



Masthead design by Anthony Mormile / Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

Gingerbread Decorating Contest!
By Elena Aurrecochea

Our annual gingerbread decorating contest was held on December 14, 2023 and everyone had so much fun. This contest was run by Mrs. Nolan and Student Government. There were many different designs for each house and they all looked great! The prizes for winning team members were \$10 gift cards to Amazon, Roblox, Five Below, or Starbucks. Members of the high school Leaders Club came to help the students. I entered this contest with my friends, and we had so much fun!

The gingerbread houses came prebuilt in a kit so we didn't have to spend more time building it. Another reason that it was prebuilt for us is because the house might fall apart easily if we built it ourselves. We were not allowed to eat the houses but we could have some of the candy (which was my favorite part).

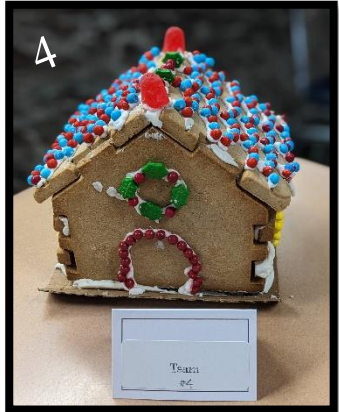
Overall, I had a great time decorating it with my friends and after we finished decorating, we had some leftover candy and frosting that we got to eat. If you're in 6th or 7th grade and didn't get to compete this year, there is always next year! The winners of the contest were...

Most Festive Gingerbread House - Team #39:
Brielle Finkelstein, Lexi LaRocca, and Elisa Carlino

Most Creative Gingerbread House - Team #4:
Kaylee Rosand, Emily Bentrewicz, Carli Caliguri, and Emily Saccone

Best All-Around Gingerbread House - Team #26:
Victoria Lamonica, Anndrea Pumay, Ashley Pumay, and Sofia Robles

Photos by Mrs. Avella. More photos on page 15.



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Mortimer Mouse and Oswald By Darian Primiano

Two Disney characters that aren't very well known are Mortimer Mouse and Oswald. They were both characters originally created by Walt Disney.

Oswald was Disney's first successful cartoon character. From 1927 to 1928, Disney made many popular and well-known Oswald cartoons. The cartoons helped Universal Studios get back into it. On a trip to New York, Disney discovered that Oswald was property of Universal, and he was devastated about the news. On Oswald's anniversary the employees got to take pictures with him. Later, Oswald appeared in video games and got put on different types of Disney merchandise.

Mortimer Mouse first arrived in a Mickey Mouse episode in 1936 as his rival. Mortimer Mouse had another appearance in 1999 in a Christmas short. If you were wondering what some of Mortimer Mouse's quotes are, here are three of his famous quotes. "Well, if it ain't my old pal, Mickey!", "Yeah, like Mickey said: Let's treat Minnie like she's a trophy!", and "Mickey, Mickey, speak to me!"

Oswald and Mortimer Mouse were very important characters in Disney films, but not very famous. That's why I wrote this article about them. Another reason is to get people interested in these characters.



Delicious local bakery!

By Peyton Zusmer

Manhattan Sweets Boutique Bakery is located in Islip at 547 Main Street. At Manhattan Sweets, they offer a wide variety of goods such as cakes, cookies, pastries, donuts, bread and macarons. They also make personalized cakes for special occasions like birthdays. Their cakes are very rich and full. They tend to be filled with lots of icing.

While their cookies are always special for the holiday season, you'll find a new, amazing design every time you visit! Also, they have pastries that are perfect for a sweet breakfast such as scones, danish, crumb cakes, and muffins. Their donuts are packed with great flavors including maple bacon and Funfetti. I also love to eat their macarons after school for a quick and light snack. They have delicious flavors like vanilla and cinnamon.

I recommend you try Manhattan Sweets Boutique Bakery!



