



Northern Light



The Night of the One Acts

By Molly Forst

On November 22 at 7:00 PM, GNNMS brought its *Night of the One Acts* to the stage. Ms. Dove and Ms. Andreacchi outdid themselves with an incredible performance. The One Acts are small skits put together, averaging around 12 minutes each. There was a 15 minute intermission, and during that time there was a bake sale. Goods such as chips, baked goods, and candy were sold. The funds from this bake sale went towards the theater program.

The performers spent many late nights rehearsing for this performance, sometimes until 8:00pm. When one of the performers was asked if they thought rehearsal that late was truly necessary, the student responded that most of these practices were really helpful. This student said, "Most of them. I thought they could have been until 7 though."

The titles of the acts in this performance were, "*The Results*," "*The Rose*," "*Babysitting Teenagers*," "*Worst Speech Class Ever*," "*Kinsey Was Here*," and "*Picture Day*." An actor was asked how they would rate the One Acts before the performance, and this student said it would be an 8.5. However, after the performance, I asked this person the same question, and they after rated it a 9.6. When a member of the stage crew was asked what they liked about stage crew, this student said, "Yes, I did like stage crew because it's fun, and I can hang out with my friends."

Sixth grade student, Danaï Bezerianou, was at the One Acts. She was asked what she liked about the performance, and she responded, "I really liked how in the first act, two of the characters were pretending to be mad." She added, "I also liked the twist at the end of the second act."

It was really quite impressive to see the NMS auditorium lit up with such amazing talent. The entire cast and crew should be very proud of their production.



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NMS Girls Soccer Had a Super Season!



Read all about it on page 22!

School News

Red Ribbon Week at North Middle

By, Liel Kafaierad

Red Ribbon Week is a drug and violence prevention week. Some schools choose to participate in it by doing a spirit week. Here at North Middle School we celebrated Red Ribbon Week from October 24 to October 28 by having a spirit week and each day. Each day represented a different way to prevent drug use.

On Monday our school participated in Red Ribbon Day. On that day some staff and students chose to participate in it by wearing red. On Tuesday the theme was that people could have the power to be Drug Free. On that day students and staff chose to dress up as their favorite superhero. On Wednesday the theme was to team up against drugs. On that day the students and staff could have opted to wear their favorite team Jersey. Thursday was pajama day in honor of putting drugs to sleep. Finally, Friday was school spirit day. On that staff and students wore the school colors which were orange and blue.

After Red Ribbon Week, a school wide survey was shared. The question asked on it was, "What was your favorite theme day and why?" The day that most students liked was Thursday because many of them said that it was comfy and the easiest day to find something to wear. The second most liked day was Wednesday. Some students said that it was cool to see who/what sports team each student supported. The third most liked days were Monday and Friday. Many students said that it was the easiest day for them because they only wear those said colors. Finally Tuesday was the least liked day. Although some students voted for it, others seemed to have found it not as interesting compared to the other days.

Relay for Life's Pink Sale

By Emmie Kontente

During the week of October 17-21, The Relay for Life Club hosted a fundraiser to raise money for breast cancer research. From 7:45 am to 8:15 am, club members sat by the bus platform and in front of the nurses office. The organizers were Mrs. Feehan, Mr. Mongan and Mrs. Demodna.

The main selling item during this "pink sale" was socks and bracelets. There were teachers and students bringing money all week. On Friday, teachers and students wore these items, including a pink ribbon that represents breast cancer awareness.

Members of the club helped all week. Monday started slow but after, the items began selling out and sales continued to Friday (pink day). There were so many volunteers, like 4-6 students, at the stands being happy to help and participate. They even went to homerooms to let people know what they were selling.

The Relay for Life Club raised \$1,000.01. The full \$1,000 and 1 cent went to breast cancer research.

Students had a lot of positive things to say:
"We helped a lot, we raised a big amount of money + it was really fun," -Lily S.
"We raised money for cancer, so we can help save lives and give them the help and education they want. Help them feel comfortable and normal," -Ariella S
"It was a very nice and fun thing to do for a good cause," - Daniella K



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Ninth Graders Visit NMS

By Hannah Hyman

On Friday, October 14th Great Neck North Middle School held its first-ever assembly when the ninth graders from Great Neck North High School returned to meet with this year's sixth graders.

In this 60-minute meeting, the ninth graders looked back at their time in middle school and remembered how it felt to be a sixth grader. "It was kind of interesting to hear about their stories," Emma Mordechai, a sixth grader, said. "I thought the assembly was a good idea because the sixth graders who had questions had someone to ask," a sixth-grade boy responded.

The assembly focused on tips and tricks to getting better grades on tests. One girl stated, "The ninth graders explained how going to extra help before tests was super helpful. A week or two after the presentation, I had a test and used what I had learned. I went to extra help the morning of the test. I ended up getting 101% because of their advice." Sixth grader Mia Shamash agreed, "The ninth graders helped me understand that I shouldn't leave anything to the last minute and how much extra help can actually help!"

Sixth grade social studies teacher Mrs. Nagle felt it was an important meeting. "I think that it was a good opportunity because those kids were on this team three years ago." She continued, "When grown-ups tell you things it's hard to believe it, but once you walk into the school it's like you know how to do everything. The ninth graders' advice was much better than any adult would say."

When asked what should change for next year, sixth graders had some opinions. Mia commented, "I think they could bring in smaller groups and not everyone at the same time." She also thought adding a few tenth graders may be a good idea. In addition, another student replied with, "There should have been more ninth graders. There are too few to get a variety of opinions."

Overall, the sixth graders and their teachers alike believed this assembly was an amazing experience for everyone. Students got to hear real experiences and take-always from the students who were in their shoes a few years earlier. Now sixth graders are better prepared for their first year of middle school.

Life Advice from NMS Teachers

By Reese Yan

You've probably heard that if you're having trouble with a class you should go to extra help. Or ask the teacher to slow down. But how about when you want to skip school? Or when you want a snow day? Find out in this article!

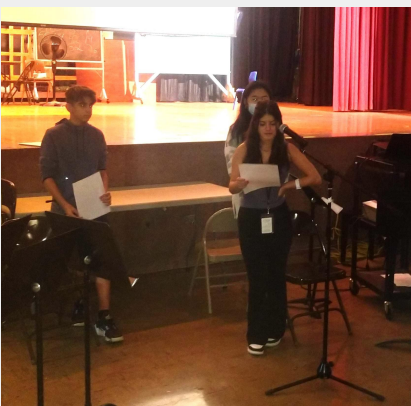
Mrs. Frenz, the math teacher, (and probably the only teacher who can do a handstand) knows that all students want snowdays. I mean who doesn't? It's a fun relaxing day for everyone. She shares that, "If you want a snow day, wear your pajamas inside out." It's a superstition but who knows...? Try it out. For the extra mile, wear it backwards too!

The next time we have a snowday, you've got to wonder which one of us went to bed with our pajamas inside out.

The English teacher, Mrs. Rice is more experienced when it comes to giving advice. She has two daughters of her own. So her advice is to "Worry about yourself and focus on being the best you can be." This sounds like something my mom would say. Yeah, we are talking about you! Stop comparing yourself to others.

Ms. Andreacchi, the reading teacher (who recently got a dog!) said, "Live every week like it's shark week." Go, have fun. Live your life to the fullest. (But still... Focus on your work! Balance is key).

I hope that you found this a funny (maybe even helpful) piece of writing! Which piece of advice did you find the funniest? Will you try it out? I hoped that these all worked!



All About the Orchestra

By Madisyn Chan

Music is very important to all of us. It relieves stress, helps you go to bed, and much more. There is a lot of music throughout our world and our school, Great Neck North Middle School. This article will be focusing on one group of musicians: the outstanding 6th grade orchestra!

The 6th grade orchestra is a *combined group* of people that play very unique instruments *together*. Most likely when you see an orchestra, you will see the following instruments; violin, viola, cello, bass, and possibly the double bass too! A violin is a stringed musical instrument with a higher pitch, with four strings that is usually held against the shoulder under the chin and played with a bow. A viola is very similar, but so different in its own unique ways. You hold the viola the same way you hold your violin, but the viola has a deeper sound, also known as the alto clef. Furthermore, its strings are different, which makes it also sound quite different too. A cello on the other hand, is a musical instrument played with the bass clef, and with four strings. In fact, it looks like a large violin or viola. You play the cello with a bow while sitting down and holding it upright between your legs. A bass is also just like a cello, but you play it while standing up (most of the time), and it is one octave lower. In other words, it produces a much more deep sound than a cello. Now that you know about the instruments in an orchestra, you will need to know what the orchestra does and what music pieces the 6th grade orchestra is playing.

