

The Pond Street Press

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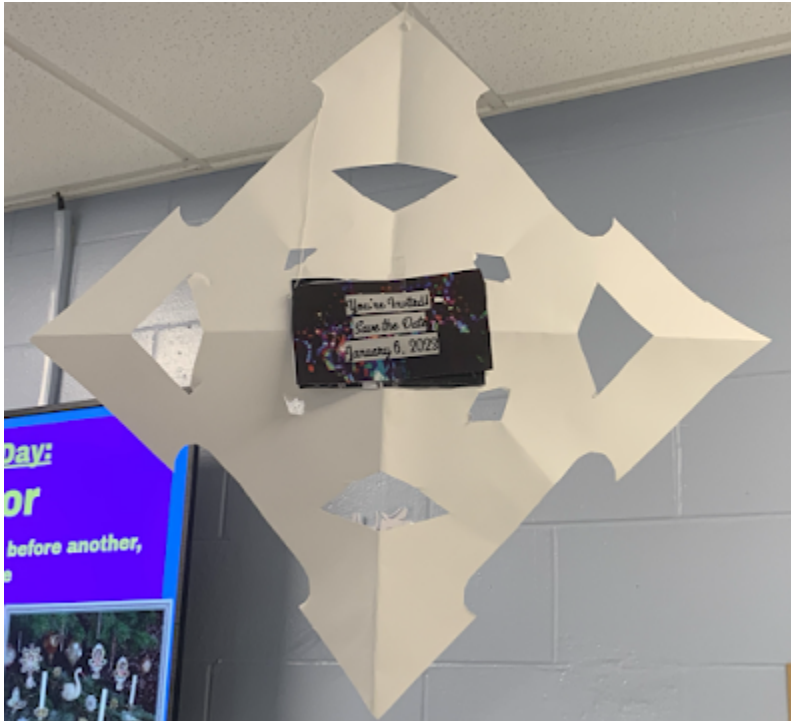
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School News



Save the Date CMS Dance on January 6th

By Finn Card

As winter break draws closer, excitement levels are up. We have so much to look forward to - break, winter holidays, and most of all, The Snow Ball.

The Snow Ball is the winter formal that will be taking

place in a few weeks on January 6th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Tickets will be sold at lunch at three separate tables and will be \$5.

For those of you passionate about music, song requests will be collected on a Google form posted on Aspen. Anyone else want to dance to "Anti-Hero"? After song choices are narrowed down, there will be a vote for most popular songs. After that, there will be a song chosen from each grade, and these will be announced ahead of time. Come on friends, no one ever said no to a good holiday song!

In an effort to alleviate chaos, entrances and exits will be staggered in order to create more of a structured and organized schedule. There will be separate tables for each grade, if students need to purchase tickets the night of the dance. On the evening of the dance, sixth graders will be admitted first at 6:45, seventh graders next at 6:55,

and lastly eighth graders at 7:00. Due to highschool basketball games and practice, the dance itself will be held in the cafeteria instead of the gym.

There will be a winter theme this year, and due to it being a formal dance, we ask that students wear something nice. Because The Snow Ball is in the winter students will be allowed to wear more outer layers than the last dance. Bundle up. It's Sweater Weather!

I hope you're all just as excited for The Snow Ball formal dance as I am! Hope to see you there, and bring laughter, joy, and cheer!

CMS Students Weigh in on 2022 World Cup Controversy

By Flynn Jansen

The 2022 World Cup began on November 20 in Qatar. It's the first World Cup ever to be held in the Middle East. However, there is some controversy on the games being held there, including allegations of corruption and human rights violations such as discrimination against women and LGBTQIA+ people. At the opening game between Qatar and Ecuador, the media covering the games noted that there were very few women in the stands when the camera showed shots of the crowd. The press has also mentioned that homosexual behavior is illegal in Qatar.



We asked 151 CMS students about what they knew about the controversy. Seventy-seven percent are following The World Cup; 88% knew it was being held in Qatar; and 59% knew that people were uncomfortable with the location. Only 44% knew why there was some controversy surrounding the location.

