



Masthead design by Anna Sweet / Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

School News

By Reese Sinkevich (Photos by Mrs. Avella)

Cool is.... Well, it makes you cold, at least it does this time of year. There were many events at EIMS in the fall that would not only get you into the winter season but would also boost your self-esteem. This article will also include sports coverage of the EIHS football team.



Cornhole Event: On November 18th, we had another fun cornhole event with pizza and music behind the school. Thanks to the PTA for putting it together. Hopefully they will continue the event for years to come. See more photos on page 2.

Gingerbread Decorating Contest: The annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest was held on December 6th in the cafeteria, kicking off the holiday season. It was run by Mrs. Nolan and Student Government. See more photos and the list of winners on pages 3-4.



“Cool Is...” Board: What is “cool”? Mrs. Hummel started a campaign here at EIMS asking kids to really show what cool is. It is more than wearing expensive clothes, or being part of a popular sports team, but to be a good student, friend and a decent person. Cool is more than how many Snapchat followers you have. Students filled out slips of paper during their lunch period to be posted under the banner in section C of the cafeteria. Before the holiday break, students were asked to vote for their top 5 favorite submissions. See page 26 for results!



EIHS Football Regular Season and Playoffs: The football season for EIHS was quite impressive. After an electrifying homecoming game win against Half Hollow Hills, they kicked off a great season, having only one loss to Sayville. The playoffs were just as decorated, beating Kings Park and Sayville. They ended up winning the Suffolk County Division III championship game, defeating Sayville 35-28. Congratulations!

In this issue:	Concerts are back! p. 5-6	Art Tips p. 8	Milano Bean Cafe p. 17
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PTA Cornhole Event – 11/18/21

Photos by Mrs. Avella





A note from Mrs. Nolan, Student Government Advisor *(Photo by Mrs. Avella)*

Congratulations to the Thanksgiving Guessing Jar winners!

Isabella Garcia was closest with her guess of 210 Hershey kisses for the Turkey Jar. The actual number was 214. Alex Hande was closest for the Pilgrim Jar with a guess of 176. The actual number was 178. They each received a \$5 Starbucks gift card and the jar of candy!



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST WINNERS

(prize - \$10 gift card each)

Photos by Mrs. Avella

Most Festive: Team #29

Tyshell Champion, Jose Pineda,
Anna Belen Matute, Isabella Munoz



Most creative: Team #31

Kayla Lopez, Fabrizio Escobar,
Ibrahim Hamidou



Best All Around: Team #9

Noemi Mendoza , Caitlin Sheridan,
Brooke Marshall, Faith Cuoco



**Gingerbread House
Decorating Contest– 12/6/21**
Photos by Mrs. Avella



Concert Season By Gianna DeSantis

The first middle school concert in a couple of years happened in December of 2021. Students were given 2 tickets each for family members. For other family and friends who wanted to watch the concert, they were able to live stream it on the East Islip YouTube channel. The links were posted on Parent Square (see next page).

All of the concerts were held at 7 pm at East Islip High School in the auditorium. The orchestra concert was on 12/6, the chorus concert was on 12/7 and the band concert was on 12/8. All of the ensembles were fantastic!

Special thanks to: **Ms. Odierna, Ms. Incandela, Mrs. Falacara, Mr. Tucker (accompanist), Mrs. Stevens, Mr. Robertson and Dr. Wottawa (Director of Music).**

See photos on next page.

Orchestra

6th grade:

Samba La Bamba
Appalachian Hymn
'Twas the Night Before Christmas
(with narrator Mrs. Nolan)

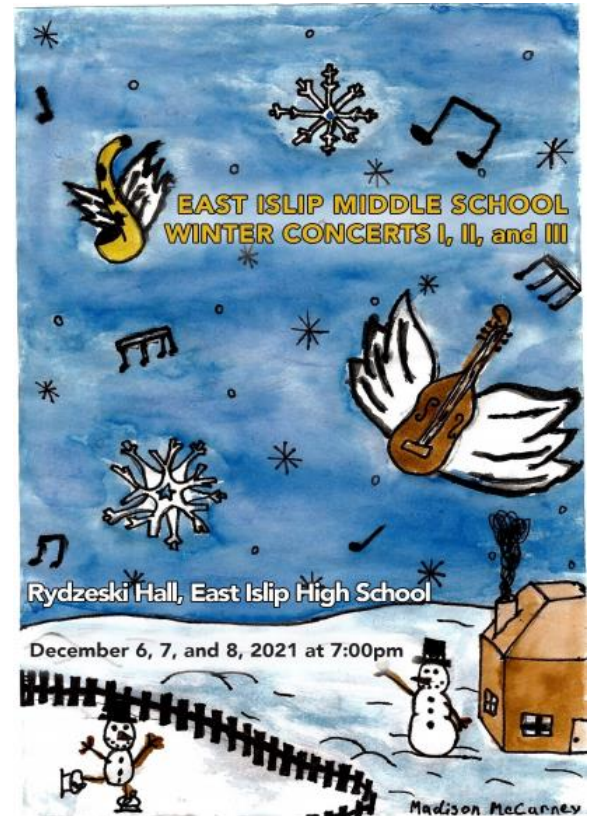
7th grade:

Let it Snow
Hanukkah Holiday
Legend of Dark Mountain

8th grade:

Orpheus in the Underworld Finale
A Million Dreams
Danse Infernale
Suite of Joyous Carols

Program artwork
by Madison
McCarney, 6th
grader. She won
the Art Service
Club contest!



Chorus

6th grade:

Mele Kalikimaka
Tuxedo Junction
One Wish *(Soloists: Eva Daugherty
& Kendel Gravano)*

7th grade:

Route 66
The Snow Carol
The Bells of Christmas Medley

8th grade:

This Old Hammer
Frosty the Snowman
Let It Be *(Soloist: Kayla Lopez)*

Band

6th grade:

25 or 6 to 4, Guest Conductor, Mr. Donald Artis-Hill
Frosty the Snowman
Jingle Bells

7th grade:

Rhythmmania
Beethoven's Fifth Christmas
Hanukkah, Festival of Lights
(Soloists: Clarinet - Francesca Dima & Sanaa Lee)
Santa Visits the Caribbean

8th grade:

A Hanukkah Festival
*(Soloists: Clarinet - Brenden Muller & Sahil Patel
Trumpet - Brianne Martin)*
Scenes from the Nutcracker
(Soloist: Alto Saxophone - Landon Sambo)
Russian Triptych

**Middle School Concerts
December 6 - 8, 2021**

Photos by Dr. Wottawa

To see more photos,
follow us on Twitter:

@EIFineArts

To view the concert videos,
click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWegEGUPjnwUCyiHSXsCKBw/videos>



On the left, Josue Murillo entertains the crowd during the 8th grade chorus concert. On the right, Brenden Muller is tuning up the 8th grade band.



Winter storms

By John Haanraadts

I am sure everyone reading this has played outside in the snow during the winter, Snow may look fun and soft, but it can be dangerous.

Winter storms, depending on where you live, come at a certain time of the year. For us, winter storms usually come from the months of December to March. The threat of ice and snow is high during this kind of natural disaster. Snow can block roads and even block the exits and entrances to your home. Ice can make you slip and may cause car accidents.

Snow and high winds can sometimes cause a whiteout, which is when the wind and snow make it impossible to see 5 feet in front of you. These conditions are very dangerous. During a bad snowstorm, drivers should stay off the roads. Snow can pile up to as much as 6 feet or even more, depending on where you live.

When winds from a winter storm reach 35 mph (miles per hour) it is called a blizzard. Blizzards are very dangerous. If a winter storm warning or a blizzard warning is in effect, then make a plan to stay home and ride out the storm. You can get blocked in your home, lose power or worse. Another dangerous type of winter storm is an ice storm, which can also cause accidents. Freezing rain covers everything with a coating of ice.

Another fact about winter storms is that The Weather Channel started naming them in 2012. Look it up and see if your name was picked. Now, the next time you're playing in the snow, stay safe.