What does the 6th grade orchestra do, you ask? Well, during a class in orchestra, they first have to set up. To do this, they first get out their instruments; they each have their own spot to put it in the room. Once everyone is settled, they usually start off with playing a few scales. (Most likely, the D Major, G Major, and/or C Major.) After that, the rest of the class is decided by the conductor. (A conductor is the person that *conducts* the class. The conductor is usually found in front of the orchestra so he/she could see the people well.) The 6th grade orchestra usually sight-reads some new parts to pieces, and takes closer looks at it, or they review old and simple ones. Just to get them playing, after tuning their instruments for a long time. The pieces that they are currently playing are, “Ode to Joy,” “Rustic Dance,” “March from the Nutcracker Ballet,” and “Dragon Slayer.”

To perfect your instrument, all you have to do is practice! Most professional musicians practice every day. But practicing three times a week is great too! However, you can’t just practice for one minute. There would be no use in that. You should practice for a significant amount of time, such as for half an hour.

Now that you know about the instruments in an orchestra, what an orchestra is, what the 6th grade orchestra is playing, and what to do to become better, you are all set to join one, and you can write about it one day too! All you need to do is pick a string instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass), find a teacher to teach you, and practice, if you decide to join one. Always remember, practice makes perfect!

Dear Ms. Know It All,

How can I keep on top of my grades?
There is so much homework and I have so much after school activities.

Sincerely,
James Goldsmith

Dear James Goldsmith,

First of all, at homeroom do not talk to anyone and try to do some homework that the teacher has posted. If you know how to do the homework, then do all the homework in the homeroom. Also at lunch, eat and if you have lots of homework that day, do your homework that you understand at lunch. Try your best to resist recess. Also if you are done with your work early in class, and the teacher does not tell you to do other stuff or the teacher says that you can play a game, do your homework in class. Also at the bus stop, do your homework on the bus and at the bus stop but look up once in a while to see if you are called.

Sincerely,
Miss Know-it-All

Dear Ms. Know-it-all,

How do I catch up on my work after a few sick days?

Thank you,
Mark Davis

Dear Mark Davis,
My suggestion for you is try to do some homework that you understand when you are sick. But only do it when your brain feels clear because if it is not, you will make lots of mistakes. Also after that you can go to extra help and catch up on assignments that you don’t understand. class.

From,
Miss Know-it-All

NMS SCO Elections

By Noah Babaev

At North Middle School, SCO held elections for Student Government on Friday, October 21. Many students ran for the different elected positions of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

The results of the election were announced on October 24th, revealing the new elected officials. For this school year, Letizia Kaya is the 8th grade president, Ben Nathan is the 7th grade president, and Taji Wilson is the 6th grade president. Brooke Ohebshalon and Frank Liu are vice-presidents together, Jordana Ahdoot is the secretary, and Emerson Kermanian is the treasurer.

Each official and SCO representative showed great determination. An example of this could be the motive that 6th grade president Taji Wilson had, to be a voice for the entire North Middle School Community. This is important to many students at North Middle School because it yells for attention, as if it is saying, "DON'T BE SHY!"

A quote that sums up the attitude of all our officials comes from Les Brown: "The lights are cut off, but you're still looking at your dreams, reviewing everyday, and saying to yourself, "IT'S NOT OVER, UNTIL I WIN!"



New Teacher Interview: Ms. Turnbull

By Abigail Bernstein

Ms. Turnbull is the new earth science teacher for team white. She can be found in room 219.

How long have you been teaching?

About 7 years

What other school districts have you taught at?

Hauppauge, Sayville, Hampton Bays

What made you want to become a teacher/earth science teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher in general. I was not sure what kind of teacher I wanted to be. I wasn't happy in my current job, and took a leap of faith back into school. I already had a degree in meteorology, so that led me towards earth science in grad school.

What's your favorite topic to teach and to learn?

Weather and astronomy.

If you weren't an earth science teacher, what would you be?

Probably a physical therapist/physical instruction. I enjoy health and exercising. If I was tall enough- a pro beach volleyball player. If only.

Do you consider yourself an optimist or a pessimist? Why?

I am a glass half full person. Positive thoughts keep you motivated, give energy, and a positive mind is an open mind.

Do you consider yourself a strict teacher?

It depends on the class. I don't consider myself super strict, but following a set of rules is important for class atmosphere. Each class has its own personality based on the students in it. Based on the way class functions, I adjust my teaching style.

What are your favorites?

Music: Country. Book Series: Twilight, but doesn't really enjoy reading. Weather: 75-80°, low humidity, slight breeze. Movie: Pretty Women. Food: Anything Mexican. Color: Most shades of green. Drink: Milk. Day of the week: Saturday. Hobby/sport: Beach volleyball



School Clubs After Covid

By Abigail Bernstein

In 2020, COVID-19 swept through the world, temporarily closing down schools, businesses, restaurants, etc, and effectively putting the entire world on pause. During shut down in 2020, NMS went fully remote in March of 2020, taking its clubs and classes to zoom, and having to provisionally shut down all sports. But what did that mean for the clubs at NMS?

Whereas some clubs such as Popjazz and Multicultural club were unable to run, or had to reduce their usual activities, many clubs including Zephyr, Gaming Club, Northern Light, Debate Club, and the GSA Club were booming in both activity and members. Social clubs like GSA and Debate club had no problem transitioning to online, with Ms. Disney, advisor of Debate Club saying “Debate could be held anywhere, anytime. As long as I have a device, I can debate.” Not only did clubs with little materials transitions close to seamlessly, many reported an increase in members and member activity, most likely due to the free time everyone had while sitting in their house. In fact, the Zephyr Literary and Art Magazine reported having one of their longest magazines, with one of the highest numbers of short stories and art in Zephyr history. Mr. Siciliano spoke about gaming club membership enduring an extreme rise, using zoom breakout rooms to play different games. The most popular in 2020 over zoom was Among Us, as it allowed people to play with each other, which is what people really wanted and needed over isolation.

However, some of what people wanted over isolation was not able to happen. One example of this is the 2020 and 2021 productions of the One Acts. During 2020, the One Acts show had to be recorded over zoom. Everyone would sit in their room with their zoom device and a green tablecloth, handed out by Ms. Dove. When ready, Ms. Dove would run the skit while recording the zoom, then combine all of the skits into one video, and changed the green backgrounds depending on the skit. It was then put on a website, where you had to pay per viewing of the video, so that people could still enjoy the show, and the revenue would still go towards having more Night of the One Acts shows in the future. In 2021, the Night of the One Acts production was able to happen, but with masks and social distancing, and each cast and crew member was only allowed to bring 4 friends or family members to view the show. There was space between most of the seats, allowing for the audience to social distance. This year, The Night of the One Acts was back to normal, almost. But the changes are here to stay. For example, having the parental meeting over zoom makes it so that parents can attend, even if sick or at work. In addition to that, auditions are now recorded and submitted to Ms. Dove via google classroom, which she thinks is better for everyone. The students, so that they can re-record and make the recording as good as possible, and for her so that she can look back and make sure the roles are perfect for everyone.

In additional to The Night of the One Acts, other on-stage clubs also suffered from lockdown. In March of 2020, NMS’s production of *Freaky Friday* was a week away, when the “2 week break” was announced. The next year, NMS put off a production of *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and did the same thing as The Night of the One Acts with the pay per viewing recording. However, it was not recorded over zoom. Instead, both Orange Cast and Blue Cast were filmed on each Sunday. People had to wear masks and social distance, but were able to watch themselves with their family in the comfort of their own home. The year after that, NMS staged a production of *Descendants*, in which they were able to shed the masks and have a live audience, although the audience was still social distanced. This year, Ms. Murdocco is happy to announce Newsies will be produced the same way as other shows in years prior, with a pit, no masks, a full audience and crew, and no limit to tickets.

Musical theater at NMS was not the only musical club affected by lockdown. Popjazz was essentially nonexistent, because it was impossible to hold over zoom. Last year, it was held in person but with some restrictions on distancing. This year Popjazz should be in full boom, but each club meeting yields the same 5 participants. Mr. Trinkwald details dwindling members, because the 8th graders who are supposed to be getting more kids involved, and mentoring them, are just now getting their first Popjazz experience.