P.S. I Love You Day is a registered non-profit organization in New York State, dedicated to eradicating the stigma around mental health. Wear Purple 2/9/24



The 2023 pumpkin decorating contest By Makayla Tardi

The EIMS pumpkin decorating contest is a contest to paint the best pumpkin to win in different categories. It is held every year in October in the cafeteria, organized by Mrs. Nolan and Student Government. This school year it was on October 24, 2023.

The requirements for the contest were that you had to bring a partner, pay \$5 each and fill out a sheet to be able to join. If you weren't able to pay \$5, you could go speak to Mrs. Nolan about it. Teams were provided with a pumpkin, paint, and paint brushes. All grades were allowed to participate.

See list of winners below. Each student on a winning team had their choice of a \$10 gift card to various places.

Scariest Pumpkin:

Team 41- Riley McNair and Sienna Gonzalez

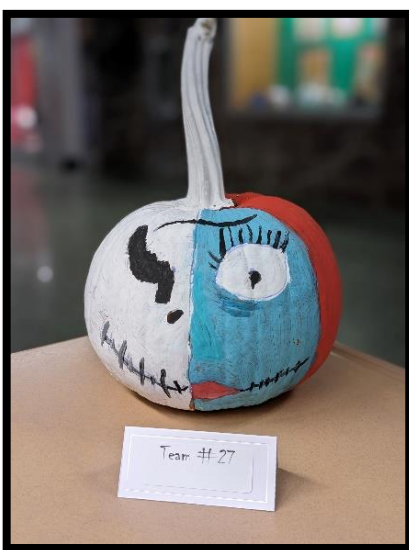
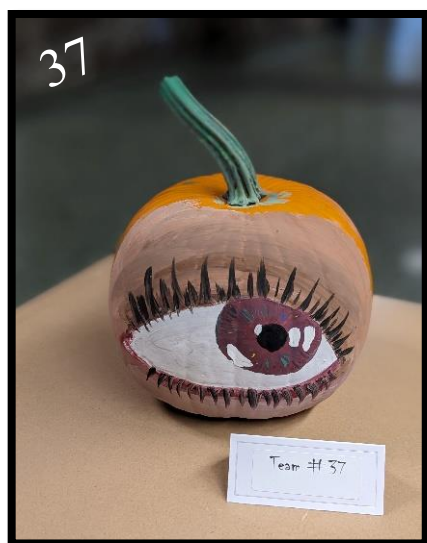
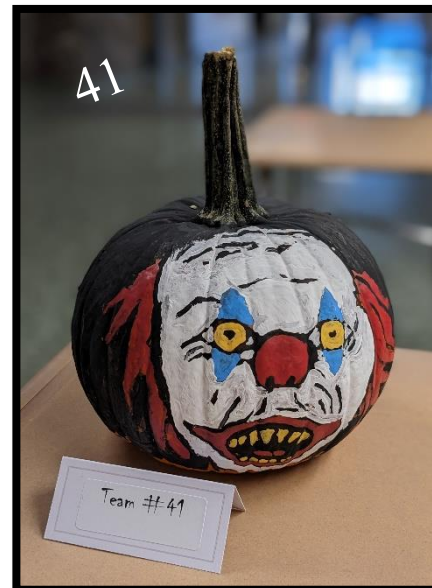
Best All Around Pumpkin:

Team 49- Gabby Gonzalez, Adryana Mandelbaum and Alessio Cottone

Most Creative Pumpkin (there was a tie):

Team 37- Skylar Herrle and Olivia Fanzler

Team 27- Sarah Hodge and Gabby Cafaro



Photos by Mrs. Avella
See more photos on page 16

Review of *NOW That's What I Call Music!* By Bobby Divisconti

I love a lot of different types of music and songs. In recent years, it has been more common to stream and download digital music instead of buying CDs or records. Digital downloads are convenient and save space, but CDs are like books that you can look back on to enjoy memories of that point in time. Also, CDs and records can last a lifetime if you take care of them.

