

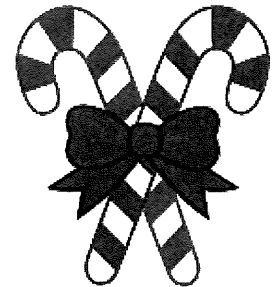


W.M.S. TIMES.

Buffalo Snowstorm - What Happened?

by Mickayla Dicks

What happened in Buffalo with the recent blizzard was horrible. At least thirteen died so far, but you never know there might be more, and over 100 were reported trapped. There was one bus that was a Greyhound bus and people were stuck in it for a day and a half on I-90. Luckily it was running on a generator so the people could charge their phones but they were all very hungry. Finally, after 34 hours of waiting, the people on board were rescued by state troopers. Also a girl's basketball team was trapped for about 30 hours while they were on a bus returning from their game at Pittsburg University. One of the worst things though was there were two little boys on the bus, who were probably the coaches' kids, and they were all out of food. Oh and guess what, from this terrible snowstorm many roofs collapsed from the weight of the 7 foot of snow that fell.. Just think this all happened because of one lake, which was Lake Erie. Lake effect snow. The warm water of Lake Erie mixing with the cool air above caused this massive blizzard. We might even get a bad snowstorm from Lake Ontario, hopefully not 7 feet of snow.



Rachel's Challenge Goes On the Road

On a snowy night, when most schools cancelled after school activities, about 20 members of Rachel's Challenge visited the Buck Apartments in Whitesboro on December 10th and sang holiday songs and celebrated the season with the enthusiastic residents inside.

The giving theme of the season was strong as students sang together with the residents and served them a variety of refreshments. Grade 8 Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Kuhn said, "It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Residents asked when we could come back."

Commenting on the great experience, Mrs. Venezia, a 7th grade social studies teacher said, "It was a beautiful way to share the holiday spirit with others in the community."

Great job to the faculty and students who participated and brightened up the holiday season for so many.



Teachers Favorite Christmas Memories

I interviewed a few teachers and asked them what their favorite Christmas memories were. Some had to put a lot of thought onto it but some just didn't know how to put it into words. Mine is when I got my first bow and arrows. My mouth dropped to the floor and my parents just laughed as I SCREAMED in joy.

Mrs. Percacciante's favorite Christmas memory is when she was little. She was 5 yet remembers it like only yesterday. She woke up on Christmas and ran to the tree. She opened her gift and got a stuffed bear, a teddy bear. She named her bear teddy. She also got a chalkboard because even at the age of 5 she wanted to be a teacher. On Christmas she set up all her stuffed animals and made them her class. She was teaching her stuffed animals!

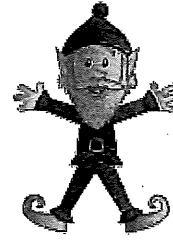
Mr. Haggas couldn't choose just one. He said that his favorite part of Christmas is watching his daughter opening her presents and seeing the expression on her face. From the first present she opened to the most recent he still finds magic in his daughter's happiness on Christmas.

Out of all of the teachers Ms. Williams (Art Teacher) favorite Christmas memory was the funniest. She was having a nerf war with her nephews and she dove over a couch. Yes DOVE over a couch to avoid being hit with the bullets. Her brother yelled from down stairs, "Whoever made that noise gets a timeout." Her brother came up stairs to find it was Ms. Williams that made the noise and she sat on the time out stair.

But the sweetest out of all is Mr. Starke's favorite Christmas. When his children were little and still believed in Santa he made it very believable for them. He ate half the cookie and drank half the milk to make it look like Santa had come. His kids were pretty convinced that Santa had arrived.

All the teachers had to think a long time because they wanted to choose a great memory. They chose, not for the presents they received, but for the memory it put in their head.

By: Cassondra Arcuri



Holidays-Are we really thankful?

By Emily Staley

It's the holiday season, the time of giving, receiving, and being thankful for what you have. The definition of Thanksgiving is showing great thanks for what you have. Thanksgiving is also a season of giving as well as recognizing the Pilgrims and having a feast as the Pilgrims and Indians did. The word giving is in the title Thanksgiving. But are we actually giving?

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with your family and give to the less fortunate. This lasts for about a day and then the next day is Black Friday where we completely forget about giving and we focus on the more material things for the next holiday which is Christmas. Christmas shouldn't be about presents like it is today.