This year, all clubs are back in full swing, doing their usual activities. Covid has definitely changed the clubs at NMS, but it also shows their resilience of how they operated during tough times. Now that the clubs are back up and running, they show no signs of slowing down any time soon.

How did COVID affect hospitals?

By Zoe Rios N.

From school closures to devastated industries, and millions of jobs lost, COVID affected at least 600 million people, and caused about 6 million people to die worldwide. This terrible pandemic put doctors and hospitals to maximum capacity almost every single day, causing shortage of beds, rooms, and doctors for patients. Hospitals had to halt elective surgeries to free up hospital beds for COVID patients who needed urgent care. They had to halt them because of the shortage of staff and tools for the healthcare of a COVID patient. Hospitals were on “survival mode” for an extended period, and that created difficulty in health care delivery to patients in need.

COVID is still a huge threat for the world. On October 16, 2022, there was a 25% spike on hospitals in hospitalizations caused by COVID. About 4,000 patients were in a hospital per week, and that put the hospital in a difficult situation because of shortage and precautions doctors had to take. Because of the threat, thousands of patients exposed towards the staff, a surgical mask, scrub hands with soap, water and use of alcohol-based disinfectant after each patient interaction needed to take precautions.

This resulted in a great shortage of staff during COVID. That was because many of the doctors and nurses had mental health issues, such as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it). Staff got PTSD because when they saw their colleagues or friends die, or when they had to intubate their co-workers because it was used to reduce spreading of the virus. This caused staff to get worried that they might end up like them, and this traumatic event put many doctors and nurses in a difficult position, forcing them to stay at home, where they wouldn't have any risk of ending up like their friends or colleagues. COVID also killed many people, and doctors had to turn ECMO (Life support) off their patients and see so many people die each day.

Until this day, COVID has affected so many people worldwide. But as hospitals have come together to put patient's risks over their own, people have been able to successfully reduce cases of COVID due to about 9.2 million doctors and 18.1 million nurses helping worldwide to patients across many places around the world. Doctors, nurses, and many more people have contributed in helping patients who needed urgent care for the last hundreds of years, but for this timeline of late 2019 towards today, doctors and nurses have put their lives on the line for us.

Montreal Travel Guide

By Daniel Shemesh

Canada is an amazing place to go to. I went to Montreal recently and it was so much fun. Here are some reasons why you should go to Montreal, Canada.

My first reason is experiencing winter there. During winter they have a cool winter carnival and there are really good snacks. One snack that was very good is called a maple taffy. They make it by pouring maple syrup on top of freshly crushed ice. There is also a wooden stick in between the ice and syrup. Then they roll it up and it is the best snow snack.

My second reason is the sports and the game traditions/customs. If you are a big sports fan, then I advise you to watch the Montreal Canadiens. They are a team in the NHL(National Hockey League). Their fans are very passionate.

An additional reason is that they have amazing food. In my opinion the food in Montreal is very delicious. Their bagels are famous! They have different types of bagels such as French, Italian and even kosher. I recommend trying their delicious bagels and their pizza and their Bad Monkey popcorn that you can get at IGA. It is a popular supermarket in Canada.

Finally, Montreal is beautiful and fun. Downtown Montreal looks like Europe and that is where the famous Jazz festival happens every summer. In the winter there is a lot of snow in the mountains where there is great skiing, but also snow tubing and ice fishing.

This is why Montreal, Canada is an amazing place to visit.



Endangered Ecosystems: The Case of Great Neck

By Daniel Goldberg

Since humans first evolved, we have been shaping the world around us, but never to the extent that we attained today. In our pursuit of comfort, safety, and wealth we have destroyed the nature around us. From hunting animals to extinction, to modifying the landscape around us, we have had drastic effects on the habitat around us, mostly for the worse. In this article we will look at an endangered environment; our own! Yes, Great Neck's environment is endangered. This article will focus on some of the problems our local wildlife is facing, and naming solutions.

One of the largest problems of suburban ecosystems are lawns and gardens. Yes, something as simple as this is catastrophic for our local environment. The grass and flowers we plant in our yards and gardens are not native, thus they are useless for bees and other pollinators. Lawns take away space that otherwise would be full with native flora, providing food and shelter for pollinators, birds, and other animals. The tradition of lawns comes from Britain, where herds of sheep would make natural lawns. These lawns were a sign of wealth and so many people started making lawns of their own and this became a standard. These lawns cannot naturally grow in most places outside of Britain, and are extremely costly and inefficient to maintain.

Another problem is the fertilizers and pesticides. In the fall, gardeners arrive at your house and blow the leaves into piles. Then these leaves are thrown away. In the spring, the gardeners come back and put toxic fertilizer on your lawns. In the wild, the leaves are the fertilizer. The leaves on your lawn should be made into compost and put back on your lawn instead of artificial fertilizers. It is irrational how people do this as this causes so many problems for you and the environment and it can easily be avoided. The fertilizer and the pesticides have calamitous consequences on all kinds of fauna. These are not only harmful to you and your pets, but they are also terribly destructive to our local insect population.

Even worse is the problems fertilizers and pesticides cause for our water supply. Long Island uses an aquifer, where we pull water out of the ground and drink it. This water is plagued with the pesticides and fertilizers that we put into our lawns, and thus it is not healthy to drink, even with the expensive cleaning methods that we use. Not only this, but any body of water is overtaken by algae, because fertilizer makes it grow at unnaturally fast rates. This chokes out aquatic life such as fish by depriving them of oxygen and is also extremely harmful for our water supply.

Another serious local problem are cats. There are an estimated ONE THOUSAND stray cats in Great Neck. This is insanely high, as this number doesn't even include so many more cats that are allowed by their owners to roam the streets freely. This is disastrous for the bird population, which is already suffering from the declining insect population, an aforementioned topic. Bird biodiversity is pathetically low in Great Neck due to cats and this lack of insects.

On a more positive note there are plenty of ways to solve these problems. Some are already happening. Though not intentionally triggered by humans, the arrival of coyotes is a very positive thing for our local ecosystem. The largest service they will provide is keeping the cat population in check. A coyote is much larger and stronger than a cat, and thus is a very effective predator to cats. This will help the bird (and other animal) population significantly. Another thing that coyotes can help with is seed dispersal. Believe it or not, coyotes are actually omnivores, and will eat fruits and berries. Through feces, coyotes can disperse seeds of native plant species. Another problem they can solve are ticks. Deer live abundantly in Great Neck. Ticks will get diseases from latching onto deer. And then they latch on to us, spreading those diseases. Coyotes regulate the deer population. This helps control deer populations and make sure that they do not get too high, and make ticks a problem. Many people are worried about coyotes, but they are more scared of you than you are of them. A coyote can only pose a threat to a baby, but this only means not to let your baby be unsupervised. Same with pets. Though a larger dog can easily kill a coyote, a smaller dog or a cat might be in serious peril if they are unsupervised.

Solutions to other problems are also very simple. To stop cutting your lawn is actually easier for you than to pay money to have people come and cut it. You won't have to deal with the unbearable noise any more and the old and inefficient lawn mowers will no longer be producing harmful CO_2 . Noisy leaf blowers should be restricted or made electric. Not only that, but planting native flowers is also easier for you. Native flowers do not need expensive gardeners and watering, and will live and spread naturally here while you put in little effort. With native plants, harmful pesticides and unhealthy fertilizers will no longer be needed, saving you money as well as taking away the risk of getting sick from their toxic effects. Your water bill would also be lowered, because if everyone would stop using these chemicals on their lawns, then our water would not need to be cleaned from these residues.

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Planting more trees wherever you can is also incredibly helpful, as they create a habitat for countless birds, insects, and animals. By the way, they not only beautify the streets but also regulate temperatures with their shade, and clean the air and produce oxygen. They also prevent serious levels of erosion, which can destroy foundations of buildings. Tree roots also aerate the soil, making it more fertile.

(continued on next page)

Other solutions to problems are already being done in other places, including Long Island! Port Washington put ONE MILLION oysters into Manhasset bay as a conservation effort. Oysters provide food to countless marine animals, and they also clean the water. Cambridge University, despite being famous for its lawns, has recently stopped cutting its lawns, and now there stands a beautiful meadow. Some municipal legislations already restrict the usage of leaf blowers, and this is a good start. Another recent positive development are organic foods (and products in general). Agriculture takes up enormous spaces, and the less of it is filled with toxic pesticides, the better. Organic foods are not only healthier for you, they are also infinitely healthier for the environment. Organic methods of agriculture do not harm insect populations, and do not get virulent chemicals in our water supply. Thankfully, organic foods are becoming more and more popular, and this is saving our planet.