If you want to buy CDs and records you can go to Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble or record stores like Looney Tunes in West Babylon. You can also buy them online on Amazon. The original *NOW That's What I Call Music!* CD was released on October 27, 1998 and had artists that included Janet Jackson, Lenny Kravitz, Tonic and Backstreet Boys. The *NOW* CDs compile a number of songs that are popular around the time of its release. You will see songs on these CDs from artists that sing pop, rap, rock, country music and more. They come out with a new CD/tracklist every three months. They have released 87 more CDs since the first one. Just recently on October 27, 2023, *NOW That's What I Call Music! 88* was released and has songs on it that include "Paint the Town Red" by Doja Cat, "Jaded" by Miley Cyrus, "Jumpin'" by Pitbull and Lil Jon, "All My Life" by Lil Durk ft. J Cole, "Daylight" by David Kushner and "Love You Anyway" by Luke Combs. I collect *NOW* CD's and have almost the whole collection from *NOW 1* to *NOW 88*.



There are many artists that are really popular these days such as Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus, The Weeknd, Post Malone, Kane Brown, Britney Spears, Flo Rida, T-Pain, Lenny Kravitz, Jason Derulo, Rihanna, Selena Gomez, David Guetta, Harry Styles, Doja Cat, Pitbull, Bruno Mars, Jonas Brothers, The Backstreet Boys, 1Republic, Luke Bryan, Nicki Minaj, Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Keith Urban, Chris Stapleton, Justin Timberlake, Chris Brown, Maroon 5, Ne-Yo, Usher, Trace Adkins, and Pink. Some of them have not come out with new songs in a while. At the end of the tracklist on each CD are a few songs under the heading, "What's Next" that are songs from rising stars. At one point, superstar artists like Shawn Mendes were on that list before they were well known!

One of my favorite artists is Justin Timberlake. I like his song "Take Back the Night" and also "Can't Stop the Feeling" (from the DreamWorks Animation movie, *Trolls*). Another one of my favorites is Bruno Mars. My favorite Bruno Mars song is "Uptown Funk" and "That's What I Like". The oldest *NOW* CD Artist is Elton John at 76 years old. Willow Smith was the youngest artist when "Whip My Hair" turned up on *NOW 37* in 2011. She was only 9 years old.

If you are interested, the next *NOW* CD will be *NOW That's What I Call Music! 89*. It will be released in quarter one of 2024. Check it out! I predict "Houdini" by Dua Lipa and "Jump" by Flo Rida & T-Pain will be on the tracklist!

Photo by Mrs. DiVisconti



Sonic Superstars by Ryan Geraghty

Super Mario Bros. Wonder by John Haanraadts

These games are both 2D platformers that released within three days of each other. We're going to put these games head-to-head listing their pros and cons. So let's go!

Sonic Superstars has 4 playable characters Sonic, Tails, Knuckles, and Amy. There are 3 villains, Dr. Eggman, Fang the Hunter, and Trip. Trip is a new character introduced for this game; however, Fang is a character whose last appearance before this was in 1996!



Some cons include difficulty spikes, not so great bosses, and the fact that you need to watch a YouTube video called "Sonic Superstars: Trio of Trouble" to get an understanding of the story. For more information about the game, you can go to sonicsuperstars.com.

This Game is Available for



Overall, *Sonic Superstars* is a great game with some flaws. Now onto *Super Mario Bros. Wonder*!

Continued on next page



Have you ever wanted to play an open world game with monsters, magic, and adventure? Well look no further because *Super Mario Bros. Wonder* is here! This Super Mario game is different than its previous games. Unlike the other games, you can go in any direction in one of the worlds and do whichever level you want to do, if you have enough Wonder Seeds.

