

Masthead design by Heba Luqman / Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

**December Kindness Challenge
By Angelina Altamirano**

East Islip Middle School students were challenged to donate \$1.00 to brighten someone’s holiday, as organized by Mrs. Hummel. Donations were used to provide residents of *Momentum at South Bay for Rehabilitation and Nursing* with mugs, cookies and hot cocoa. We also sent along a DVD of the high school holiday concerts for them to watch.

For \$1.00, students got a paper mug to decorate and hang on the bulletin board located in the cafeteria. They also had access to play holiday Kahoot during their lunch period. The winners of the holiday Kahoot received Target gift cards. Thanks goes out to the EIMS PTA for providing funds for the gift cards.



*Photos below provided by Momentum
Other photos taken by Mrs. Hummel*



In this issue:	<i>Fortnite</i> Chapter 4 p. 3	Winter Storms p. 5	World Cup Qatar p. 12
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Season of Giving By Madelyn Halter

This holiday season, many people received many gifts! Not everyone was as fortunate, however. Donating money or items to nonprofit organizations really helps the community. Many people ask themselves what charities are good for donations, especially in our area. This article will list some charities that accept donations in the area.

1. **Make A Wish Foundation** - This charity helps children who have a critical illness and grants a wish for them. They are located in Ronkonkoma at 1 Comac Loop. Link - www.wish.org

2. **Long Island Community Foundation** - This charity helps in benefiting the community with quality of life issues. They also offer volunteer opportunities. You can find them at 900 Walt Whitman Road in Melville. Link - www.licf.org

3. **Autism:** These charities help people and children with autism.

Golden Fund for Autism - They can be found at 19 Whaling Ave in Cold Spring Harbor. Link - www.goldenfundautism.org

EJ Autism Foundation - P.O. Box 464, East Islip, NY 11730, Link - <http://ejautismfoundation.org/>

4. **Salvation Army** - All proceeds go to families in need. This group usually does crowd funding, especially during the holidays. If you see them on the street, you can donate to the cause. You can also find them at 110 Bellerose Ave in East Northport.

Link - www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/

Please consider donating to some of the above causes or any other local causes, it helps a lot!



EIMS Eats By Sullivan Griffin

In today's food review, we will be reviewing the best of the best... PIZZA! I am going to have to give it a rating of 8/10. It has plenty of delicious cheese, and sauce. It warms your mouth when you take a bite! It is perfect but its appearance is ruined by the infamous cardboard tray.

John Haanraadts said, "It's pretty decent but the quality has gone down during the years." Ryan Geraghty said, "I don't really like it, it tastes like cardboard." Brielle Hasset said, "It tastes pretty good!"

In conclusion, I say that it's worth a shot to taste it even though some of my friends really disagree with that. But I say try it. If you don't like it then... oh well!



Photo by Mrs. Avella

A New Beginning... By Daniel Varley

Ever since Chapter 4 of *Fortnite* was released on December 4th of 2022, it has changed the game in a ton of ways that made it a lot more fun. However, before Chapter 4 began, an in-game live event occurred to conclude Chapter 3 of *Fortnite* called Fracture. It was an interesting event but was considered pretty disappointing because of how the event was executed. It was a search for Zero Fragments, fragments of the Zero Point, an orb that controls every reality in existence, real or fictional. It was considered boring due to the long runtime of 40 minutes, but the event managed to deliver when it came to nostalgia. It included many flashbacks to previous events from earlier seasons of the game and had many pieces of former locations appear in the background of the event. It ended with a cinematic of The Paradigm (voiced by Brie Larson), fusing parts of different realities to create a new island. In the cinematic, there were many cameos including the Doom Slayer, Geralt of Rivia, the Hulk, and even MrBeast. Yes, THAT MrBeast!

Then after around 12 hours of downtime, we were brought into the new chapter which brought in tons of new weapons, new transportation, and of course, a whole new island. Another major change was the graphics, as they were given a major upgrade. The engine *Fortnite* ran on was changed from Unreal Engine 5 to Unreal Engine 5.1. On the island, one of the first things you'll notice is an autumn biome, which is home to many medieval structures including villages, watch towers and a citadel. In a neighboring biome, a snow biome, you'll find a bastion, a frozen lake, and a laboratory. A really big change however were augments, which can grant you special abilities or weapons for a single match. They are granted progressively throughout a match.