I thank you for getting so far in this article, and I hope this article has inspired you to take action upon this topic. The problems of our own creation are affecting us and the wildlife around us in harrowing ways. But the future seems bright, as more and more people such as myself are drawing attention to this topic. New legislations and governmental actions are taking place to preserve nature. Hopefully the easy solutions that have already been presented to us will be utilized to make a future where humanity and nature live in a peace, beneficial for both.

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The Mooncake Festival

By Catherine Wang

The Mooncake Festival - Also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival - is a Chinese holiday and portrays Chinese culture. (The roots of it sit between the Chinese and Vietnamese.) Even though it has Asian roots, this doesn't mean you can't also celebrate or learn more about it!

The Mooncake Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th month on the Lunar calendar but it is different from the calendar that we use here in the U.S. The day that this festival is celebrated happens to fall on the day of the month when the moon is a prominent symbol in the sky.

As with many other holidays and festivals, there are multiple myths about the Mid Autumn Festival and the moon, some that are known to the world more than others. The myth has unique twists and changes with every version but the idea is the same. There were once 10 suns instead of 1. An archer, following requests, shot down all but 1 of the 10 suns. For this deed, he was given a potion of immortality. One of his friends or followers tried to steal this potion when he was away. The only one left to protect it was his wife Chang'e. Since she couldn't think of any better way to protect it, she drank the potion herself to keep it away from the hands of others. As she drank it, she became immortal and rose up to be the moon. She became the moon goddess and holds a jade rabbit.

During the Mooncake Festival, people celebrate by eating mooncake with their families, as suggested by name. As this festival approaches, Chinese supermarkets start to become stocked up in boxes of mooncakes. Over the years due to inflation, mooncakes have become more expensive but if you don't want to put in the work to make a mooncake, buying it is still your best choice. If you are buying mooncakes, you will notice the variety in terms of flavor. Common flavors include red bean, egg yolk, snow skin, and green tea, etc. "Uncommon" flavors include durian, coconut, mangosteen, chocolate lava, etc. A feast usually also takes place alongside the mooncake. Putting food aside, when you walk out on the streets, you will notice red lanterns hanging. These red lanterns symbolize wealth and prosperity.

In conclusion, even if you don't celebrate this holiday for cultural reasons, you could still take joy in the other aspects of this festival. This is a day to learn more about culture and share your happiness with your friends and family, because this festival can be celebrated for many reasons and by multiple people. So, approach the Mid Autumn Festival filled with happiness and prepared for the festivities mentioned above.



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Traditional Autumn Festivals Around the World

by Lila P. Halpert

What images are brought to mind when the words “fall festivals” are said? Maybe you think of jack-o’-lanterns on porches, people of all ages running through the streets, shouts of “Trick or treat!” ringing throughout the neighborhood. Or maybe you think of families gathering at a table, smiles on their faces, a turkey and other seasonal dishes spread about. However, there are many more autumn traditions and holidays than Halloween and Thanksgiving. Below are just a few of the immensely fascinating traditions from across the globe.

El Día de los Muertos: Known in English as “The Day of the Dead,” this holiday, which takes place during November 1st and 2nd, originated in Mexico. El Día de los Muertos is a joyous festival commemorating the lives of those who have passed. Many assemble altars as tributes to their ancestors and donate offerings to the spirits of the dead. Skeletons are one of the most recognizable symbols of the holiday, which is believed to be the only time of the year the spirits of the deceased can return to Earth. El Día de los Muertos can be traced all the way back to the ancient civilization of the Aztecs.

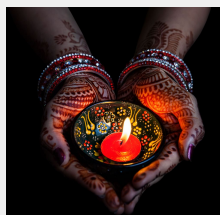
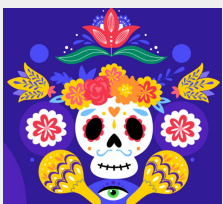
Pchum Ben: A Cambodian Buddhist holiday, Pchum Ben lasts fifteen days. It is believed that during Pchum Ben, offerings made by living relatives and karma determine how the souls of one’s ancestors (going back seven generations) are judged. The first fourteen days are known as Kan Ben, during which families offer food and they pray to save their ancestors’ souls from bad karma. The fifteenth day of Pchum Ben is called Ben Thom, and it is the main day of the holiday. Customs include giving gifts to monks, visiting pagodas, making bay bens (sticky rice balls cooked in coconut milk), and more. Similarly to El Día de los Muertos, many believe their ancestors’ souls return to Earth during the fifteen days of Pchum Ben. The holiday dates back to the Middle Ages and is one of the biggest and most important festivals in Cambodia.

Diwali: Also called the Festival of Lights, Diwali is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists (mainly Newar Buddhists). However, it has different significance for each religious group. In Hinduism, it commemorates the legend of the deities Lord Rama and Sita returning to the ancient city of Ayodhya. Meanwhile, Sikhs celebrate the 1619 release of Hargobind Singh, the sixth guru, from prison. For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the liberation of Mahavira’s soul. (In Jainism, Mahavira was the twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara — a person who has conquered the cycle of death and rebirth, called *samsāra* — of the current cosmic age.) For some Buddhists, Diwali commemorates Emperor Ashoka converting to Buddhism in the third century BCE.

Moon Festival: Also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Moon Festival is a bright Chinese holiday: a time of gathering, giving thanks, and praying. Occurring between the full moons of September and October, some customs include gathering with family, decorating with lights, and, most famously, eating mooncakes. Mooncakes are traditional pastries, usually eaten with tea. Round to represent the full moon and family reunion, mooncakes are typically filled with pastes to give them a creamy texture and sweet flavor. The Moon Festival commemorates the legend of the relationship between Hou Yi (the Lord Archer) and Chang’e (the spirit of the moon). The celebration is believed by many to be a time of good fortune.

Mombasa Carnival: As its name suggests, Mombasa Carnival takes place in Mombasa, Kenya, East Africa’s largest coastal port. Mombasa has been welcoming traders since the twelfth century, and, over time, has become a hub of multicultural activity. At no time is this more evident than during Mombasa Carnival, a street party with many joyous events. For example, parades celebrate Mombasa’s melting pot of communities and cultures while music ranging from Afropop to soothing religious tunes and stalls sell everything imaginable — all demonstrating the diversity of Mombasa.

These five festivals are just a few of the many, many holidays, traditions, and celebrations spanning cultures from around the world. If you liked this article, you can take it further and do your own research! You may just stumble upon an extraordinary celebration.



Technology



Apple's New Products

By Derek Gao

Apple this year has made a lot of new products this year, let's see and talk about all of them.

1. The new iPhones

- iPhone 14: The iPhone 14 is the new baseline phone for the iPhone line. To put it into short words, it is the iPhone 13 just with a better camera and new name. They even kept the same processor too.
- iPhone 14 Plus: The iPhone 14 Plus is the same size as the 14 Pro Max. It has a battery that can last many hours, so much that it can destroy the competition, but it has the same processor specs and camera specs as the iPhone 14.
- iPhone 14 Pro: Now this is where Apple's new tech is really shown. It has the new processor, the A16 bionic chip, which is 40% faster than the competition, according to Apple. It has the ProMotion display which is upgraded from the old one, going down to 1Hz instead of 10Hz. (Hertz, abbreviated as Hz is how many times a screen refreshes to a new image per second.) Most importantly, it has a brand new camera! It is instead of a 12 megapixel camera to a 49 megapixel camera. This means it can create clearer and sharper photos with more detail.
- iPhone 14 Pro Max: To put it in short words, it is an iPhone 14 Pro with just the battery of the iPhone 14 Plus.



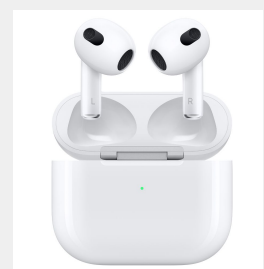
2. Apple Watches

- Series 8: The Apple Watch Series 8 is the new Apple Watch in the series lineup. It has brand new Crash detection, temperature sensing, and even sleep stage tracker. Of course while some might not be necessary, it is an important part of life. Other than that, it is basically the same as the Series 7 with just a new processor.
- SE: The Apple Watch SE is the 2nd generation of the SE. It still is more limited than the Series 8, but it has most of the things that people need. It has a heart rate monitor and Crash detection.



