

# The Pond Street Press

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February 2023 Issue

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# School News

## Door Decorating Contest Winners

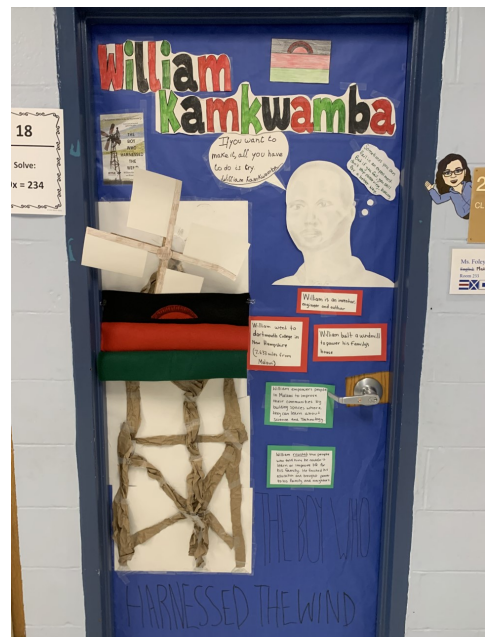
By Gabby Madden

Each Utility went all out in the competition for the best decorated door in Black History Month Door Decorating Contest. Given a theme and materials, students were very creative in choosing how to decorate. So creative, in fact, that the judges said that it was very difficult to choose the winners. After much deliberation, the following utilities from each grade won the prize:

**Grade 6: Miss Foley ( see photo right)**

**Grade 7: Mrs. Duggan (see photo below)**

**Grade 8: Mrs. Gallagher (see photo next page)**



According to Ms. Pearce, CMS Guidance Counselor and one of the coordinators of the contest, "We were thrilled to see everyone's creativity and celebrate the achievements of African Americans and the role they have played in our history!"



## February Events Keep CMS Busy

By Isaac Stevenson

The school went all out with February events! Whether it was the Black History Month door decorating contest, the Black History Trivia contest, or the writing contest, this has been the most exciting month this year!

First of all, on February 1st, we had World Read Aloud Day. The entire world is celebrating reading literature, and without literature the world will be a tough place. The 6th and 7th graders celebrated by having an author read to us who was a former CMS METCO student. The 8th graders had a great time reading to the kindergarteners at Osgood. I interviewed Owen

DeSalvo, Alex Wilkinson, Jasmine Arocho, and Cooper Campbell to see how the day at Osgood went.

### **What was the best part of it and what was a challenge?**

Cooper: It was my first time ever at Osgood, but the student I had was great and knew the book already.

Alex and Jasmine: The students were a little clingy, but sweet.

### **What was the best thing about the experience?**

Owen: The best thing was seeing our old teachers.

Cooper: The best thing was to meet the younger generation and how nice they were. It was nice to have a good time with them.

Alex: The students were excited to have us there. We would love to do it again.

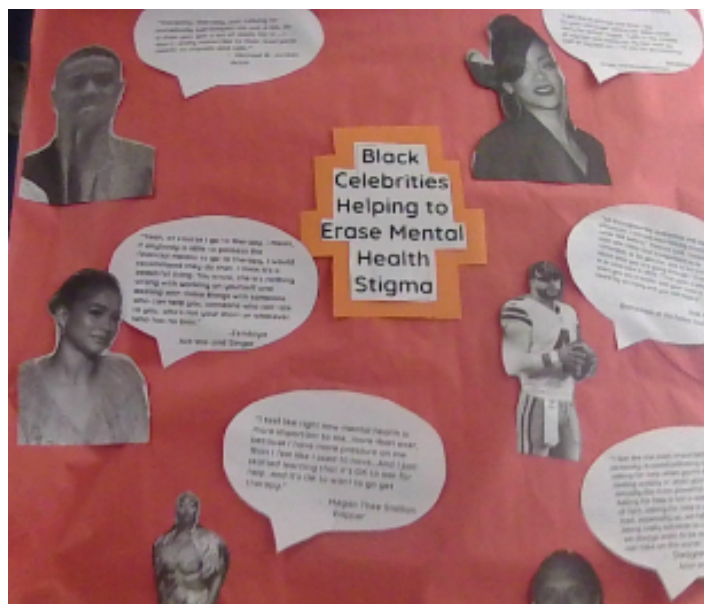
### **What kind of books did you read?**

Owen: The teacher had a table of inclusive books and the students chose the books that they wanted to hear and liked.