Now let's talk about this season's battle pass. One of the most important things in any season of *Fortnite* is its battle pass, and this season's is pretty decent. It consists of many original characters including the Doom Slayer and Geralt of Rivia that I mentioned earlier. Now about Hulk and MrBeast. Hulk was released in the item shop a couple days into the new chapter with additional cosmetics to go along with him. MrBeast on the other hand, was given two skins, one being his normal self and the

other being himself in an anime style. He also held a challenge in-game that had a prize of \$1,000,000.

More new features include the dirt bike, which is a new and efficient way to travel across the island that can do quite a lot of tricks. You can also now hurdle over shorter structures, which helps with keeping your pace while sprinting instead of having to leap over short structures. There was also another new game-breaking item from a very popular anime franchise, that being Deku's Smash from *My Hero Academia*. It unleashes, well... a smash, but can also send enemies long distances, which truly breaks the game. It was released alongside a set of bundles consisting of cosmetics from *My Hero Academia*, which includes four characters from the franchise, and more cosmetics to accompany them.

This next chapter of *Fortnite* looks wild!



***A Kind Of Spark* Review** **By Angelina Altamirano**

Spoiler warning

Hi! Today I'm going to be reviewing the novel *A Kind Of Spark* by Elle McNicoll. I got the novel at the school's library last month and I just finished reading it today.

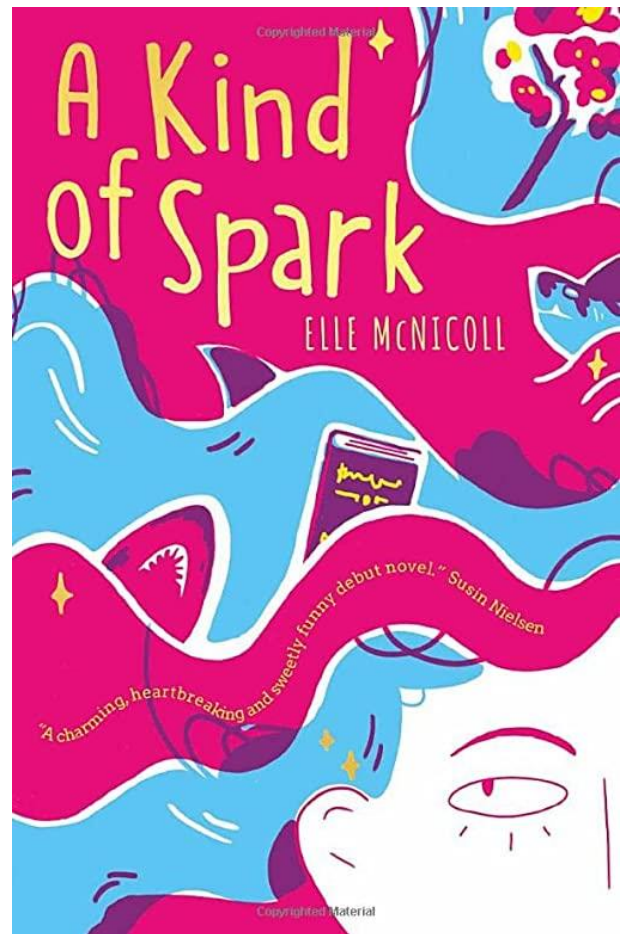
The book is about a Scottish girl named Adeline (Addie), who is campaigning for a memorial in her town for the women who were killed in the Scottish witch trials. Her friend Audrey, who is from London, is helping her.

Now, let's focus on Addie. Adeline has autism and is a neurodivergent character. She displays signs of autism such as having special interests (whales, sharks and books), being sensitive to loud noises, stimming (hand flapping), hating hugs and loud noises and being prone to meltdowns. I think Addie is the best representation of neurodivergent people in the media mainly because she was written with a lot of thought put into her. Her sister Keedie is also autistic, so Keedie and Addie share this special bond together.