3. AirPods

- Airpod 3rd generation: The airpod 3rd generation is a great new addition to the lineup of airpods. It now features more of an airpod pro design because of its shorter stem. It also now has improved sound quality and spatial audio. It has sweat and water resistance, and now has magsafe charging.
- AirPods Pro 2nd Generation: The 2nd generation of the AirPods Pro is now the first Apple Airpod with the brand new H2 chip. What they really mean is that they just kind of improved the sound. Anyways, it has a new gesture system, improved sound quality, and kept a lot of the amazing features of the 1st generation in this model. The price is the same and that is it.



That is a recap of the new products released by Apple!

Technology (cont'd)



Exotic Cars

By Josiah Baires

There are many cars in the world, especially futuristic cars, and they have all sorts of cool features in them. We can use these cars for all different kinds of things, and there are good things and bad things about them. For example, on the good side, we can use an electric car because it's smoother on the road and it's not bad for the environment, unlike cars that use gas. In addition, in the future people are saying there are going to be flying cars that will help avoid traffic. But there are also many questions and dangers. How would that even be possible? For example, how would someone charge their car while they're in the air, or what if the car ran out of battery mid air. What would you do? Cars can also be dangerous, like the two wheel car, where the driver could fall back in the car and hurt themselves really badly. Finally, cars that go really fast can crash into other cars and that would be very destructive.

Some cars are new and inventive. The image shown with this article is a car that can go underwater! Isn't that so cool? Now the underwater car is called the U Boat Nemo. Its front is shaped like a supercar while the rest looks like the engines of a supercar. It can go deep underwater and drivers can ride in style with the fishes. Would you want to be riding in style under the water with this supercar?

On the other hand, other cars are just famous. One of the most famous cars is a Bugatti, which looks so cool and is really expensive. The reason it's so famous is because a lot of people like the style of the car, and a lot of celebrities are using and buying this car.



How does technology affect a student's school day?

By Liel Kafaierad

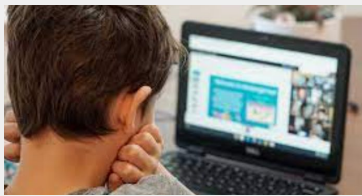
Technology can help a student throughout the school day. It could make their academic life easier, but there is also another side of the story. To some students technology can make it harder for them to focus or it might just set them up for failure.

Some students may believe that technology helps learning. This is because the majority of the work done in school is done on iPads. iPads provide a variety of apps that could help students academically. Such apps are but not limited to; Notability, Safari, Google apps, Student Campus, etc. iPads provide a wide range of resources as well. Technology can also be material that is not electronic. For example, reading a book can boost a student's academic performance.

On the contrary, some students believe that technology negatively affects their academic performance. This may be that iPads may be distracting or useless. Some students may think that pen and paper are the ideal tools for learning. For some students, staying away from electronic devices during the school day might help them learn better.

At the end of the day, students use technology whether or not the student realizes it. Furthermore different students have different opinions about how technology affects a students academic performance. In conclusion it is up to the student how they chose to work throughout the school day.

Technology (cont'd)



Is Technology Actually Beneficial to Students?

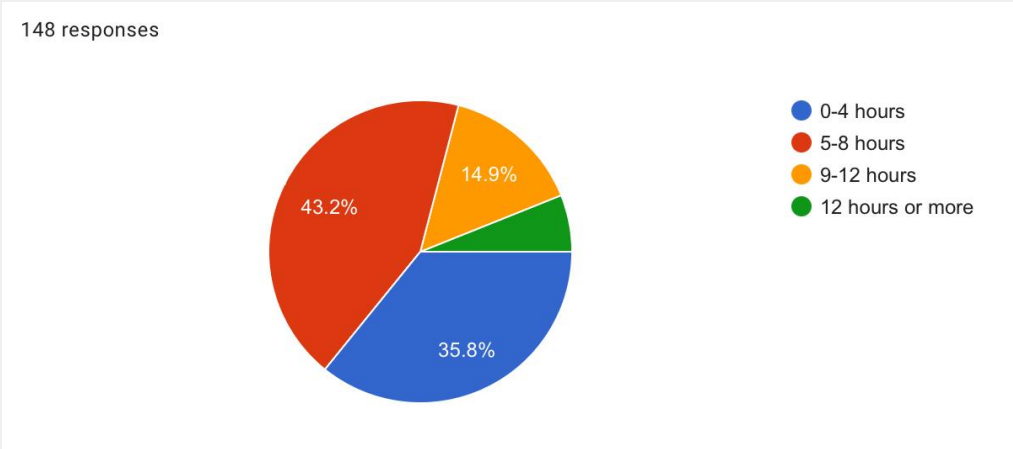
By Luke Zhong

Technology has impacted everything and everyone on this planet, included in this plain of reality, and students are no exception to this. Although technology has existed far beyond the creation of an education system, in the past one hundred years, new technology, mainly electronic devices, have impacted students’ lives. But the real question is, does it really benefit the students' education?

“Technology is beneficial for schoolwork and is helpful in completing assignments.” One student responded to the question of technology use in school. This student thinks that technology benefits students by making previously difficult and time-consuming assignments easier and more efficient. When asking another student regarding technology in school, they responded with, “Technology makes people unable to focus on schoolwork.” Although being able to use technology makes most things easier, it could also be distracting to some students. Students being able to search up almost any type of information with a few clicks on an iPad (without people regulating) would make them distracted in class and not pay attention to the teachers, thus having a negative effect on students. This was also shown when a student said: “Technology lets me access many things.” When asked to elaborate, they said technology could let them learn and access information otherwise unable or irritating to obtain(Ex: like having to obtain a book just to learn something, or having to read/watch the news to know about current events.).

According to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), the average 11 to 14 year old spends almost nine hours a day staring at a screen! According to the Google form I sent out to our school’s 8th graders(and other students), our average is 5-8 hours of screen time per day.

But all in all, technology has a variety of uses in different people’s hands. Technology can be both an advantage and a drawback to students. In the end, it depends on what students do with these technological resources, to really determine if technology is beneficial or hurtful to the student population at Richard S. Sherman Great Neck North Middle School (or any school).



Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews

Book Review: *The Marvellers*

by Lila P. Halpert

As an ardent fan of both the fantasy genre and the magic school trope, I can say with absolute certainty that *The Marvellers* is one of the best books out there. For starters, author Dhonielle Clayton expertly builds the world of the Arcanum Training Institute, where young Marvellers go to learn how to use their magical abilities, called marvels. Instead of being set in some faraway land, *The Marvellers* (the first book in the upcoming Marvellerverse series) takes place right here on Earth, giving it a satisfying, grounded feel.

The story chronicles the journey of young Conjuror Ella Durand, who will be the first person with conjure magic ever to attend the Arcanum. Ella hails from New Orleans, Louisiana, where she lives with her parents, sister, and grandmother. However, a deep prejudice exists against all Conjurers, whose powers tie into death and the underworld, even after the law barring them from the Arcanum has finally been struck down. Ella's first few weeks at the Arcanum aren't easy: She's far from home, has to deal with bullies, and more. And as beautifully crafted as Clayton's fantastical world is, it also has its ugly side: the despicable Aces, Marvellers who use their marvels for evil. Some of Ella's peers believe that she — and all Conjurers — are Aces, a reputation Ella must find a way to shed. Luckily, Ella finds friends in two fellow misfits, mysterious Brigit and animal-loving Jason, and Arcanum teacher Masterji Thakur. When Masterji Thakur suddenly goes missing, Ella, Brigit, and Jason embark on a journey to save him. But it's quickly apparent something sinister is at work here — something, or *someone*. Someone like the worst Ace of all: Gia Trivelino, the Ace of Anarchy.

While the plot (and several subplots, including one with a golem and another with mischievous pixies) makes the book stand out, it's the diversity that makes *The Marvellers* surpass its other magic school books counterparts. The classes available at the Arcanum are just one example: From learning to brew Indian elixirs, barter with Irish pixies, or master the art of Caribbean drum hypnosis, there's something for everyone. The foods served at the school also reflect the diversity of the book. Dishes from around the world are served, with japchae, a type of Korean noodle, being especially popular in the book. But nothing is more diverse about *The Marvellers* than its characters. Ella is Black American girl, gracing the cover of the book. Her classmates and teachers hail from across the globe, including Africa, Ireland, India, Russia, and everywhere else. This diversity is marvelous (no pun intended) because readers who would otherwise never see characters like them in books can finally see themselves discovering their own marvel. It also opens a window to learn more about the world's many peoples and cultures.

Between its captivating plot, intricate characters, impeccable world-building, and diverse setting, *The Marvellers* is a definite must-read.