The big question is, why is it being held there? The news media has widely reported that three FIFA officials accepted bribes from unnamed intermediates to vote for the country to host the games. This may be the reason why the games were held there.

Another major reason causing the controversy in Qatar was how the workers were treated. An estimated 400-6,500 people died building the stadiums due to poor working conditions. Workers were also being treated unfairly.

Of the 151 students, 81% said the controversy did not impact their decisions on watching the games.

The Very First Middle School Parent Conferences Fill Up Early

By Gabby Madden and Flynn Jansen

During the week of December 12, 2022, Cohasset Middle School teachers met with parents to talk about their children's learning, behavior, and grades. However, it came with a catch: There were only enough time slots for 20 parent meetings. Only a fraction of parents could sign up of the roughly 95 students in each grade. To accommodate parents who were unable to secure a meeting time, each grade level team held parent coffees. At the less formal coffees, parents could quickly check in with their children's teachers. So, how effective were the first-ever conferences?

Many teachers believe it is beneficial for parents to have an idea of how their kids are doing in each class and overall.

"I think it's a good thing," commented Spanish teacher Seniorita Lima. "Communication is key."



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Many teachers find that it is especially important to meet with parents whose kids are struggling. In fact, instead of having the conference sign-ups on a first-come, first-served basis, some teachers believe that it may have been better if there were designated spots for kids having a hard time.

So with that being said, where does this leave students in all of this? Should students be worried for their privacy? After all, the school has never held conferences before, so why start now?

"We have Aspen, but it is good for parents to know what happens day-to-day in the classroom," suggested Ali Schultz, an eighth grader.

Although students may be worried about their privacy, they should be assured that conferences may enable them to get the resources they need. Overall, let it be known that teachers, administrators, and students are all going through this new experience together, plus, students got a half-day!

Robotics Team Qualifies for States

By Braddock Kalberer, James Lanza, Grant Wilson



The Cohasset Middle School Robotics team attended a robotics competition at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Saturday, December 10th. Two of the four teams did well enough to make it to the state championship on Saturday, December 17th. The seventh grade team, Heat Wave, (Alec and Colton Valsak, Theo Gurtz, Cormac Frasier, Michael Corwin, Jack Carcio), won an award for robot design. The

eighth grade team, Solar Sight (James Lanza, Grant Wilson, Jacob Tam, and Braddock Kalberer), won an award for core values in their advancement to the state competition.

“ I am personally very happy because Cohasset doesn’t usually make it to states and it’s a great honor to be one of the few teams from Cohasset that made it to states,” said 8th grader Grant Wilson.

To prepare for states, James Lanza said they were “coding and improving our project as much as we can.”

“Everyone has their own role, but everyone is also working together as a team,” added Braddock Kalberer.

The robotics team coach, Mr. Erlandsen or “Mr E,” was also recognized for the outstanding mentor award.

“At States, the teams both performed very well, earning more points than we did in the qualifying competition,” reported James Lanza.



Robotics Field Trip to Boston

By Brody Fitzgerald



The CMS Robotics Team also took a field trip to MIT Fusion Laboratory and Gillette Labs on Wednesday, November 16th where they learned about robotic engineering.





Editorials

Mitchell Miller Cancellation

By Gabby Madden

Everyone makes mistakes, but when does a mistake go too far? If you have not heard, the Boston Bruins recently cut ties with hockey player Mitchell Miller after initially signing him to a contract. After information about Miller's past was revealed, he became heavily looked down upon by most of the NHL and will most likely never play professionally again.

Why is he getting treated this way? Well, it's because of how he treated someone else when he was in middle school. New information has come up that he assaulted and bullied a disabled black student in 8th grade. Some ways he assaulted the student was by contaminating his food as well as punching and kicking him. He also used racist language.

Now, I believe anyone can agree that the acts Miller did were wrong, however was all the karma completely necessary? For one, a brain is not fully developed until the age of 21, which means that a child's emotional maturity may be more self-centered than empathetic. Another variable could be his home life. A study by the American Society for the Positive Care of Children showed 1 in 7 children in the United States experience child neglect, and he could be one of them. By no means however do I promote bullying, but there may be more to the story.