Another change to the game is that within each level, you can jump through a Wonder Flower that causes the level to get harder and more difficult. In this game you can play many characters like Mario, Luigi, Toad, Nabbit, 4 different Yoshi's, Toadette, Princess Peach, and Princess Daisy.



The final change is that the game released three new power ups. One of these power ups is the ability to turn into an elephant. With this power, you can break strong walls and be able to take out enemies with ease. You will have to play the game if you want to know what the other two powers-ups are.



This game is exclusively available on



Now you've seen both games, pick which one you want to play or play both! Have fun!

The EIMS Book Fair

By Griffin Byrne

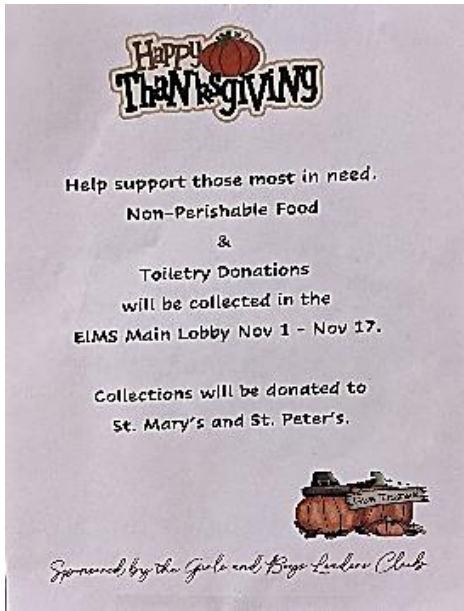
On November 15th and 16th of 2023, the PTA held a book fair for the middle school. It took place in room 127 and had various types of books on many different topics and themes. You could also buy a diary, posters, interesting pens, toys, and more.

The book fair was a fundraiser for the PTA to raise funds for after school activities like a movie afternoon. Students were taken to the book fair by their English teachers. In the end, the book fair was a fun experience all!



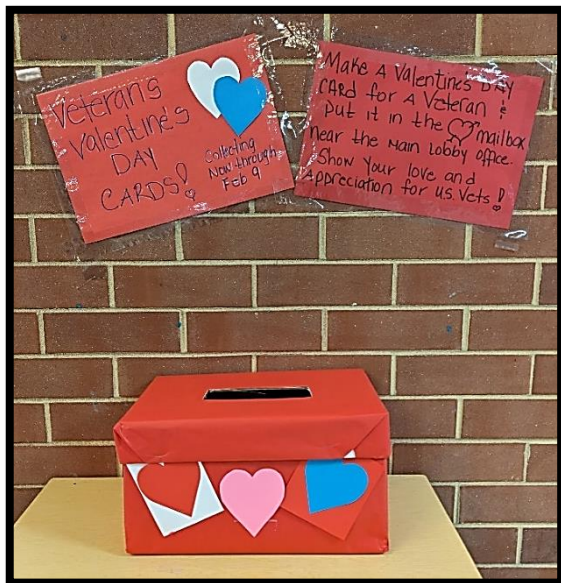
Girls and Boys Leaders Club Update

Thanks to all who donated items for the food drive back in November. We were able to give 8 large boxes to St. Mary's and St. Peter's Churches.