Second of all was the Black History Month door decorating contest. Everyone is waiting for the results! Each utility worked hard and the doors looked great!

Congratulations to our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade winners! We hope you enjoy your delicious and fun party! 8th grade teacher Mrs. Gallagher is proud of her Utility and their work!

"I am so happy and proud of my Utility group. The Gallagher gang worked as a team and every student contributed!"



Next there was the Black History Trivia contest. If students listened carefully to the morning announcements, they learned about important people in the Civil Rights Movement. Many students got 100% on the quiz and won candy!

Next up was the BHM writing contest! For everyone who likes writing, this was your chance. You could write anything as long as it had to do with black history. You could write about a leader, a movement, or a group!

Why is the school doing all this? It is because Black History Month celebrates how black people stood up to slavery, racism and discrimination. It shows the spirit of black people and how they kept going even after facing lots of adversity. And that should always be celebrated in America's history. I interviewed Ms. Gibbons who teaches 6th grade seminar and ELA and who helps run the Diversity Club.

### **What does Black History Month celebrate?**

Ms. Gibbons: Black History Month celebrates the contributions and achievements of Black Americans and it also celebrates black excellence.

### **How was February chosen for Black History Month?**

Ms. Gibbons: Black History Month was started by Carter Woodson, and it takes place in February because it is the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; however, black history should be learned every month of the year.

Despite how short February is (28 days) it's been the most interesting month in the whole year!

## **World Read-Aloud Day**

By Gabby Madden

February 1st, World Read-Aloud Day, is the day when eighth graders went to Osgood to read to the kindergarteners. Although this trip was to celebrate the education-centered day, it was also to celebrate Black History Month, with stories being centered around inclusivity and belonging. Each

eighth grader was paired with one or two kindergarteners to read these stories.

Now you may be thinking, will this be annual? Well, we are not sure yet, but there has been speculation that eighth graders may come back this spring, so hopefully we can see these youngsters again!

(Photo: 8th grader Faustina Millien reads to a Kindergarten student.)



## **SWATTING HOAX**

**By Matthew Banta and Ciaran Bergan**

Sitting in guidance class, we heard the announcement for Mr. Mills to come down to the office, and then a classmate noticed that Officer Taylor was standing in the hallway. Of course, students started to wonder what was happening. Sadly, our school was one of many in Massachusetts that was targeted by a “swatting” hoax. A swatting hoax is when someone makes a false call reporting a school shooting which results in a large police response to the location.

On 2/14/2023 at 10:15 A.M., threats were the targeted to several mass school districts and has brought great worry as well as confusion through

the state. The Cohasset Police sent out a statement: "Good morning, Recently around Massachusetts, several threatening calls to school districts have been made. On Tuesday, 2/14/2023 at 10:15 A.M. The South Shore Regional Dispatch Center received a call from someone threatening the Cohasset Middle High School campus. Cohasset Police personnel were immediately dispatched to all schools and confirmed the call was in fact not credible and a hoax. This call is similar to other calls some Massachusetts schools have been getting throughout the past 48 hours. Once again, proper safety procedures were followed and there is no active credible threat. Police officers and school administration officials will remain on all Cohasset campuses until further notice. Cohasset Police Detectives are investigating the source of the calls and are working with other area law enforcement officials."



Within a few minutes, teachers were informed and students were reassured, and we went on with our learning activities.