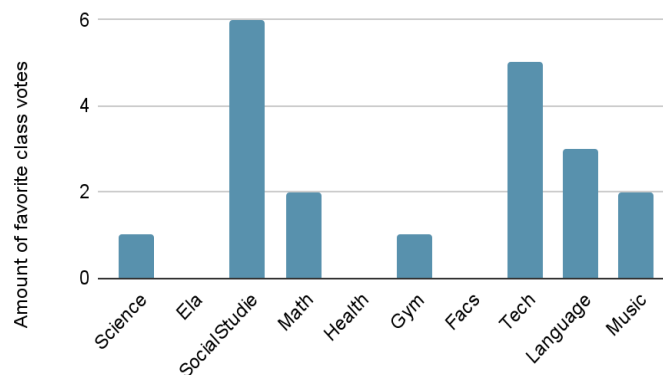


7th graders favorite class

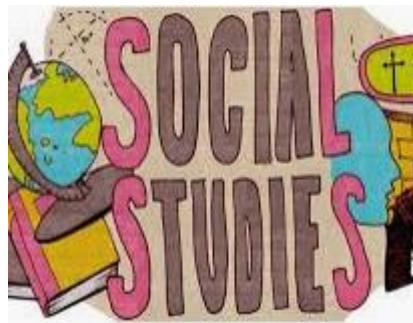
By Paige Mathers

I often hear people in the halls saying, "Going to my favorite class". I became curious about what classes students were talking about, so I decided to poll twenty 7th graders. After collecting their answers, I created a chart. These answers are strictly based on curriculum, not teachers.

Amount of favorite class votes



In conclusion, Social Studies got the most votes. A lot of kids also seem to enjoy Tech and Language. Whatever class you prefer or enjoy, they are all great. The East Islip Middle School has so many great teachers!



Art tips from an artist of 7 years

By Jasmin Law

So, you want to learn how to be better at art? Well, if you know anything about me, it's that I'm a "great artist" according to people, which means you've come to the right place. Everyone always asks me one thing when they see me drawing: "How can you do that?" The answer is simply that I practice all the time, but here are some tips and tricks that I've been taught over the years.

First of all, practice whenever you can and look at references. The more you practice the better you get, and if you study references sometimes you catch on to how to shade and highlight or how to draw hands. Even if you're going for more of a cartoon art style, studying references or maybe a cartoon (Steven Universe, Adventure Time, etc.), you can find out how to perfect your character. Along with that, practice parts of art that you want to get better at (the eyes, legs, etc.). When mixing practice and references, you may get a sketch you really enjoy.

Secondly, if you're ever going through an art block, watch sketchbook tours or other art videos. Personally, I've gone through many art blocks, one of which lasted about three months. Recently, I started watching sketchbook tours where people look through their old art. It makes me feel encouraged to draw along in my own sketchbook. Looking at other's art may give you motivation for an art piece. Remember it's always fine if a piece doesn't turn out good. It's all about practice and learning from your mistakes. You are drawing for yourself after all, which leads me to my next point.

Enjoy art. Don't do it for others. I'd say the only time you'd do art for another person is when you're doing commissions. What's a commission? A commission is when someone pays you a certain amount of money to do a drawing or painting request from them.

Besides commissions, draw for yourself. Many people will destroy your mindset with negative comments like "you're not as good as this artist" or may even point out mistakes in your art. Sometimes they aren't even mistakes. Those "mistakes" may be just a stylized art technique. And never under any circumstances destroy your own mindset with negative comments!

Never skip out on construction lines a.k.a. guidelines. Using guidelines will help you understand the structure of a body. Of course, the body may change a bit if you have a more stylized art style. When drawing guidelines, use straight lines unless your character is looking up, down, or their head is just slanted. Use curved lines on the shoulder line if they're tensing up. During the guideline process, use shapes like circles to show where the elbows or shoulders should be. Use shapes that look like that part of the body. With that being said, don't use squares for hands. Hands are not squares; they have a more polygon-like shape.

Lastly, have fun and remember to take breaks when you need to and drink water. Thank you for reading my article about art tips. I hope they help you in the near future! Stay safe out there, artists!



Native Plants

By Anna Fantauzzi

Our environment is so important, and it has been getting the cold shoulder for far too long. It's time that we start paying attention to the little things because doing something as simple as recycling or planting a native plant can have a HUGE impact that most people probably don't realize.

Native plants are plants that are from where they originated. For example, a plant that came from Long Island is a plant native to Long Island so it grows the best here while other plants that aren't from here will not thrive as well. Native plants are also vital to the environment considering that they attract local pollinators such as bees, monarch butterflies, ladybugs, dragonflies and so many more.

One great example of a native plant garden is the one outside R.C.K. Elementary School that was planted over the summer by Girl Scout troop 142 for their bronze award. The process of creating it was long and hard. I can truly say from the experience of planning, digging it out, and planting over many months that blood, sweat, and even a few tears went into creating it. Our troop couldn't have done it without our troop leaders, family and friends, and someone very well informed with the topic of native plants, Kimberly Simmen from KMS Native Plants.

Kimberly Simmen is the owner of KMS Native Plants. She started her business during the COVID-19 lockdown and runs it out of her backyard. It is a beautiful place with plants and bees everywhere. While we were in the process of planning and creating our native plant garden, she invited us over and taught us some really cool things. She even let us pick blueberries off the bushes and eat them! (They were delicious). She was completely generous and welcoming. We asked her this question: Why Choose Native Plants? Her reply:

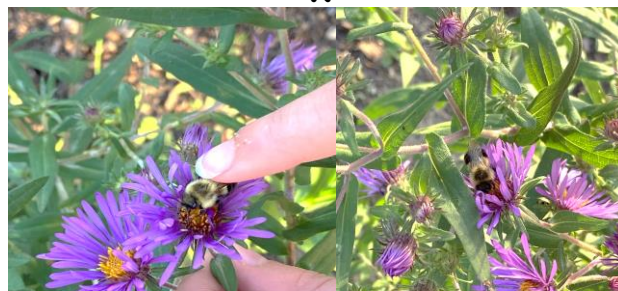
“Native Plants are a very important part of our ecosystem creating much needed biodiversity in the landscape. The manicured lawn and non-native ornamentals, like daylilies, give nothing back to our ecosystem and take up too much of our already precious time. A native plant garden gives our wildlife a much needed habitat for shelter, nesting, and food. Once established, our native plants do not need constant watering as they are adapted to our local climate, and they are very truly low maintenance. Even the smallest patch of native plant flowers makes a big difference.”

Hopefully this provides you with a better understanding of how even the smallest thing (good or bad) can have a humongous impact on really anything.

Girl Scout Troop 142 is made up of Isabella Garcia, Isabella Gulotta , Julianna Lein, Cadence Grieve, Abby LaMorte, Adryanna Mandelbaum, Gabby Gonzalez, and myself, Anna Fantauzzi.

🐝 FUN FACT 🐝

You can pet bumblebees - just make sure they are bumblebees and not a bee that just looks like a bumblebee.



How to code on scratch ~Lesson 2: Movement Blocks~ By Hasan Luqman

Now that you have a basic understanding of how to get started, and you might have already tried out coding for yourself, let's dive into the individual functions and blocks on Scratch starting with movement blocks.

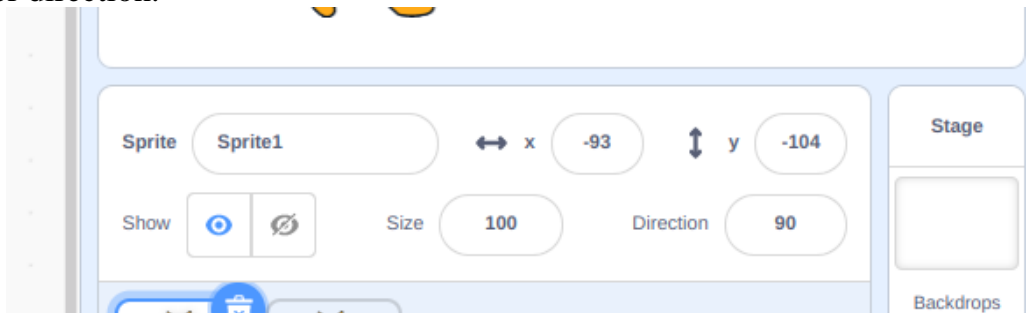
Movement blocks are how your sprite can be controlled by the player. There are different kinds: Move [Number] Steps, Turn Left/Right [Number] Degrees, Point in direction [Number], Glide [Number] seconds to (x) (y)/[Sprite], Go to (x) (y)/[Sprite], change x/y by [Number], set x/y to [Number], and a few more:



You might be wondering what x and y mean. They are the numbers that indicate the sprite's position. The window where sprites are displayed has an invisible coordinate plane, so setting x to 10 and y to 10 will send your sprite to (10,10).