The meaning of Christmas is about spending time with family, not spending money on your family. I think that we are more focused on the materialistic part of Christmas and I think that we have forgotten what Christmas is actually about. You don't need expensive gifts to have a good Christmas. Instead of focusing on getting gifts, maybe you should buy gifts for the less fortunate and help make someone feel special during this holiday season.



SPORTS

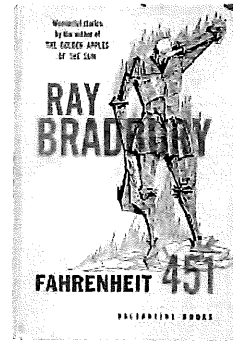
BY: Carson Spina

Just like many of you, I watch sports for entertainment and I also play several sports. I enjoy sports because it takes my mind off stuff and I like to compete-and win. But what does sports mean to others?

I have been asked about sports in my past. I was recently asked by the *tea-drinking swaggy elf princess*, "What is the point of sports?" I decided to ask others about this.

I sat down with Allyson Watrous, Zoe Dobry, and Ruben Vizcarra and asked them, "What do you think is the main reason we play sports?" Ally replied, "I think we play sports first, for the entertainment and exercise, second, for the friendships and socialization, and finally and most importantly, for the unexplainable reason that we love them and have an undying passion for them. Also, we dedicate a good portion of our lives to them."

Ruben Vizcarra said, "For fun and entertainment." Zoe Dobry told me, "To be active and in shape." After asking these questions I have had feelings of my own about the topic. I think that the main reason of sports is to teach us how to lose and not be the best at everything, I also think it teaches us perseverance and determination and how to apply it to a certain career.



Fahrenheit 451

Author: Ray Bradbury

By Ian Tracy

Does anyone need a nice warm book for the cold winter season? If so, then why not read one about fires? Fahrenheit 451 tells the story of Guy Montag, an ordinary fireman in the future where the system of everyday life was simple. In this time, however, fires cannot start on their own in homes thanks to the technology. However, the reason for firemen is the complete opposite - they start the fires, but only in houses where books are hidden because they are against the law. The reason behind is that all they say are lies.

The main characters are Guy Montag, the fireman, his wife Mildred Montag, Clarisse McClellan, a young girl who questions their way of life, and Professor Faber, an old, retired college professor. When Montag first meets Clarisse, he is unfamiliar to her ways of thinking. Why are books burned? Why does everyone follow the same schedule, thoughts, and ideas? Why does everyone want to know "How?" instead of "Why?" These are some of the many questions that opened his eyes. Why is their world that way? Months pass as Montag loses his mind, seeing all the patterns in their controlled world, and needs to find out the reason why the way things are.

The book, while short, is a great read for anyone who wants to read something very interesting and story driven. There aren't too many scenes filled with action, if you're a fan of that, but the main focus is the story. Books today for people in our age group have to be exciting with people being chased or attacked, not too exciting when people just talk. That doesn't happen much but I still recommend this to anyone, to try something different. The only problem I had was some of the vocabulary because it is an older book, other than that I loved it and recommend it to everyone.

Fearfully funny

You've heard of arachnophobia and stuff like that, but some fears people have are rather unique. Read on to find some of these hilarious horrors! (Do not read if you have phobophobia(fear of phobias)!)

Allodoxophobia: fear of opinions

Anablephobia: fear of looking up

Cathisophobia: fear of sitting

Consecotaleophobia: fear of chopsticks

Hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia: fear of long words
(best not tell them what they have!)

Phronemophobia: fear of thinking

Polyphobia: fear of nothing in particular (?!?)

Anatidaephobia: fear of somewhere, somehow, a duck is watching you

Ablutophobia: Fear of taking a shower

Hypengyophobia: fear of responsibility (you need to look after your pet! - NOOOOOOOO!!!!!!)

Hedenophobia: fear of feeling pleasure (and that's where grouchy heads come from!)

Eleutherophobia: fear of freedom ("pleeease!! Lock me up noooowwww!")

I hope you liked this article! And if you meet anyone with these fears, try not to laugh until they are gone.



The Theory of Everything

by Rhee Evans

James Marsh is the phenomenal director of the new movie, *The Theory of Everything*. This movie gives you a glimpse of the life of Stephen Hawking, the well-known physicist, and his relationship with his wife. Eddie Redmayne portrays Stephen Hawking in this upcoming film. If you enjoy biographies of fascinating figures, then this is a movie for you!