Adeline faces many challenges in her life like people not believing that she can raise money for a memorial in her village and also classmates and teachers tormenting her. One example of this is Addie finding her pocket thesaurus ripped and cut up with the R-word written on the first page. When Adeline confronts the girl who did this, she calls Addie the R-word, making Addie fly into a fit of rage, lunging at the girl. Her ableist teacher takes the bullies' side, changing the story to fit her narrative. The R-word is very derogatory towards neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities. Addie doing this is very understandable and I get why she got mad.

The story also dives deep into Adeline's siblings' internal conflicts. Keedie's conflict is not telling anybody at her university that she is autistic and constantly masking her autism. Her older sister Nina also has a conflict - trying to bond with Adeline.

Overall, this is a good book. There is drama, there are friendships, there is representation. It's everything you want in a book. Also, they are making a live action show related to *A Kind of Spark*. I really want to watch it so I can see how the characters are portrayed and depicted and maybe I'll review it, who knows. (Unrelated though, I really like the cover design. I think that it looks very pretty. :)) Solid 10/10.



The Danger of Winter Storms

By John Haanraadts

Some people think that winter storms can be fun. You can ski and play in the snow. However, there are some dangers to winter storms as well.

Snow amounts

One thing that I am sure all of you know about is a danger is snowfall amounts. Snow can make you stuck or trapped in one area for a while. Lots of snow can actually cause damage to power lines due to the weight of the snow if too much snow falls.

Wind Chills

Wind chills are caused by wind. They make the air colder than it really is. This threat can cause you to develop hypothermia, cause the power to go out, and cause things to freeze over in sheets of ice. For example, let's say the temperature outside is 32 degrees Fahrenheit. With wind chills (depending on how windy), it can feel like 10 or 20 degrees lower than what it really is.

Ice

Ice can cover things and make them freeze over. Ice is also very slippery. Black ice is very

dangerous. You can't see it walking or driving but you will know it's there if you fall. When ice comes you need to watch out and be careful. Ice can also come as hail and hit hard. Hail can damage power lines, cars and property.

How to get warnings in advance

When a winter storm is approaching the National Weather Service will issue watches or warnings. If winter storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours the National Weather Service will issue a winter storm watch. If winter storm conditions are likely within the next 36 hours, then the National Weather Service will issue a winter storm warning. If conditions are really bad with wind and snow, then they will issue a blizzard warning. If snow is expected to fall but not in high amounts, then they will issue a winter weather advisory. These warnings can be sent to your mobile devices. If you know snow is coming, then check the National Weather Service from time to time so you know how to prepare.

Conclusion

In all, winter storms can be fun and dangerous. You can have fun with snow but be safe when you go outside.



Gingerbread House Competition

By Daniel Kenedy

On Wednesday, Dec 7, 2022, there was a gingerbread house making competition after school. There were many teams of up to 4 students from grades 6-8 in the cafeteria. Each team was responsible to make 1 gingerbread house. The students made colorful, decorative gingerbread houses out of a kit that included gingerbread pieces, gumdrops and icing. They were doing it for fun and prizes! Winning team members were awarded a \$10 gift card to Amazon, Starbucks, or Five Below.

Photos below by Daniel Kenedy



Congratulations to the winners:

Team #1: Most Festive

Hailey Deutsch, Marissa Stockton, Scarlet Torres
and Makenna Koehler

Team#19: Most Creative

Alexis Taylor, Liam Janickey, Matthew Waldeck

Team #18: Best All Around

Mateo Baerga and Keith McCann

WINNERS



*Photos above by
Mrs. Finnegan*

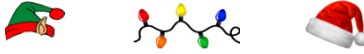
Holiday Spirit Week

Photos by Mrs. Avella
More photos on next 3 pages



MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Holiday Accessory Day!



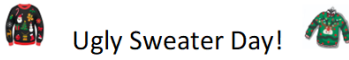
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Favorite Holiday Character Day!



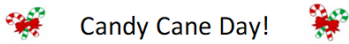
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Ugly Sweater Day!



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

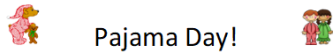
Candy Cane Day!



Wear your Red & White School Colors!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

Pajama Day!