"Canceling" someone is not just a sweep under the carpet; it ruins someone's life. Miller will now have to live with the burden of something that he did in 8th grade. Is that really fair? The NHL has banned him from the league, and it may not be possible for Miller to get a sustainable job, playing hockey at least. Which brings up the question, is it really fair to cancel someone for what they did when they were young?

Sources: [NBC Article](#), [American SPCC](#)

#Save the Snow Days

By Gabby Madden

As many students know, there is a child-like joy of waking up on a cold, winter morning, and your parents telling you there is no school. But, what if I told you that across the nation, schools are considering assigning online work? Due to the pandemic and the rise of Zoom and other online tools, schools across the country are eradicating the “snow day”. But thankfully... not Massachusetts.



Earlier this year, Governor Charlie Baker announced that only in-person learning counts as a school day in our home state. He said that Massachusetts schools should use snow days until they run out (MassLive.com). Phew! Our childhood joy is protected and preserved.

Let me give an example: Let's say that a five-year-old was about to experience her 1st snow day, but because of the availability of online tools, she would instead have to sit on Zoom for five hours instead of playing outside and hanging out with her friends. Not only is the girl having to sacrifice those crucial hours of her life, but there is also a study that shows that the more time spent on screens, the more likely kids and teens are to be sad and depressed. So, is it really worth those couple hours of our time?

Snow days are a way for a student to relax and have a momentary peace before having to worry about exams, essays, etc. They are also a way for us to hang out with friends and make memories. It's such a relief that our governor has chosen to keep snow days whirling!

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Should Middle Schools Start Earlier or Later?

By Flynn Jansen

Do middle schoolers learn better if they are allowed to sleep later in the morning? It's a very controversial question that has been asked for years. There are benefits to both starting earlier and later. So, which one is better?

Just a few years ago, CMS used to start at 7:30 AM, but some parents thought it was too early, so they created a petition. The Cohasset School Committee heard the parents' argument and agreed to change the start time to 8:15 in 2020. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "One of the reasons adolescents do not get enough sleep is early school start times" (American Academy of Pediatrics). They recommend middle and high schools to start at 8:30 or later to give teenagers the amount of sleep they need.

In general, most Americans don't get the sleep they need. According to the CDC, "Not getting enough sleep is common among high school students and is associated with several health risks including being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, and using drugs, as well as poor academic performance" (CDC).

According to the 2014 School Health Policies and Practice Study, 93% of high school students and 83% of middle school students started before 8:30 in the U.S. In total 42 states reported that 75%-100% of their public middle and high schools started before 8:30 (CDC).

"Teenagers aged 13 to 18 years should regularly sleep 8 to 10 hours per day for good health" (CDC). Most do not get this due to staying up too late and waking up too early. In fact, the National Sleep Foundation found that attendance and graduation rates significantly improved in schools starting later than 8:30.

There are some problems with starting school later though. If started too late, kids will have less time to do their homework and still socialize. There can also be some scheduling conflicts with the lack of time available after school. Another problem is some families rely on older students to watch younger siblings after school. This may be difficult if middle and high schools dismiss later than elementary schools.

Has our school seen an improvement in learning as a result of the later start times? What do you think?

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<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/134/3/642/74175/School-Start-Times-for-Adolescents>

<https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/features/schools-start-too-early.html>



The Arts at CMS

Moana Jr. Thrills Audiences

By Sari Reyes



After a long wait for the theater fanatics of CMS, the first Middle School musical in years made its way to the stage. Parents, teachers, and gracious theater lovers joined together to watch CMS students bring them through the waters and cultural story of Moana Jr.

Middle School students had been rehearsing for around two months to get ready for their big break. Opening night seats were filled, and the audience was excited to watch 7th grader Keira Lynch as Moana, 7th grader Jack Clark as Maui, and many other student actors! Theater students had been pushing for a musical for years in hopes to show off their singing, dancing and acting skills. Mrs. Arenstam, along with the other musical directors at CMHS, joined together to cast, block, choreograph and teach experienced and newer theater fanatics.