Mockingjay - Part 1

The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1 is an amazing movie and in my opinion the best out of all three. While Katniss is still recovering from the previous games, she must take on the role as the face of the rebellion, being known as the "Mockingjay". This movie is the most action packed yet, and also involves great suspense as well. I was on the edge of my seat the entire time, waiting for the next combat scene, and dramatic dialog. For all Hunger Games fans, and even non-fans, *Mockingjay Part 1* was one of the best movies of 2014, and in my opinion a must-see film.

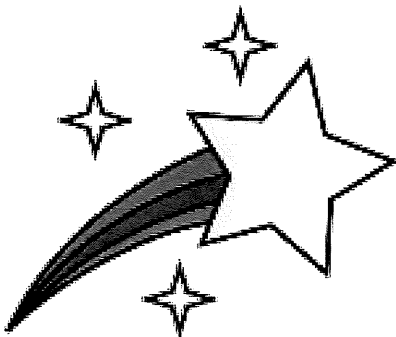
By Sydney Henderson

“Girl Talk”

by Kylie Lansing



Have you ever seen the Dove commercials? I know, I know, another commercial! I don't watch much TV but when I do I like to pick up on these things. They get me thinking. Okay now, back to Dove. If you don't watch any TV then the commercial entails a bunch of women having their pictures taken. Most try to cover their face or hit the camera out of the camera man's hand. Then, they try to take pictures of little girls. All of them wear the biggest smile and pose. The question Dove leaves you with at the end is, "When did you stop thinking you were beautiful?" Powerful. Most of us at this age look at ourselves differently. Maybe you don't like your hair, the gap in your teeth, your pimples, your freckles, your legs, arms, nose, midsection or your smile. Whatever it is, we all have things we don't like about ourselves. We hide those things. Why? Maybe that is beautiful to someone else. Your quirks are what make you, you! Flaunt them for a change. You, yes you, are beautiful in every way. It's time to change the photo shop world we are living in and believe, truly believe, that we are beautiful. Because when you don't believe this you become insecure. We lack confidence. When you lack confidence, you are not giving all you have to offer and the world will never get another one of you. Confidence starts with believing in yourself, and believing that you are beautiful, inside and out. Trust me, I struggle with this. Don't get me wrong. I am writing this so we can break the generation of hiding and shame. It is time for us to become generation empowered, generation confident and generation beautiful. Break the chain reaction and believe you are beautiful. Believe the truths and love your imperfections.



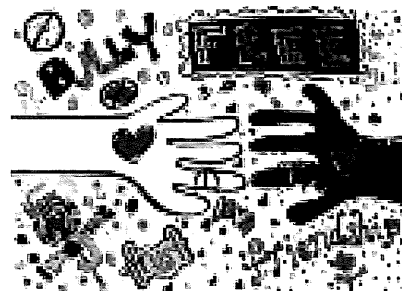
Bullies Aren't the Only Ones with Power By Ian Tracy

Bullying is obviously a problem in our world today. It could happen at school or online or anywhere. There are many stories of students getting picked on or thinking very terribly of themselves because somebody pressured them into doing something, or because somebody is taking their anger and problems out on them. No matter what, it's a problem.

People tend to have problems from being bullied because they may not want to get the help because they might think what bullies say is true, but it's not. If people call you names or make fun of you or what you do, it could just be that they are jealous of you or something you have. Sometimes it's because how you look or what your interests are. For example, if you're shorter than most people or "fat," or that you should not like this show and you should do what "normal" people do, you might get bullied. Just think about the problems the bully could be having, it could be something they make fun of you for.

If you're being bullied and don't have the confidence to confront the bully, talk to people. Talk to anyone, parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, teachers, just about anyone! I know firsthand that it helps a ton to talk about what you go through. But anyway, if a bully is making fun of a thing you enjoy, something you're wearing, something you can't help, or anything like that, just ask, "Why does it matter to you?"

If you are being bullied, I hope this will help you to find out why it might be happening and how to stop it. If a friend or anyone else you know is being bullied, help them. You can stand up for them if you see it happen firsthand. Don't be a bystander. You could tell them these ways and other ways to get over being bullied. To end this all off, just try to help someone when they need it.





“Mandatory Fun” Album Review
By Annie Lybolt



Yes, yes, Weird Al is STILL making music, and yes, he is just as obnoxious, maybe even more!