The "Glide" Blocks are an easy form of movement. You can send your sprite to a coordinate, and then use a "Glide" block to make your sprite move towards a different coordinate, or another sprite. You can also set how long it will take for your sprite to get to its destination. NOTE: DECIMALS WORK. The "Go" Block will immediately teleport your sprite to the set coordinate. The "Point" blocks will change the angle of your sprite. Point in direction 90 will reset the angle. The round blocks shown will only work with Operator blocks, which we will cover later. The "Move [Number] Steps" block constantly changes x by the number you insert. To make it smoother, add a repeat block. Change the number in the repeat block and the Move [Number] Steps block to adjust the distance your sprite moves - NOT THE SAME AS A "Change x/y by [Number]" BLOCK. To move the sprite backwards, set the number in the "Move [Number] Steps" to a negative integer. The "If on edge, Bounce" block makes your sprite become repelled by the edge of the screen.

Final Tips: You can drag the sprite around on the screen, then record its coordinates in the movement blocks. There is a bar beneath the window that you can also use to adjust the sprite's coordinates or direction.



Mental Disorders and Disabilities

By Christina Manzi and Heba Luqman

When you think of disorders and disabilities, you probably think of wheelchairs and not being able to talk or move, but it can also be something minor or a very severe mental disability. Approximately 61 million adults are affected by some type of disability. What some people don't understand though is disabilities aren't "quirky" or "funny." They really affect some people heavily. It's also important to not baby those who have disabilities but rather include them for them, not because you feel bad but because you are both humans and should both be treated as such. Don't baby or bully people who have disabilities.

ADHD

ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (which now includes ADD). It makes it harder to focus and understand directions. ADHD can sometimes lead to depression which is why doctors usually closely monitor the mental health of those affected. On a positive note, studies have shown some people with ADHD tend to be more creative and resilient. Others tend to experience hyperfocus which leads to being incredibly driven with certain activities as we have seen in some Olympic athletes.

Depression

Depression includes feeling severely discouraged and low in spirits. There are often feelings of not being able to deal with life and sometimes guilt. It also gives you a lack of energy, appetite and sleep. People may be depressed due to losses, or certain moments in life where they get stuck, and give up, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of people with the diagnosis has increased from 8.5 percent before the pandemic to 27.8 percent now, according to a study by the Boston University School of Public Health.

Autism

There are five major kinds of autism; Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Rett Syndrome, Asperger's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and Kanner's Syndrome. They affect the way people communicate, the way they behave, and the way they are around other people. Autism

cannot be cured, it is something you are born with, and will have for the rest of your life. Autistic people can either be affected severely, like being unable to move, and minorly, like almost as if you can't even tell they have it. Those with less severe autism may have harder times with other things, like expressing their feelings, or behaving in public.

Bipolar Disorder

Bipolar Disorder is a mental health condition that causes extreme mood swings. It makes someone happy one minute and mad or sad the next. It also affects people around them because they might constantly be afraid of when the person will lash out on them. Bipolar disorder could be a symptom of PTSD. People get PTSD from traumatic experiences that may occur while in the military or being in prison.

Dementia

Dementia is a general term for memory loss and is sometimes confused with Alzheimer's disease although Alzheimer's may cause dementia. There are seven stages of dementia from no analytic decline to very mild, mild, moderate, moderately severe, severe, and finally very severe analytic decline. Cognitive symptoms include inability to speak or understand language, making things up, brain damage, confusion in the evening, daze, delirium, or inability to recognize common things. Behavioral symptoms include boldness, anger, personality changes, restlessness or wandering and getting lost. Some people have anxiety, nervousness, loneliness or mood swings. Psychological issues are paranoia, depression or hallucination. Muscular issues are not able to combine muscle movements or have unsteady walking. The most common symptoms are memory loss, falling, jumbled speech, or sleep disorder.



Spider-Man: No Way Home

By Daniel Varley

The next film in Sony's Spider-Man franchise, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, has been taking over the internet ever since the film was announced in February of 2021. After the official trailer released in August, Marvel fans went crazy over what Sony was doing with this film. The film, directed by John Watts, was released on December 17th, 2021.

The film stars many actors returning to play their roles, including Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, Jacob Batalon as Peter Parker's best friend Ned, Zendaya as Peter Parker's girlfriend MJ, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, and many more. After Jamie Foxx, the actor who played the villain Electro in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* hinted at his return as the villain, speculation started coming out about what other villains could be in the film.

When the trailer released, many villains were revealed, with their original actors reprising their roles, including Alfred Molina as Doc Ock, Willem Dafoe as The Green Goblin, and of course, Jamie Foxx as Electro. A huge rumor for the film is that the previous actors who played Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield), would return to play Spider-Man and help out Tom Holland's Spider-Man in trying to defeat the "Sinister Six" and return them to their original universes.

The plot of the film takes place after the final scene from the previous film, *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, where Spider-Man's identity is revealed as Peter Parker by the last film's villain, Mysterio. Because of this, Peter Parker seeks help from Doctor Strange, who is a master of the "Mystic Arts". After Doctor Strange's spell fails, the multiverse is unleashed, pulling in villains from every universe (of Spider-Man).

Now that the movie has been released, I must say the film surprised me as much as it could surprise you! It follows a great story with great characters, and many twists and turns that will truly shock you. But most importantly... see the film, DON'T spoil it!



Tom Holland as Spider-Man
by Empire Magazine



Official Movie Poster

For more info: <https://www.empireonline.com/movies/news/no-way-home-is-spider-man-endgame-says-jon-watts-exclusive/>

Black Widow

By Alison Coppinger

Have you heard about the movie that came out from Marvel in July of 2021? It was called *Black Widow* and precedes *Avengers: Infinity War*. The main actors are Scarlett Johansson, who plays Natasha Romanoff, and Florence Pugh, who plays Natasha's sister Yelena.

I give this movie a rating of 95/100 but, guess what? It has a 79% on Rotten Tomatoes! I guess a lot of people didn't like it but I would totally recommend it.

Black Widow, who has been in most of the Marvel movies finally got her own movie about her life and her family before the "Big War". You really get to see what she does other than being a superhero at last. It has the perfect amount of happiness and sadness. It is balanced just right.



Pokemon Sinnoh Remakes Satisfy Many By Peter Gernand

Recently, about a month ago, Nintendo finally released what many Pokemon fans have wanted since the year 2006: *Pokemon Diamond* and *Pearl* remakes. *Pokemon Brilliant Diamond* and *Shining Pearl* are a hit among today's new fans as well as OGs that go back to the days of *Pokemon Red* and *Blue*. Released last November, *Brilliant Diamond* and *Shining Pearl* can be played on the Nintendo Switch and are available at Walmart, Best Buy, and Target for \$60. Here is a summary on the games including the battles and the exclusive Pokemon in each game. Let's get to it!

The version exclusives to *Brilliant Diamond* (the starting evolutions) are Caterpie, Ekans, Growlithe, Seel, Scyther, Electabuzz, Murkrow, Gligar, Entei, Raikou, Suicune, Larvitar, Ho-Oh, Seedot, Mawile, Zangoose, Solrock, Kecleon, Cranidos, Stunky, and Dialga. The version exclusives to *Shining Pearl* (the starting evolutions) are Weedle, Sandshrew, Vulpix, Slowpoke, Magmar, Pinsir, Articuno, Zapdos, Moltres, Misdreavus, Teddiursa, Stanler, Lugia, Lotad, Sableye, Seviper, Lunatone, Bagon, Sheildon, Glameow, and Palkia.

You start as a little Trainer in the Pokemon world (all the characters are little chibis). You then wake up in Twinleaf Town, the place you live. You get your starter Pokemon, either Turtwig, a Grass Type Chimchar, a Fire Type, or Piplup, a Water Type. Your rival, Barry will choose the Pokemon with the type advantage to yours, so watch out. You then go to Jubilife City, where you can do some fun stuff, and then to Oreburgh City, where you go up against the first Rock Type Gym Leader, Roark. Turtwig or Piplup are good against rock types. You then get the **Coal Badge** and the ability to smash down those pesky rocks in the caverns.