2022 Halloween Film Reviews

By Audrey Saka



This Halloween was all about movies! Recently there were rumors about a new *Coraline* film. Since the old one was an amazing clay animation consisting of many emotions and threats, some fans weren't excited for a new one, thinking it may ruin the plot. Luckily for them, it was a rumor. Another popular movie this Halloween was *Scream*. Although it is a horror film, *Scream* is a very funny movie consisting of many terrifying scares. This movie has lots of betrayals as well as emotions, go watch it before I spoil more! Before watching this movie, just know that there are a lot of gorey events, please ask for permission before watching it.

If you don't want to get as scared, I suggest watching Tim Burton movies! *A Nightmare before Christmas* and *Beetlejuice* can be slight scares if you get afraid easily. These movies are relatively related to Halloween, yet they still have a musical plot along with crazy events! Tim Burton movies are great Halloween family favorites!

A newly added show on Netflix focused on Halloween is called *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* This series is family friendly, yet it also gives you chills! Teens start missing overtime and many crazy events occur as well as hallucinations. This thriller will definitely run shivers down your spine!

Lastly, my most recommended movie has got to be the 2017 Stephen King's *It*. This movie will most definitely make you jump out of your seat with popcorn all over the floor. This film is a coming of age film, yet there are lots of gorey jumpscars! Teens are haunted by their greatest fears and need to take down a terrifying clown named Pennywise in order to save their town and friends! But please ask for permission before watching because this film can be very terrifying! Although Halloween has passed, these films are great scares that will definitely bring your jaw down to the floor!

Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews (cont'd)

Roblox Review

By Victoria Xu-Ferguson

Everyone loves video games, right? I mean, my twin loves video games, especially a game called *Roblox*. Before playing the game I was a little doubtful. I thought, “*I wonder what this is going to be like,*” but I decided to try it out anyway.

While playing the game I saw some glitchy parts. For example, sometimes, I didn’t get the item I purchased. But what I really liked about it is the currency. The currency is called Robux, it can be used to buy in-game items that are virtual, such as limited edition items. What I didn’t like about this game was some of the games inside of it. Not going to lie, some of the games were a bit too overrated, such as the obstacle games.

Either way, this game is very popular among my friends and family, so the best thing is that you get to play online with others! You can safely make online friends, and friend them so you can know when they are online. It's super fun with or without Robux!

Halloween Movie Reviews

By Julia Reed

You might be excited or nervous to watch these Halloween movies, OR you also might’ve never even heard of them! But here in this article, I’ll tell you everything there is to know about them without spoilers!

Hocus Pocus 2: *Hocus Pocus 2* does not have the original characters, only the 3 Sanderson Sisters and Billy! The movie is about 2 girls, Becca and Izzy, who get disconnected from their friend Izzy, and in the process get mixed up with the three witches.

Rating: 4/5

Why: I thought that the ending is really sad, and I would have written it differently. But overall it was a good movie and has a lot of funny scenes like the three witches in a pharmacy.

The School For Good And Evil: *The School For Good And Evil* is a great show to watch if you like Disney, fairy tales, a little violence, and heartbreak. The two main characters are Agatha—everyone calls her a witch because she lives in a graveyard— and Sophie, who wants to be a princess but her stepmother and brothers ruin her every day! Sophie wants to live away from her family, while Agatha wants to stay with her mother!

Rating: 5/5

Why: I thought that it was a great movie to watch and that the storyline had a great twist at the end! At the end it’s a little creepy, but overall it was a great movie that I think you should watch!

Five Feet Apart Book Review

By Audrey Saka



The Young Adult book Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott has had many different reviews; here’s mine! This book was a sad roller coaster; two seventeen year old cystic fibrosis patients were fighting for their lives and then, they met each other. CF patients aren’t allowed to be closer than six feet apart from each other in order to survive and be as healthy as they can be with this sickness. Will and Stella knew that they were willing to take the risk from the moment they saw each other, as long as they both tried to actually stay healthy.

Stella needs it, her parents need it, she can’t let them down, and she can’t let her sister down. Will has helped Stella through the tragic events that had happened to her. They love each other, but they want to keep each other alive. Should they stop talking? Will they survive? This book had me sobbing. Many tragic events occurred that will have you in tears in just seconds. Right person, wrong time.

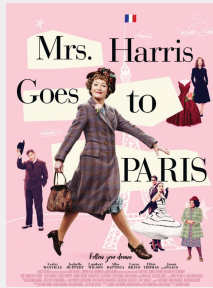


Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews (cont'd)

Movie Review: *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*

by Lila P. Halpert



Have you ever found yourself yearning for a little slice of joy in this crazy world? A story that ends in a happily ever after, brimming with engaging characters and plot? Well, then, *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* is the movie for you. Right off the bat, Mrs. Ada Harris (Lesley Manville), a lonely widow in 1957 England, is established as the kind of person who everyone would want to be friends with. Hopeful and optimistic, Mrs. Harris works as a cleaning lady and lives a plain existence, well into her middle age.

But this does not last for long. Mrs. Harris soon becomes smitten with a Christian Dior dress, and believes that everything in her life will become perfect if she can just get her own Dior creation. With help from friends Vi (Ellen Thomas) and Archie (Jason Isaacs), as well as an unexpected war widow pension, Mrs. Harris is soon on her way to the fashion capital of the world: Paris, France. There, she is launched into the world of haute couture, meeting an eclectic cast of characters — not all of whom are kind.

It's impossible to do anything but root for Mrs. Harris throughout the one-hour-and-fifty-six-minute movie. Manville's acting is impeccable, and the audience can truly empathize with Mrs. Harris. Whether she's trying to navigate a French train station, challenging the way Dior runs, or even just attending a flower sale in Paris, Mrs. Harris is always smiling, full of life and joy.

Of course, the film ends with a perfect happy ending. In a world where many movies are filled with darkness, *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* might just be the little ray of sunshine we all need.

Rated PG.

Jinx by Sage Blackwood

By Catherine Wang

The book *Jinx* by Sage Blackwood would fall into the genres of fantasy and adventure. Jinx, the main character, embarks on a journey where he becomes more than just the little child thrown out to survive on their own in the woods where monsters lurk. He stays with Simon the wizard, although Jinx suspects that he is dangerous and evil like the description of most wizards. Jinx learns from him to stay on the path and avoid monsters such as trolls, werewolves, and elves. Even if Jinx isn't entangled with monsters, he is always watching his back, for in the Urwald, there is always something out there trying to get you.

As Jinx grows, he gains the ability to fend for himself and grows an interest in magic. Yet, Jinx still always manages to get himself into just the right amount of trouble that would qualify him to have to be rescued. He develops the ability to listen to the trees and soon learns that not everyone can see the clouds of emotion above everyone's head as he can. Although Jinx knew from the beginning that staying with Simon meant that there was a price to pay, Jinx didn't know what this meant or what he was truly diving into. Jinx realizes what price was paid when he wakes up after being unconscious and no longer sees clouds of emotion above everyone's head. As he travels to figure out what is wrong with him, Jinx meets two "friends," Reven and Elfwyn, who are also cursed. Along the way, the three deal with the mysteries and threats of the Urwald together. Eventually though, Jinx manages to return to where he started. He learns from the mixes of fear, pride, and anger he encounters throughout the book. His ball of knowledge became far larger after his adventures with Reven and Elfwyn.

I would recommend this book to readers that are interested in getting themselves into a whirl of adventures, mysteries, and intertwined in a bunch of twists and turns. Or, if you are bored and looking for something to entertain you. I enjoyed how every chapter was like a cliffhanger inviting you to read the next chapter. Unfortunately though, like many other great books, it always starts slow but ends within a few days. In summary, the book *Jinx* by Sage Blackwood gives mind and life to the monsters that we once imagined and incorporates an adventure into it.

Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews (cont'd)

Movie Review:

Thor: Love and Thunder

By Sophia McLaughlin



In this movie, *Thor: Love and Thunder*, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) joins the Guardians of the Galaxy and embarks on a new quest to better himself. Unfortunately, Thor must leave to stop Gorr the God Butcher (Christian Bale) before he reaches eternity, an all powerful being that will grant Gorr any wish he wants. Along the way, Thor reunites with his ex-girlfriend Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), a scientist with stage four cancer, Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson), and Korg (Taika Waititi), a rock-like creature from the previous movie. Together they stop the God Butcher but lose some friends along the way.