## **Snow Sleds and Ice Skates Collect Dust this Winter**

By Flynn Jansen

When you think of New England winters what do you think of? For most of us we think of snow. But this year has been different. Until January 15 we still hadn't gotten our first inch of snow. In fact, this winter was tied for the fifth longest amount of time Boston had without its first inch of snow. Now, by the time I write this, we'll probably get more snow, but why did it take this long?

The main reason why is because of the jet stream. The jet stream is air currents in the atmosphere. This winter it's positioned in a way that we are getting warm air and storms that aren't traveling

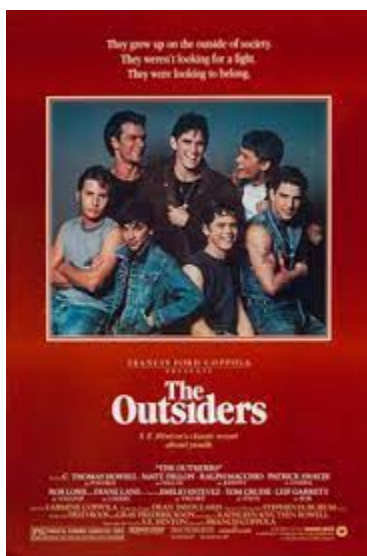
far enough east to give us snow. Instead it's been raining. Although at the end of January things started to ramp up a little, most weather models are showing too warm of weather for large snow storms. So will we get a large snowstorm this year? Although it looks to be too warm, February might still provide us with a large snowstorm at the end of the month. If not, March might still give us "the big one".

If you're hoping for a snow day though, you might want to rethink that. We get out on Friday, June 16. Monday the 19th is Juneteenth though, so that means if we had a snow day our last day of school would be Tuesday the 20th! Hopefully we'll get a big snowstorm on a weekend and dust off the sleds.

## Outsiders Day for Grade 7

By Ciaran Bergan

On Friday, January 27, the 7th grade students and team celebrated Outsiders Day after reading the book by S.E. Hinton. Students dressed up as either a soc or a greaser and came to school attempting to have the best outfit in the grade. After the students went to their first three classes, they went to the auditorium and enjoyed the classic movie. After the movie, students compared the book to the movie to see which they liked the best. To quiz the kids after the movie, Mrs. Duggan hosted a fun Kahoot.



Seventh grade ELA teacher, Mrs. Duggan, stated that "It was the students' idea to have this day, and I was really happy with how it turned out as well as the amazing costumes."

All in all, a key takeaway from this fun day is that teachers are willing to listen to your ideas.



# CMS Green Team Working Hard To Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

By Malone Yemini



On Thursday, January 19, the HS and MS Green Teams presented to all MS students in the auditorium during Utility. Green Team members educated students on how to be good stewards of the environment by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting. At the end of the presentation, there was an on-stage recycling competition between volunteer students.

Behind the scenes of the recent Green Team presentation, students from all grades in the middle and high school were working hard! In the weeks leading up to the event, students worked on writing, editing, and decorating the presentation. We then worked hard to come up with ways to make it fun for other students. The recycling race at the end of the presentation was a big hit! We hope students continue to recycle in their day-to-day lives.

It can be easy to forget, so this is a quick reminder of where your trash belongs in the cafeteria. Things such as chip bags, plastic bags, plastic utensils, candy wrappers and almost any other plastic wrapper go in the trash can. Clean non-reusable plastic containers, water bottles and their caps, tin foil, cans, brown paper bags, and plastic with the recycling symbol one, two, and five can go in the recycling bin. In the compost bins you can put food leftovers (aside from candy and gum), napkins, and paper towels. These things will all break down and can be used for planting on school grounds!