You then go to the Valley Windworks to stop Team Galactic, and one of its three commanders, Mars. After making a quick pit stop at Floaroma Town, you then go to Eterna City, where you battle the Grass Type Gym Leader, Gardenia. Chimchar (which can be evolved into Monferno by the time of battle) is good against grass types. After you defeat her, she gives you the **Flower Badge** and the ability to chop down trees at your convenience. You then



Image from <https://www.nintendo.com>

battle Team Galactic and another of their leaders, Jupiter, and they will evacuate afterwards.

Next, you make another pit stop at Celestia Town, where the Pokemon Champion, Cynthia lives. Then, you battle a Team Galactic Grunt and then the main leader, Cyrus, where he introduces himself. After that, you go to Veilstone City, where you battle the Fighting Type Gym Leader, Maylene. After you defeat her, you obtain the **Cobble Badge**, and the ability to fly to different places. You then battle Team Galactic Members to get your friend's Pokedex back. After that, you are again challenged by Barry, with his advanced team. Walk through the routes to get to your next major stop, Pastoria City.

After you defeat a Team Galactic Member, you go on to Pastoria City, where you battle the Water Type Gym Leader, Crasher Wake. Turtwig (which can be evolved into Grotle by the time of battle) is good against water types. After you defeat him, you obtain the **Fen Badge**, and the ability to get rid of fog. After you exit the gym, you get challenged by Barry a third time, with his team a little more advanced than the last.

After that, you go to Celestic Town, where you have a run-in with Cyrus, the Team Galactic Boss, then move on to Hearthome City. Here, the Gym Leader awaits the Ghost Type Gym Leader Fantina. After defeating her, you receive the **Relic Badge**, and the ability to surf on water.

Surf over to Iron Island, where you and Barry double-battle against two Team Rocket Grunts. You then go to Canalave City, where you are challenged by Barry again. He has beaten the gym leader, and
(continued on next page)

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so will you. You go up against the Steel Type Gym Leader, Byron. Monferno is good against steel types. After you defeat him, you get the **Mine Badge**, and the ability to move rocks around.

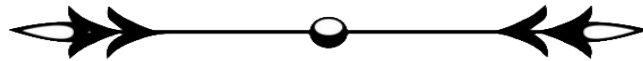
Next up is Lake Valor where Team Galactic and the third commander, Saturn, challenges you to a battle. After you defeat him, Team Galactic gets out of the area. At Snowpoint City, you fight the Ice Type Gym Leader, Candice. Monferno and Prinplup are good against Ice Types. After you defeat her, you get the **Icicle Badge**, and the ability to destroy large snow areas.

Go to Lake Verity where you will meet Team Galactic and defeat Commander Mars again. You then go to Lake Acuity, where you find Barry, and Commander Jupiter (Barry just got defeated). You then go to Sunyshore City and battle the final Electric Type Gym Leader, Volkner. Grotle (which could have evolved into Torterra by the time of battle) is good against Electric types. Defeating him earns you the **Beacon Badge** and the ability to use Waterfall.

After that, you hear that there is trouble at Mount Coronet, so you go there, where the Team Galactic Boss, Cyrus, attempts to unleash his plans. You and Barry get stopped by Mars and Jupiter and you defeat them in a Double Battle. You then defeat the boss, Cyrus, and stop his evil plans.

After stopping Team Galactic for good, you're ready for the Pokemon League. You get challenged by Barry one last time, then go to defeat the Elite Four, bug type specialist Aaron, ground type specialist Bertha, fire type specialist Flint, and the psychic type specialist, Lucian. After you defeat them, you face off against the Pokemon Champion, Cynthia. She challenges you to a full six-on-six. After you defeat her, she majorly congratulates you, and you are the new Pokemon Champion!

So, at the end of it all, *Pokemon Brilliant Diamond* and *Shining Pearl* has an amazing storyline, incredible Pokemon and so many action-packed battles along with everything else! I rate this game 100/10. Incredible game Nintendo!!!



Sugar Scream! **By Catherine Sause**

Cookie Run: Kingdom is taking over! In this game, you play as a cookie. There are 64 characters, each with different roles, such as Healing, Charge, Magic, Support, Defense, Ranged, Bomber, and Ambush. They all have different abilities, stories, personalities, and bonds to each other.

In support of gender diversity and the LGBTQ community, the game has cookies that are male, female and non-binary. For example, Squid Ink Cookie (my personal favorite) is a squid cookie (obviously) and also a magic cookie. Their skill is that they grow over 7 times in size, then they go to the side of the battlefield and smack all enemies with their giant tentacles, dealing amazing amounts of damage. And this isn't the end.

There are WAY more characters to learn about and I can continue talking for DAYS. Find out for yourself by downloading *Cookie Run: Kingdom* today. It is available in the App Store and Google Play.



All About *Genshin Impact* By Madelyn Halter

Genshin Impact is a game you might have heard of. It has become one of the most popular RPGs (role-playing game) of 2021. In this article, you will learn about what *Genshin Impact* is, how to play, and why it became so popular.

Genshin Impact is a free open world sandbox game that was developed and released in September of 2020 by miHoYo, a Chinese video game company. In this game, you play as a traveler who has fallen from a heavenly world. An unknown god has taken your sibling, and you journey across the magical world of Teyvat to try and find your sibling. As you travel across the land, you discover new people, food, items, and enemies. There are seven regions, each one with their own archon, or god. You will read about three of these seven regions. These are the only ones out in the game right now, but the other four are coming soon.

Before we start discussing the regions, we need to talk about some basic staples of Teyvat. In Teyvat, some people get visions which are said to be blessings from the celestial heaven. There are seven visions: Cryo (ice), Hydro (water), Pyro (fire), Dendro (earth/plant), Geo (rock), Electro (electric/lightning), and Anemo (wind.) Each of these visions are given by the god of the vision, or the Archon. Each of the seven nations has its own Archon and its own element.

Mondstadt is the first region that you encounter on your quest. It is nicknamed “The City of Song and Freedom,” and its Archon is Barbatos, the Anemo god. The town has lots of German influence in cuisine and structuring.

You meet lots of new people as well, from the sunflower knight Jean to the pyrotechnic-loving Klee. You soon become the honorary knight of the Knights of Favonius, Mondstadt’s army. You can stop by and grab a Mondstadt hash-brown, practice with the knights, or just shop around the beautiful town.

Next on your adventure is Liyue, the City of Contracts. This is the Geo nation, and its Archon is named Morax (nicknamed Rex Lapis). Liyue is an amazing nation, from its open plains to its Chinese style architecture. It also is the only nation that mints Mora, the currency in Teyvat. You can have tea with Zhongli, cook delicious meals with Xiangling, or listen to the guitar loving Xinyan. Liyue’s harbor is an immensely important trade center and it houses culture from all seven nations.

The final destination on your journey (for now), is Inazuma, the Nation of Eternity and the Electro Nation. Inazuma, unlike the other two nations previously mentioned, is a closed nation. This means that nothing can enter or exit which means all the people inside the nation are trapped. There is also a Vision Hunt Decree issued by the Raiden Shogun, which causes all vision holders to be captured and to have their visions taken from them. The Raiden Shogun, Inazuma’s Archon, has taken other measures to keep her archipelago existing for all eternity, hence the name. Despite all of these setbacks, Inazuma is a beautiful nation. You can go to Inazuma City, a Japanese-style town, the Sangonomiya Shrine, a tribute to an army leader, or Ritou, the main dock of Inazuma.

Genshin Impact is a great game filled with amazing sights, quests, and people. I hope you give it a try. It definitely has my vote!



TORNADOES!

By Mateo Ullah and John Haanraadts

Have you ever wanted to know what happens with a tornado? Read to find out!!

Thunderstorms

Have you ever thought about how a tornado is formed? Well, you need to know what happened on Sunday, Nov 13, 2021...as explained below by Mateo.