This movie was spectacular and had the perfect balance between comedy and action. There was great CGI and story line, as with most marvel movies. The actors were amazing and were well casted. You could feel the emotion in some scenes, particularly in scenes with grief and sentiment. The actors did a good job and the music added to the sadness of the moment. In all, the movie was amazing and I would watch it again in a heartbeat. This movie is streaming on Disney+ , Apple TV, and Prime video.

Recipes, Trends, Celebrities, and MORE!

Celebrity Profile of Kobe Bryant

By Bradley Makani

Kobe Bean Bryant was born August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and passed away on January 26, 2020 in Calabasas, California. He was an American professional basketball player, who helped lead the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) to five championships (2000–02 and 2009–10). He lived in Philadelphia, Italy, Los Angeles, Newport Beach, and Ardmore.

Kobe Bryant didn't go to college. Kobe was the first shooting guard to be drafted by the NBA out of high school! Kobe played for the Los Angeles Lakers his entire professional career. He was the youngest player to start an NBA game. Kobe's mother's brother, John Cox, also played in the NBA.

He was named after the Japanese steak "kobe". His net worth during his lifetime was \$600 million. Kobe Bryant passed away in a helicopter crash with his daughter, Gianna Bryant going to Mamba Sports Academy in Ventura County. The National Transportation Safety Board, concluding that helicopter pilot Ara Zobayan's driving to fly into the clouds violated federal standards that required him to be able to see where he was going before the helicopter crashed during a roughly 40-minute flight.

Kobe was a legend in the basketball world and when he died, the world shut down in depression. He won five championships, 15 All-Star Game appearances, four All-Star Game MVP Awards, two NBA Finals MVP Awards and a single regular-season MVP Award. Kobe Bryant won 5 championships: 1999 – 2000 Los Angeles Lakers. 2000 – 2001 Los Angeles Lakers. 2001-2002 Los Angeles Lakers. Kobe showed great courage fighting through each injury and obstacle in his playing career.

Kobe Bryant inspired the world. He inspired many to pick up a basketball and play with a goal of becoming just like him. Kobe became a leader in the growth and development of women's basketball and was a huge icon in the whole world.

Entertainment Pages

Recipes, Trends, Celebrities, and MORE! (cont'd)

Trendy Shoes

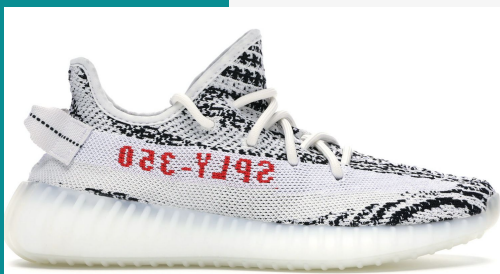
By Derek Gao

This year, there are more trendy shoes than ever. Jordans, Yeezys, Dunks, basketball shoes, Air Force 1's, and so much more. But how did we get here? Let's rewind.

It started in 1982. The Air Force 1. The Air Force 1 was originally a basketball shoe. Made by Nike, it became and still is an important piece of sneaker culture. It really skyrocketed in popularity after Moses Malone won a championship in 1983 wearing the Air Force 1.

Next up, Jordan. Michael Jordan was a star when he came into the league in 1984. He rocked the Jordan 1. It was popular mainly because of how Jordan wore it. It severely blew up when the NBA banned the BRED (black + red) colorway because the shoe did not have any white on it, but Jordan still wore the colorway anyways.

Now, not being produced anymore because of Kanye West's Antisemitic comments, are Yeezys by Adidas. It has always been a stable part of sneaker culture and is one of the most popular shoes for people. Resellers are making more money because of the higher resale value.



How to Make Candy Corn

By Julia Reed

Adapted from thekitchn.com

To make candy corn you first need the ingredients, then you can get straight to making it!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 ½ tablespoons nonfat instant dried milk (powdered milk)
- ⅛ teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ cup white sugar
- ⅓ cup corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ tablespoon vanilla extract
- Red and Yellow food coloring

Even if you don't have these ingredients, you can still follow along and learn how to make candy corn. Who knows, you might learn something new!

Steps:

Step 1: Sift all the dry ingredients together (powdered sugar, dried milk, and kosher salt). Make sure there are no clumps because that would make your candy corn bumpy.

Step 2: Add sugar, corn sugar, and butter in a 2- quart saucepan. DON'T use anything smaller or bigger than that size because it could ruin the whole recipe! Melt the ingredients at medium heat making sure everything is melted.

Step 3: Use a candy thermometer or an instant-read thermometer and stick it to the side of the pan. Cook the syrup until it reaches 245 degrees Fahrenheit to 250 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure the syrup goes to a full boil before you stop stirring! If you accidentally went over the temperature add water until it's the right temperature. Turn off the heat as soon as it reaches the temperature.

Step 4: Add the vanilla. Be CAREFUL on this step because when you add the vanilla, it will bubble!

Step 5: Add the sifted dry ingredients and stir with a heatproof spatula until the mixture looks like dough. WARNING: smells bad at this step!

Step 6: Pour the dough onto a baking sheet and let it cool for 10- 15 minutes.

Step 7: Cut the dough into 3 equal parts and color with food coloring. For the orange add a few drops of red and double the amount of yellow! Don't forget to knead!

Step 8: Take a small piece of dough at a time and roll it into a thin rope. Once you're done, lay the ropes in order and pinch them together gently! Roll over with a rolling pin.

Step 9: Cut out triangles with a chef's knife. Do it to every piece and dry for a few hours.

Step 10: These candies can be kept in an airtight container for lots of weeks until they become dry.

Entertainment Pages

Recipes, Trends, Celebrities, and MORE! (cont'd)

Weird Food Review

By Riley Cheng

Overview

Welcome back to Weird Food Review. If you forgot, Weird Food Review is a column telling the history of “weird” food as well as tasting them. If you forgot the ranking system here it is.

1. Just terrible
2. Dog water
3. Average
4. Thumbs up
5. A gift from the sky

This year’s first edition is about chocolate bacon.

History

Chocolate bacon is a very recent invention in terms of food. The earliest mention of this unusual food dates back to around 2005 but the origins surrounding its creation (including its creator) are unknown. Some theories suggest that it either originated from a state fair in Minnesota, while other people suggest it was from *Marini’s Candy* in Santa Cruz California. Nevertheless it was still invented. The snack gained major stardom from a show called *Dinner: Impossible* which aired on Food Network. After this it is now all over the United States in state fairs and novelty (candy) shops.

Taste

It tastes exactly like how it sounds. It is like if the chocolate was a condiment (ketchup) and the bacon was the side (fries). The clashing style of sweet and milky chocolate and the salty bacon makes a winning combination. The texture is soft with the chocolate while the bacon is kind of in the middle of soft and hard. The smell is just chocolate (which isn’t really a bad thing), but I can also smell a small whiff of bacon. It’s like a small snack, not something I will eat all the time but still pretty good.

The final score: $\frac{4}{5}$

Conclusion

Two of the best foods with each other. Who would know it is good? I guess opposites really do attract. Honestly it is a very cool novelty item and a good gift for someone you know but not really know. Next time I don’t know what I will eat. Anyways, I’ll see you next time.

Credits

<https://www.tasteatlas.com/chocolate-covered-bacon>

Cubing Trend

By Harrison Albin

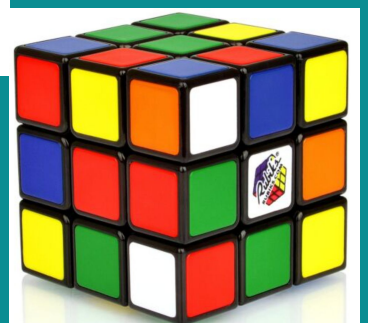
In 1974, The mathematician Erno Rubik designed the first ever Rubik’s cube. It took him a month to figure out. It reached stores in 1980, and since then, it has sold more than 450 million units and is the most successful ‘toy’ ever created. But while millions of people have bought it, only a few have learned its secrets. For the others, it is simply an artifact sitting on a shelf.

In our current times, the rise of the internet has been a main contributor for the Rubik’s Cube’s new rise. The highly sought after method to solve it is out for any to see, completely free. This brought a new surge of popularity to the cube. It has become a goal that anyone can reach and use to impress.

Once someone learns to solve the cube, they are greeted by one of the most satisfying feelings known to man. The completion. Beginners often fall in love with cubing and are drawn to try to get faster. This makes cubing a great hobby. Unlike video games, parents often accept it. It does exercise the brain, and it feels great every time you solve the cube. People become hooked and continue getting faster, and the cubing community grows and grows.