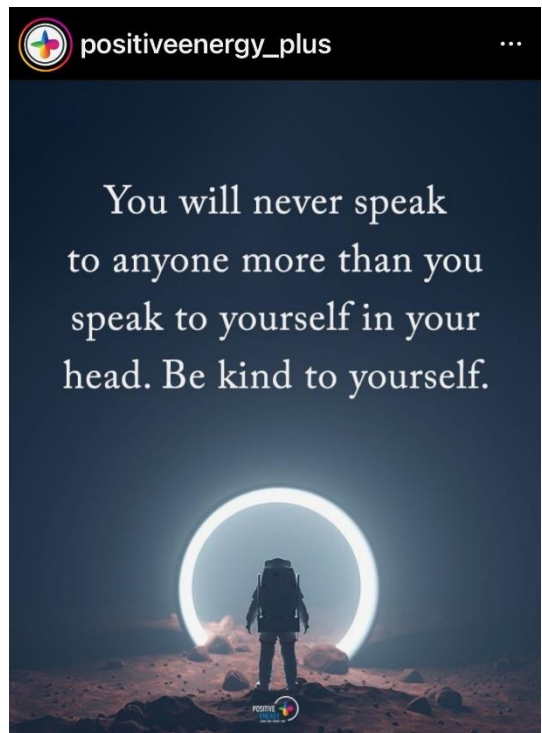
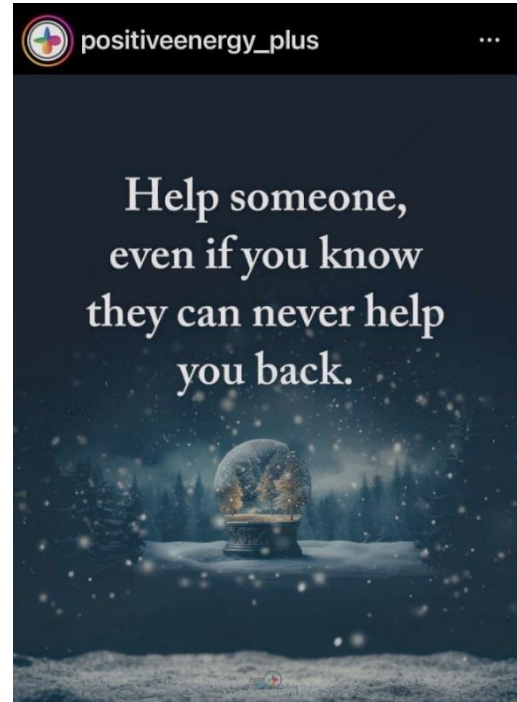
Girls Leaders:

We are collecting Valentine's Day cards for veterans through February 9, 2024. The collection box is in the main lobby.



Featured quotes from the morning announcements

(thanks to Ms. Gieseler, courtesy of Instagram):



Here We Go Steelers, Here We Go

By Colin Belrose



The Pittsburgh Steelers are an NFL team known for their great history and their amazing defense. Back in the 1970's this team was on fire. They had a scary good defense nicknamed the "Steel Curtain" and offense was amazing too. They were so good during that time, they won four Super Bowls and officially became a dynasty. They also won a Super Bowl in the 1980's, but we still haven't talked about my favorite Steelers team ever. My favorite Steelers team is the 2000's and 2010's team. They had a potent offense led by Ben Roethlisberger and a stellar defense led by Troy Polamalu. Believe it or not, this article is not about the Steelers team from the 2000's and 2010's. No, this article is about this year's Steelers team.

The Offseason

Now, before we talk about their season this year, we have to talk about their offseason. First of all, they made a lot of trades and small free agent pick-ups. The most notable pickups in my opinion were Kwon Alexander and Marcus Golden. This added depth to their linebacker core and spiced up their middle linebacker position. The craziest thing is that they traded for Patrick Peterson, the 2nd best corner in the league. What really shocked me is their draft. In the first round, they drafted Brodrick Jones who was a stud out of Georgia. He hasn't played much, but when he has been on the field, he's been great. In the second round, they took Joey Porter Jr. So far he has been great, raking up 1 interception, a few TFLs and a lot of bat downs. The only real problem is that he commits a lot of penalties. Also they picked up an undrafted rookie named Jaylen Warren who is also doing great. What I love is that they tried to spice up their offensive line.

The Preseason

Doing good in the preseason usually doesn't mean you're going to do good in the regular season, but it's a good sign. The Steelers, believe it or not, won 20 preseason games in a row. The best thing to come out of the preseason was Kenny Pickett, a young QB who only played half the season last year but showed some flashes of greatness. A lot of people didn't believe he was capable of playing a full NFL season, but in the preseason, he proved the haters wrong by putting up a perfect passer rating and throwing for 5 TD's. The crazy thing is that he put together a TD drive every time he was on the field. No fib, it's an actual stat.