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It's very important that if you don't know where something goes, you ask a member of the Green Team rather than throwing it in a random bin. Just one piece of non-recyclable trash in a recycling bin can mean that the whole bin can no longer be recycled. All that extra trash leads to things like polluted air and global warming. Schools generate an average of 530,000 tons of trash each year! So let's work on reducing that number and creating a healthier environment. Recycled trash means saved energy and can even reduce things like habitat loss and water usage.

The Green Team is always looking for new members, and you can start right away. There is no need to sign up and it is completely free. We meet every day three during second lunch and there will be an announcement as a reminder. So join us and make a difference!

# Editorials

## **iReady Tests**

By Flynn Jansen

Not many people like tests. They're long, boring, and not enjoyable. But there's one test that many dislike more than all the others, and that's iReady. But why is iReady even worse?

As you probably already know, iReady is a diagnostic where based on your answer, it will give you easier or harder questions. The problem I see with this is if you keep getting harder questions that you don't know, your confidence level decreases. Like many other students, at the beginning of the test, I am really confident, but after getting to around 50% that confidence level drops and you start putting less and less work into each question. I believe that is a reason why many people dislike the test so much.

Another reason why I think people dislike the test is because of how long it is. For most students it takes around two hours to finish. Many students claim that they are so tired by the end of it that they don't even

read the question anymore and just enter a random answer. This causes students to get a lower score that doesn't show where you really are in that subject. Although iReady may help teachers gather important information, there has to be a better way to evaluate people.

## **Should Contact Sports be Regulated?**

By Gabby Madden

America, the land of the free, and the home of the second most sports related injuries per year. On average, 0.456% of the population each year suffers from concussions, broken bones, and sprained ankles. However, even though these injuries are painful, what of the worse ones, such as a heart attack? With the recent cardiac arrest of Damar Hamlin, many have been worried about not only the players involved in these sports, but for the youth who have become fond of them.

Sports such as American Football, Hockey, and Basketball have a reputation for being extremely dangerous games, and yet they are the most youth enlisted sports in the country. Although many can handle strangers getting hurt from behind a TV screen, what if it was your kids instead? Since the youth brain is still developing, things such as concussions could cause permanent damage or swelling, making it hard for those kids to do things such as speaking, eating, or basic daily acts. It also seems that even with the extra protection such as helmets, knee pads, and mouth guards, there are still many terrible cases, such as Damar Hamlin. Hamlin, who even though was fully protected, still got hit in the heart and got into a cardiac arrest, luckily he survived, but was in coma for 72 to 96 hours.

So, with all this being said, are there still any solutions? Yes, in Basketball, you could stretch, wear a mouthguard, and wear non-skid shoes. For Hockey, train offseason, wear protective gear, and be mindful of other players. Finally, for Football, there are alternatives, especially for younger kids such as Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, and many others! Be safe in any sport you do, and have fun!

[Statistics](#)

# The Arts at CMS

Looking for student reporters to write about what's happening in art class, music, and drama. Please email Mrs. Melia [dmelia@cohassetk12.org](mailto:dmelia@cohassetk12.org) if you are interested!

# Sports

## **CMS Students React to Tom Brady Retirement**

By Matthew Banta

Many sports enthusiasts argue that Tom Brady is the best football player of all time, and his retirement was expected, but it was still surprising for long-time fans. For many students at CMS, it was shocking news. I interviewed some CMS students on their thoughts on Tom Brady retiring.

CMS student Tomas Barry said, "As an NFL fan, he is one of the best of all time, and it is sad to have him leave the stadium one last time, but he had many highs in his career. He will forever be the G.O.A.T."

Everett Harrel, a 6th grader, added, "He said it many times before, but this time he is honest. But it will be very hard for the NFL family without Tom and for the Bucks to find a QB to replace him."

Mr. Mahar, a 7th grade math teacher and a coach of the Cohasset High School Football team, said, "I think this time he needs it. Last year I did not think he was going to retire. He is the G.O.A.T. and he did it in a quick way, and it was time."