One day earlier, Nov 12, 2021 - Saturday

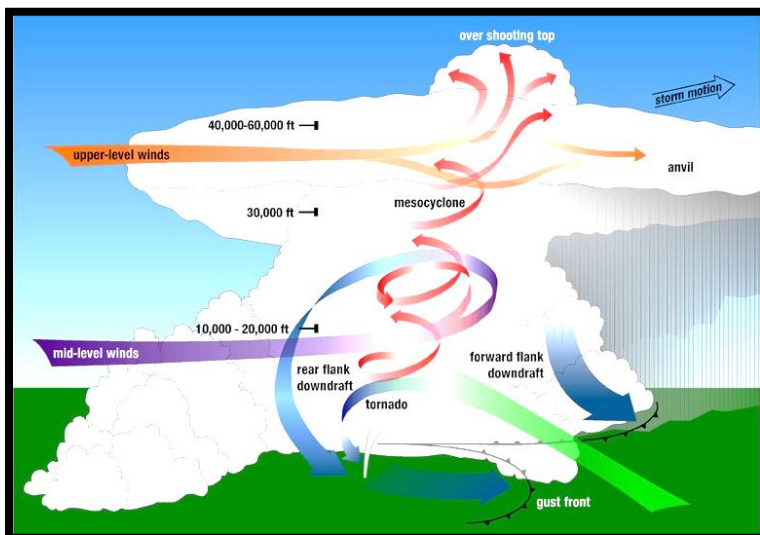
As usual, I was sleeping in, after a long day of school on Friday. I woke up around 8:00am. As usual, I was watching the weather. The National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm watch for tomorrow. I was so hyped up - I love thunderstorms! So, with high hopes, I went back to sleep that night, hoping to see lightning.

Nov 13, 2021 - Sunday

I woke up to gray skies and there were black clouds rolling in. But my smile didn't last long. When I put on the weather forecast, I saw they had issued a tornado watch. I quickly began preparing a solution to make sure that I would be unharmed if a tornado did hit. After 4 hours, there was the first tornado warning. Then a second, a third, and finally, a fourth. I was so intimidated, and a few days later, I heard shocking news. The National Weather Service confirmed 2 more tornadoes. So, in total, 6 tornadoes had touched down that day across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Now that you know the story, I can tell you how this happens.

How it works

A tornado is a vortex of swirling wind, dust, and debris. A downdraft starts, usually it is the first source of energy to appear. The second one, an updraft starts, continuously starts to feed the storm. As they form, they start, almost chasing each other. This creates the deadly vortex of destruction. Tornadoes usually spawn in humid areas, like the Midwest. This area of the country is called Tornado Alley.



Safety Procedures

Always be on alert when there is a tornado watch. It could be deadly. The safest place to be is in a basement, or an enclosed space. **NEVER EVER GO ON OTHER FLOORS ABOVE YOUR FIRST FLOOR!!!!** Other safe places include bathrooms, closets, and cellars. It's probably not the best place to be but, if you are caught outside when there is a tornado, go into a ditch.

I hope you enjoyed the article! Always remember, **STAY SAFE!**

Are dolphins smarter than we think?

Sophia Eason

Dolphins are more intelligent than we think. For example, just like how humans call each other names, the same goes for dolphins. Research has revealed that when the animals hear their own call played back to them, they respond. Each dolphin has a unique whistle, which is another way they identify each other. Unlike most animals, dolphins know who their friends are and can recognize themselves in mirrors.

Most people know that in order to get their food, dolphins use echolocation, but what some people don't know is they use hunting techniques. The dolphin grabs the fish by its tail and slams it against the water's surface, breaking the fish into smaller pieces.

Dolphins like to jump and play and do acrobatic spins in the air. They are more trainable than people think. Dolphins will show off and attract one another's attention by leaping in the air. But the bad thing is they don't know the difference between things that can harm them and things that don't. Some dolphins will start playing with plastic without even realizing it is harmful, which is why it's really important to stop polluting the water.

Similar to how humans like to have fun, the same goes with dolphins; some even play a chase game. Just like humans, dolphins have personalities; some are happy and some quite shy.

A dolphin's skin is 10 times thicker than yours. It has a blubbery layer that keeps it alive. A dolphin's body is designed for moving and living underwater. Dolphin bones are spongier than some land animals, so it doesn't sink.

A dolphin doesn't really sleep. It can rest one half of the brain while the other half keeps the dolphin breathing and alert.

In ancient times, dolphins were seen as protectors of the seas. Legends tell from all over the world that dolphins have rescued ships lost at sea. Dolphins also have human emotions too, they can be sad, happy, scared, angry etc. This is why it's important to try and save dolphins the best we can.



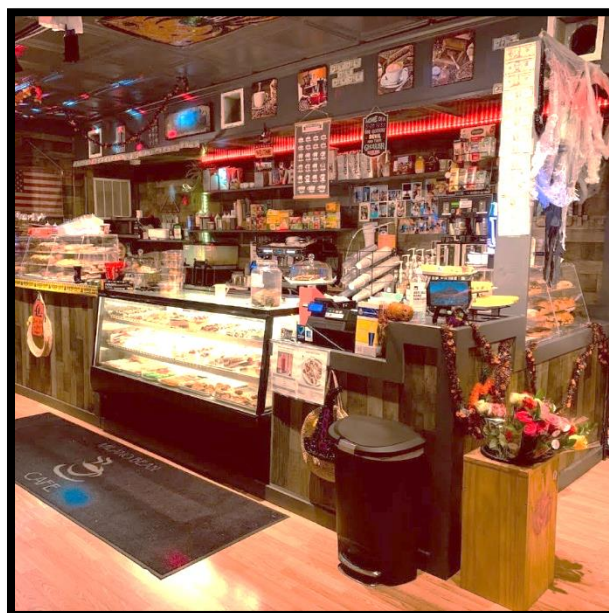
The Milano Bean Cafe- Review

By Erin Kolensky

The Milano Bean Cafe is located on 51 West Main Street in East Islip, New York. They are open from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm from Monday to Friday and are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm.

Visiting this café was a lovely experience. They sell a variety of pastries, hot drinks, cold drinks, muffins, and so much more! My favorite is the chocolate chip muffin. They have a really nice area to do work or schoolwork, and they have comfortable seating.

The staff is really kind and wants to make sure you get the food you want. They give great recommendations. Sometimes, they even have open mic nights where you can show your talent to everyone and sing. I really hope you stop by The Milano Bean Cafe and try some of their amazing food. They deserve your business.



Ariana Grande Updates

By Ace Green

Welcome back to your main source for Ariana Grande news. Today, we will talk about what Ariana has been up to lately. We have a LOT to go over!

Fortnite - In August of 2021, Ariana and Fortnite had an in-game concert called the Rift Tour. During this time, you could purchase your avatar/character to look like Ariana. Two months later, Ariana and Fortnite did another collaboration for Halloween. Ariana got a new character in the game called Spacefarer Ariana. A few short weeks later, the entertainment company HYBE announced new projects for the artist they were working with such as BTS, Justin Bieber, and many more. When it was time to announce things for Ariana, one of the main leaders of HYBE said this: “While Ariana does not have any plans to release new music for the balance of 2021, we will be doing an activation with Fortnite in the upcoming weeks”.

Some fans think that this activation is a new concert and have their hopes up.

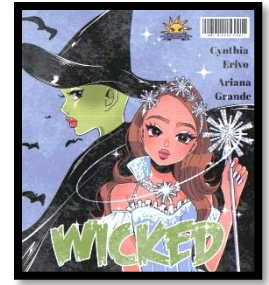
They want songs such as “Thank You Next”, “God Is a Woman”, and “Sweetener” to be sung during the in-game event. Some fans have also created concepts of a new Ariana Fortnite character such as this:



r.e.m. beauty - On November 12, 2021, Ariana released her first products for her new makeup line called r.e.m. beauty. The first chapter of products include highlighter, eyeliner and lipstick and is heavily space themed. The beauty line was a huge success because a lot of the products sold out in one day. It is unknown when chapter 2 will be released but some fans already have made predictions as to what could be coming such as hair extensions, skin care and many more.

Wicked - On November 4, 2021, Ariana revealed that she will be playing Glinda (aka the Good Witch) in the Universal Studios movie adaptation of the Broadway show *Wicked*. She will be starring alongside Cynthia Erivo who will be playing Elphaba.

The film is directed by Jon M Chu. Filming will start this summer in London. It will be released in 2023 or 2024. Ariana has already submitted songs for the film such as “Popular” and “Defying Gravity”.