Mandatory Fun is the 14th studio album from Weird Al, featuring parodies of Iggy Azalea, Lorde, Robin Thicke, Imagine Dragons, and Pharrell Williams. It was released July 15th and became the first comedy album to ever debut at #1 on the Billboard charts.

“Handy” is a parody of “Fancy” by Iggy Azalea. It’s all about the amazing world of general repair. I really enjoyed this song, as I now have the entire long, rambling rap memorized.

“Lame Claim to Fame”...pretty sure we all have at least one of these. I share a birthday with Ozzy Osbourne and Adam Savage (from “Mythbusters”) retweeted me on Twitter!

“Foil”, a parody of Lorde’s “Royals,” teaches you about all the amazing uses of tin foil, and gets into the Illuminati and the government. Funny to those with sick and twisted minds.

“Sports Song” is the most generic song about sports ever. We’re great... and you suck.

“Word Crimes”...the title says it all. A song about the poor grammar 95% of Americans use today. Perfect. Exactly what we need. I mean, it rly iz gr8! This song iz prbly mah fav! Cuz I meen, luk at dis grammer! Ain’t it prfct? [smile emoji]

“My Own Eyes” is a song mostly about totally random things. Things that would “drive a normal man insane.” A very fun, happy song.

“Now That’s What I Call Polka!”...ever wanted to hear Wrecking Ball and Thrift Shop polkafied and put in the same song? This song is for you!

“Mission Statement” has great harmonies and it’s about the wonderful world of business!

“Inactive” All about laying on the couch and doing nothing, another thing modern Americans do a lot of! (Including me... let’s move on.)

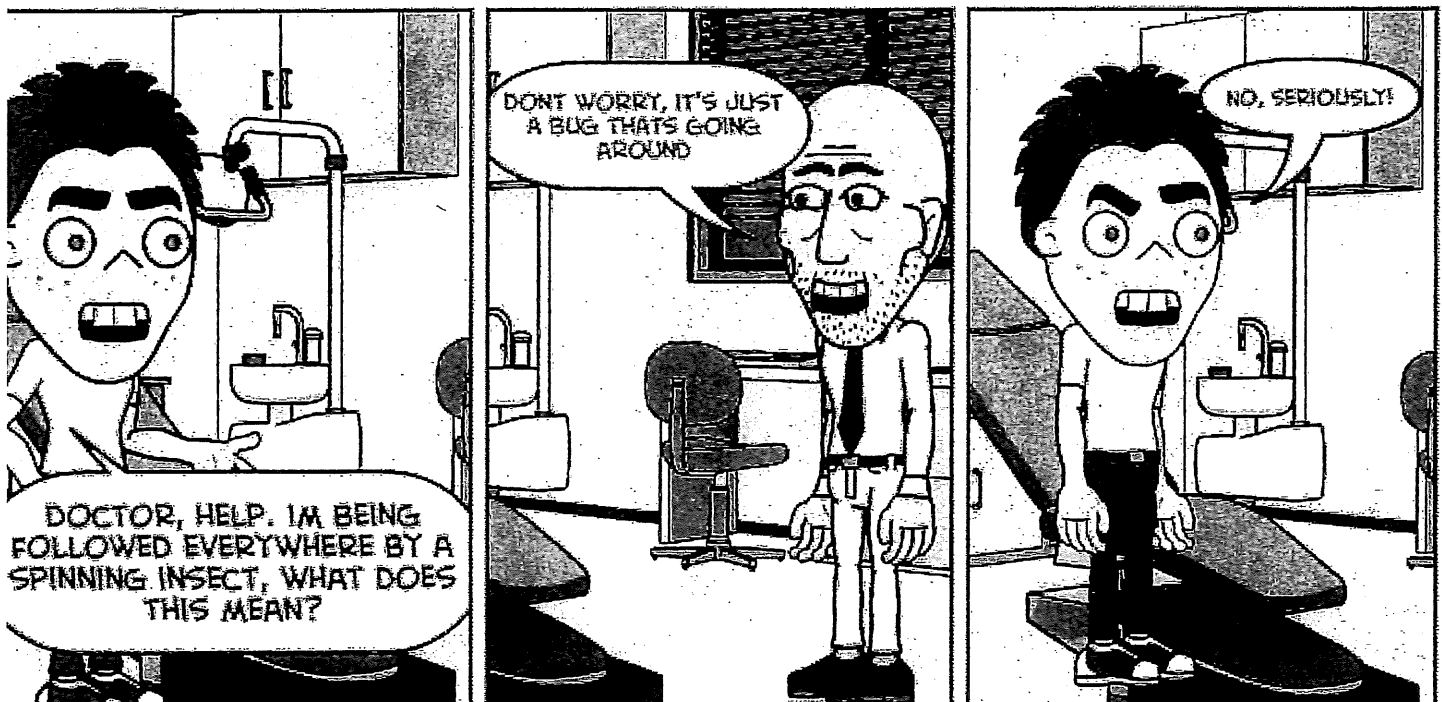
“First World Problems” is about the “problems” modern Americans face, such as a cookie not being gluten-free or not being able to get wifi in the kitchen. Pretty relatable.