The Regular Season

Okay, I have to admit, the start of the regular season was a disappointment. Kenny Pickett didn't look like he did in the preseason, the defense didn't look like they did in the preseason and their offensive coordinator was running the team like a toddler. Now, don't worry, there is still hope in the Steel City because the next week they faced the Browns. They put on a show, notching 1 pick six, 6 sacks and a lot of TFL's, but still had a below average offensive performance. Also Diontae Johnson got injured which is always bad. The next week was an improvement on offense. There was nothing that cool about the game other than them winning.

The cool thing about the next game is that I was there at Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh! It was Steelers vs Ravens, week 4. It was a close nailbiter but they won. It would take me days to talk about the whole game, so let's fast forward a few weeks to when they faced the Bengals. They just came off a loss to the Browns and needed to get their offense back on track. Although Warren did run for 120+ yards for the first time in his career, it was still a horrible game. The Steelers bad play wasn't just the teams' fault. Most of the bad play came from the sidelines. That's why that week they fired coach Matt Canada. If you listened to any Steelers' media, you would know it was the big story of the week. As expected, without Canada, they popped off. Pat Freiermuth finally put up a good game this season. Pickett was good too, putting up 280 yards and 0 ints. The next week they got destroyed by the Cardinals. I know, what a fall from grace, but even worse, Pickett got injured. Even sadder, since Pickett wasn't playing, they lost to the Patriots the week after in a game where they started out good but quickly fell apart in a 30 to 13 domination by the Colts. After that, they were scheduled to play the Bengals who were 8 and 6 at the time. What are they going to do?

To Be Continued in the next issue...

EI EATS

By Sullivan Griffin

Today we are going to be rating “crispy potato puffs” (aka tater tots) and popcorn chicken. I would have to give this meal a hard 5/10. Don't get me wrong, I love the popcorn chicken but those tater tots... they are just not doing it for me. Here is what other people think.

Matthew Mancini: 3/10, I like the popcorn chicken but the tater tots ruin it.

Gavin Tippet: 0/10, It's just awful.

Pia Smaldone: 6/10, I think they are fine but the tater tots could be better.

Anonymous: 4/10, The popcorn chicken isn't bad but the tater tots are soggy.

Mrs. Avella: 6/10 The tater tots could be more crunchy. Too bad they are wrapped in plastic.

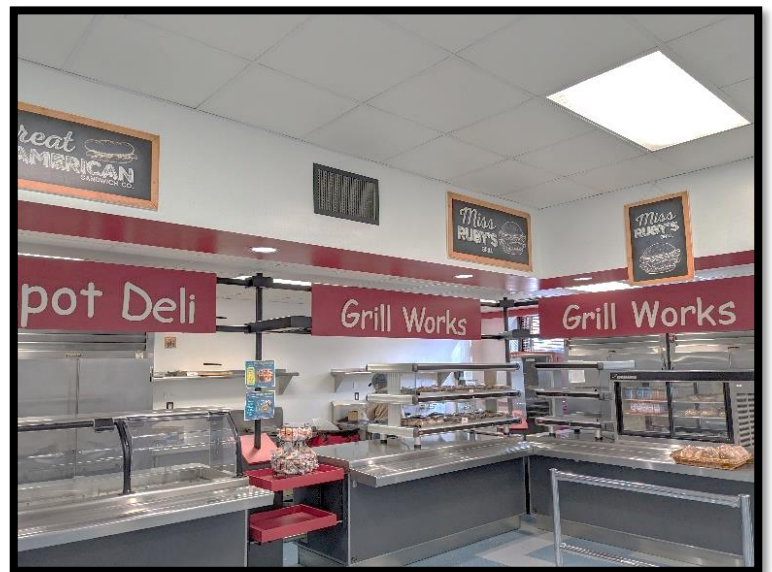
All in all tater tots are not the best. Plus, they aren't available every day so if you want them you're gonna have to do a bit of searching. And if you are going to get these, you should definitely try the popcorn chicken.