GIAW - Recently, Ariana released her new perfume called “God is a Woman”. The fragrance is made with ambrette, juicy pear, orris, Turkish rose petals, Madagascar vanilla and creamy cedarwood. The promo for the perfume shows Ariana in a large purple dress sitting inside the perfume. Here is the official perfume scent description: “The Scent ‘God Is a Woman’ opens with pear and ambrette, which is a sweet floral musk derived from seeds. At the heart you'll find rose and orris, a root with a powdery, earthy scent that's similar to violet. The scent is anchored by the reliable base notes of vanilla and cedarwood.”

Don't Look Up - On December 10, 2021 Ariana starred in the new film *Don't Look Up*. Ari said this about her character: “I play Riley Bina who is an aloof and unaware popstar. News about Bina & DJ Chello relationship fluctuating eclipsed the news of the earth coming to an end.”



Ariana and Kid Cudi are also featured on the film's soundtrack for the song “Just Look Up”. The song could also be nominated for the 2022 Oscars for the Best Original Songs award.

Grammys - Ariana is nominated for the 2022 Grammys. She is nominated for Best Vocal Album of the year for her album *Positions*. She is also nominated for Best Remix for the song “Me Him Last Night” with Demi Levato. Doja Cat's album *Planet Her* is nominated for Album of The Year. Since Ariana is on the album for the song “I Don't Do Drugs”, if the album wins Ariana will also receive the award. Ariana already has 2 Grammys. She earned her first Grammy in 2018 for her 4th studio album *Sweetener* which won Best Pop Vocal Album. Then in 2021, she won her 2nd Grammy for the song “Rain On Me” with Lady Gaga.

COVID-19 lockdown

By Danna Perez

During 2020, we experienced a lot of changes in our lives. We all remember how our lives were before the pandemic - before COVID-19. We were able to express our emotions in many different physical ways. Everyone was able to travel, go on vacations, socialize, and move freely everywhere in the world. But all of that changed in March 2020 when a deadly virus spread throughout the world and people had to stay in full lockdown. Our ways to socialize and interact with the world changed with the lockdown. Our parties, classes, work, and interviews, for example, changed into virtual experiences. Being confined at home wasn't a pleasant experience for many of us.

But not all the consequences in our world due to COVID-19 lockdown were negative. Many different living beings took advantage of this new reality. The lockdown offered scientists a once in a lifetime opportunity to observe the extent of human impact on earth and animal behavior, by simply taking us out of the picture. For example, people who live in cities in India close to the Himalayan Mountains were able to enjoy the view of the mountains from home for the first time! This was only possible due to the sharp reduction of smog in the air.

Similar to air quality improvement, our oceans experienced positive changes due to reduction of marine traffic. Whales in Alaska, penguins in Antarctica and sea turtles in Florida are having great reproductive seasons. Changes like this also happened on land where many different species, some endangered, were spotted enjoying the new reality with no human interaction.

Even though COVID-19 resulted in many tragic consequences and may have changed our lives forever, it also gave us the opportunity to use what we learned to evaluate and modify our habits regarding our planet instead of returning to our old way of life. The lockdown, as an extraordinary and unique experience, gives us the opportunity to see how humans and nature can co-exist in a better harmonic way if we make some changes in our life.



The East Islip Middle School musical team has decided to postpone the production of "High School Musical, Jr." from February to March.

Stay tuned for more information on ticket sales.

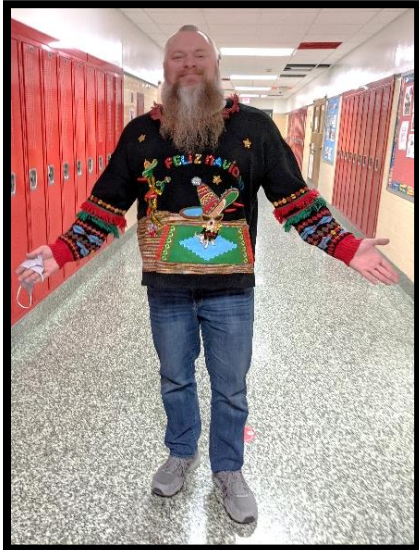
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

POSTPONED

**EIMS Holiday Spirit Week–
12/15/21 – 12/21/21**
Photos by Mrs. Avella



Don't get caught in a sweep by Mr. Brennen!



Travel Spotlight: Nashville By Charlotte Stabile

(Photos by the Stabile family)

I recently went to Nashville, TN for Thanksgiving. While spending time with family, I was able to visit these places. If you ever take a trip to Nashville, I recommend you check out the list below.

1. Music Row
2. Nashville Zoo
3. Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center (formerly Opryland Hotel)
4. The Pancake Pantry Restaurant
5. Martin's Bar-B-Que Restaurant
6. Vanderbilt University



Opryland Resort above and
the Nashville Zoo below



The New York Mets By Sara Pepp

The New York Mets certainly aren't the #1 baseball team. During the past season there have been some issues. For example, in early July, their star right-handed pitcher, Jacob DeGrom was placed on the injured list and didn't come back for the rest of the season. In August, they blew their lead to the Atlanta Braves. This continues their 5-year streak of not going to the playoffs.

In this off season, there are some positive things happening. For example, they have a new General Manager, Billy Eppler. Although the Mets have lost players such as Noah Syndergaard, Marcus Stroman, and Javier Baez, the Mets have also signed players such as Mark Canha, Starling Marte, Eduardo Escobar, and right-handed pitcher Max Scherzer. The signing of Scherzer is a huge positive for the 2022 season. The Mets are in great need of pitchers so this will help a lot.

On December 20, 2021, the Mets hired Buck Showalter as their new Manager. All in all, I have a really good feeling about the New York Mets 2022 season!

Which house are you?

By Sofia Caviedes

1. What do you like to do in your free time?

- a. Read
- b. Bake
- c. Play video games
- d. Pull pranks

2. What class at Hogwarts do you like?

- a. Divination
- b. Herbology
- c. Defence Against the Dark Arts
- d. Potions

3. Which of these animals would be your spirit animal?

- a. Gorilla
- b. Capybara
- c. Tiger
- d. Spider

4. In a fairy tale, which character would you be?

- a. Wise Princess
- b. Young Hero's Apprentice
- c. Hero
- d. Sneaky Wizard

5. There is a new girl at school. She is all alone at a table at lunch. What do you do?

- a. Invite her to your lunch table.
- b. Start a conversation with her.
- c. Stand up for her.
- d. Say hi, but then forget about her and advance with your day.



Key - Which House Are You?

See which house you are. Don't worry if you get a house you don't like or if you have done longer quizzes online. This is just for fun!

Mostly As: *Ravenclaw*

Mostly Bs: *Hufflepuff*

Mostly Cs: *Gryffindor*

Mostly Ds: *Slytherin*

Paige's Kitchen Presents

“The Gray Stuff” From Disney’s Beauty and the Beast

Ingredients

- 1 box of vanilla pudding mix (3.4 oz)
- 1½ cups of milk
- 15 Oreo cookies
- 8 oz Cool Whip
- 2 tbsp chocolate pudding mix



Preparation

1. **Combine** pudding mixes, milk, crushed Oreos (see tip below), Cool Whip, in a medium bowl.
2. **Mix** all ingredients. I recommend using an electric mixer.
3. **Chill** in the refrigerator for 1-2 hours or until it has a pudding consistency.
4. **Enjoy!** I recommend eating it with a sugar cookie or cupcake or just out of the bowl.

Tips

When crushing Oreos, you can use a food processor, blender, or bag and rolling pin. Personally, I use a blender. If using a blender, add Oreos 5- 8 at a time depending on size of blade and blender, after crushing use a blender to move around chunks and add more.

Don't forget to
visit the
Spotlight School Store
to do your shopping for
Valentine's Day!



Bite-sized cupcakes pack a punch **Article and photos by Peyton Zusmer**



Baked By Melissa is a company that makes mini cupcakes and macarons. It's a business you can find online or in New York City. They offer a variety of cupcakes such as Tie-Dye, Chocolate Chip Pancake, Cookie Dough, Cookies and Cream and more!

Their cupcakes have the perfect consistency - the cake is very moist and the icing is creamy and fudgy. The toppings are always amazing and unique for each cupcake.

I tried the holiday pack which includes Christmas Cookie, Double Cookie, Chocolate Blackout, and Caramel Hot Chocolate. The Christmas Cookie, my favorite, had a fudgy cake and the sprinkles on top gave them a crunch. The Caramel Hot Chocolate was my least favorite because the caramel filling combined with the cake and the marshmallow on top was too much to take at once in my opinion. Chocolate blackout was very good overall but the sprinkles on top plus the fudge was an overwhelming amount of texture. The combination of chocolate chip cookie dough and the piece of Oreo wafer on the Double Cookie was a very satisfying duo. I highly recommend you get a pack of Baked By Melissa cupcakes!

