
Presumpscot Wave



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Alioune Niang, Nick Sueltenfuss, & Audrey MacMath

Solar Eclipse

There is an event called the solar eclipse and that event happens every six years. The solar eclipse happens in different parts of the world. This year, the solar eclipse went through eastern Mexico, across the United States, (including Maine), and eastern Canada. During solar eclipses, the moon travels in the same path as the sun. The moon ends up covering the sun. We didn't have a total solar eclipse; we had a partial eclipse because we weren't in the path of totality.

At Presumpscot School, we prepared for the eclipse by watching safety and informational videos that Mrs. Leddy shared with us on a slide deck. The FTO provided us with glasses, so that we wouldn't hurt our eyes. Students, staff and families went outside to see the solar eclipse from 2:30 - 3:45 pm.

In addition to observing the progress of the moon as it covered the sun, students also observed their surroundings, looking for any changes in animal and plant life. Everybody had fun and learned something new...that is what we call a win, win.



Audrey MacMath

Grade 4 Studies Women's History

In 4th grade classes, we are learning about women's voting rights, and we are also reading a book called The Hope Chest. We learned that in the 1700s women lost the right to vote and in 1918 women regained the right to vote. A theme that keeps coming up in The Hope Chest is how inequality is a form of injustice.

In 1987 the National Women's History Project asked the U.S. Congress to see if they could get President Reagan to proclaim March as Women's History Month, to honor the struggles of American women who had made contributions and achievements to gain rights for themselves.

Even today we're still working to change the fact that things are not equal for men and women. Some examples of this are a pay gap of 16 cents and unequal health care. This doesn't mean that we haven't made some improvements. Please keep trying your best to help make the world a better and a more equal place for all.

BSU - BIPOC Student Union: An Interview with Ashley

What does BSU stand for?

Ashley: “BSU stands for BIPOC Student Union. BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.”

When do you meet and how often?

Ashley: “We meet weekly on Fridays (with the exception of a few) from 8:45 - 9:45 am.

What happens during a typical BSU Meeting?

Ashley: “At the meetings we always begin with a greeting/community building activity, then we discuss our activity for the day. We have based our work around the four categories in the learning for justice standards, which are Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action. We usually watch a video (ted talk or other) or read a current event happening to BIPOC people. Students then have work time (most recently they have been working for a while in their affirmation journals, working on identifying various parts of their identities), then we close with a live poll and clean up.”

How does it feel to lead BSU?

Ashley: “I sometimes feel very nervous because I have not done anything like this before”.

What is your favorite part about BSU?

Ashley: “Seeing people interacting and learning about their identities.”

How many people did you hope to have in BSU?

Ashley: “I was thinking 20, but 40+ kids joined and we still have more kids joining.”

Do you feel inspired by the kids who came to BSU?

Ashley: The BSU inspires me because I struggled a lot with my identity growing up in a very white state. Being a biracial student and not having other students with similar backgrounds has made me feel ashamed and confused at times. I wish I had an outlet and space to talk and share my thoughts and feelings with other students of color who might share similar experiences as I have. I want to provide students with a safe space to ask questions, explore their identities, share their experiences, and learn about their family histories. I also want them to have a space to celebrate diversity and look at how our justice system often handles cases with BIPOC people differently than others.”

Is Presumpscot a good place for you to have groups like BSU?

Ashley: “It feels like I can help students understand their history and it feels like a place that everybody can join and feel like no matter where you're from you can join a group and be proud of that.”

How does it feel knowing that all the kids are liking BSU?

Ashley: “It feels good because I can send 5th graders off to middle school with important knowledge.”





River Giordano

Music: An Interview with Patrick Sutor

The music concert was held on Thursday, May 23rd, in which Chorus, Strings, and Band all had performances. Chorus performed three songs, Strings also performed three songs, and Band performed four songs. Chorus sang these songs in the following order: “Sinwa Didende” an African folk song about calling children back to their homes, "Count On Me” by Bruno Mars, which is about helping your friends and checking in when they need it, and “It Doesn't Have to be Like This”, a new song about protesting. The band played: “Portland Fanfare,” “Bouncy Car Ride,” “The Adventure Will Rock You,” and “Let's Go Band!” The orchestra played: “D major scale,” “Sledding on the Golf Course,” “Moe Muničko Kokiče,” and “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.” We’ve been practicing since the Fall and along the way we've learned a lot! I think you can really see the difference!