Editor's Note:

The manager of the middle school cafeteria would like all students to know, if anyone does not like their entrée for lunch, they may ask for a different one at no cost. She wants all students to be happy!

Also, Mrs. Avella and some 7th graders had the opportunity to try some tater tots that were hot and fresh from the oven, not wrapped in plastic. The students gave them a rating of 10/10!

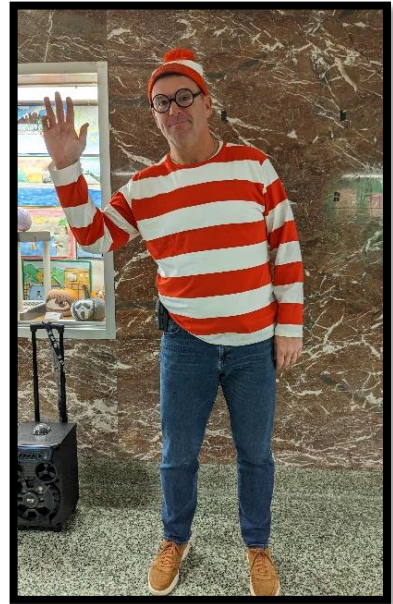
Photos by Mrs. Avella and Mrs. Sanks





Photos by Mrs. Avella
More photos on next page

*Halloween 2023
continued*

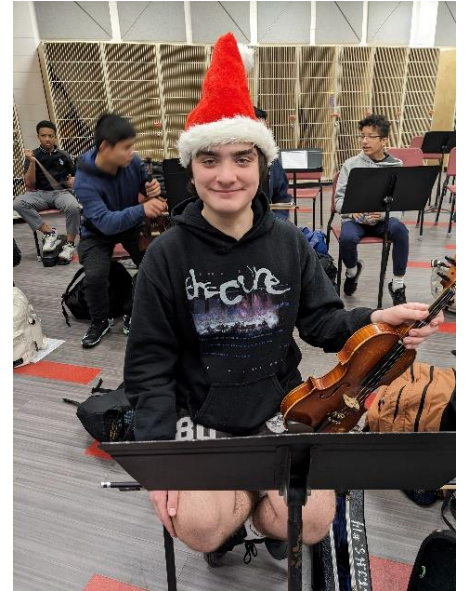


Mrs. Krawchuk's CORE students prepared fall treats for their holiday cart.