All in all, CMS is glum about his retirement, but we are happy for his new life. Now will Tom Brady take Mr. Kraft's offer to retire as a Patriot by signing a one-day contract? Or will he retire as a Buccaneer?

## CMS Wrestling Program

By Cooper Aberbach and Eren Tiryaki

For the past few years, the Cohasset Middle School has offered an after school wrestling program for students. We interviewed our middle school health and wellness teacher, Mr. Pimental, who helps run the program.

**What is your goal(s) for the middle school wrestling program? Are you hoping this program will motivate the students to join the high school wrestling team?**

Mr. Pimental: My goal is to expose middle school students to the sport with the hopes that their interest in the sport will continue throughout high school.



**Do you believe the results of this are promising?**

Mr. Pimental: I absolutely believe the results are promising! We have 15 wrestlers signed up for the program this year. If only  $\frac{1}{2}$  continue to wrestle in high school, that number is  $\frac{1}{2}$  a varsity line-up, so the results are very promising.

**Do you enjoy teaching the students in this club?**

Mr. Pimental: I absolutely love coaching wrestling! I owe all that I have in my life now to the sport and my high school wrestling coach. Coaching is a way of me giving back for what I have been given. I have been a head varsity wrestling Head Coach for 20 years and a Head Varsity Assistant Coach for 5 years.

**What is your favorite part of wrestling?**

Mr. Pimental: My favorite part of coaching wrestling is athlete growth and the personal connections you develop together as a team. I enjoy watching the wrestlers learn new techniques and to watch them develop an appreciation for hard work. The sport is very humbling because there is no one but you out on the mat with your opponent. It is fun to watch a wrestler grow as a person through their success and through perseverance after a loss. I enjoy watching a team cheer for their teammate as they compete and to watch as they meet them at the edge of the mat to enjoy their win or to help pick them up after a loss. I'm hoping next year that our youth team will be able to have a few meets.

The Cohasset Middle School Wrestling Program encourages all of the participants to carry it on to high school and also have a lot of fun!

## **Coho Crabs**

**By Mikey Giglio and Dax Aberbach**

The Coho Crabs is an 8th grade boys soccer team who plays at the Cohasset Sports Complex. They are currently ranked second in the league. The team hopes to carry on with their great form and win their first league title. We interviewed Graham Simmons, member and co-founder of this organization.

**How did this organization begin?**

Graham: This beautiful organization all originated in the back of Civics class when a few others and I came up with an idea to create a team. As we started to practice, we developed great chemistry amongst ourselves, but also made adjustments to form the ultimate championship team.

**What are your hopes for the remainder of the season?**

Graham: I hope we continue our great form and beat our rivals, The Marshfield Wanderers. I also hope most of our players remain healthy after a large series of injuries swept throughout our team. As long as we can stay healthy, we will only get better from here on out.

**What are your expectations for next year, as your team moves up to a higher division?**

Graham: I think it will be a rough start as we will be freshman vs. seniors and juniors, but I think we are a dark horse to win it all. I know that our team has the talent to produce goals. I think people should watch out for us. Just because we are smaller and younger, it doesn't mean we are worse. Size does not matter.

The Coho Crabs Soccer Organization has surprised many this season with some all time lows and some amazing highs. They've developed and created a loyal fanbase which has constantly shown support for games. We can only hope for the best in the future for this promising, talented, and young group.



# Pond Street Press Staff

**Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Melia

**Editors:** Gabby Madden and Brody Fitzgerald

**Editorial Writers:** Flynn Jansen and Gabby Madden

**Sports Editor:** Vacant

**Sports Writers:** Cooper Aberbach, Dax Aberbach, Mikey Giglio, Eren Tiryaki

**Staff Reporters:** Matthew Banta, Ciaran Bergan, Flynn Jansen, Gabby Madden, Sari Reyes, Issac Stevenson

**Contributors:** Malone Yemini

**Photographers:** Brody Fitzgerald, Mr. Mills

**Graphic Designers:** Vacant