Holiday Spirit Week
Photos by Mrs. Avella
More photos on next 2 pages





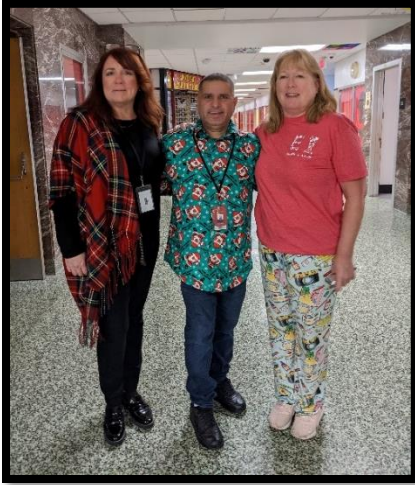
Holiday Spirit Week

Photos by Mrs. Avella
More photos on next page



Holiday Spirit Week

Photos by Mrs. Avella



Brooklyn Pharmacy Ice Cream Review By Peyton Zusmer

Brooklyn Pharmacy is a soda and ice cream shop in the city. When you walk in you are given a menu and a place to sit. Then once you have chosen what to get, you go up to the counter and tell them your order and your table number. Shortly after they will bring you your dessert.

When we went there, I ordered a cherry cola float. My Dad ordered the "Peanut Butter Cup", and my Mom ordered the "More is S'More". Their soda is homemade, and they make it fresh. The vanilla ice cream was very sweet and creamy. Eventually it melted into the soda, making the soda very smooth and flavorful.

The "More is S'More" is a sundae with chocolate, vanilla, and coffee ice cream. The sundae was topped with toasted marshmallow, hot fudge, and graham cracker. There was also red velvet cake underneath the ice cream. The "Peanut Butter Cup" is a sundae made with coffee ice cream. The ice cream is topped with peanut butter, hot fudge, and whipped cream.

The red velvet cake was very moist and sugary. The ice cream was very filling and tasty. The toasted marshmallow was my favorite part of the "More is S'More" sundae because it was fluffy, and it had a crunch. I am usually not a fan of coffee ice cream but in the "Peanut Butter Cup" sundae it was very yummy. In the sundae though I mostly enjoyed the whipped cream which was coated in hot fudge and peanut butter. Their peanut butter is homemade and freshly browned.

The inside of the shop is very old-fashioned and vintage looking. They can be found at 513 Henry Street in Brooklyn, NY. I highly recommend you try Brooklyn Pharmacy for a sweet treat.

For more information, visit their website:

<https://brooklyn-pharmacy.squarespace.com/>

Photo by Peyton Zusmer



Memes That Changed a Generation: The Ohio Meme Explained By Peter Gernand

Welcome back everyone, and a Happy New Year to all from your local meme expert, Peter Gernand. At this time of year, everyone wants to change something about them, or what they do (which by the way, can be expressed with the meme, New Year, New Me). I decided most people enjoy the format of these articles, so there will be no “New Me” for the articles. So today, I want to talk about an interesting meme.

Have you heard of a certain place, that up until this meme released, was thought to be just an average location? That’s right. I’m speaking about the now infamous US State...Ohio. Now, we have a lot to cover with this meme, because people started talking about it in mid-November of 2022, however the meme’s origin dates back to 2016! Crazy, right? It goes back to an error in grammar at a Chicago city bus stop in revealing that the concealed carry requirements were eliminated. But it never mentioned that. Instead, the bus stop text read, “Ohio will be eliminated”. This almost immediately started a trend with Ohio taking over everything, other countries, planets, universes, you name it.

This meme is pretty much a dead meme by today’s standards, which refers to a meme that was once popular, but is no longer used anymore. However, the Ohio meme resurged in 2022 as I said, but in an almost entirely different form. It is now called “Only in Ohio”. But what does this mean exactly? The Ohio meme somehow morphed from a taking over everything meme into a weird, paranormal, deadly location. People have edited pictures, videos, etc., and turned them into the most random things, things that break physics, things that would never typically happen in a “normal” place, and things so absolutely insane, they could be deadly. While the “Only in Ohio” meme is still around, you can use it to express something odd, peculiar, or just straight up bizarre. Who knows? Maybe in another 6 years, the Ohio meme could evolve into something completely different.

So, if you wanted to know about the Ohio meme, there you go. If you like more memes, then you’re in luck, because there will be plenty of memes, and their explanations in March, when the next newspaper issue will be released. Again, this is your meme expert, Peter Gernand, and I will be back with more memes to entertain everyone, but for now, have a great day, and may your New Year be filled with memes!