Along with its popularity, the best of the best have become even faster at drastic rates over the past few years as technology in speedcubes has become better. Times have dropped from 8 seconds for the best cubers to 4 seconds.

The amount cubing has grown as a community and skill in the past few years is incredible, and it will be amazing to see it continue to grow.



Entertainment Pages

Recipes, Trends, Celebrities, and MORE! (cont'd)

Apple Cider Donuts

By Genevieve Xu-Ferguson

Adapted from <https://lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Ingredients:

3 inch cinnamon sticks
3 cups of apple cider
½ cup of apple butter
½ cup of buttermilk
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
1 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons of baking powder
1 teaspoon of kosher salt
¼ of baking soda
¼ teaspoon of freshly grated nutmeg
3 ½ cups of all purpose flour, plus more for dusting
1 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoons of ground cinnamon, divided
6 tablespoons of unsalted butter, room temperature
¼ cup (packed) light brown sugar
1 ¼ cups of granulated sugar
2 large eggs
Vegetable oil (for frying; about 4 cups)

Preparation

Step 1: Bring cinnamon sticks and apple cider to a boil in a large skillet over medium-high heat and cook until liquid is thick, syrupy, and reduced to about ⅓ cup, 20–30 minutes. Scrape into a medium bowl and whisk in apple butter, buttermilk, and vanilla until incorporated; set aside.

Step 2: Whisk baking powder, salt, baking soda, nutmeg, 3½ cups flour, and 1 tsp. ground cinnamon in a medium bowl. Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter, brown sugar, and ¼ cup granulated sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating until well blended after each addition. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add dry ingredients in 2 additions, alternating with cider mixture in 2 additions, starting with dry ingredients and ending with cider mixture (dough will be very soft and sticky).

Step 3: Scrape dough onto a parchment lined-rimmed baking sheet thoroughly dusted with flour (about ⅓ cup). Dust hands and top of dough with more flour, then gently pat dough to ¾" thick. Dust with more flour and tightly cover with plastic wrap; chill dough for at least 3 hours.

Step 4: Whisk remaining 1 cup granulated sugar and 1 Tbsp. cinnamon in a small bowl until no lumps remain.

Step 5: Working on a baking sheet, punch out as many rounds as you can with 3¼" cutter, then use 1¼" cutter to punch out the center of each round. Gather doughnut scraps, reserving holes, and gently re-roll without overworking dough; repeat until all dough has been used (you should have 18 doughnuts).

Step 6: Set a wire rack inside a paper towel-lined rimmed baking sheet. Fit a large pot with a deep-fry thermometer and pour in oil to a depth of 3". Heat over medium-high until the thermometer registers 350°. Working in batches, fry doughnuts until deep golden brown, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a prepared rack and let cool slightly. Fry doughnut holes until deep golden brown, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer to a prepared rack and let cool slightly. Toss warm doughnuts and doughnut holes in cinnamon sugar.

Step 7: Do Ahead: Dough can be made 1 day ahead; cover and chill.



NBA Drafts & News

By Jayden Wen

Victor Wembanyama - What's in Store For Him?

Expectations are high for 7'3" French basketball player, Victor Wembanyama. When asked, NBA superstar Stephen Curry replied, "He's like the 2K creator player," referring to the popular video game *NBA 2K*. Lakers Superstar LeBron James even referred to Wembanyama as an "alien." He is suspected by many to be the first overall pick in the 2023 NBA Draft.

Utah Jazz Trades - Ridiculous or Genius?

The Utah Jazz have been bold this year, trading their two star players Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert. The famous star on the Utah Jazz, Donovan Mitchell, was recently traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Later it was revealed that the New York Knicks had their eyes on Mitchell as well. Mitchell was excited at the prospect of playing for the very state he grew up in, and in a recent interview stated, "It would have been nice," when asked how he felt about the past possibility of going to the Knicks instead. However, all hopes crumbled when the Knicks refused to include RJ Barrett in the deal. Their other star player, 7' 1" French Rudy Gobert, was traded off to the Minnesota Timberwolves. Why? Well both of these trades included some solid players and unprotected first round picks. It seems to me that Utah is planning for the future, as they didn't quite trade for "All-Star material."

Los Angeles Lakers - Bad and Worse

This season has been a particularly rough season for the Los Angeles Lakers. This season has been one of their worst in history. However, it's quite obvious why. LA decided to complement LeBron with Russell Westbrook, who has been having one of his worst seasons. He's slowly improving though, but the Lakers decided to add Patrick Beverley to the roster. These three have not worked well together. It's quite obvious that if you want to win a championship, just surround LeBron James with shooters, not slashers or dunkers.



Here is Victor (Right) standing next to 7'1" Rudy Gobert (Left), current professional French NBA player on the Minnesota Timberwolves

Stellar Season for the Girls Soccer Team

By Sophia McLaughlin

This year's girls soccer team was exceptional. This year's team consisted of Abigail Abreu, Allison Abreu, Isabella Bernardo, Yulie Glucklich, Ella Hackman, Sigal Hakimi, Ruby Harari, Lindsay Hirschbein, Chloe Kamali, Megan Mccarthy, Carla Melendez, Damaris Miranda, Samantha Mosafi, Zoe Rios, Lily Silberstien, Gemma Soleymani, Sophia Sontag, Sophia McLaughlin, Helen Su, and Gabby Wasserman. The team was coached by Coach Weber, and had a total of seven games, with five away games and two home games. They won three games, lost one, and tied three. The season lasted from September 21 to November 1. The girls played against Carle Place, Finley, Jericho, Mineola, and Clarke.

In their most recent game, the girls won 1-0 against Finley at the track field on November 1st. It was a tough game, but in the end Gabby Wasserman scored the winning goal and led the team to victory. The team had great defenders like Carla Melendez, Helen Su, and Zoe Rios. There were also strong attackers like Ruby Harari and Sam Mosafi. Goalies Damaris Miranda and Lindsay Hirschbein saved many goals and were key contributors to the team's success.

Soccer has been a very fun experience for everyone. We got to learn about teamwork and improve our skills. "I like hanging out with my friends," says Lily Silberstien, a defender. This season was amazing and the girls played well. We can't wait to see what the team will be like next year!



Table Tennis

By Nathan Zhong

According to multiple sources, the most popular sports in America are ice hockey, basketball, baseball, soccer, and American football. These sports are seen everywhere, from at home on TV and on the news, to at school where people talk about and wear jerseys from these sports. Needless to say, sports are a big part of American culture and everyday life. However, while most people know about all these popular sports, there are also many less popular sports that are also very interesting and fun to play and the people that play them are very dedicated and serious about that sport. One of these sports is table tennis.

Table Tennis originated in England, in the 1800’s. It has undergone many rule changes, and has gained a lot of popularity mostly in Asian countries, such as China, Japan, and Korea. Table Tennis is very similar to tennis, in that you must hit the ball to the other side of the table in order to win. It’s a very beginner-friendly sport, as you can play pretty much anywhere as long as you have a ball and a racket. You don’t even need a lot of space or a table tennis table, as long as you have a table that can allow the ball to bounce. However, despite the easy accessibility of table tennis, it isn’t a popular sport in America.

There aren’t many table tennis clubs and places to play table tennis locally, with only 1 club in Great Neck, with a few more in Nassau County. Despite there being only a few clubs, the members of those clubs are all very passionate about the sport, and some clubs even host official USATT(USA Table Tennis) tournaments. These tournaments have many different events, with most of them being either age group events, or rating events. Rating events work by placing players who sign up for that event into groups, and all the players in that event are under the rating of that event. For example, if you are participating in the under 2000 rating event, then you will be placed into groups to play other players that are under 2000 rating. Age group events are pretty self explanatory, you just play with people that are under certain ages, such as under 13, under 15, etc. To gain rating points, you have to beat players whose ratings are within 250 points lower than yours, or higher than yours. You’ll gain more rating points if you beat players whose ratings are higher, and less rating points if you beat someone who is lower than you. You’ll lose points if you lose to someone within 250 points of you, and you lose more if they are lower than you. These rules make it easy to gain points, but also easy to lose points, especially because of how fast table tennis is and how quickly points go by.

Table tennis is a very fun sport to play, and it has a lot of potential in becoming a very popular sport in America. I hope that it will grow in popularity.

Sports

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- ATHLETICS
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- BASKETBALL
- CRICKET
- FOTTBALL
- HOCKEY
- NETBALL
- ROUNDERS
- RUGBY
- RUNNING
- TAG RUGBY