Visit their website: <https://www.bakedbymelissa.com/>

Cheesecake Cherry Pie...Fantastic or Fail? **By Casey Flad**

How good really is this easy cherry pie? Well, I tested it out to find the truth. It's a basic recipe found at unclejimskitchen.com. It includes only 5 ingredients and has some pretty good tips on how to make the pie. It is absolutely delicious, and my family loved it too.

It has the perfect ratio of sweet to sour and has a great consistency. It's pretty quick to make, except for the chilling time which took 3 hours. That was the only downside to the recipe. Other than that, it was perfect! I suggest you make it for a birthday, holiday or even just on a rainy day. It's a quick and easy recipe almost anybody can replicate.

Find the recipe here:

<https://unclejimskitchen.com/philadelphia-cream-cheese-cherry-pie/>



Chocolate Chip Muffin Recipe

By Lila Centauro & Kate Habel

Photo by Kate Habel

Lila: As a child, I've always enjoyed having muffins as a late-night snack. I would always eat them fresh because my mother loved to bake. I would love to introduce the recipe to you so that you can bake these delicious muffins as well! This recipe takes around 30 minutes to make. It yields a dozen muffins.

Ingredients needed:

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp baking soda
- ½ tbsp salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips



1. Preheat the oven to 425 °F. Spray a 12-cup muffin tin with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and chocolate chips. Mix it all together, then set aside.
3. In a smaller bowl, use a whisk to mix together the melted butter, sugar, eggs, milk, and vanilla. Slowly add to the dry ingredients; fold together gently until just combined.
4. Next, divide the batter evenly between the 12 muffin cups and bake for 5 minutes at 425°F. *Decrease the oven temperature to 375°F and continue to bake for another 12-15 minutes.* Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. **DO NOT** overbake or else the muffins will be dry. Let the muffins cool for 5-10 minutes then enjoy!

Answers to winter crossword on page 32.

DOWN

1. snowman
2. lights
3. carols
6. Rudolph

ACROSS

1. sled
4. gloves
5. gingerbreadman
7. carrot
8. Santa
9. shovel

Poetry

By [Daniel Kenedy](#)

“What My Name Means”

My dad thinks my name means “challenged.”

My mom thinks my name means “loving.”

My brother thinks my name means “weak and pathetic.”

My grandma thinks my name means “Irish with an American heart.”

My aunt thinks my name means “the freedom-loving European.”

My uncles think my name means “nerdiest kid in town.”

My doctors think my name means “challenged young man.”

My art teacher used to think my name means “worst student ever!”

My music teacher used to think my name means “best student ever!”

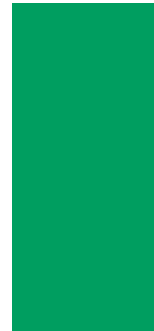
My gym teacher thinks my name means “tries hard.”

My aide thinks my name means “loves YouTube.”

But I think my name means,

“Loves small town life” and “dreams of freedom for the youth of the world”

and “who wants to become President of the USA” and “who believes there needs to be equality for people with disabilities” and “who loves classical music and Disney history” and “who fears not being able to continue in a public school.”



A note from Mrs. Hummel:

The votes are in! Our Top 10 “Cool Is...” responses:

1. Being Kind
2. Being Nice to Others
3. Being True to Yourself
4. Making Someone Smile
5. Being Respectful
6. Being Creative and Expressing Who You Really Are
7. Treating Others the Way You Want to Be Treated
8. America
9. Good Friends and Family
10. Not Being Rude and Thinking You Are All "That"

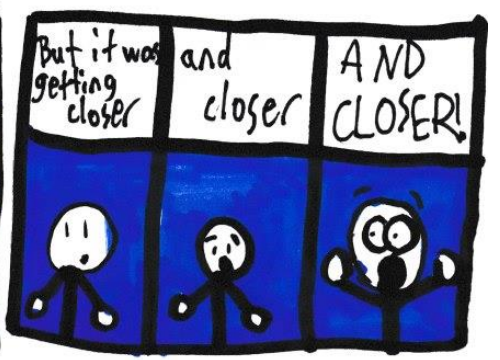
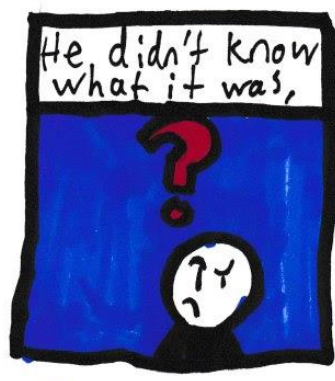
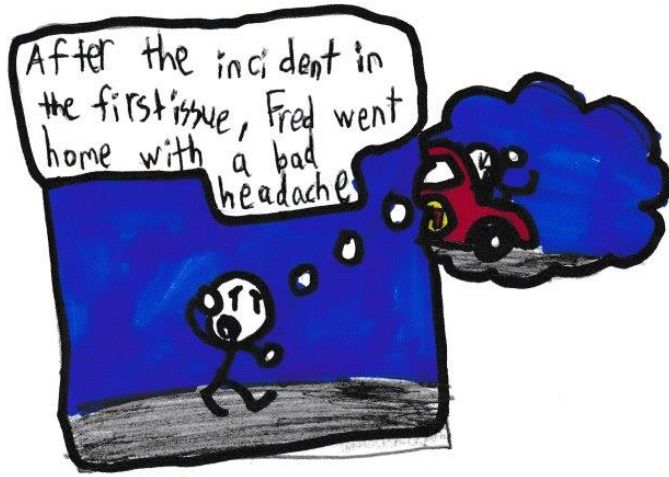
Cool

Stay tuned for our February Kindness Challenge will be taking place from Jan 31st to Feb 11th.

The (hurting) Adventures of FRED the Stickman

#2

By Ryan Geraghty



The
End

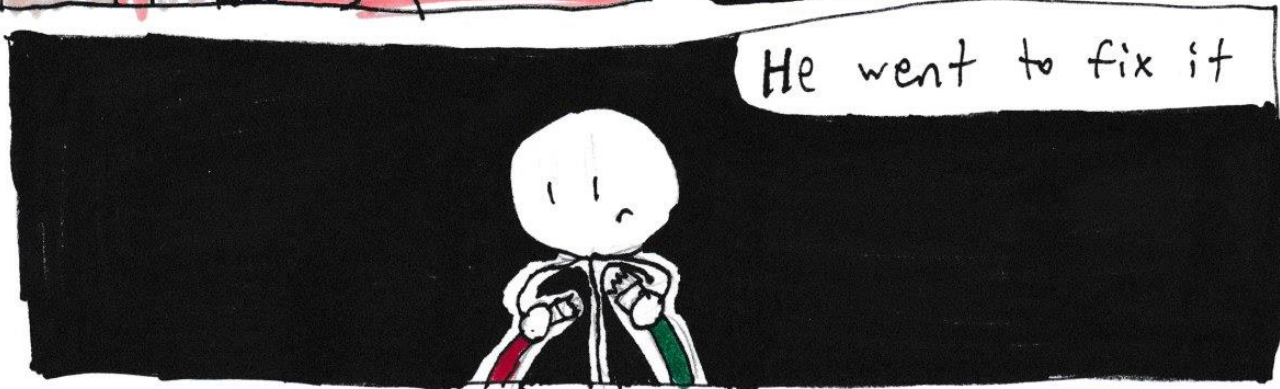
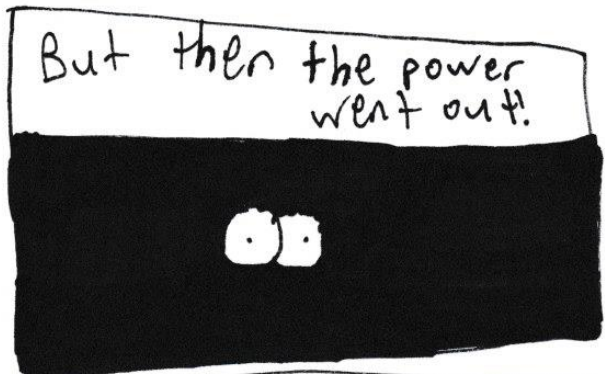
The (Hurting)
Adventures of
FRED