We asked Mr. Sutor some questions about the different Music Clubs at our school. Here are his responses:

Why did you want to start these clubs?

Mr. Sutor: “Chorus, Band, and Strings have been a core part of education in the United States for over 100 years!! The opportunity to be in a performance-based ensemble helps kids learn to work together, listen closely, and work over a long period of time towards a common goal with their peers. The ensembles build community in a way that few other things can. Music also uses more parts of your brain than any other subject in school!”

Who can join them?

Mr. Sutor: “Chorus is open to anyone in 4th and 5th grade. Band and Strings are open to all 5th graders.”

How often do you practice and perform?

Mr. Sutor: “All three groups practice once a week for 45 minutes. There are usually 2-3 performances each year.”

What types of instruments?

Mr. Sutor: “Band students can play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. String students can play violin, viola, and cello. Voice is the instrument used in Chorus!”

Does the school provide all instruments?

Mr. Sutor: “The school provides many instruments, but families that are able to, usually rent their instruments. Sometimes kids will use a family instrument.”

Anything else you think we should know?

Mr. Sutor: “Everyone should try being in at least one of these groups! Sometimes you're surprised by how much you like something!”

Ezra Brown

The Awards: A Crowd Favorite

The process of choosing the winners for the awards starts by talking to the Art and Library teachers and finding out which classes have shown either the most improvement, exemplary behavior, or have done an exemplary job completing assignments and activities since the last community meeting. Next year we will be adding two new awards, the Golden Drumsticks for Music and Basketball for P.E! It will be a similar process to our current awards, the Golden Paintbrush for Art and Golden Book for Library. The Peace Award is done a little differently. A new award is made and laminated each time and the class that is selected has been noticed and watched to make sure they have earned the award. We can’t wait to see the new awards being given out next year!

Read more on page 5.



Community News



Alioune Niang & Nick Sueltenfuss

Presumpscot Basketball: Another Great Year of FTO Basketball

Presumpscot Elementary School has its own basketball league. Grades K-5 are allowed to play in the league. The teams are K & 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5. The basketball games take place in January and February. Parents volunteer to be the coaches, and Ashley and Mr. David are the referees.



There were four teams this year, so we played four games. We had one practice and one game each week. For grades K - 3 the basketball games were all tied. For grades 4 and 5 games were either a win or a loss. If this sounds good to you, make sure to either sign up for a team or come watch a game and get some food and drinks.

River Giordano & Nick Sueltenfuss

A Return to Skate Night: An Astonishing Open

It was Presumpscot's first Skate Night in five years! Five years ago, we had our first and sadly our last Skate Night for a long time. Right after we held our first Skate Night at Happy Wheels, the place we all love to skate at, it closed. They sold the business and changed locales, but now it has finally opened back up! For some students, it was the most exciting part of the school year yet! You could have attended for only \$11 per pair of skates, including rentals! Next time we have this opportunity, you should try to bring your family and friends for a fun evening of skating and snacks!



Community Meeting: Behind the Scenes

Ezra Brown

An Interview with Mrs. Morse, A Community Leader

What jobs need to be filled for a Community Meeting?

Mrs. Morse: Tech Team, MC, and Movement Leaders, are some of the jobs that students do. Mrs. Morse writes the script and Ms. Angie facilitates the Tech Team and Movement Leaders.

Do you feel that the kids do most of the work?

Mrs. Morse: Yes, this last community meeting was mostly run by students. That's because everyone wants to help.

Why do you think so many people were involved?

Mrs. Morse: Presumpscot students are ambitious and brave.

What were some different things that students shared during the last Community Meeting?

