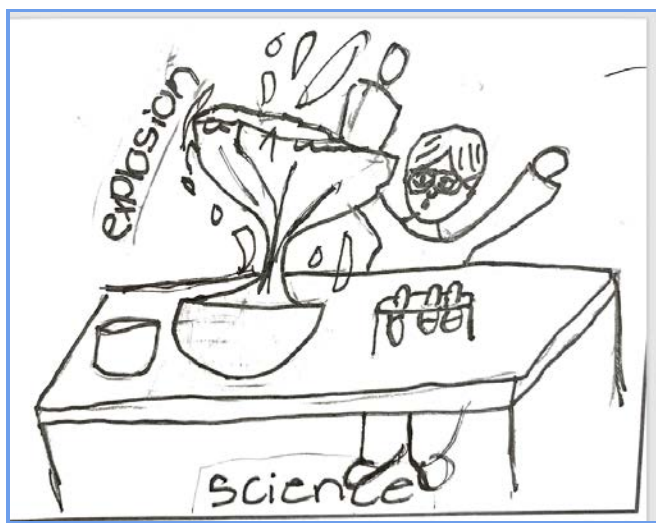
(Image credit: Jennifer Bunge)

Comics

By Kali Roth and Auden Balck

The theme of this month's comics is "What could possibly go wrong?"





Sports

The Patriots Are Really Bad, But Possible Solution?

By John Gordon

The Patriots are overall just really... really bad. When you think about the Patriots you most likely think of the Belichick/Brady dynasty, but know that has all changed. Their quarterback Mac Jones at the time of the writing this article is the starting quarterback for the Patriots, but in my opinion by the time you are reading this he might not. Also, to show how bad the Patriots are even more, they only win 1 in 5 games.



I asked some CMS students what their opinion was on Mac Jones and if he should be the Patriots starting quarterback.

Seventh grader Everett Harrell said, "Mac Jones should definitely not be their starting quarterback!"

Seventh grader Flynn Jansen agreed. "I believe Mac Jones is not the right person for the job. I think the Patriots should give Bailey Zappe a chance."



So clearly strong feelings on whether or not the Patriots should keep Mac as their starting quarterback. In my opinion, I agree with Everett and Flynn! And I think Bailey Zappe could be the next Tom Brady. I believe that maybe the Patriots should give Zappe more

time on the field, and see how he plays the game of football. I think we all believe that Bailey Zappe has great potential!

Photo Credits: nesn.com

Boston Celtics Update

By John Gordon

The Boston Celtics are having an outstanding start to the NBA season standing at a solid 21-6 record as of December 21, 2023.

All of their starters are averaging over 10 points per game with Jayson Tatum leading the team with 26.8 points per game on average. Kristaps Porzingus and Jrue Holiday have both been extremely successful this season on both sides of the floor.

We have some bench players shining this season like Payton Pritchard showing up on December 15, 2023 and scoring 21 points in his eighth highest scoring game and highest this season.

The Celtics had a very successful In-Season Tournament by placing 4th place in the tournament after being knocked out by the Indiana Pacers in the semifinals.

All of their starters have solid stats and are playing at their very best.

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