The stickman

#3



By
Ryan
Geraghty

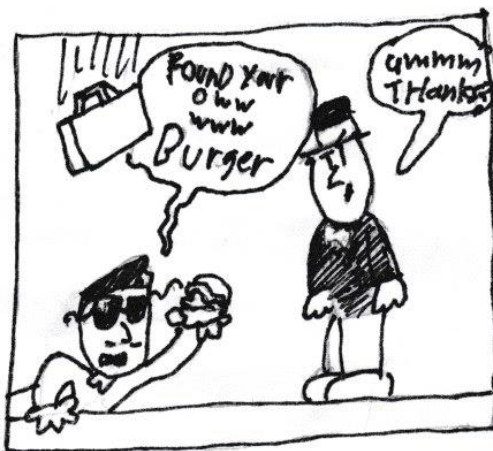
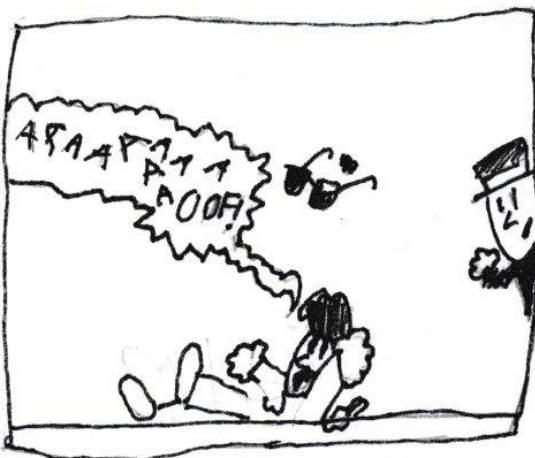
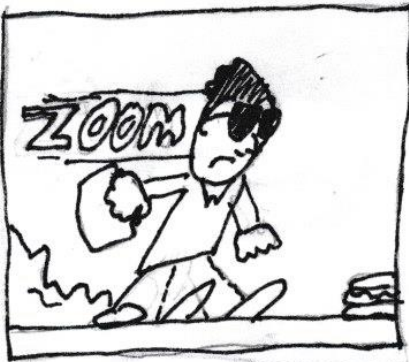
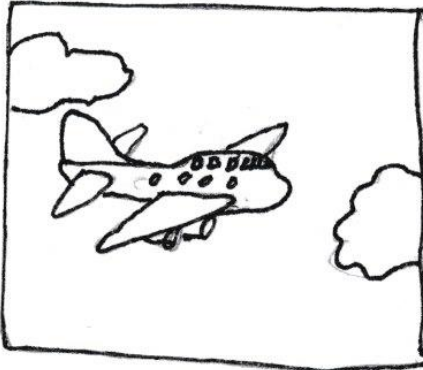


DETECTIVE

Ethan Fitch
Josh Peckholdt

DAVE

AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING BURGER-ISSUE 2



Staff List, *ADVISOR: Mrs. Avella*



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Lunchtime! By Reese Sinkevich

Hope you're hungry, because I am diving into the world of lunch. Quality interviews, favorite lunch item, even seating. If it can come with a side of fries and an apple, I am covering it. Starting it off will be seating. In period 6 lunch, as you probably know, has assigned seating. What do you think about that? I asked Michael Kraft, 8th grader. He said "I feel like it's working, and it was a great idea, but we should be able to at least go on our phones if we can't sit near our friends."

Now time to get into quality. This has been quite a controversial topic for a while now. Michelle Obama, the 44th First Lady, pushed for healthier school lunches around the US. In 2010, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act was passed by President Obama. It generally improved the nutritional value of school lunches (information courtesy of washingtongedu.com). Although this is all great, where is it now? In the lunchroom at EIMS, you see that only some lunches come with a *real* vegetable, not fries or tater-tots. Of course, you can get an apple or orange on the side, but we all must ask ourselves, is it healthy enough? That question is what divides the healthy from the unhealthy.

Top Lunches at EIMS:

1. Cheesy Stuffed Breadsticks
2. Popcorn Chicken
3. Pizza

Top Snacks:

1. Ice cream
2. Frito Lay chips
3. Gummies



Well, looks like lunchtime is over. Time for math or science or whatever you have next. But always remember, some Doritos will be waiting for you tomorrow. Stay hungry!



Winter Word Scramble

By Steven Kudrick



ZDLABIRZ _____

NSWOAMN _____

OEGVLS _____

SWNOLABL _____

MTTINSE _____

THA _____

TWRIEN _____

SKGINI _____

EHOSLV _____

ELSD _____

DSAWRONOB _____

ONWS _____

WORD BANK SKIING, SHOVEL, SNOW, WINTER, SNOWBALL, BLIZZARD, SNOWMAN, MITTENS, SNOWBOARD, GLOVES, SLED, HAT

Top Ten Movies of 2021 By Steven Kudrick

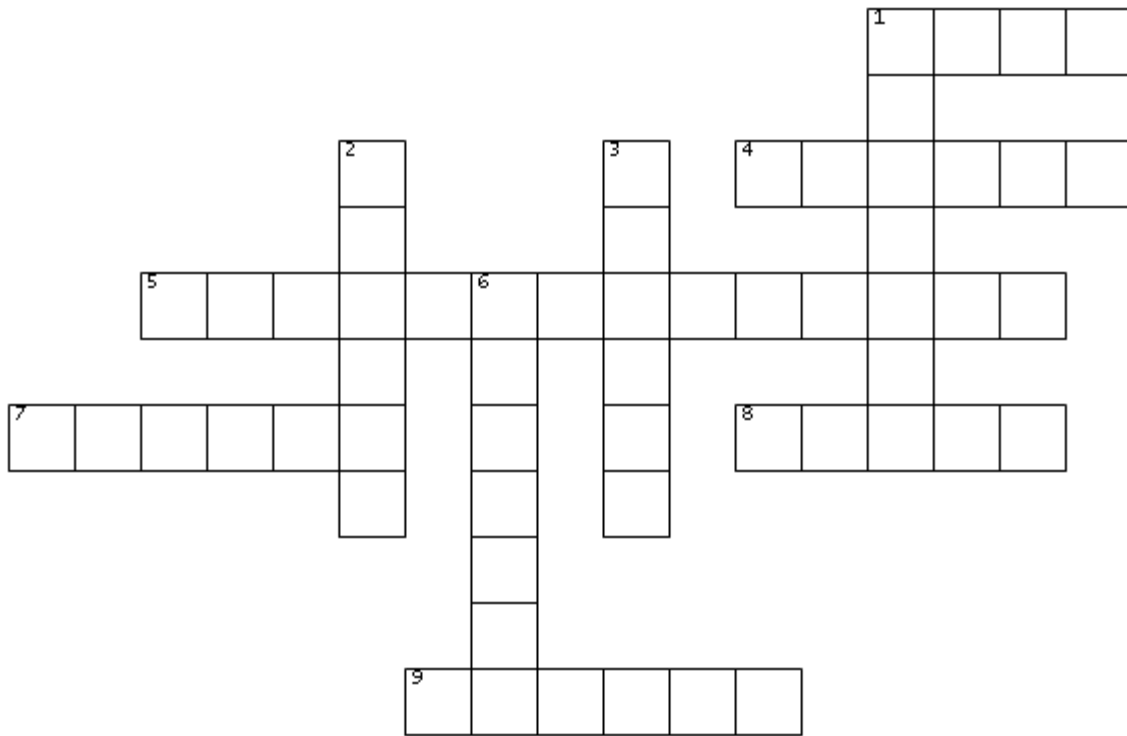
1. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings
2. Venom: Let There Be Carnage
3. Black Widow
4. F9: The Fast Saga
5. Eternals
6. Free Guy
7. Jungle Cruise
8. Ghostbusters: Afterlife
9. Godzilla vs. Kong
10. Cruella





Winter Crossword

By Aubrey Hilbert



ACROSS

- 1. you slide down a hill with this
- 4. keep your hands warm
- 5. a delicious little cookie
- 7. a snowman's nose
- 8. jolly old man
- 9. you use this to get snow out of your driveway

DOWN

- 1. you make this guy out of snow
- 2. put on your house to be festive
- 3. Christmas songs