Mrs. Morse: First Grade shared a new breath, the dandelion breath, Second Grade shared a song about making the world a better place, Mrs. Kodz Third Grade class shared their salmon posters, BIPOC members shared the reasons why it's important to have a BIPOC Club at our school, and two kids from each grade shared, "What's the news?".



Why did we have more movement breaks than normal?

Mrs. Morse: There was a higher need for participation and because kids like to dance to all the music in the cafe.

Do you feel that the students who speak and present are nervous?

Mrs. Morse: Yes, but all the MCs take breaths to calm down. I think that students are more excited than nervous.



Ezra Brown

An Interview with MCs Milo and Basil!

Do you feel that being a classroom or school leader is hard?

Milo: The first time you are a leader it is difficult, however after a while it becomes much easier.

Basil: It is not exactly easy, but I have been at this school long enough to know how the school works.

Do you feel that you have input in the scripts?

Basil and Milo: We have the ability to improvise if we want to, but we have to keep the same general layout.

How often does the script change?

Milo and Basil: It changes every time we practice.

Is being a leader fun?

Basil: Yes, if you want to be a leader you will have a ton of fun.

How do you sign up to be a leader?

Basil: Mrs. Morse brings you a sign-up sheet. If you are interested, you fill in which role you want, then she usually gives it to you.





Lily Kmetz & Violet Bailey

Girls on the Run

In Girls on the Run this year we have been practicing how to find our happy pace and not going too fast when we start running. Every year when we're finished with practice we run a big 5k, where Girls on the Run programs from all over Maine come and run with students from all the other schools in Maine. Presumpscot has a practice 5k beforehand, where we run on a path that is slightly smaller than the real 5k. We run 9 laps on that path, which is just about equal to the real 5k.





Owen Nadeau & Marcus Wallin

Better World Day: Portland Public Trails, PATHS and Presumpscot team up to make the world a better place

Better World Day is a day where we try to do things that will help our world become a better place. There are many ways as a community we can help, and even ways you can help on your own. For example, it can be as simple as seeing a piece of trash and picking it up and putting it in the trash bin. Even if it doesn't seem like a lot, picking up a small piece of trash is helping the Earth one step at a time.

This year on Better World Day most classes helped to make a gravel trail that winds throughout our schoolyard. Portland Public Trails volunteered their time to help us make the trail. They helped with the materials, and they also taught us how to build. On our trail there are 5 different signs that grades Pre-K - 5 worked on with Ms. Martinez. The titles are Schoolyard Garden, Schoolyard Decomposers, Schoolyard Trees, Schoolyard Animals, Schoolyard Birds, and Casco Bay Watershed.

The third-grade class worked with seniors from PATHS to design, build, and paint two little libraries, one at the beginning of the trail by Presumpscot Street and one behind the school at the bottom of the hill. The little libraries were then dedicated to Mrs. Herlihy, who has worked tirelessly for years, to get books in the hands of all Presumpscot students.



**"One child, one teacher, one book
and one pen can change the world"
— Malala Yousafza**

An Interview with Ms. Anya: Leader of BIPOC Accomplices

What is the name of the group and what does it stand for?

Ms. Anya: “As a group, we decided on the name ‘BIPOC Accomplices’ - it signifies that we are a group of white students working to support our BIPOC friends and community members.”

When and how often do you meet?

Ms. Anya: “We meet once a week on Fridays at the same time that the BIPOC student union meets, 8:45-9:30 am.”

Can anyone join? How many members do you currently have?

Ms. Anya: “Yes, anyone in 4th and 5th grades can join! The group is specifically created to understand white identity and how we can work to become antiracist white people, but we welcome our BIPOC friends and classmates to the group as well. Right now we are a small but mighty group of 8.”

What happens during a typical meeting?

Ms Anya: “Well, we've only had 4 meetings so far so there isn't a typical format quite yet, but we always begin with a check-in circle, then we move into an activity around race and racial identity. Last meeting we looked at a map about where different skin colors developed from and talked about the creation of racial categories.”

What gave you the idea to start this group?