2016 Ohio Meme



2022 Ohio Meme

The Amazing World Cup: Qatar 2022 By Danna Perez

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was full of surprises and definitely will be remembered. It took place in Qatar from November 20th to December 18th and was the first World Cup held in the Middle East region. However, with their loss to Ecuador, Qatar became the first host nation to lose their opening game in the World Cup.

Unlike previous World Cups, which are typically played in June and July, this 2022 World Cup was played in November and December because of Qatar's intense summer heat and high humidity.

It started with 32 teams and ended with one as the winning champion. During this tournament, several records were broken, including the World Cup with the most goals in history, with a total of 172 goals in 64 games. Qatar surpassed the tournaments of France 1998 and Brazil 2014 in which 171 goals were recorded in each one.

Several teams made history in this competition when Saudi Arabia beat Argentina 2 to 1 in a milestone opening match, this incredible win resulted in a public holiday in the Kingdom!

There were so many traditional European teams that left very early. Belgium didn't even make it out of group play. Portugal, Spain and Germany were all defeated by Japan! Italy didn't even make it to this tournament. Let's not forget about Brazil who had great expectations but didn't make it that far. The biggest surprise was Morocco who became the first African team to reach the semi-finals!

The protagonists were not just football teams. Referee Stephanie Frappart along with assistants Neuza Back and Karen Diaz, were the first female refereeing team at a men's FIFA World Cup game in a country with restrictive women's rights.

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score at five World Cups, despite his coach not putting him in the starting lineup for the last two Portugal matches.

Among all these records and many more, most of them are claimed by Lionel Messi from Argentina during Qatar 2022. With 26 appearances, he holds the all-time record appearance maker in World Cup history, with 19 of those as team captain. This

leaves behind Rafa Marquez with 17 and Diego Maradona with 16 appearances respectively. He also played the most minutes in a World Cup with 2,314, overtaking Paolo Maldini's record of 2,217 minutes.

Messi is the first player to be handed the Golden Ball award twice and the Player of the Match award 11 times. Considering all of these facts, it is easy to predict that the champion of this World Cup was Argentina, with their best player Lionel Messi taking his team to the finals and reaffirming his status as an absolute legend of the game and better than everyone else! With his team defeating the current world champions in the best final ever, Argentina beat France 4-2 in a penalty shootout. They were crowned champion for the third time in their history after 36 years.

But How Do the Teams Qualify for the World Cup?

The FIFA (*International Federation of Football Association*) World Cup takes place every four years. It's a professional football competition in which national teams around the world compete in a qualifying process that involves playing against other national teams. Parallel tournaments are organized by FIFA's six confederations:

- Europe: (UEFA) Union of European Football Association, with 13 teams
- The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) with 41 teams
- South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) with 10 teams
- Confederation of African Football with 5 teams
- Asian Football Confederation (AFC) with 12 teams
- Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) with 8 teams

In every group, each team faces each other and the top teams from each group qualify for the FIFA World Cup.

Did you know the country hosting the tournament is the first team to qualify? Yes, it doesn't matter if they are number one or the last in their group, the

host nation will always get to participate and will play the first match.

Finally, Qatar was a unique World Cup with many controversies including accusations of bribery to be chosen as the host. They were condemned for their abuse of migrant workers, their religious extremism restrictions and for their treatment of women and LGBTQ communities. Defenders of Qatar prefer to point the positive effect of this World Cup had as a cultural bridge between nations. Regardless of which point of view, after a full month of football games, this 2022 FIFA World Cup reminds us that football is the best sport ever. It makes people laugh, cry and dream at the same time - a sport that joins nations all over the world with one heart sharing the same passion.



Blueberry Muffins Recipe By Cailin Melody

Dry Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of baking powder
- ½ teaspoon of sea salt
- 1 cup of frozen blueberries

Wet Ingredients

- 1 cup of milk
- ⅓ cup of vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Crumble topping

- 3 tablespoons of granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons of brown sugar

Directions

1. Combine the wet ingredients. In a separate bowl, combine the dry ingredients.
2. Pour the wet ingredients into your dry. Be sure not to over mix!
3. When combined, add the blueberries. (If you like a lot of blueberries, add a ½ cup extra.)
4. Combine the sugars in a bowl to make the crumble topping.
5. Put the crumble topping on the muffins before cooking them. Apply a generous amount.
6. Cook these muffins at 350 degrees for around 17-18 minutes and enjoy!