“Tacky” The tacky things we do, such as wearing stripes with plaid and instagramming food. Very funny.

“Jackson Park Express” is a twisted love story, that pretty much is the stages of love in 10 minutes that takes place on a bus line in Chicago. Hilarious!

My personal favorite off of the album is “Word Crimes,” being a creative writer as I am, it’s funny to hear the common mistakes that other people make when writing, over texting.

Mandatory Fun is available wherever music is sold.



Random Stuff



Random Quotes From The Internet and Whitesboro
Middle School
By Catherine Yankowski

“Find your passion and run with it; anything is possible.” - Kendall Schmidt

“I used to think I actually was Batman.” - Justin Timberlake

“I wumbo, you wumbo, he-she-me wumbo. Wumboing, wumbology, the study of wumbo! It’s first grade Spongebob.” - Patrick Star

“It’d be really nice to wake up looking like, I don’t know, Jake Gyllenhaal and think, Let’s try this on for a day and see how it feels.” - Benedict Cumberbatch

“Everyone thinks I like to sleep. It’s not that I like to sleep, it’s that I don’t like to get up! There is a difference.” - JC Chasez (same)

“No one can stop me.” - Justin Bieber

“Don’t keep reaching for the stars because you’ll just look like an idiot stretching that way for no reason” - Jimmy Fallon

“Tee Bramhall is bloody amazing” - Your Mum

“If a zombie apocalypse were to happen in Vegas, would it stay in Vegas?” - Conor Macmanus

“Only fools are positive.” - Moe Howard

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.” Mr. Starke

“The difference between a violin and a viola is a viola burns longer.” - Victor Borge

“He’s a couple sandwiches short of a picnic” - Lance Bass

“Can I get a random quote?” Me

“No.” - Mr. King

Random Questions ???

by Mia Lybolt

Can bald men get lice?

Why doesn’t McDonalds sell hot dogs?

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy all of her friends?

Do British people sit around trying to imitate American accents?

Why are circular pizzas cut into triangles and put in square boxes?

What would happen if Bill Gates and Steve Jobs actually got along?

Has anyone woken Green Day up yet? (September’s over, you guys!)

Is a zebra a black horse with white stripes or a white horse with black stripes?

What color was George Washington’s white horse?

If Ebola breaks out in Vegas, does it stay in Vegas?

Why is it called a *microwave* when the heat waves and the radiation waves inside it can kill you within minutes?

If x-rays are used to look at bones, can y-rays be used to look at muscles?



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On December 15, 2014 there was a vote on whether or not the school should spend more money so they can get more things for the Whitesboro School District. The voters passed it. When we are gone and at the high school, the middle school will be getting air conditioning in the auditorium, an electronic sign in front of the school, elevator upgrades, new student lockers, and a lot more. But don't worry, the high school will also be getting new lockers, a new turf field and many upgrades. The residents and students of Whitesboro will be getting a lot more things for our school district.



Newspaper Staff for Winter Issue

Jenna Burton
Abby Chapman
Conor Macmanus
Taylor Bramhall
Mia Lybolt
Cassandra Arcuri
Ian Tracy
Kylie Lansing
Kendal Merry
Zoe Dobry
Anabella Rossi
Mickayla Dicks
Carson Spina
Emily Staley
Catherine Yankowski
Rhiann Evans
Sydney Henderson
Ruben Vizcarra
Advisor - Mr. Starke

School Problems



You think you have it bad? Be a teacher. No seriously. Think about it. They deal with *us* all day. They deal with our whining, sarcasm, bad behavior, and rude attitudes. I have seen horrible gestures sent to them behind their backs, and heard words I can't repeat. By the way, a strict teacher is not a mean teacher. They just want us to do well, so they push us. Teachers are kind, wonderful people, and they put it all on the line so you can become successful. Be happy.