Spirit Week

Dec 18-22, 2023



Photos by Mrs. Avella
More photos on next page

Spirit Week Dec 2023 continued

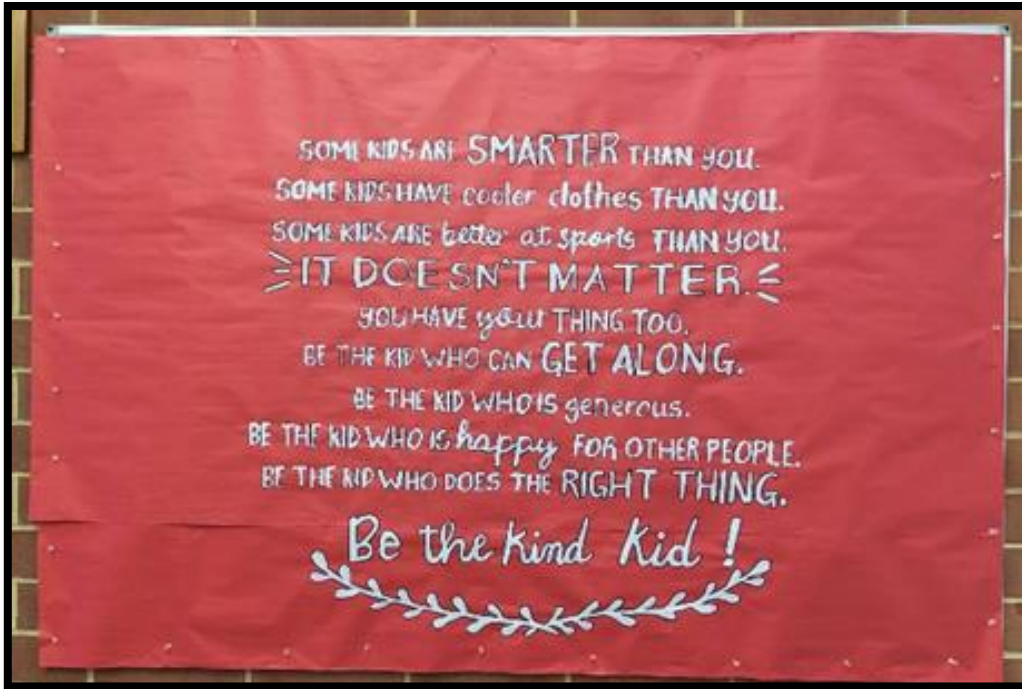


Gingerbread House Decorating Photos December 14, 2023

Photos by Mrs. Avella



Made by the Art Service Club



Staff List



ADVISOR:
Mrs. Avella

Elena Aurrecochea
Colin Belrose
James Blaschuk
Griffin Byrne
Wyatt Casdia
Ray Castillo
Ailish Cosgrove
Brianna DiMaria
Robert DiVisconti
Ryan Geraghty
Sullivan Griffin
John Haanraads
Anthony Mormile
Darian Primiano
Makayla Tardi
London Villanueva
Peyton Zusmer

Pumpkin Decorating Contest 10/24/23



EIMS Administration

Principal: Mr. Hansen
Asst. Principal: Mr. Seifert
Asst. Principal: Dr. D'Aversa



Photos by Mrs. Avella

Cool to Be Kind Update from Mrs. Hummel

We raised over \$200 with our December challenge. We bought mugs, hot cocoa, cookies, socks and playing cards for the residents at Momentum Rehabilitation Center in East Islip.

We are currently working on the January/February Kindness Challenge. Students and staff can buy a \$5 Valentine Gram, (plush dog) for friends, faculty or themselves to be delivered on Valentine's Day. All proceeds go toward buying toys for the children at Cohen's Children Hospital. Mrs. Voss will deliver the toys on Valentine's Day, February 14th.

Photos by Mrs. Avella



Wear your "Cool to Be Kind" t-shirt on the 1st Tuesday of every month (school day)!

**NEXT T-SHIRT DAY:
Tuesday - February 6, 2024**





EIMS YEARBOOK

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

Guaranteed yearbook if you order by March 1st

(Any available books will be \$61 after due date.)

NO GUARANTEE TO RECEIVE A YEARBOOK AFTER DUE DATE.

Personalization, ads and pictures will not be accepted after March 1st

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<u>Personalization Package</u> • Includes Name Stamp	\$57
<u>Deluxe Personalization Package</u> • Includes Name Stamp and Icon	\$62
<u>Ads</u> • Personal or business • Pictures and/or text	1/8 page - \$25 1/4 page - \$40 1/2 page - \$75

Please be sure to check all spelling before submitting ads and name stamps!

ORDERING DIRECTIONS:

1. Go to www.balfour.com
2. Click on Shop your school
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We want your pictures for the yearbook!

Current pictures/elementary/younger years/sports in action/clubs/activities

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1. Download app: Balfour Image Share.
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(Leave "Upload Code" blank.)

OR go to images.balfour.com

*All pictures are considered, but not all can be used.
Please check with your child before submitting pictures.*