The two-month journey brought the iconic cultural Disney musical to our own stage. Students sang, danced, and told the story of Moana. Moana, a young teenage girl with strict parents, set out past the reef in order to save their dying island. The performance of Moana is filled with rich history in many Pacific Islander countries. Moana was a heritage story brought down from generations and eventually through screens.

The cast of Moana, Jr. had a lot to say about the success of the show.

Seventh grader Keira Lynch, who played Moana said, "It was an amazing experience, everyone in the cast and crew were so fun, and I can't wait for the next one!"

"Moana Junior was exhilarating and super fun. I was nervous at first, but then when it was over, I realized that I had a great time, and I enjoyed every second of it," stated 7th grader Jack Clark who played Maui.

What happens off stage is just as important as what happens on stage. The crew and cast were able to play a role on and off stage. Off stage, each played a role in the Moana cast family and on stage the role of a Monotui villager/character.

With the holiday season coming up, the Moana cast can definitely say that the show was one of the best presents they could get. Connections, skills, performance and the experience of being on and off stage created a memory that the cast and the audience will always remember.



Sports

High School Track and Turf Work Forces Gym Inside and Games Off-Site

By Cooper Aberbach and Mikey Giglio

This summer, the school board made the executive decision to finally upgrade the turf and track at CHS. The track change started halfway through the first trimester and currently, the turf is being redone. The changing of the turf and track has affected all of CMS and CHS. We decided to interview our gym teacher and state-champion girls soccer coach, Ms. Beal.

How has the changing of the turf and track affected your girls soccer team?

Ms. Beal: The replacement of the turf was one of those “ideas” that stopped me in my tracks initially. How could they? It’s our tournament run? Why does it have to be done now? Our seniors won’t get to play at home. Like anything in life, you must first gather the data before you can really take it all in. Upon investigation, there was a small window with weather that the job needed to be completed. Mr. Rotondi, our Athletic Director, made sure we all had solid plans to practice and play on a turf setting and that our regular routine was not too disrupted. In hindsight, it all worked out. We practiced and played in Scituate and we continued on to win the State Championship. As much as I balked at first it all worked out for us.

How has the changing of the turf and track affected gym class?

Ms. Beal: Changing the track and turf was more impactful for PE classes than it was for athletics for me personally. It was done during a time of year when our curriculum was focused on PE as opposed to health because we enjoy spending the time outdoors. Without the turf and track, it was sometimes challenging to get outside because of chilly mornings, rain, and wet grass. You don’t realize how much grass we track after class. It’s unfair for us to expect Jean and Chris, the custodians, to sweep up our mess. Indoor space is also limited with high school using the same indoor spaces. Again now looking back it wasn’t that bad because we are flexible and

adaptable to space issues. I'm looking forward to a new field and the track is wonderful.

As you can see, the changing of the schools' turf and track has had a big impact on our schools' athletics, but we are all super excited about the new turf and track.

(Photo right:
The
construction
continues on
the high
school turf
and track.)



Cohasset Football Has a Great Run

By Dax Aberbach

This fall, the Cohasset Football Team made a great run throughout the playoffs and regular season. The season was great, bringing big fan turnouts to each home game including CMS and CHS students. To get more of an inside look on how the season went, I interviewed Mr. Maher, 7th grade math teacher and a coach of the team.

Do you think the team exceeded expectations or underperformed?

“We knew we had a good team heading into the season. We had lost a lot of good seniors on our offensive and defensive line. We also lost many linebackers.

Even with those losses I was confident with our replacements. With the ultimate goal being to win, which we won many games, we weren't surprised with our losses which came from great teams. Overall, the season was great, making the final four out of over 30 teams."

What are you expecting for next season?

"It's tough to say or think how next season will go. There are so many teams moved up and down from new divisions each year. It will be a challenge with losing many seniors, but I'm very excited and confident with the new kids that will be stepping up next year. There will be a lot of competition between the players to earn those starting spots. In the end, there is no way of telling how next season will go but I have high hopes for it."

Overall, the Cohasset Football Team did not upset this year. Watching the football this year helped bring together the CMS and CHS communities and brought thrills and joy to all the fans watching. They had an incredible run through the playoffs and an incredibly successful season. We are all excited for next year!

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