Another problem is that teachers deal with is Common Core. For better or worse, Common Core has changed the way they teach, and many teachers aren't thrilled with the changes. It's a problem for us too. We tend to think of Common Core as more tests than usual. That isn't completely true. Common Core is the belief that makes sure that every child in, say eighth grade, is learning the same stuff as kids in other states. Same for every other grade. As you can see, its more than just more tests.

Class work. We all have had our share of it. Mr. Starke, grade 8 social studies teacher says that, "We give out a lot of paper. The number of binders that I see kids carrying around is phenomenal. Most students have eight classes every day. That might be too many." I couldn't agree with him more.

Anabella Rossi



Ways to Give Back to the Community

By: Kendal Merry

It's that time of the year again when we make a wish list, have a holiday dinner, and have warm clothes to play in the snow. But, sometimes we have to think about other people around us. I'm going to give some ideas to give back this holiday season.

Donate- one can of food can give hope for someone in need. Find some cans that your family is ok to donate. Having a special Christmas Eve dinner could put a smile on anyone's face. Go through your closet or drawers. Surely you can find some clothes or toys to give away. Or give some cat food, dog food, cat or dog toys to an animal shelter. A dog and a cat will have a playful Christmas.

Send a letter- mostly everyone likes to get mail! Making and sending Christmas cards could give some faith and to know someone cares about them. Little ill children would really love to know at least someone cares about them. You can find kids to send letters on some websites. Even a person in war away from family would like a Christmas card.

Sign up to help- try to help out in your spare time by joining clubs that help families or animals. You could also make some friends and feel better about yourself just helping out. Give some money away to an orphanage or kennel. You'll have more Christmas spirit and find the true meaning of Christmas.

Listen to Christmas music to get in to the spirit. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



What Does Christmas mean?

Has Christmas changed over time? Christmas used to be about the celebration of Christ's birth. What does Christmas mean now? Now Christmas means everyone gets good stuff from Santa Claus. The sad truth is that almost everyone thinks that Christmas is a season where someone can get expensive presents, a great dinner and beautiful decorations. Did you know that some decorations show happiness? For example, a Christmas sphere or ornament shows happiness. Christmas generally means happiness. The time when we should worry more about giving than receiving, it is the time when you finally look at the homeless person and give him a donation or something that will help them be better. Christmas originally means when Christ was born but instead of being born in a palace, he was born in a barn, to show compassion to everyone.

By :Ruben Vizcarra



The Sims
by Taylor Bramhall



In February of 2000, Electronic Arts and Maxis released "The Sims for PC's" and gaming systems across the world.

Now, in 2014, Electronic Arts has invented new games to continue The Sims series-such as various amounts of Sims 2 and Sims 3 games. And now, this long-time running company has created The Sims 4, and soon to come out with more to this 4th generation.

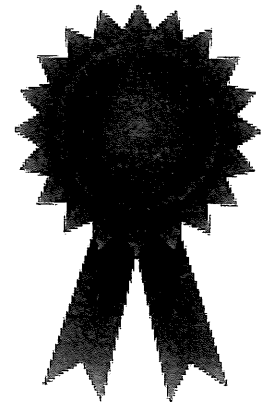
The Sims has been a favorite for over a decade - played by teens to adults everywhere. This game gives you the chance to play with life, and travel amongst your personally created people-like digital characters (known as Sims) on their journey through life - from infants to elders. Throughout their cyber life, there are endless possibilities for your Sims to explore, with the more expansion packs you possess.

The game was originally made for entertainment purposes only, but as the different generations of The Sims progressed, more real-world aspects were added to the game - such as new careers, paying bills, and much more.

Although The Sims was originally made for the PC, over the years it has been altered to be played on various gaming devices, such as the Wii and the Xbox. I personally recommend playing on the PC if available.

If this sounds like a game you would play, I highly recommend requesting it for Christmas, or giving it to a close friend or family member. *Play with life.*

CONGRATULATIONS to Isabella Coriale and Rhiann Evans for placing first and second in the middle school for the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen contest. They placed 3rd and 4th in the regional contest. Isabella was awarded a \$25.00 check for placing first in the middle school. Great job!



Rhiann Evans, Mike Spellman (VFW) and Isabella Coriale