Ms. Anya: “I have been in a group like this with other teachers for many years, and I was inspired by the BIPOC student union to create a similar group to compliment the work that the BIPOC student union is doing.”

What do the BIPOC Accomplices hope to achieve?

Ms. Anya: “BIPOC Accomplices hopes to create a community where we can talk openly about race and identity. Eventually, we want to collaborate with our BIPOC student union to engage our whole community in conversations and actions for racial justice.”



Environmental Literacy with Ms. Martinez

Our newspaper crew sat down and interviewed Mrs. Martinez about outdoor learning at Presumpscot Elementary School. When asked how she prepares to teach outdoor learning, she said that she spends as much time outside as she can, and asks her own children to try out lessons that she would like to teach to her classes.

Mrs. Martinez decided to apply for the Presumpscot Environmental Literacy teacher position because she wanted to use her Masters in STEM and her passion for the outdoors to design lessons that are engaging and are fun for everyone.

Here are some of the engaging topics that Mrs. Martinez is working on with our school: Kindergarten and fourth grade are learning about trees, First Grade is learning about birds, Second Grade learned about fossils, Third Grade is learning about salmon, and Fifth Grade is learning about food science.

“The world around you is better, the more you take care of it.”
-Natasha Vandegrift-Martinez



Can you tell us a little about Environmental Literacy? What do you teach and what topics do you cover?

Mrs. Martinez: “Environmental Literacy is about getting students learning outside and building relationships, connections, and understanding of the world around them to encourage stewardship of the Earth.

The goal is to teach outdoor and experiential lessons connected to each grade level's expeditions so students see the connection of their learning. Some of the things that I teach are woven into the Wabanaki Studies and Life Science curriculums and others are add ons.”

Are all of the lessons taught outside?

Mrs. Martinez: “No, not all lessons are taught outdoors but I do prefer it that way! Some lessons are about the outdoors, but are taught inside. It depends on what makes the most sense for the lesson and the content.”

Why did you want to teach Environmental Literacy?

Mrs. Martinez: “I love connecting the curriculum to our world and helping students see the importance of it all. Teaching outside or experiential lessons have always been my absolute favorite part of teaching and I am thrilled to be able to bring it to an entire school population.”

What do you like best about teaching Environmental Literacy?

Mrs. Martinez: “ I love to be able to follow student interest and guide them to answers with observations and research.”

How do you prepare for your lessons?

Mrs. Martinez: “Lots of preparation to do all of the time! A lot of what I do is studying the curriculums taught so I see what would make the most sense to teach. I like to collaborate with teachers if there is time and then I do a lot of testing out on my own children! We do a lot of learning outside and always have so that's helpful. I also do a lot of research, both in the field and inside to make sure I have what I need to get students the information needed.”



FTO Fundraiser: Come Sing 2 With Us



Presumpscot School had a movie night on Friday April 26th. Do you know what the movie was? The movie was Sing 2! Our sources told us that most of the audience found it very ad they loved the popcorn and pizza.

Our reporters interviewed a very special someone, Sarah, the FTO (Family Teacher Organization) president!



The FTO had a movie night so that the school could come together after a busy day of learning to have some fun and relax. It’s a fun way for school families to get to know each other and watch a good movie. The FTO also raised some money to give back to the school to use for classroom snacks. Sarah, the FTO President, said, “We had so much fun!” The newspaper would like to take this opportunity to thank the entirety of the FTO and all the people involved with it!