Reviews

My Mom loves these but she always wants extra blueberries. My Grandparents loved these too!



Photo by Cailin Melody

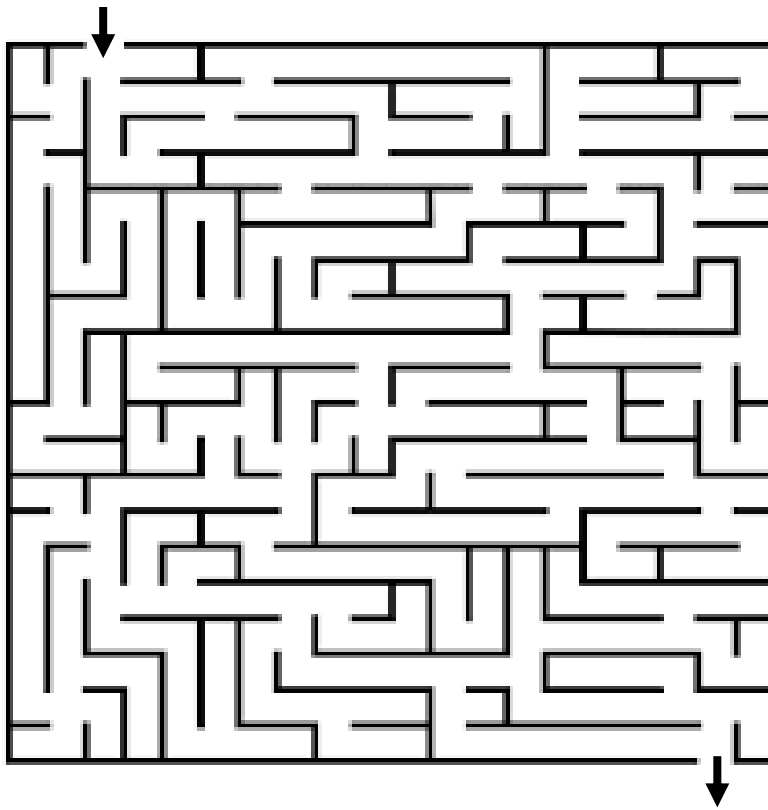
The Most Popular Candy

By Elena Aurrecoechea

Have you ever wondered what the most popular candy in the U.S. is? Well, you're about to find out! According to the New York Post, M&M's are the most popular candy in 20 states. Skittles came in second place for being the most popular candy in 17 states.

Why do people love M&M's so much? According to huntdesign.com, people like how good M&M's feel in their hands and that it's hard on the outside and soft on the inside. They also like the chocolatey taste. You can't forget the sound they make when you pour them into the bowl!

Help Mr. M&M get back to his bag!



*Cherish the moments
that you know will
never last long.*



~ Danna Perez



See page 18 for prices of EI Spiritwear

Answers to puzzle on page 17

Across

3. gingerbread man

5. carrot

6. shovel

Down

1. candy cane

2. sled

4. Rudolph

Staff List



Angelina Altamirano
Elena Aurrecoechea
James Blaschuk
Griffin Byrne
Wyatt Casdia
Brianna DiMaria
Connor Dineen
Fabrizio Escobar
Ryan Geraghty
Peter Gernand
Sullivan Griffin
John Haanraads
Madelyn Halter
Brielle Hassett
Aubrey Hilbert
Brianna Kearney
Daniel Kenedy
Jasmin Law
Heba Luqman
Ava McKenna
Cailin Melody
Danna Perez
Catherine Sause
Daniel Varley
Brian Winser
Peyton Zusmer

CO-ADVISORS:

***Mrs. Avella,
Mr. Kreuder***

EIMS Administration

Principal: Mr. Brennen

Asst. Principal: Mr. Seifert

Asst. Principal: Mrs. D'Aversa

Holiday Cheer Around EIMS

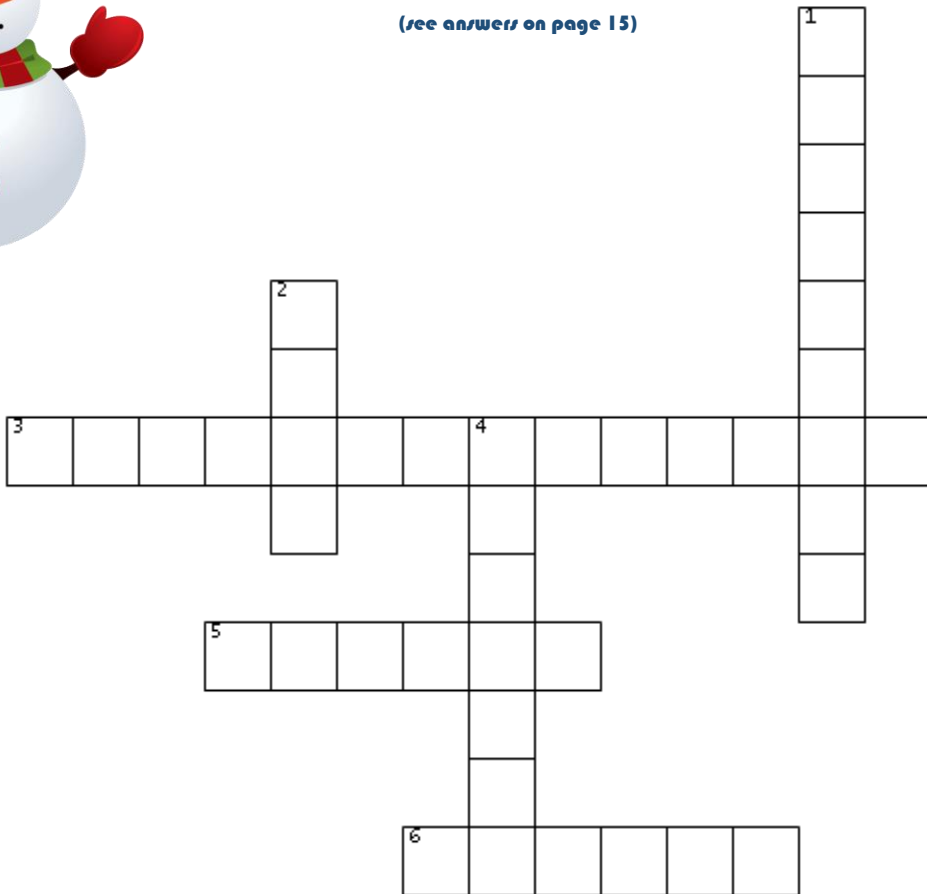
Photos by Mrs. Avella



Winter Crossword

By Aubrey Hilbert

(see answers on page 15)



Across

- 3. a delicious cookie
- 5. a snowman's nose
- 6. you use this to get snow out of your driveway

Down

- 1. a mint flavored candy, colored red and white
- 2. you can slide down a hill with this
- 4. a reindeer with a red nose





Spotlight School Store



East Islip Middle School 2022-23
Spiritwear for Sale with EI logo on the item (plus tax)

T-shirt, short sleeve (black, red, or white)		\$12
T-shirt, long sleeve (black or red)		\$20
Pennant T-shirt, long sleeve (grey)		\$35
Pennant ¼ zip fleece w/lighthouse logo (black)		\$35
Hooded sweatshirt (red or grey)		\$35
Hooded sweatshirt, zip-up (black)		\$35
Hooded sweatshirt (black), 2 laces (red/white)		\$45
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (grey), white lace, lightweight		\$35
Charles River Jacket with hood (black)		\$60
EI string backpack (black or red)	\$14	
EI baseball hat (black or red)	\$24	
East Islip socks, white	\$3	
<i>EI Knit hat with Embroidered logo</i>	\$15	
<i>(Fundraiser for Community Family Support)</i>		

***Sales Tax will be added.**
Payment → Cash or checks are accepted.
 Please make checks payable to: *East Islip School District*
 and write Spotlight School Store in the memo.
Proceeds from the Spotlight School Store are used for student activities right here at the middle school. Thanks for your support!

Questions? Contact
 Diane Doyle:
didoyle@eischools.org
 Sizes range from
 Youth Large up to 3XL
 for some items.