Cartoons & Puzzlers

Violet Bailey & Lily Kmetz

Presumpscot Cartoons

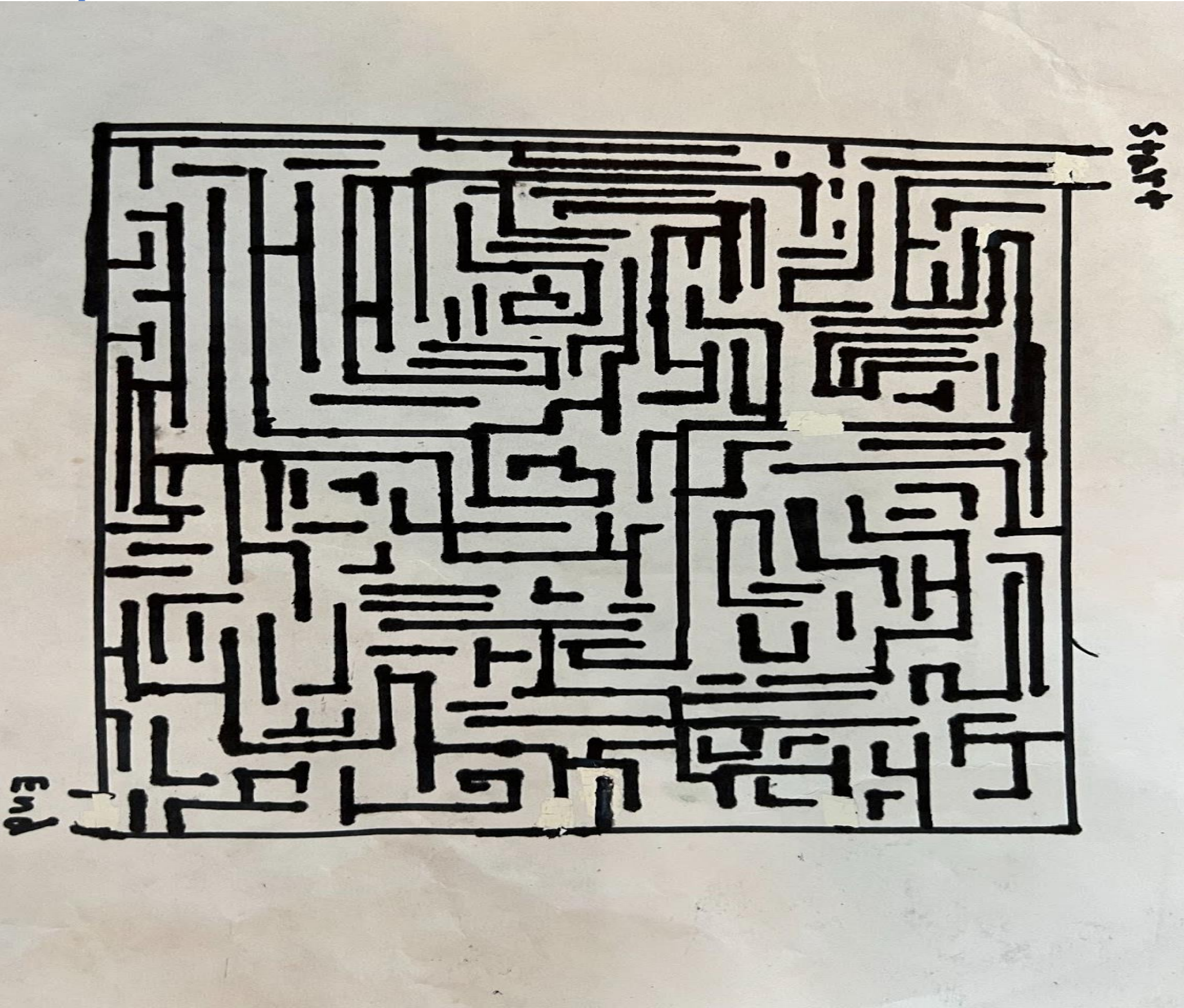


Presumpscot Word Search

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RUNNING
BASKETBALL
MOVIE NIGHT
SOLAR ECLIPSE
TEAM
WOMENS HISTORY
BSU
SCHOOL
SKATING
BETTER WORLD DAY
PRESUMPCOT
NEWS
EARTH DAY

Presumpscot Maze



Earth Day Trivia

See if you know the answers to these Earth Day trivia questions.

Q: When was the first Earth Day?

Q: Complete this pattern: reduce, reuse, and _____.

Q: Which of the following greenhouse gasses is the biggest contributor to global warming: carbon dioxide, water vapor, or methane?

Presumpscot Wave Illustration



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